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Media Monitoring Report

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Headlines

- SAF operations in S. Kordofan will continue – Bashir (*Sudan Vision*)
- Private sector's southern employees may stay after 9 July (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Al Bashir to leave for Addis Ababa today (*Sudan Vision*)
- South finalizes preparations for independence celebrations (*Al-Ayyam*)
- SPLM accuses NCP of sending elements to spoil independence event (*Akhir Lahza*)
- Police warns of rumours on 9 July (*Al-Khartoum*)
- SPLM calls on the Presidency to calm situation in southern Kordofan (*Al-Akhbar*)
- Sudan's oil minister rejects Amum's accusations on July sales (*ST*)
- US sees S. Sudan independence set despite violence (*Reuters*)
- Ban to attend independence ceremony (*IBNS*)
- NCP and SPLM to implement Addis Ababa agreement (*Al-Wifaq*)
- Gunmen kill Ethiopian peacekeeper in Sudan's Darfur (*Reuters*)

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Highlights

SAF operations in S. Kordofan will continue - Bashir

Sudan Vision 3/6/11 - addressing Friday congregational prayer at Al Noor Complex in Kafouri district in Khartoum North, President Al Bashir said the armed forces would continue its military operations in South Kordofan and would not stop until rebellion is completely crushed.

"Abdel Aziz Al Hilu is a criminal and shall be prosecuted", the President said. He added Abdel Aziz Al Hilu is a criminal and would remain a criminal and that the government would not deal with any criminal and outlaw who killed innocent citizens.

"I order the armed forces to arrest him and bring him to justice," the President said.

He added the attempt by SPLM to seize Abyei had been swiftly dealt with in 48 hours, forcing SPLA to evacuate the region.

In the same context, the governor of South Kordofan, Ahmed Haroun has said life is back to normal at the state which is recovering from the perfidious attack by Abdel Aziz Al Hilu.

"Citizens are returning to their homes and trade activities are getting back to normal," he said.

In an interview with Al Shirouq TV Channel, Haroun said what Al Hilu did was an uncalculated move for sure, a move that has caused sufferings to the people of the region who had hoped that they would enjoy a sustainable peace and who have shunned war.

Private sector's southern employees to stay after 9 July

Al- Rai Al-Aam 3/6/11 – The Ministry of Labour has issued a circular allowing the southern Sudanese employees of the private sector to continue to stay in the North after July the 9th provided they obtain a work permit.

Earlier, the Ministry ordered that services of all southern employees of the public and private sectors be terminated.

Al Bashir to leave for Addis Ababa today

Sudan Vision 3/6/11 - President Al-Bashir will head today to Addis Ababa to participate in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

The IGAD summit is supposed to discuss the course of the CPA implementation and issues related to South Sudan secession.

Al Bashir will be accompanied by a number of ministers and high ranking government officials.

South finalizes preparations for independence celebrations

Al-Ayyam 3/6/11 – the GoSS announced the finalization of preparations for the historic celebration of independence of the South which will be named the Republic of South Sudan.

GoSS Secretary General Abdoon Aqao said 80 countries have confirmed their participation in the event, 30 of them at the level of head of state.

He said Sudan's national anthem would be played followed by South Sudan's national anthem and President Al Bashir would address the celebration followed by President Kiir. He said 21 artillery shells would be fired and a military parade would also be conducted.

SPLM accuses NCP of sending elements to spoil independence celebrations

Akhir Lahza 3/6/11 – The SPLM has accused the NCP of sending elements to Juba to spoil independence celebrations by carrying out subversive acts on the 9th of July, saying the Party would be held responsible for the consequences.

SPLM leader Atem Garang strongly lashed out against the NCP and the Government, saying the unruly elements and the thieves who indulge in subversive acts in the South are NCP's creation. Garang did not rule out some incidents of insecurity during the celebrations.

Police warns of rumours on 9 July

Al-Khartoum 3/6/11 – the police force announced readiness to secure all cities in the North on the 9th of July. Police spokesperson Lt. Gen. Ahmed Al-Tohami has warned of the consequences of heeding to rumours, saying the police forces would not allow past experiences to recur.

“The 9 of July will be a normal day but we are ready for any eventuality” he said, adding authorities would take strict action against rumour mongers.

