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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Silent crisis between Sudan and Libya over presence of JEM leader

Al-Sahafa 24/6/10 – A crisis is reportedly emerging between Sudan and Libya over JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim's presence in Tripoli. Sudan Government said Khalil's presence in Libyan is "undesirable". Khalil was interviewed yesterday for the first time by Al-Jazeera TV from Tripoli where he announced a parallel forum for Darfur peace talks. He said there must be "another forum and another mediator" instead of Doha which he described as biased. He threatened to overrun major cities in Darfur such as Nyala and El Fasher and then proceed to Khartoum. Khalil revealed that the Sudanese government ordered SAF to use armoured vehicles to protect El Fasher city, adding that peace in Darfur would not prevail without JEM participation.

However, Sudan Foreign Ministry spokesperson Muawia Khalid has downplayed Khalil's threats. "These are hostile activities which we do not want them to occur on Libyan soil. We will ask Libya to restrict Khalil's hostile activity," Khalid said.

Meanwhile, **local dailies** report continued battles between SAF and JEM in South Darfur. SAF spokesperson Lt. Col. Al-Sawarmi Khaled said JEM attacked Sudanese army positions twice yesterday but the attacks were repulsed and there were casualties on both sides.

Government calls on UNAMID, UNMIS to support Darfur development

Al-Sudani 24/6/10 Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Rahamtullah Mohamed Osman has briefed visiting members of the Advisory Committee on Budgetary Questions (ABCQ) on efforts being exerted by the Sudanese government to enable UNAMID and UNMIS to carry out their mandates, saying the government is ready to remove all obstacles encountered by the two missions. He urged the two missions to allocate part of their budgets to address the genesis of the crisis in Darfur by supporting development projects in Darfur states.

Sudan says Cyprus ship contains mining explosives not arms

Sudan Tribune website 23/6/10 -The Sudanese government today acknowledged for the first time that the shipment on board a cargo vessel held in Cyprus belonged to it but denied reports that it contained arms or military equipments.

"The boat contains explosives destined for Port Sudan, for mining firm Ariab which needs them to work gold mine," Abdel-Baqi Al Gailani, Sudan's minister responsible for mining, told Agence France Presse (AFP).

"It has nothing to do with the military" he told Reuters in a separate interview.

"Sudan has been importing explosives since the early 1990s to work this gold mine, and has never had any problems in the past. It's the first time this has happened. It's absurd," he said.

The mine at Hassay, 450 kilometers northeast of the capital Khartoum, is Sudan's first - and only - gold mine.

The Ariab group working the mine is 51 per cent Sudanese government owned, while 40 per cent of the shares are held by holding group Cominor, created by Canada's La Mancha and France's Areva.

An Ariab official, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, confirmed that there were explosives on board the Santiago.

"There are 251 tonnes of explosives which are for us. I hope they get here quickly, as we need them to be able to continue operation," the official said.

"I don't know if there is anything else on board the boat, but these explosives are definitely for us."

Gailani said Sudan was now considering taking legal action to free the cargo and win compensation for the delay.

"The explosives were supposed to be here ... Some work has had to be stopped ... Sudan always comes under suspicion. This is something we always have to deal with," he said.

The Cypriot Commerce Minister Antonis Paschalides told state radio that the "ship is under guard and there are materials that are considered banned, this means either military material or explosives".

"There is definitely military equipment which comes under a ban," he added without elaborating.

A security source said authorities were investigating whether the cargo contravened a UN arms embargo on all armed groups operating in Sudan's Darfur region, the site of a seven-year conflict pitting government troops and allied militias against rebel fighters.

“I will attack Bentiu” – Galwak Gai

Al-Intibaha 24/6/10 – SPLA dissident officer Brigadier Galwak Gai has threatened to overrun the town of Bentiu (Unity State) by the end of the current week. He said his forces devised an alternative plan to launch the attack without civilians getting affected. Brig. Gai, in an interview to the newspaper, said the SPLM had rigged the recent elections to keep governor of Unity state Taban Deng in the gubernatorial post, boasting that the number of his forces stands at 20,000 soldiers, adding that Unity state authorities have barred civilians from leaving the town. Gai said removal of Unity state governor is a condition for engaging in talks with GoSS.

Sudan summons European envoys over non-participation in national events - report

Sudan Tribune website 23/6/10 - The Sudanese foreign ministry is quietly summoning

the heads of missions of European countries in Khartoum to query about their "non-participation in national events" according to a newspaper report.

The pro-government Akhir-Lahza newspaper quoted unnamed sources at the ministry as saying that this move comes in preparation for crafting a tit-for-tat policy towards these countries particularly in terms of diplomatic representation.

The sources said that Khartoum intends to modify meetings with envoys from these countries accordingly revealing that a total of 13 European ambassadors will be summoned over the coming days.

There was no elaboration on the nature of events skipped by those ambassadors prompting action by Sudan. The European Union (EU) last month debated the level of representation they should send to the inauguration ceremony of president Omer Hassan al-Bashir who won April election by a comfortable 68%.

The dilemma for the EU and the U.S. is attending the swearing in of the first sitting head of state charged for war crimes by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The EU announced at the time that they will be present at the inauguration "on a local level" and "at the lowest representation which will be a clear reflection of the European position towards Bashir".

Sudan's foreign ministry was recently reshuffled with the promotion of its former state minister Ali Karti to a foreign minister. Karti is considered to be a hard-line Islamist and was coordinator of the Popular Defense Forces, a paramilitary group loyal to the ruling party in Sudan.

