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Post-Referendum Monitor

Parties to the CPA to resume talks next Wednesday in Addis

Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 27/03/11 – The NCP, SPLM joint committee is set to resume talks on a number of outstanding issues next Wednesday in the Ethiopian capital, informed sources report. The sources say the two sides are resolved to address the outstanding issues ahead of 9th July 2011. Sources also say that President Omar Al-Bashir and FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit may attend the signing ceremony for a final agreement on the issues of Abyei should the parties reach a solution to the issue.

Salah Gosh would lead the NCP delegation to the talks while Pagan Amum would head the SPLM side.

Al-Raed quotes a member of the NCP political bureau says the SPLM now understands the need to address the outstanding issues of oil revenue and would apparently show some level of flexibility in discussions of these issues as well as that of foreign debts. Nazar Khaled pointed out that the SPLM was backing on conducting a unilateral referendum on Abyei and was, as a result, obstructing discussions over those issues.

No mechanism to investigate SPLM allegations by the UNSC - Government

Sudan Vision Khartoum, 27/03/11 – The Sudan Government denies recent statements by the SPLM that the United Nations Security Council had formed a mechanism to investigate the Movement's allegations of SAF support to southern Sudanese militias. Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Khalid Musa said that the Council formed no such mechanism but merely listened to the reports by the Sudan and SPLM representatives. He said that the Council is aware that there are two mechanisms to resolve such conflicts – namely UNMIS and the Joint Defence Board and that there was therefore no need to impose another mechanism.

Abyei would remain northern territory once the south secedes - Misseriya

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 27/03/11 – Al-Amir Ismail Mohamed Yousif, a Misseriya elder and member of the National Assembly, says the Misseriya in general have agreed that Abyei would remain northern Sudanese territory once the south officially secedes. “We do not object to dialogue towards a final solution before 9th July 2011 but beyond that, Abyei remains in the north and we are capable of defending it,” he said.

Non-stop protests if Southern Kordofan polls are rigged – SPLM warns

Al-Akhtar Khartoum, 27/03/11 – The SPLM-North would stage non-stop protests if the NCP rigs the Southern Kordofan polls, warns SPLM-North figure Yassir Arman. Speaking at ongoing meetings the movement leaders are engaged in with officials in Washington, Arman said that they would only back down from such protests if “matters are brought back to the right track.”

Arman said that SPLM officials are in the US for talks with a number of US officials over issues pertaining to the political arrests, torture and violation of human and constitutional rights in Sudan, among other issues.

According to *Sudantribune.com*, Yassir Arman urged the US, in a symposium held at Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, not to lift economic sanctions it imposed on Sudan since 2007 over the situation in Darfur region unless Khartoum demonstrates commitment to democratic

transformation, saying that President Al-Bashir's government should not be rewarded for separating the south but for giving "freedom and democracy to the Sudanese people."

The northern sector delegation, which is led by its chairman Malik Aggar and deputy chairman Yassir Arman, has extended its visit to Washington on a request by the U.S's Permanent Representative to the UN Susan Rice who is scheduled to meet the delegation at a later date in New York.

Arman said that President Obama must include Sudan in his policy of supporting popular uprisings against dictatorships in the Middle East. He also stressed the need for writing a new constitution in north Sudan, saying that the new constitution must be "free, democratic and reflects the diverse nature of the Sudanese nation in terms of ethnicity, religion, tribes and languages."

Furthermore, Arman criticized President Al-Bashir's assertion that the north would be a purely Muslim country after the secession of the south, warning that the SPLM's "military strength of 40,000 soldiers in north Sudan" should not be underestimated.

We reject the presence of SPLM in the north - NCP

Al-Wifaq Khartoum, 27/03/11 – Rabie Abdul-Ati, a senior member of the NCP, says his party would reject the idea of an SPLM presence in the north once the south secedes on the grounds that the SPLM would be a party of a foreign state. He accused Washington and other western states of pressuring the SPLM into pushing for separation in the south.

On ongoing discussions over post-referendum arrangements, Abdul'Ati pointed out that his party has nothing in its laws on a dual citizenship.

No 'Nubianisation' of Southern Kordofan – SPLM

The Citizen Khartoum, 27/03/11 – The SPLM has urged for new security arrangements in Southern Kordofan State soon after the elections. Party advisor Gamar Dalman said that the SPLM considers the invitation by the NCP for a meeting of the Nuba people in Khartoum as a "political tactic" meant to distract the people from the military build-up and attempts by the NCP to rig the elections or clothe it in an "ethnic attire" as a process that only concerns the Nuba people.