SPLM calls on the Presidency to calm situation in southern Kordofan

Al-Akhtar 3/6/11 – The newspaper has learned from sources that Chairman of the SPLM in the North Malik Aqar will visit southern Kordofan today for consultation with his deputy Abdulaziz Al-Hilu on the implementation of the agreement signed with the NCP in Addis Ababa last week on cessation of hostilities in the region.

SPLM Press Adviser Al-Nazeer Ibrahim urged yesterday the Presidency and the NCP on the need to calm the situation in the area and to give a chance to Malik Aqar to convince Al-Hilu to come to the negotiation.

Sudan's oil minister rejects Amum's accusations on July sales

Sudan Tribune website 2/6/11 - The Sudanese oil minister Lual Deng on Saturday vehemently rejected accusations leveled by Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) Secretary General Pagan Amum in which he accused him of betraying the South by splitting 48% of the crude proceeds with the North in July without consulting with the Juba based government.

Amum who was speaking to South Sudan TV from Addis Ababa stated that such a move is in violation to the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which he said suspends wealth sharing protocol as of July 9th.

The Sudanese oil minister, who is a Southern figure, defended the sale saying it was done with the consent and knowledge of South Sudan president Salva Kiir. He added that the ministry

follows the international standards in selling oil with a future load date.

Deng stressed that his position in the federal government requires him to perform in the interests of all parties and that the work in his ministry is conducted in complete transparency. He mocked Amum and described him as someone who lacks experience and knowledge in the oil sector.

He further said that the SPLM SG should have requested written reports or an oral briefing before disseminating these charges. The SPLM minister stressed his commitment to preserve the rights and wealth of Southerners being one of them.

Deng acknowledged that the wealth sharing protocol transfers the entire oil wealth to the ownership of Southerners after July 9th noting that President Kiir has formed an ad-hoc committee to market the oil that is comprised of SPLM members and foreign experts but emphasized that it does not contain anyone from the NCP.

He told citizens of South Sudan that their oil is in good hands and that he is keener than others on protecting their rights and interests calling on them to work hard to build their new state and avoid the negatives which incapacitated development in the South in the past.

The oil minister indicated his preference for the use of the North's pipelines to export oil and ruled out any other alternatives for at least the next 36 months stressing the high costs associated with exporting it through ports in Uganda or Kenya as has been considered.

US sees South Sudan independence set despite violence

Reuters, 02/07/11 - The United States believes South Sudan will split smoothly from the North when it declares independence on July 9 but the two sides face tough economic and security challenges that could threaten further violence, a senior U.S. official said on Friday.

Princeton Lyman, the Obama administration's special envoy for Sudan, said South Sudan's formal secession would be a "celebratory event" despite the fact that Juba and Khartoum were unlikely to decide quickly on contentious issues, including division of oil revenues and the status of the disputed border region of Abyei.

"I do think July 9th is going to come off in the way it should, as bringing to an end decades of civil war between the north and the south," Lyman told a news briefing.

Ban to attend independence ceremony

IBNS, 02/07/11 - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will travel next week to South Sudan, soon to be the world's newest country, for its independence celebrations, his spokesperson announced on Friday.

Ban will arrive in Juba, which will be the capital of the new State, on Friday, and meet with South Sudanese President Salva Kiir Mayardit and peacekeeping troops, staff and management of the UNMIS.

On Saturday he will attend the independence ceremony in Juba to mark the formal founding of South Sudan, six months after its residents voted in a UN-backed referendum to secede from the rest of Sudan.

NCP and SPLM to implement Addis Ababa's agreement

Al-Wifaq 3/6/11 – The CPA parties have announced that they would start the implementation of the agreement they signed in Addis Ababa within two days.

NCP leader Mutrif Siddiq said the political and security committees between the two parties would begin their meetings during the current week. Siddiq told a press conference yesterday that efforts were continuing to resolve pending issues and stressed the importance of deployment of an Ethiopian force in Abyei.

Gunmen kill Ethiopian peacekeeper in Sudan's Darfur

Reuters 2/6/11 - Gunmen shot dead an Ethiopian peacekeeper and injured one of his comrades in Sudan's Darfur region on Thursday, UNAMID said on Saturday.

Attackers opened fire on a U.N. van carrying the men from the airport outside El Geneina, capital of West Darfur state, to the town, the UNAMID peacekeeping mission said in a statement.

"This is the 29th peacekeeper killed since the mission was set up (at the beginning of 2008)," said UNAMID spokesman Kemal Saiki, adding he did not know why the attack took place.

"One officer was hit in the chest and ... died on his way to hospital."

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