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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Gadet prepares for major offensive to free South from SPLA domination

Al-Khartoum 27/4/11 – rebel leader Peter Gadet has threatened a major offensive to free South Sudan from SPLA domination, saying his soldiers yesterday defeated the force rushed by Juba to retake fallen towns.

Speaking to *SMC* from the battlefield, Gadet said his forces launched an attack on the SPLA, kicking them out of Mayom and other towns adding that 20 SPLA soldiers were killed and 99 pieces of arms were seized. Gadet denied having received any support from Khartoum, saying they have taken up arms to remove marginalization within SPLA.

Commission of inquiry set up on Gabriel Tang and two aides

Al-Sahafa Juba, 27/04/11 – The SPLA has ordered the formation of a commission of inquiry to investigate on the issue of Gabriel Tanginya and two of his aides against the background of recent raids they waged on SPLA position. The commission would investigate to find out if there are reasonable grounds for a trial.

SPLM Information and Public Relations Officer Malaak Ayuen told *Al-Sahafa* that Tanginya and two of his senior aides arrived in Juba yesterday and are currently in custody “for their own protection against angry relatives of the victims of their recent raids.”

Militia leader who clashed with Southern Sudan army surrenders

AP, Juba, 26/04/11 - A Southern Sudanese official says a rebel leader whose militia group clashed with the Southern Sudan's army last week has surrendered.

Army spokesman Brig. Malaak Ayuen said militia leader Maj. Gen. Gabriel Tanginye and his deputy Maj. Gen Mabor Dhel were flown to Juba, the southern capital, on Tuesday after they surrendered on Sunday.

Tanginye's forces clashed with the Southern Sudanese army on Saturday in Jonglei state, leading to 57 deaths.

Tanginye was a warlord sponsored by the north during the decades-long north-south civil war, and he was aligned with the north after a 2005 peace deal ended the war. Late last year Tanginye accepted amnesty from the southern government but his fighters battled southern troops last week.

Sudan's president Al-Bashir sacks his security adviser Salah Gosh

Sudan Tribune website 26/4/11 - Sudan's President Omer Al-Bashir has issued a decree relieving his senior security adviser Salah Gosh from his position, Sudan's official news agency (SUNA) abruptly reported on Tuesday.

The sacking of Gosh comes after he publicly fell out with the presidential assistant and vice-president of Al-Bashir's ruling National Congress Party (NCP), Nafi Ali Nafi, over the dialogue

conducted with certain opposition parties by the Presidential Security Advisory, which Gosh chairs.

WFP cuts back operations in embattled south Sudan

AFP, Khartoum, 26/4/11 - The UN's World Food Programme said on Tuesday it has suspended aid operations in two key areas of strife-torn south Sudan because of worsening security, which saw one of its staff killed last week.

"Because of the ambush that killed one of our colleagues in Jonglei state on Saturday, we have decided to suspend our operations in seven out of 11 counties there," WFP spokeswoman Amor Almagro told AFP.

"In Lakes state, we have decided to suspend all activities after a WFP contracted truck with 16 metric tons of food assistance for our school feeding programme was commandeered by the SPLA" last Tuesday, she added, referring to the southern army.

The UN humanitarian agency in Sudan said on Tuesday that the whereabouts of two staff members of the International Organisation of Migration remained unknown after their vehicles were seized by SPLA soldiers, also on April 19, in neighbouring Unity state, and driven to a conflict zone...

Southern political parties reject constitution

Al-Raed 27/4/11 – Chairman of the South Sudan Democratic Front Party David De Chan said south Sudan opposition would not approve the constitution because the bill does not include any provision regarding participation of the southern political parties in the government, adding that the majority parties are against a further four-year term for the present government. He added that the opposition in the South wants a 50-50 share of power, urging the South Sudan Legislative Assembly not to approve the bill.

Meanwhile, *AFP*, Juba, 26/04/11 reported that South Sudan's opposition on Tuesday slammed a proposed interim constitution as "dictatorial," concentrating power in the hands of the ruling party and pushing back post-independence elections.

The spokesman for the south's main opposition party, SPLM-Democratic Change, said referring to the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement "They have made a transitional period of four years. We were pushing for 18 to 20 months maximum. It is very clear that the SPLM are afraid of elections".

If the draft passed by parliament - in which Kiir's SPLM holds an overwhelming majority - it will be enacted following the south's formal independence on July 9.

The draft constitution also lays claim to disputed Abyei region, the site of repeated clashes since a referendum planned for January on whether the oil-producing area should join the north or the south was shelved.

Discussions are still ongoing with the north's ruling National Congress Party, which angrily rejected the clause declaring Abyei belonged to the south as "meaningless."