BOSS: value of new S Sudan pound will remain the same

Radio Miraya 25/03/11 - The new South Sudan pound will have the same value as the current Sudanese pound according to the Governor of the Bank of Southern Sudan, Elijah Malok.

Malok told *Radio Miraya* that the new note is now being printed and will be in use immediately after the announcement of the Republic of South Sudan. He said it will take more than four months to completely replace the pound notes currently in circulation in the region.

The first denominations released into circulation will be the one to 50 pound notes. Coins will be available later. Aleng said the picture of the late Dr. John Garang is the obvious character which is included on one side of one of the new bank notes.

Other Highlights

Sudan to send Egypt gift of 5,000 cows as Prime Minister visits

AFP Khartoum, 26/03/11 - Sudan will start sending 5,000 cows that it promised as a gift to Egypt next week, the foreign ministry said today, just ahead of a two-day visit by Egyptian Prime Minister Essam Sharaf.

“During his last trip to Egypt (at the beginning of March), President Omar al-Bashir announced that he would give the Egyptians 5,000 cows as a present,” foreign ministry spokesman Khalid Musa told *AFP*.

“We will start sending the cows on Monday. There will be a ceremony beforehand at Al-Qadaru in north Khartoum,” before Sharaf departs for the southern capital Juba, Musa add.

Sharaf, who was appointed by the army this month after president Hosni Mubarak’s ouster in February, heads an Egyptian delegation that will include the foreign, agriculture and irrigation ministers.

South Sudan Vice- President rebukes rebellions amid transition to statehood

Sudantribune.com Juba, 26/03/11 – GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar has rebuked the increasing rebellions ahead of the founding of the new nation.

Machar said it was unfortunate and a bad sign that the region has been faced with rebellions during its transition into statehood. He recalled a similar situation in which the Sudan as a state was founded in January 1956, as some groups in the South launched a rebellion in August 1955, months before proclamation of independence. He said this had to drag on for the next 55 years and has now ended in the break up of the state in 2011.

Most of the rebellions declared by individual army officers and former militias since last year came in the aftermath of April 2010 general elections and can be described as political.

The most recent rebellion announced last week by Major Gen. Abdel-Bagi Ayii Akol, the former advisor to South Sudan President, Salva Kiir.

Akol criticises Pagan, demands investigations

Sudan Vision Khartoum, 27/03/11 – SPLM-DC Chairman, Lam Akol, has called for an independent probe into the recent violent events in Malakal, Bentiu and Fanjak and has called on the GoSS to seek a peaceful solution to the insurgency instead of an escalation in hostilities.

Addressing the opening of the Third Convention of the SPLM-DC in Khartoum yesterday, Akol reiterated denial of SPLM/A allegations that his party has positioned forces to cause conflict in the region, pointing out that such allegations aim at harming the reputation of his party and to destroy the harmony that followed the South-South Dialogue Conference.

Akol accused SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum of having “excessive hatred” for his party and dared Pagan to “take his accusations to court instead of the streets”.

Nuer activists abroad have meanwhile sent a memorandum to Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council calling for an investigation into “crimes by the SPLA” against their people in southern Sudan, reports *Al-Rai Al-Aam*.

SPLM says willing to cooperate with other political parties

Sudantribune.com Wau, 25/03/11 - The SPLM said Friday it is willing to cooperate with other political parties to work together to ensure the prevailing peace and stability is maintained.

Ann Ito, the SPLM's Deputy Secretary General, said in an interview with *Sudantribune.com* on Friday, that the general elections were over and that what remained now was to strengthen co-operation among political parties in fostering development and enabling people enjoy peace and stability.

"There is no way human being can avoid getting differences. They are part and parcel of human life we only need to resolve and move ahead, said minister Ito, before adding that the SPLM is ready to form an inclusive government."

"Next month the technical committee reviewing the interim constitution of south will give a final report to the president of the government of South Sudan and the Assembly on the envisaged constitutional reforms. This was not in the SPLM manifesto but the opposition demanded for it and the government has heeded their call."

"That is a clear manifestation of collaboration," she said. She assured the public that the government was searching for a lasting solution to problems facing the region including seeking how to end hostilities with political opponents.

