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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Monitor

Egypt to sign cooperation deal with GoSS

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 29/03/11 – The high-level Egyptian delegation currently visiting the country ended a visit to Juba yesterday where the Egyptian Prime Minister invited the GoSS for talks on cooperation deals in various fields. Egypt has also expressed interest to help bridge the views of the two Sudanese sides with regards outstanding CPA issues and post-referendum arrangements.

South Sudan, Egypt sign protocol on sharing Nile waters

Radio Miraya Juba, 28/03/11 - The Egyptian Prime Minister, Isam Sharaf, today met with GoSS officials to discuss issues of mutual importance such as sharing Nile waters and electric power supply. Also on the agenda was the development of the health and education sectors in South Sudan after independence. The Egyptian Consul-General, Muayad Ecdalie, told the press that the two sides signed a protocol on water.

The GoSS Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Paul Mayom described the signing of the protocol as an affirmation of the 2006 memorandum signed between Southern Sudan and Egypt.

Earlier, Vice-President Ali Osman Taha affirmed the Sudanese government's commitment to full and effective implementation of the agreements signed with its Egyptian counterpart. At the conclusion of the bilateral talks, Taha told the press that Khartoum will conduct a follow-up visit to ensure cooperation on implementing the deals between the two neighbours.

Meanwhile, Egyptian's Deputy Prime Minister, Isam Sharaf al-Din, said that his country is committed to help stabilizing Sudan in all fields.

Parliament to start paying after-service benefits to southern Sudanese MPs

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 29/03/11 – Following announcement by the Speaker of the National Assembly that southern Sudanese lawmakers would no longer be members of the House as of next Thursday, parliament intends to pay these MPs their after-service benefits as of today.

But SPLM figure and Federal Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Luka Biong, maintains that the issue of whether or not the southern MPs would remain members of the House beyond April 2011 was put to rest by the decision by the Presidency to maintain all CPA institutions until 9th July 2011. “In our view the issue does deserve no discussion because the Presidency is the highest government institution with regards the implementation of the CPA and has resolved that CPA institutions remain in place until 9th July,” he said.

Mbeki in consultations with the Parties over Abyei

Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 29/03/11 – AUHIP chief Thabo Mbeki is engaging the Parties to the CPA in consultations to reach “acceptable solutions” to the Abyei issue, says Federal Minister for Cabinet Affairs Luka Biong. Biong says the SPLM would not agree to any solution that disregards the Abyei Protocol and the PCA ruling on the Abyei borders.

In a related development, Abyei Deputy Chief Administration Rahama Abdulrahman says there are no plans to withdraw the JIUs from the Abyei Area since the problems of the region are yet to be resolved.

SPLM's Luka Biong calls for IMF assistant to southern Sudan

Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 29/03/11 – In a meeting at his offices yesterday, Federal Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Luka Biong, called on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to assist southern Sudan in the areas of development. He told *Al-Ayyam* that the IMF and the World Bank would hold meetings with Federal government and GoSS officials next week early next month.

“The Parties to the CPA had agreed in principle to field a joint delegation on the Sudan’s foreign debts but failure to address the Abyei problem has led to an impasse on the formation of the joint committee,” he said.

Sudanese lawyers predict regression in freedoms after 9 July

Al-Sahafa [via BBC Monitoring] Khartoum, 28/03/11 - The alliance of democratic lawyers has described as “a real catastrophe” the decision by the Sudan Lawyer's Union to prevent [opposition] democratic front lawyers from celebrating International Women's Day at the Lawyers' Club in Omdurman.

The alliance derided the union's initiative to congratulate revolutionaries in the Arab world while suppressing opposition voices within. The head of the alliance, Amin Makki Madani, said at a press conference yesterday that the alliance predicts that post-9 July Sudan would see more restriction of freedoms and an increase in oppression campaigns and strengthening of the NCP's grip.

NCP, SPLM differences delay popular consultations data analysis process

Al-Akhbar Khartoum, 29/03/11 – Blue Nile State starts today the data analysis processes on Popular Consultations, a high ranking official at the state Popular Consultations Commission intimates. The official attributed the delay in the exercise to what he described as differences between the parties to the CPA.