"This draft and especially what it says about the issue of Abyei, has no meaning and will not be accepted (by) the Sudanese government," NCP official Rabie Abdel Ati told AFP.

We would take the fight to Khartoum - Malik Aggar

Al-Sahafa, Khartoum, 27/04/11 – The SPLM has warned the NCP not to rig the results of the southern Kordofan elections which, it says, “is sure to win by 80% of the votes cast”.

Addressing a mass rally in Al-Hammadi, southern Kordofan, yesterday, Malik Aggar who heads the SPLM in the North called on SPLM supporters to exercise restraint during the elections process. “If they want to play about, we would take the fight to Khartoum. The people of the margins would not return to the jungle but they would command the battle from inside the presidential palace,” he warned.

27,000 southern Sudanese in the open in Khartoum State

Al-Ayyam, Khartoum, 27/04/11 – A group of registrars for voluntary returns to Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal area have accused the Commission for Human Rights of corruption and of responsibility for the plight of the southern Sudanese returnees who are stranded in Khartoum as they wait for transportation back home.

In a statement yesterday, registration officials have called for intervention from GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit and the Governor of Northern Bahr-e-Ghazal to help some 27,000 southern Sudanese in the North who have registered to return.

A source said that the Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs in the South had issued permits to companies that did not have the capacity and equipment to return this large number of returnees. He pointed out that the Ayaat Roads and Bridges Company, despite its huge capacity had refused to transport the returnees.

North Sudan’s ruling party risks implosion as internal rifts come into view

Sudan Tribune website 25/4/11 [Op-Ed] North Sudan’s governing National Congress Party (NCP) has more than once proved to be able to overcome divisions – but a rare show of discord between senior party officials this week has indicated it might be teetering on the edge of implosion.

Since the 1999 schism in the NCP, which saw the party split in two as supporters of ousted Islamist leader Hassan Al-Turabi broke away to form the opposition Popular Congress Party (PCP), the party has successfully defied predictions of collapse in the face of several crises.

The most notable of those was the issue of the International Criminal Court (ICC), whose arrest warrant for President Al-Bashir for atrocities committed in the country’s western region of Darfur prompted analysts to speculate it would shake the NCP’s chain of command.

But it has emerged this week that the NCP’s top leadership is at odds over how to deal with opposition parties and Al-Turabi. Al-Turabi has been detained since January after he warned the government it would face a popular uprising modelled on those seen elsewhere in the Arab world if it continued to resist calls for reforms.

The story began on Friday, 22 April, when the NCP’s Vice-President Nafi Ali Nafi directed

criticism at the dialogue conducted with certain opposition parties by his colleague Salah Gosh, the former intelligence chief who currently serves as a presidential adviser for security affairs.

According to Nafi, who was speaking in a radio interview with Sudan Radio, the dialogue led by Gosh under the umbrella of the Presidential Security Advisory, which he chairs, was not sanctioned by the party's leadership.

Nafi, who often stands out as a hardliner with no qualms about making derogatory remarks against opposition parties, asserted that his party would not negotiate over demands for a transitional or national government to serve as "a tool to weaken" his party or turn it into "a minority group."

"If they [opposition parties] want this [a national government] they should wait until next elections," he said.

A day later on Saturday, Salah Gosh held a press conference in which he contradicted his colleague's statement, stressing that the dialogue he leads was approved by the NCP's Chairman President Al-Bashir and second Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha.

"It is [Nafi's statement] detrimental to the dialogue and will make opposition parties run away from it," Gosh said, blowing the lid off his dissatisfaction with Nafi's position.

Sudan's former Prime minister and leader of the opposition National Umma Party (NUP), Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi, whose party is currently engaged in dialogue with the NCP over what he loosely terms as "the national agendas," has previously blamed the wing of hardliners within the NCP for scuttling the National Reconciliation Agreement, which his party signed with the NCP in May 2008.

Further disagreements within the NCP's leadership were manifested when Nafi denied, in the same interview, the existence of any calls within his party for the release or trial of Al-Turabi, contrasting with statements by the NCP's Vice-President in Khartoum State Mandour Al-Mahdi who said it was the view of his party that the veteran opposition leader should either be tried or released immediately.

"Anyone who served the legal detention period should be either brought to a trial or released," Mandor told a press conference on Saturday.

It remains a possibility that the NCP, which has ruled the country since seizing power in a military coup backed by Islamists in 1989, will manage to prevent internal discord from getting any more public than it already is.

But simmering disagreements may lead to implosion which could complicate the party's situation at a time when it is faced with growing public discontent over lack of political reforms and worsening economic conditions.

