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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Nafie and Musa sworn in as Presidential Assistants

Al-Sahafa 28/6/10 – Nafie Ali Nafie (NCP) and Musa Mohamed Ahmed (Eastern Sudan Front), who were reappointed presidential aides recently, were sworn in yesterday. While Mr. Nafie reiterated resolve to step up efforts to achieve peace in Darfur and to sustain Sudan's unity, Mr. Musa has pledged to support Sudan's unity and stability.

CPA partners fail to agree on parliamentary committees

Ajras Al-Hurriya 28/6/10 – The SPLM has decided to suspend work of its members in the parliamentary committees but they will continue to attend general meetings of the committees until October. Reportedly, the two CPA partners failed to agree on sharing the parliamentary committees. While the SPLM is insisting on leading five parliamentary committees in addition to five posts of deputy chairperson of the committees, the NCP is pushing for reduction of the posts of deputy chairperson of the committees to just four.

Blackwater to reach settlement with US on violating Sudan sanctions

Sudan Tribune website 27/6/10 - The US defense contractor Blackwater Worldwide is negotiating with federal authorities on a settlement regarding violations of Sudan sanctions that took place since 2005, McClatchy Newspapers said in an investigative report.

Blackwater is doing this in order to avoid indictment that would have prevented it from benefiting from lucrative government contracts. The Obama Administration recently awarded the firm a \$120 million State Department security contract, and about \$100 million in new CIA work.

This is likely the reason why Obama Administration decided not to pursue legal action against Blackwater. The Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) which monitors sanctions enforcement generally imposes fines on those companies found to have violated sanctions against countries such as Iran, Cuba and Sudan.

Former and current US officials told the newspaper that the effort to secure contract in South Sudan was led by Blackwater's owner Erik Prince, a former Navy SEAL who had close ties with top officials in President George W. Bush's White House and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Sudan has been under US sanctions since 1997 though in 2006 the Bush Administration lifted them in the South of the country and other areas with limited exceptions. The U.S. has been attempting to make sure to ease the impact of the sanctions on South Sudan which enjoys Washington's backing.

After negotiating a \$2 million draft contract to train South Sudan president Salva Kiir's personal security, Blackwater in early 2007 drafted a detailed second proposal, valued

at more than \$100 million, to equip and train southern Sudan's army.

Because the south lacked ready cash, Blackwater sought 50% of its untapped mineral wealth, a former senior US official said.

South Sudan which has large reserves of oil was also believed to have mineral riches of gold, iron and diamonds.

Several officials with knowledge of Sudan policy said the State Department and CIA had initially encouraged Blackwater to explore providing protection for Southern Sudan's leaders, fearing they could be targeted for assassination.

The Bush administration promised protection, secure communications and air transport to Garang, the long-time Southern Sudanese rebel leader before his untimely death, said a US official with years of experience in Sudan.

Sudan freezing its membership in the Nile basin initiative

Sudan Tribune website 27/6/10 – The Sudanese irrigation minister Kamal Ali Mohamed announced that his country is freezing its membership in the Nile basin initiative to protest other countries insistence on the Entebbe accord on reallocating water shares.

"We freeze the activities related to the Nile Basin Initiative till we find a solution to the legal implications [of the initiative];" Mohamed told Qatar-based *Al-Jazeera TV*.

The water ministers of Egypt and Sudan, the largest consumers of the Nile's waters, were in the Ethiopian capital this week to discuss the increasingly contentious issue, which is pitting them against five other riparian countries.

Both countries have refused any alteration to the pre-existing accords of 1929 & 1959 which gave it veto power over upstream projects.

JEM rebels say Sudan refuses to facilitate release of POWs

Sudan tribune website 27/6/10 - The rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) accused the Sudanese army of refusing to facilitate the transfer of some 12 Prisoners of War (POWs) captured during last week clashes in South Darfur.

Suleiman Jamous, JEM humanitarian affairs official Sunday told *Sudan Tribune* that Sudanese army refused to facilitate the transfer of 12 POWs captured at Um Katkout. "Among them two officers one from the Central Reserve and the other from the Sudan Armed Forces" he emphasized.

He added that four prisoners suffer serious injuries while two soldiers lost their life due to their wounds.

Sudanese army and JEM rebels clashed at Um Katkout, 110k southeast of El Fasher and 90 km from Nyala on 22 June. Both sides claimed inflicting heavy casualties on the other side.

The rebel official said a delegation from the Red Cross met Sunday in Khartoum with the Sudanese army but despite the urgency of the situation SAF leadership pledged to give their response with 48 hours.

Jamous said the Sudanese army is refusing the transfer because "it proves the magnitude of losses on the part of SAF". He stressed the need to save the lives of the four injured soldiers, saying any further delay would threaten their lives.

Pre-referendum Watch

South Sudan referendum commission members to be endorsed today

Al-Rai Al-Aam 28/6/10 – the National Assembly at a session today will endorse the chairman and members of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission.

Time expired for unity of Sudan – SPLM Amum

Miraya website 27/6/10 – SPLM Secretary-General and Minister of Peace and CPA Implementation Pagan Amum has said that the recent meeting of the two partners in Addis Ababa was very positive, adding that he had received pledges from the UN Security Council especially China to respect the choice of the people of southern Sudan on either separation or unity.

However, Amum said that the time has gone for making unity between the north and the south attractive, adding that most of the southerners would vote for separation during the upcoming referendum process. Amum downplayed possibility of war between the North and the South if the latter becomes an independent State. He said it was premature to talk about the name of the new country, adding what is important is to conduct the referendum process and implement it in accordance with the CPA.

Meanwhile, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** 28/6/10 reports NCP foreign relations secretary Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail has stressed the importance of outweighing the unity choice, saying the call for separation by some SPLM leaders is "preemption of referendum result and a violation of the CPA". "We should not bury our heads in the sand and implement the agreement unilaterally," he said. Dr. Ismail added that Pagan Amum is not the only separatist voice within the SPLM. According to the newspaper, Amum has called on the northerners to get ready to accept a separate state.

SPLM MPs threaten to take up Abyei issue with The Hague Court

Al-Rai Al-Aam 28/6/10 – Members of the SPLM parliamentary bloc have threatened to escalate the issue of formation of Abyei referendum commission after the NCP continues to reject SPLM's proposals on the commission. MP Thomas Wani (SPLM) revealed that the SPLM might take up the issue with the International Court of Justice.