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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

SPLA and militias clash in Upper Nile

Al-Sahafa 27/6/10 – The SPLA said militias in Upper Nile state have intercepted two boats one carrying salaries of employees in Malut County and the other laden with commercial goods. SPLA spokesperson Kuol Diem Kuol said an SPLA force clashed with the militia resulting in killing of two SPLA soldiers and wounding two while 7 militia men were killed. He said the militias got away with the money and the commercial items but the passengers who were held hostages were freed.

In another development, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports that SPLA forces yesterday attacked “Koum” area near the town of Fashoda, looting civilian properties and causing death and injuries to many people. According to *Al-Shorooq TV*, the SPLA forces burned down the town of Fashoda. Reportedly, the SPLA dispatched additional troops to the area after the first group of soldiers was met with fierce resistance from civilians and youth in Fashoda.

In related development, *Al-Intibaha* reports SPLA and forces of dissident Captain James Galwak Gai yesterday clashed in “Dawar area” in Bentiu County (Unity state) where 20 SPLA soldiers were killed while 4 killed and 3 wounded on the part of Gai.

Kiir pledges to maintain better relations between South and Uganda

Sudan Tribune website 26/6/10 - GoSS President General Salva Kiir Mayardit assures of the commitment by his government to continue strengthening cordial relations between Southern Sudan and Uganda.

In a congratulatory letter to Kiir for announcing new cabinet ministers, Ugandan trader’s union representatives in Juba highlighted the valuable relationship, mutual partnership and co-operation between the two regions.

Kiir told the representatives that the friendship between Sudan, particularly south Sudan and Uganda, has witnessed significant strides towards enhancing co-operation between the two countries.

Our two countries, Southern Sudan and Uganda, are bound together not only by cultural values but also through a common border and natural resources.

President Kiir is further reported to have assured Ugandans to live and run their businesses without any fear of being foreigners in the region.

“You are free to run your businesses without fear of intimidation based on the nationality. You do not have to hold on this at all. Uganda and Southern Sudan are one and the same,” he said.

While meeting with representatives, Kiir advised that it is cardinal for the two

governments to focus on satisfying the needs and interests of the people of the two countries.

He is also reported to have congratulated the government and the people of Uganda on the accelerated economic growth and the peace that has prevailed in the country.

Speaking on behalf of the traders union, David Mulungu said his country would always remain grateful to Sudan for extending better relationship all the time. "We recognize and very much respect and thank south Sudan government for allowing us to run our business freely without segregation on the bases of nationality," he said.

"Therefore, we are glad to inform you as president of the region that we have not come to complain to you but to congratulate you on the formation of the new government. We are happy with your government because we are not experiencing any problem based on our nationalities," said Mulungu.

South Sudan army vows to clear LRA rebels

Sudan Tribune website 26/6/10 –GoSS has intensified its military operations to uproot the Ugandan rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) from the state of Western Equatoria.

This came following a report released from the office of the governor of Western Equatoria state that a group of armed men suspected to be from the LRA rebels carried out a latest attack within Yambio County which hosts the state capital.

The SPLA Spokesman, Major General Kuol Deim Kuol, told Sudan Tribune that for peace and concentration of efforts on farming by the local people, the SPLA has increased military operations against some armed elements associated with the LRA in Western Equatoria state.

"Our forces in the area have increased military operations in coordination with local people to clear LRA," said General Kuol, explaining that the army gives priority to maintaining domestic and border security in order for peace and development to prevail in the region.

Kuol however acknowledged logistical challenges and the nature of thick forests in which the LRA hides, saying it makes the fight difficult because of limited access into the jungle. "You know most areas of Western Equatoria state where presence of some armed groups associated with LRA are not accessible by road. They do not have roads leading to. They are deep inside the forests where human presence is rare or none existence," he said.

SPLM warns against "playing" with census results

Miraya FM 27/6/10 - The SPLM in the Southern Kordofan State has called for the release of the preliminary results of the census which is currently taking place in the state before being sent to Khartoum for verification. Speaking to *Radio Miraya*, the SPLM Secretary General, Arnold Lody, warned of what he described as "playing" with the results.

He said that publishing the preliminary results creates transparency. Meanwhile, the Director of the Census Center in the State, Ali Toro, said that the results would be announced by the Central Statistic Bureau in Khartoum after being analyzed.

Toro said that the data would be sent after being reviewed by the State's Census Committee, adding that this is the scientific approach to monitor the Census in Sudan.