Southern Kordofan Elections Focus

President Al-Bashir to visit Al-Mujlad today

Al-Khartoum 27/4/11 – President Al-Bashir will address today a mass rally in Al-Mujlad as part of the campaign of nomination of Ahmed Haround, NCP's candidate for gubernatorial post for southern Kordofan.

Abyei deputy chief administrator Rahama Abdul Rahama Al-Nour said that the visit comes as part of campaign for Haroun, indicating that the crowds to be addressed by the President would support the NCP candidate, stressing that the citizens of Abyei will support Haroun, describing the visit as an important development.

Sudanese president says ready for new war with south

BBC 27/4/11 - The president of Sudan, Umar al-Bashir, has warned the semi-autonomous south against re-igniting war in the country, saying that the north was ready for such conflict. He also reiterated that the disputed oil-rich region of Abyei, which is located along the north-south border, "will remain" part of the north.

President Al-Bashir made the remarks while addressing a campaign rally in Al-Mujlad in Abyei, which is administratively located in Southern Kordofan State. Elections were not held in the state in April 2010 as was the case with the rest of the country due to rows between the president's National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), the ruling party in the south. This was over results of the 2008 census and delimitation of electoral units. The incumbent governor, Ahmad Harun, is the candidate of the NCP.

In a 15-minute speech broadcast live on both state-owned Sudan TV and radio 27 April, the president said he would like to reiterate "again, thrice, fourth, a hundred time, a thousand times and a million times that Abyei is a northern territory".

His remarks on Abyei come a few days after media reports indicated that a draft constitution proposed by the SPLM says the disputed territory is part of the south.

"In the name of God we came to see you, to greet you, to renew our meetings with you. We would like to reiterate to you once again, thrice, fourth, a hundred times, a thousand times and a million times that Abyei is a northern [territory]. We are not just make this statement in front of you here, on every occasion or even without an occasion, we have said it and reminded people about it, that Abyei is a northern [territory], and will remain a northern [territory], God willing," Al-Bashir said.

President Al-Bashir also rejected claims that the north lost following the referendum held in January 2011 that is expected to lead to the secession of the south in July 2011. He said the north signed the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended the war between the north and south as "victors" and his side was ready for any new war that might be ignited by the SPLM. The remarks were directed at the SPLM supporters in the north.

According to Al-Bashir, his supporters are "not warmongers", but "anyone who triggers the fire [war] will pay for it".

"Despite some [people] knowing that their story is a gone case, were defeated [in the polls] and will still be defeated, they continue to say they were defeated because of rigging, and that they will go back to war. I swear in the name of God, we were not defeated when we signed the peace agreement. We joined the CPA as victors, when the cease-fire agreement was signed in Southern Kordofan, in the Nuba Mountains, the rebels [SPLM] were only controlling five per cent of Southern Kordofan State; five per cent only. We were victorious, but we were fighting for peace; that is why we accepted the cease-fire and signed the CPA" he said.

"If they feel now that they are prepared and ready for war, I swear by the name of God that, we, with our guns, rifles, vehicles and horses will climb to the top of the mountain, God willing".

"We are not warmongers, but reiterate that anyone who triggers the fire will pay for it. That will be the day they will know who we are, discover that we are the same old people, who have not changed and have not transformed. Yes, it is true that we had some rest, yes, we have enjoyed peace, but if war breaks out, the turban and the white robe will be removed and replaced by the khaki [military uniform], and then people will confront each other, and when they meet us they will understand who we are, God willing," Al-Bashir said.

"Then there will be no CPA and we will win all the battles up to the end, God willing. We tell our brothers in the SPLM that if they restart the war they will lose twice: you will lose the elections, as well as the war. If you want it to be done through the battle or box as [Southern Kordofan Governor] Ahmad Harun has said, that is welcome and we will accept it; but if you want it through the bullet, we will meet ahead, God willing" he added.

Regarding the elections in Southern Kordofan, the president said "Today, we come to you and tell you that, in the name of God, I'm not worried about Ahmad Haroun, and I do not need to campaign for Ahmad Harun because he is already known to you. Ahmad Harun is not the first governor of Southern Kordofan. Following the signing of the peace agreement there was a governor who preceded him, where was he from? He was a governor from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, was that true or false? What did he do for you? What did he provide to you? What did he build? How boreholes did he sink? How many kilometres of road did he construct? How many schools did he build? How many hospitals did he build? How many megawatts of electricity did he provide? What did he do?"

Other Highlights

Journalists decide to boycott Foreign Ministry's activities

Al-Akhbar 27/4/11 –Journalists accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to cover its activities have decided to stop doing so until further notice. Apparently, Foreign Minister Ali Karti's demand that more senior journalists should be sent to the ministry to cover the activities was the reason for their decision to halt covering the ministry's activities.

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