Data analysis of Blue Nile Popular Consultation Opinion Poll begins

Radio Miraya, 29/08/11 - The process of analyzing data collected during the Opinion Polling stage of the Popular Consultation in Blue Nile state begins on Tuesday. Officer-in-Charge of the poll, Abud Muhammad Nassir, said that the process was delayed due to disputes between members of the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in the Popular Consultation Commission.

Nassir told *Radio Miraya* that data entry and analysis might take up to 45 days.

Sudanese lawyers predict regression in freedoms after 9 July

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 28/03/11 - The alliance of democratic lawyers has said that the decision by the Lawyer's Union to bar [opposition] Democratic Front lawyers from celebrating International Women's Day at the Lawyers' Club in Omdurman is a real catastrophe insofar as it had been taken by an entity whose task was to protect freedoms and guard against campaigns of oppression.

The alliance derided the union's initiative to congratulate revolutionaries in the Arab world and said this should have been directed at those inside the country.

The head of the alliance, Amin Makki Madani, said at a press conference yesterday that they predict that the period after 9 July would see the restriction of freedoms and an increase in

campaigns of oppression with the NCP tightening its grip on the country.

It was regrettable, he said, that the Sudanese government and the lawyers' union should support Arab revolutions while undermining those rights that are causing protests within the country.

At a press conference yesterday, Madani said they were closely monitoring the situation and the increase in the number of protest groups in order to provide the legal backing for protesters.

Opposition party official calls for political reforms in southern Sudan

The Juba Post Juba, 28/03/11 - The Chairman of the [opposition] National Democratic Front James Mabor Gatkaok has urged the government of southern Sudan to embark on political reforms to allow for a multiparty party democracy in the country. Mabor lamented Friday that the multiparty tag that is currently peddled by the government is seemingly to please international observers that there is freedom of association in the country.

According to him there are no sufficient rights to guarantee a functioning democracy. He regretted that the SPLM is not respecting the resolutions that were arrived at in the South-South dialogue that preceded the referendum.

Mabor said that the political parties in the south Sudan are not happy with the SPLM because, as the country approaches the historic event, it must do so in a humble beginning. He added that this is the wrong time for southerners to rise against the government but instead it should be a time to end conflict by ushering in a democratic atmosphere.

The politician called upon the government to institute political reforms that would reduce the acrimony between the ruling party and the opposition adding that the hate relationship that existed in the early Federal Government should not be replicated in the south. He said the government of South Sudan must learn from the poor administration of the National Congress Party that led to wars against the centre.

Other Highlights

South Sudan tells Egypt it will respect existing Nile water treaties

Sudantribune.com Juba, 28/03/11 - The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) assured Egyptian officials on Monday that it will honour the agreements already in place regarding the allocation of the Nile waters.

Egypt currently holds dominant right on Nile water following powers granted by a 1929 colonial-era treaty with Britain. Its subsequent 1959 deal with Sudan gave the two downstream countries more than 90% control of the Nile waters.

Under the original deal, Egypt is entitled to 55.5 billion cubic meters of water a year, the lion's share of the Nile's total flow of around 84 billion cubic meters.

Upstream countries have tabled the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in 1999 which would strip Egypt of its veto right over all upstream projects including irrigation and hydropower. This was signed by six nations that are set to have it ratified this year by the respective parliaments. Sudan has stood firmly in opposition for amending the original treaty.

South Sudan president Salva Kiir said during his talks with visiting Egyptian Prime minister Essam Sharaf that GoSS usage of the Nile waters would be within the share of the entire Sudan as

specified by the original treaties adding that Cairo need not worry.

Kiir stressed that Egypt is the largest partner for South Sudan and expressed his gratitude to the developmental role played by Cairo towards the Southern Sudanese and urged Sharaf to send more medical and educational missions.

The Egyptian PM on his end pledged to support South Sudan and play a mediation role in any differences that could emerge between North and South Sudan.

Both sides later signed a memorandum of understanding stating that Egypt would provide substantial assistance and to the South in the areas of agriculture and water use.

Khartoum distances itself from new dissidences in South Sudan army

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 28/03/11 - Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) denied any links with the new insurgencies in the southern Sudan army, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), and dismissed reports that Maj. Gen. Peter Gadet is currently in Khartoum.

The statements come as the SPLA spokesperson admitted that the influential Peter Gadet has rebelled "individually" without followers on his side.

On Sunday SPLA spokesperson told Sudan Tribune that the dissident general received official permission to visit Nairobi but had instead travelled to Sudan's capital. He said they do not know what caused his change of itinerary and believe he is still in Khartoum.