Governor of Unity State Taban Deng freezes defectors' assets

AL-Ahdath 27/6/10 – Unity state Governor Taban Deng issued a decree Thursday freezing assets of SPLM leaders who defected from the movement during the recent elections. The decree also includes all politicians who opposed the governor's policies for change in the state. Vehicles and residences used by the dissidents were also confiscated and the supporters of the independent candidates were detained.

Angelina Teny, the independent candidate for the unity state governor post, criticized Deng, saying he always issue such illegal decrees to terrorize and displace civilians.

Sudan "arms ship" allowed to leave Cyprus waters

AFP 25/6/10 - Cyprus said on Friday that a cargo ship detained since June 11 could continue its journey to Sudan as the explosives and tanks on board were not in contravention of UN sanctions.

The Antigua and Barbuda-flagged "Santiago", which was bound for Sudan and Singapore, has been anchored off the southern city of Limassol under police guard with a suspected military cargo that would contravene a 2004 UN embargo on arms sales and deliveries to Sudan's war-torn Darfur region.

Commerce Minister Antonis Paschalides told reporters that after a thorough check of the ship's papers everything was in order and above board.

"We have issued an export permit for the military equipment to Singapore and also permitted the export to Sudan of explosives loaded on the same boat."

He said that Cyprus, as an EU member, had an "obligation and responsibility" in following the correct procedures to ensure the ship's documentation was genuine.

Cyprus police said the Santiago would be on its way once it has refuelled.

The decision to free the vessel comes after Sudan said the cargo ship seized by Cyprus has explosives on board for a gold mining firm.

"The boat contains explosives destined for Port Sudan, for mining firm Ariab which needs them to work a gold mine," Abdelbaqi al-Gilani, Sudan's minister responsible for mining, told AFP on Wednesday.

"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," al-Gilani said.

Cypriot officials examined the vessel after US authorities alerted them that it was carrying a large amount of explosives bound for Sudan, as well as tanks for Singapore, Phileleftheros newspaper reported.

The paper said there were over 250 tonnes of explosives on the cargo ship and at least a dozen Leopard tanks.

Police arrests Sudanese models after fashion show in Khartoum

Sudan Tribune website 25/6/10 - More than 25 people were shortly arrested by the Sudanese authorities in the capital Khartoum after performing the first mixed-gender fashion show on Thursday.

The arrest took place after the organization of the show in a popular Khartoum club on Thursday evening. Fashion shows are not a novelty in the Sudanese capital, but it was the first to feature male and female models parading under the same roof there.

"I spent the night in jail but it is not clear why they arrested us," Sudan-born male model Rashad el-Nimeiry, who holds US nationality, told *AFP* on Friday after his release with all the arrested people.

The model further wondered "We were decently dressed. There were wedding clothes".

During Thursday's fashion show, male models showed Western outfits, parading with their shirts unbuttoned, while their female counterparts wore classical party clothes.

There was no immediate explanation from police on Friday as to why they were arrested. However, many were told to appear on Sunday before the state prosecutor amid speculation that they could be charged with indecency.

One of arrested model said prison guards insulted them. "In prison, the guards called me "you gay," he said.

Asked if they had been accused of specific crime or any violation of the law, many of the arrested said ignoring the reason.

"I don't know what will happen on Sunday. This (fashion show) is a new thing in Sudan and they don't know what to do with us," a model said.

Islamic law implemented only in northern Sudan stipulates a maximum of 40 lashes for wearing clothing deemed to be indecent.

Sudan says Libya's expulsion of JEM chief "imminent"

Sudan Tribune website 26/6/10 - The Sudanese government said today that JEM leader who is currently residing in Libya would be asked to leave shortly upon direct orders from Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

The pro-government Sudanese Media Center (SMC) website quoted the director of the

National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) Mohamed Atta Al-Moula Abbas as saying that Libyan authorities confirmed that they have prohibited Ibrahim from making any media statement "against Sudan" until he leaves the country.

The Sudanese spy chief said that Khartoum is monitoring with the Libyan government the progress of expelling the Darfur rebel leader in line with Gaddafi's instructions. He did not provide any details on when the decision by Libya was taken.

On Thursday, the Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir phoned Gaddafi to protest "hostile moves" by JEM. Sudan state media said that the Libyan leader assured his Sudanese counterpart that his country would not allow any attempt "to undermine the historic relations between the two countries".

Insecurity forces aid cuts in Sudan's Darfur - UN

Reuters 24/6/10 - Worsening security in Sudan's Darfur region is forcing aid agencies to cut or suspend some relief programmes, the United Nations said on Thursday.