"It is necessary now to send a clear message to whoever thinks that the kind of relationship between Sudan and the United Nations, and the international community in general, is that of submissiveness, complacency about the concepts or beliefs that the Westerners want the Sudanese Government to admit as fait accompli" Karti said in press statements".

Two German aid workers kidnapped in Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 24/6/10 - Unknown gunmen kidnapped two German aid workers last night from their residence in Nyala the capital of South Darfur State, UNAMID reported on Wednesday.

"Two German nationals from Technisches Hilfswerk (THW), a German relief organization, were reported kidnapped last night from their residence in Nyala, South Darfur," said the UNAMID daily briefing.

However the Commissioner of humanitarian aid in South Darfur Jamal Yousef casted doubt over the job of the abductees saying the two Germans are not aid workers but working in the maintenance of the vehicles of humanitarian organizations in the restive region.

Jamal further confirmed that police and security forces continue to pursue the

kidnappers, who are not yet identified, in all parts of the state.

New South Sudan ministers sworn in

Sudan Tribune website 23/6/10 - The newly-appointed ministers of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) were sworn in on Wednesday in the ceremony officiated by Southern Sudan Chief Justice, John Wol Akech, before the President of the semi-autonomous region, General Salva Kiir Mayardit, and his deputy Dr. Riek Machar Teny.

Seven other ministers out of the 32-member cabinet are yet to be sworn in because five of them were not present and two are yet to be appointed through nomination by the National Congress Party (NCP).

In his remarks to the ministers shortly after their swearing in ceremony, Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, urged the new cabinet to work hard in preparing the people of Southern Sudan for the upcoming referendum. "The referendum should be given undivided attention," he told them.

Kiir added that the referendum should be conducted by the 9th of January 2011 without any delay even for one day. He told his ministers to work hard towards maintaining security and stability in the region, adding that any incidences of lawlessness and violence in some parts of Southern Sudan could be used by "detractors" as an excuse to delay the conduct of referendum.

He also warned the ministers against abuse of power and misuse of public funds, urging them to cooperate with the anti-corruption commission on issues related to the fight against corruption.

President Kiir reminded the ministers of the need to seriously and effectively fight against corruption, which he said, has found roots and gradually grown as a very big animal in the SPLM/A, right from its early years of inception as a liberation movement in 1980s.

Kiir also warned the ministers against unnecessary frequent travels away from their offices, saying his office will not tolerate it this time and urged them to deliver services to the people.

His deputy, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, on his part also urged the newly sworn in ministers in the new post-elections cabinet to interact with their staff in their respective ministries, know them and learn from them as technocrats.

Dr. Machar, who congratulated the ministers on their appointments for winning the trust of the President, reminded them of the challenges ahead that require team work as Southern Sudan referendum approaches.

He said the Government of Southern Sudan is the steering wheel of the popular opinion of the people of Southern Sudan, saying many of the ministers will also be busy negotiating the outstanding issues in the CPA.

He further added that it is most likely the people of Southern Sudan will vote for separation and result in the split of the country into two independent states.

Dr. Machar further reminded the new cabinet that the people of Southern Sudan have suffered for a very long time in the struggle for freedom, adding that there is need to settle their political destiny so that the situation is not transferred to the next generation.

Gunmen kill 4 people in Jonglei's Bor County

Sudan Tribune website 23/6/10 - At least four (4) people are dead and 2 others injured when gunmen attacked a village in Bor County on Tuesday, officials and relatives say. A village chief is among those wounded, his brother told the Sudan Tribune.

Villagers accused eastern neighbors, the Murle tribesmen, of Pibor County for the crime." Our village is totally empty. All the four young men who guide people as well as the cattle are killed," said Philip Awan, a relative of the deceased from Makuach Payam.

The attack took place about 16 km east of the state capital, Bor, he told the Sudan Tribune by phone on Tuesday.

A village chief, Akot Mayom whose cattle were targeted by the gunmen was nursing wounds he got from the clashes in Makuach health care unit.

Efforts made to reach the state authorities for comment on the incident were futile by press time but a pick-up carrying a handful of police was seen heading to Makuach at about 5pm local time.

Local authorities blame illegal arms at the hands of civilians. A peaceful disarmament started in January 2010 and covered counties of Bor, Duk, Ayod, Uror, Nyirol and Twic East by March.

The Southern Sudan army, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), then launched guns retrieving exercise in Pibor and Akobo counties. The process however fell short to the satisfaction of the neighboring tribes as child abduction allegedly by Murle continues and without protection from regional organized forces.

Pre-referendum Watch

Chadian President reiterates rejection of South secession

Al-Rai Al-Aam 24/6/10 – Chad's president Idriss Deby has affirmed the importance of Egypt's role in the Arab and African arenas, expressing appreciation for the efforts being exerted by President Hosni Mubarak to achieve Sudan's peace, stability and unity. Deby described his talks with President Mubarak in Cairo as "positive and fruitful" and reiterated his rejection of Sudan's partition, saying it will affect the entire African continent.

NCP and SPLM disagree on parliamentary committees

Al-Rai Al-Aam 24/6/10 – SPLM MPs have disobeyed National Assembly Speaker

Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir's instruction to his deputy Atem Garang (SPLM) to submit the names of SPLM's heads of Parliamentary committees. The SPLM MPs said they would not act unless they are given the chairmanship of a fifth parliamentary committee which, they said, should be called "peace and national reconciliation committee" not "peace and unity committee" as suggested by the House.

CPA partners wrap up meetings in Addis

Al-Sahafa 24/6/10 – The NCP and the SPLM yesterday concluded their Mbeki-sponsored meetings in Addis Ababa. Their delegations returned late yesterday but declined to talk about the outcome. Reportedly, the meeting in Addis was intended to debate post-referendum arrangement.