Only the SPLA is concerned with the disappearance of Maj. Gen. Peter Gadet stated SAF spokesperson Al-Sawarmi Khaled who added that the southern general did not join the northern Sudanese army.

He further denied his presence in Khartoum saying any accusation from the SPLA that he is harboured by SAF is unfounded. However the Sudanese intelligence sponsored news service **SMC** reported that Gadet moved to Unity state to organize his troops.

Ugandan army rules out talks with LRA rebel leader

The New Vision Kampala, 28/03/11 - There will be no more talks between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels, a Uganda army commander the commander, Lt. Gen. Katumba Wamala, has said.

Katumba made the remarks while addressing an African Union (AU) technical team at the army headquarters in Mbuya on Friday. He said all that was left was for LRA leader, Joseph Kony, to sign the peace agreement that was drawn in 2008.

"Uganda has never closed the door to peace. Kony can come out and sign the comprehensive peace agreement and if there is someone who thinks he can convince him to come out of the bush, we welcome him," Katumba said. He said the UPDF [Uganda People's Defence Force] would use force to defeat the rebels.

UPDF Spokesperson Lt. Col. Felix Kulaiye said the team, led by Col. Mar Mbow, was in the country to discuss ways of ending the LRA conflict.

The AU team comprised the head of the Government of Southern Sudan secretariat, James Reat Gony and the SPLA deputy chief of staff for operations, Wilson Deng.

Aid agency allowed to resume operations in Darfur

Reuters Khartoum, 29/03/11 - Aid group Catholic Relief Services has been allowed to resume distribution of food in West Darfur, narrowly averting a shutdown of the programme after Khartoum suspended its work there in January, the group said.

Sudan accused it of distributing Bibles in the Muslim region, the latest in a series of restrictions on foreign aid groups operating in the conflict-ridden region.

The agency, which has denied distributing Bibles or Christian materials, on Sunday warned it would be forced to shut down the programme by the end of March if it was not allowed back, depriving 400,000 people of food rations.

The agency said it was asked to leave West Darfur because of security concerns and had relocated its expatriate staff to Khartoum.

The group in a statement said it was working with the local government to ensure food distributions begin immediately. A spokeswoman declined to comment further.

Libya's Gaddafi was top supporter of Darfur rebels: official

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 28/03/11 - The chairman of Transitional Darfur Regional Authority (TDRA) slammed Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and accused him of being the top supporter of the rebel groups in Sudan.

West Darfur governor Al-Shertai Ga'far Abdel-Hakam who is also the TDRA head told a forum organized by the National Union of Sudanese youth that Gaddafi provided money and weaponry to rebels in the region as well as the East and the South.

He provided no details to back his claims but said he is the first high ranking Sudanese official to go on record with these allegations that his peers made privately for years.

Pirates hijack Singapore-bound oil tanker

Reuters Mogadishu, 28/03/11 - Pirates firing rocket-propelled grenades and small arms hijacked an oil tanker bound for Singapore from Sudan on Monday, the European Union's anti-piracy task force said.

"At approximately 0900 (GMT) on 28 March, the Crude Oil Tanker the MV ZIRKU was pirated approximately 250 nautical miles southeast of Salalah in the eastern part of the Gulf of Aden," EU Navfor said on its website.

It was not immediately clear whether the tanker, which the website said was Kuwaiti-owned, was fully laden with crude. Sudan is an oil-exporting country.

In Kuwait, officials denied the tanker was Kuwaiti-owned.

A Gulf industry source said the vessel was owned and operated by the Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Company, which provides transport services for members of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

The company could not be immediately reached for comment.

Tankers are a prized catch for ransom-seeking Somali pirates who operate as far south as Madagascar and as far east as a few hundred miles off India.

Somali pirates early last month grabbed a U.S.-bound super tanker carrying a crude oil cargo

worth an estimated \$200 million.

Somalia has lacked an effective central government for two decades, allowing armed gangs to stalk the strategic waterways off the Horn of Africa nation and rake in tens of millions of dollars in booty each year.

EU Navfor said the tanker's 29-strong crew included one Croatian, 17 Pakistani nationals, one Iraqi, one Filipino, one Indian, three Jordanians, three Egyptians and two Ukrainians.

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