The statement came two days after armed raiders abducted two German men working with humanitarian groups in the capital of South Darfur state, Nyala, and three days after attackers shot dead three Rwandan peacekeepers in the centre of the region.

In an unusually frank statement from inside Sudan, the U.N. mission called on Sudanese authorities to make a "concerted effort" to arrest and prosecute people who attack, abduct and rob humanitarian workers.

"The U.N. and humanitarian partners are very concerned at the increasingly insecure environment in Darfur ... particularly in the past two months," said the unsigned statement.

"The reduction of access due to insecurity has already resulted in some cases of either a complete suspension or a serious reduction of activities and delivery of assistance by humanitarian agencies."

The U.N.'s World Food Programme this month said more than 400,000 Darfuris might miss out on food aid in June because aid convoys were struggling to get to them.

Aid groups and peacekeepers have faced a surge in kidnappings -- 17 foreigners have been abducted in Darfur since last year, with the two Germans and an American woman still in captivity.

Juba alliance to stage a sit-in strike to protest Al-Turabi's arrest

AL-Watan 27/6/10 Leaders and members of the opposition Juba alliance reportedly decided to stage a sit-in strike today at the Popular Congress Party (PCP) HQs to protest continued detention of the PCP leader Hassan Al-Turabi. PCP political secretary kamal Omer said Al-Turabi's arrest is illegal and unconstitutional because the National security law provides that detention shall continue for 30 days after which the person should be released if there is no investigation or interrogation.

Pre-referendum Watch

Cairo to host NCP, SPLM meeting in mid July

Al-Sahafa 27/6/10 – an Egyptian delegation headed by Presidency official Mr. Khaled Urabi yesterday extended an invitation to the two CPA partners for a second round of talks in Cairo in mid July on issues of peace and referendum.

Meanwhile, a high-level US delegation yesterday discussed with GoSS officials in Juba issues of referendum. GoSS Minister of Peace Pagan Amum told reporters that the meeting with the US delegation focused on Sudanese issues in general and preparations for the conduct of the referendum in particular.

According to *the Citizen*, Amum also revealed that the permanent members of the UNSC have made assurances that they would ensure that the referendum on southern Sudan's self-determination takes place on schedule and that they would respect the democratic decision of the southerners.

Khartoum to host meeting of special envoys on referendum

Al-Akhbar 27/6/10 – Reliable sources have revealed that the US, Chinese, EU and Russian envoys to the Sudan will meet on 5 July for consultation on the issue of referendum on South Sudan's self-determination. The meeting will focus on pending issues including the demarcation of the border as well as the Darfur issue. The envoys will also hold separate meetings with the NCP and the SPLM.

“If the South voted for unity, no need for an Abyei commission” – NCP

Al-Akhbar 27/6/10 – The NCP has said that formation of Abyei referendum commission depends on result of the referendum on southern Sudan self-determination, adding that the formation of Abyei referendum commission is delayed because now priority is given to the southern Sudan referendum commission. NCP Information Secretary Dr. Rabie Abdul-Atti said, “We are not concerned with the issue of Abyei joining Bahr el Ghazal or southern Kordofan if the South secedes”, adding if the referendum leads to unity there will be no need for an Abyei referendum commission.

Meanwhile, National Assembly Deputy Speaker Atem Garang (SPLM) said discussion between the NCP and the SPLM on formation of Abyei referendum has stalled. He said that consultations would continue until October but if the two parties failed to make breakthrough then a third party intervention – UN, AU, Arab League or the International Court - would be needed.

According *Al-Khartoum*, Atem said the upcoming referendum would be a test for southern Sudanese, adding that the peace achieved through the CPA would sustain regardless of the referendum's result.

However, NCP official Ismail Al-Haj Musa said UN has no mandate to intervene in the conduct of the referenda or formation of the South and Abyei commissions.

Sudanese state failed to achieve unity – Amum

Al-Rai Al-Aam 27/6/10 – GoSS Minister of Peace and CPA Implementation Pagan Amum said the SPLM and the NCP agreed to conduct the referendum on schedule under regional and international supervision.

Amum told reporters in Juba that the Sudanese state has failed to adopt and implement programmes that could have achieved unity with the north. Mr. Amum, who wrapped up a visit to Addis Ababa, said the SPLM was endeavouring to establish good relations with the North should the referendum results confirm secession.

Meanwhile, *Ajras Al-Hurriya* reports that the CPA partners will resume their consultations on post-referendum issues next week.