Unknown gunmen attack police patrol killing 5 people in Upper Nile

Radio Miraya 26/03/11 - Five people were killed in a clash between police and a group of armed people in Manj in Upper Nile State. Manj County Commissioner, Al-Tayeb Ajak, told *Radio Miraya* that the attackers were from the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement - Democratic Change (SPLM - DC).

Ajak said one policeman and four of the gunmen were killed in the clash. He said inspection of the attackers' belongings, which had been left behind, confirmed their affiliation to SPLM-DC, adding that the group was trying to disrupt border demarcation.

The SPLM-DC denies involvement in the incident. The party's spokesperson, Peter Adwok Uthou, told *Radio Miraya* that Commissioner Ukij wants to find a reason to arrest his party members and to prevent SPLM-DC activities. He accused the Commissioner of carrying out instructions from the government in Juba.

The SPLM-DC also denied accusations they were involved in clashes about two weeks ago in Malakal town in Upper Nile State, in which tens of people were killed.

14 People killed, 9 others wounded in Mvolo County WES

Radio Miraya WES, 25/03/11 - *Radio Miraya's* correspondent in Western Equatoria State reports fourteen people have been killed and nine others wounded in fresh cattle raids in Mvolo County.

The Secretary of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Western Equatoria, Manash Doboja, confirmed that people are fleeing their homes because of fighting in the area.

He called on the Government of Southern Sudan to intervene to end the fighting, adding that houses, churches, health centres and schools were being burnt down in Mvolo.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Yirol West County, Makur Kulang Liei said that they are putting strategies in place to prevent further escalation. He said that authorities from the two States should control the conflict, describing it as baseless.

Unity state militia has to surrender peacefully – southern army

Sudantribune.com Bentiu, 26/03/11 - The SPLA has called upon the forces of Sudanese army general Bapiny Monytuel Wijang, a South Sudanese militia commander who remains in Khartoum, to either lay down their weapons or to agree to integrate into the SPLA.

SPLA division Four commander, James Gatduel Gatluak of Unity state, warned the militia of any unauthorized movement within the state. He called for those willing to join SPLA to surrender immediately to an SPLA barracks or a local authority in the area of conflict.

SPLA commander Gatluak said that there would be no harm done to those who give themselves up. But he went to warn those who do not surrender “will be crushed”.

PCP renews rejection to talks with the NCP

The Citizen Khartoum, 27/03/11 – The Popular Congress Party (PCP) has renewed its rejection to dialogue with the National Congress Party (NCP) and affirms adherence to working with the other political forces to topple the regime before June this year.

In an exclusive interview yesterday, PCP Political Affairs Secretary Kamal Omar says his party rejects talks with the NCP because its members have not been released. He revealed that they are coordinating with the Sudan Communist and Umma parties to topple the NCP before 9th July 2011 but denied any connection between his party and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

We don't need blessings from the opposition to engage NCP in talks – Umma

Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 27/3/11 – The National Umma Party has called on leaders of the opposition parties to desist from interfering in its decision to talk with the NCP. Party politburo member Yassir Jalal told *Akhir Lahza* that the party does what it feels is in its interest and its Political Bureau has resolved that the party dialogue with the NCP. For this, he says, the National Umma Party does not need the blessings of the opposition parties. He said that his party does not seek to sideline the other political forces as it pursues dialogue with the ruling party.

Authorities bar high-ranking DUP delegation from visiting Blue Nile State

Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 27/03/11 – Authorities in Blue Nile State have barred a high-level delegation of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) from entering the state capital of Al-Damazine yesterday. Al-Sharif Sidig Al-Hindi, the leader of the DUP delegation told *Akhir Lahza* that they were surprised when informed by state authorities that they had received a cable from Khartoum instructing them not to allow passage for the DUP delegation. He wondered why they were barred from carrying out “regular party activities” in the state and has called on an investigation into the issue.

Conflicting reports over sit-in in National Television station

Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 27/03/11 – A high-ranking source at the National Television has confirmed employees at the station intend to stage a sit-in tomorrow over lack of payment of financial dues for the past three months. These measures come following failure by the administration to meet its pledges to pay their dues, the source reports.

But Mussadag Hassan, the head of the workers' union at the national television station, told *Al-Rai Al-Aam* yesterday that there are no plans for a sit-in tomorrow. He pointed out that the sit-in could only be decided through a meeting of the General Assembly and this, he said, has not happened. Massadag admitted that there are problems over dues but the workers are engaged with the administration in consultations to resolve the problem.

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