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Media Monitoring Report

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Headlines

- Sudanese minister and French Total discuss oil exploration in Jonglei (**ST**)
- Arab League hopes Sudan-Libya border closure will not lead to crisis (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- West Darfur state asks centre to impose security directive on NGOs (**Akhir Lahza**)

Pre-referendum Watch

- CPA partners negotiate “confederation” in Juba (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Sudan’s CPA partners hand post referendum arrangement to AU (**ST**)
- UN urges formation of Abyei referendum commission (**Dailies**)
- UN says ready to train GoSS police for referendum (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- No referendum voting centres except in the South – Chiefs (**Khartoum Monitor**)

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Highlights

Sudanese minister and French Total discuss oil exploration in Jonglei

Sudan Tribune website 29/6/10 - Sudan's Oil minister discussed with an official from Total SA (TOT) the exploration of block (B) in Jonglei state and difficulties encountering the French company which has not yet resumed its activities there since the signing of the 2005 peace agreement.

The newly-appointed minister Lual Deng on Tuesday met with the manager of Total Sudan, Serge Montesquieu, to discuss the plans of the oil company in Block B, the official SUNA reported today.

The meeting attended by the state minister Ali Ahmed Osman, listened to the programs and plans of the oil company and the obstacles that hinder the workflow.

The Minister promised to solve these problems with the competent organs of the national and southern Sudan governments. He also directed the concerned bodies in the ministry to intensify efforts to remove all the technical obstacles that delay the progress of Total activities...

Arab League hopes Sudan-Libya border closure will not lead to crisis

Al-Rai Al-Aam 30/6/10 – an informed source said the Qatari mediation for Darfur talks asked Libya's envoy to the talks to leave the country because of activities the mediation sees running counter to the process. Reportedly, the Libyan envoy had tried to unify visions of Darfur movements in Doha and that of JEM which the mediation did not liked.

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary-General Umr Musa hoped that closure of border between Sudan and Libya would not lead to a crisis.

In another development, **Al-Intibaha** has learned from a source that the Libyan authorities have allowed JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim and a group of the movement's field commanders to travel to the town of Kufra at the border with the Sudan. Reportedly, three JEM military units are moving towards Libya's border to secure Khalil's trip back to his army.

West Darfur state asks centre to impose security directive on NGOs

Akhir Lahza 30/6/10 – West Darfur state government has called on the federal government to ensure the compliance of all national and international NGOs operating in the humanitarian field in Darfur to the security arrangement which requires them to coordinate with local authorities, saying some INGOs have refused the government's arrangement for humanitarian security. West Darfur HAC Commissioner Mohamed Hassan Awad said the government deals with the NGOs based on its duty to secure their compounds and personnel in Darfur, adding that some INGOs are not willing to accept the government's security plan which is the cause of kidnappings.

Pre-referendum Watch

CPA partners negotiate “confederation” in Juba

Al-Sahafa 30/6/10 – Informed sources revealed that the NCP proposed to the SPLM a confederation with a rotating presidency as an alternative to separation.

The sources have confirmed that the meeting between the GoNU delegation led by VP Ali Osman Taha and GoSS delegation led by VP Riek Machar in Juba would focus on confederation. The sources added that the committee tasked with the confederation dossier has already started its discussion in Juba on “two confederal states with a rotating presidency” between the North and the South.

According to *Akhbar Al-Youm* 30/6/10, VP Ali Osman Taha and the accompanying delegation will travel to Juba tomorrow.

Sudan’s CPA partners hand post referendum arrangements to AU

Sudan Tribune website 29/6/10 - The two CPA partners have agreed to handover the post-referendum issues and arrangement to the African Union’s High Implementation Panel for Sudan, says government’s official spokesman.

Dr. Marial Benjamin Bil, a key SPLM member and GoSS minister of information confirmed the consensus reached by the two parties to involve AU mediators on the post-referendum arrangements between the two parties.

The two partners have resolved to involve AU and IGAD in the discussions, said minister Marial, expressing commitment of his party to peaceful settlement of the post referendum issues.

“SPLM is committed to taking part in fair and impartial discussions with the National Congress [Party] by anybody. We are actually accustomed to peaceful dialogue as best way to resolve differences in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement over the past years,” he said.

The consensus reached between the peace partners on Thursday 23 June in the Ethiopian town of Mekele, shall be facilitated by AU’s High-level Implementation Panel for Sudan supported by IGAD, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development and a regional grouping, the IGAD partners’ forum as well as the UN...

UN urges formation of Abyei referendum commission

Dailies 30/6/10 – SRSG and head of UNMIS Haile Menkerios has welcomed the endorsement of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission members. He urged the two CPA partners to accelerate the formation of Abyei referendum commission.

The SRSG reiterates UNMIS commitment to fully support the implementation of the CPA and its readiness to assist the parties with the preparations of the two referenda to ensure they are carried out in a credible way and reflect the will of the people.

UN says ready to train GoSS police for referendum

Al-Rai Al-Aam 30/6/10 – UNMIS Regional Coordinator David Gressly told a press conference in Juba yesterday that the Mission would soon offer to train more than 16,000 GoSS police personnel as part of efforts for the conduct of upcoming referendum. He said the Mission would provide logistic support and assist the referendum commission after its formation.

No referendum voting centres except in the South – Chiefs

Khartoum Monitor 30/6/10 – Southern Sudan chiefs have decided that no voting centres for the coming south referendum will be opened in any place except in the southern Sudan states. Chief Deng Macham, the chairman of the Chiefs' Council for the Unity of Southern Sudan, Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile and Darfur Tribes told a press conference yesterday in Khartoum that no voting centres would be opened in any part of the world other than Southern Sudan. Chief Macham announced that the registration of voters for referendum commenced yesterday 29 July 2010 and will only be valid for the thirty days. He ordered the southern chiefs to register their people in order to prepare for the referendum, adding the voluntary returns will start from 1st August to 25 November 2010.