But according to *Akhbar Al-Youm*, the two CPA partners are holding secret meetings to agree on an acceptable formula to preserve unity of the country.

Sudan's SPLM & NCP sign MOU on post-referendum arrangement

Sudan Tribune website 27/6/10 - The NCP and the SPLM have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a roadmap for issues of post-referendum arrangements.

The document was signed this week in Mekele town in Ethiopia between representatives of the SPLM, also representing the Government of Southern Sudan and the NCP, representing the Government of National Unity (GoNU).

In a statement to the press, the minister of Information and official spokesperson, Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, said the agreement was about the modalities and structures for future discussions on the post-referendum issues.

Dr. Marial further explained that the document was a culmination of the work of the current Southern Sudan Referendum Task force, chaired by the Vice President, Dr. Riek Machar Teny.

The Task Force serves as an oversight body that guides the whole processes and prepares the ground for conduct of free and fair referendum a part from the would-be formed technical Southern Sudan Referendum Commission.

The first session of the post-elections Council of Ministers held its meeting on Friday, chaired by President General Salva Kiir Mayardit, and approved the agreement as presented by Dr. Luka Biong Deng, GoNU's minister of Cabinet Affairs, on behalf of the GoSS minister of Peace and CPA Implementation, Pagan Amum Okiech.

The Taskforce is sub-divided into three groups that include the sub-committee for the conduct of the referendum that will be responsible for mobilization of the people to vote among many other preparations.

Another sub-committee is on the post-referendum arrangements, including the future of oil, assets, liabilities, security, international agreements, etc., while the third one is on preparations of the Government of Southern Sudan for a post-2011 governance on decentralization, including the review of the interim constitution of Southern Sudan.

The sub-committee on the conduct of the referendum is headed by the Minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, John Luk Jok, while the other sub-committee on governance in post-2011 Southern Sudan is headed by the Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Kostu Manibe, three of them making up the overall Task Force chaired by the Vice President.

Dr. Barnaba Marial added that negotiations with the National Congress Party on such issues are expected to resume on 1st July 2010.

SSLA says concerned over possible referendum rigging

Ajras Al-Hurriya 27/6/10 – Speaker of the South Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) James Wani Igga has expressed grave concern over the possibility of widespread rigging of the referendum in January next year but ruled out the choice of declaration of South Sudan's independence from within the SSLA because such step would contravene a CPA provision. However, Mr. Igga did not rule out the SPLM resorting to such step should the NCP's unwillingness to conduct the referendum persist.

Clerics in US visit over referendum, CPA implementation

Sudan Tribune website 25/6/10 - A delegation of high-ranking Sudanese catholic bishops is currently in United States to advocate for the country's referendum and full implementation of the CPA.

The clerics, who include, Bishop Rudolf Deng Majak of Wau, Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kusala of Tombura-Yambio and auxiliary Bishop Daniel Adwok Kur of Khartoum, reportedly held series of talks with several various stakeholders, government officials and concerned international NGOs with keen interests on Sudan.

With assistance from Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and CARITAS Internationalis, the delegation also met several European National representations to the UN, the Papal Nuncio as well as some UN institutions operating in Sudan.

"The UN officials as usual were adamantly denying all the issues we have raised including lack of proper engagement with church based organizations in peace building and development activities and the role of the UNMIS [United Nations Mission in Sudan] soldiers in many parts of the South," the delegation said in a statement sent to Sudan Tribune.

The high-ranking delegation, Sudan Tribune has learnt, appealed to Sudan-based diplomatic representatives in the UN to closely work with both the Governments of National Unity (GoNU) and that of Southern Sudan, to devise effective ways of addressing the continued tribal conflicts in the south.

"UNMIS needs to adopt a stance of deterrence and to institute regular long range

patrols, the need to review the rules of engagement of UNMIS forces. [They need] to set up early warning systems to monitor cases of violence all over the South,” they said.

The bishops further expressed dismay over what they described as “lack of adequate engagement” by the parties to the CPA with the civil society, especially in processes leading to the much-anticipated referendum.

In essence, they advocated for the establishment of an international body to mediate and monitor the referendum process, resolve disputes and if separation is mandated, help in resolving the remaining CPA issues such as popular consultations, Abyei referendum, among others.

The high-ranking delegation, who also complained of having been snubbed by the SPLM Secretary General (now Minister of Peace and CPA implementation), Mr. Pagan Amum while on his visit to the US, further held discussions with officials from the US State Department.