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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Cabinet to hold last meeting today, to dissolve government tomorrow

Al-Sahafa 30/5/10 – Salva Kiir Mayardit and Ali Osman Mohamed Taha were sworn in yesterday before President Al-Bashir and Chief Justice as FVP and VP respectively.

Meanwhile, the newspaper has learned that the Council of Ministers will hold its last meeting today and the dissolution of the government will be announced tomorrow. Reportedly, the new government will be formed within ten days from the announcement of the dissolution of the current government. Sources said the South would get 9 ministries, 7 for the SPLM and 2 for other southern forces. The NCP is also reportedly in consultation with the DUP (mainstream) for the latter's participation in the government provided results of the recent elections are recognized.

Presidency approves formation on new Government of National Unity

Miraya FM 30/5/10 - The presidency, which comprises of the President of the Republic and his two deputies, has approved on Saturday the formation of the new Government of National Unity as agreed by the National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Joint Committee.

They also resolved to refer the agreement on the national parliamentary seats to the National Assembly to allow the National Elections Commission make necessary amendments to the Elections law to adopt the new apportionments.

The agreement gives Southern Sudan 40 seats, Southern Kordofan 4 seats and Abyei 2 seats.

The presidency has also approved formation of the South Sudan Referendum Commission, which will be referred to the National Assembly for endorsement in accordance with the national constitution.

The joint committee between the NCP and the SPLM were also tasked to continue consultations to reach proposals on the formation of the Abyei referendum and Human Rights commissions.

The proposals will be discussed in the presidency's next meeting for final approval.

Jonglei governor says Athor arrest difficult

Al-Rai Al-Aam 30/5/10 – governor of Jonglei Kuol Manyang has described Gen. Athor's threats to attack the SPLA as "propaganda", adding that the SPLA would continue the hunt to bring him to justice. However, Manyang yesterday revealed to the *SMC* the difficulty of arrest of Athor because he is moving in dense forests. He denied claims that more forces defected SPLA and joined Athor. On possibility of talks, he said Athor attacked Malakal and killed several soldiers so he is a criminal and should be brought to justice.

According to *Al-Ahdath* 30/5/10, Manyang has called on Athor to surrender to the GoSS. Governor Manyang also revealed that Athor has crossed into Upper Nile and attacked an SPLA base killing a number of soldiers.

SAF denies support for southern Sudan militias

Al-Ayyam 30/5/10 - The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) has denied SPLA allegations that it is supporting southern Sudanese militias in an attempt to destabilise the region ahead of the referendum. SAF Spokesperson Al-Suwarmi Khalid said that the army does not need to arm southern Sudanese militias, pointing out that UNMIS monitors such activities in the CPA areas. He challenged the SPLA to make a list of the people whom the SAF provided arms to in southern Sudan and the money received.

SPLA clashes with a renegade Colonel in Unity state

Sudan Tribune website 29/5/10 - A renegade Colonel in the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has clashed with the Southern Sudan army in a county called Abiem-Nhom in Unity state.

Colonel Gatluak Gai of SPLA, who was then transferred to Prisons Brigade, is reported to have been angered by the alleged elections rigging by the incumbent governor, Taban Deng Gai, in Unity state.

His declaration of violence on Friday is the second most serious incident following that of former army Deputy Chief of Staff, General George Athor Deng of Pigi county and David Yauyau of Pibor, both from Jonglei state. All the discontented voiced their rebellion on the "rigging" of the elections, though some officials in both the government and the SPLA had associated them directly with Khartoum or blame the whole issue on Khartoum.

The SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum Okiech had earlier said that there were evidences showing that Gen. George Athor had direct link with the Khartoum government.

Although the SPLA spokesman, Major General Kuol Deim Kuol, was not heard commenting about linking Athor's rebellion to Khartoum, Kuol has however told Miraya FM radio that the recent attack by Colonel Gatluak Gai was carried out by a group of militias sent from Khartoum.

However, another SPLA military source close to Unity state who asked to remain anonymous explained that Colonel Gatluak is a well known SPLA officer and had been an SPLA officer like Gen. George Athor and was not sent from Khartoum as alleged.

He said Gatluak's movement with some of his loyalists within Unity state has been monitored by the SPLA for the last three weeks. On casualties, the source added there could be higher figure than officially reported.

"The attackers did not defeat our SPLA forces but only one soldier got injured at his head after heavy gunfire exchange between our army and militias," Kuol said.

Kuol accuse the National Congress Party (NCP) of having stood behind to send militias to disturb in Unity state.

The SPLA spokesman affirmed that "at 4:45, our SPLA base at Warpiny of Abiemnhom county was attack by the forces of militias under Colonel militias Gatluak Gai, the aim is to identify our heavy weapon position – this militias colonel with his forces was sent by Khartoum government with aim to disturb security in Unity state – one soldier at our side was wounded in his head and we don't have more detail from our attackers side," continued the SPLA spokesman.

Kuol noted that "We did not capture one of them in our yesterday clashes, but the motive of aggressive militias' daily attack in Unity state is to promote political objective of the NCP in

Southern Sudan - they are supporting NCP agenda and we the SPLA will just sustain our position to protect our civilians in all territory of South Sudan."

Government of Southern Sudan is currently faced with a number of rebellions following the declaration of elections results. Earlier, the former senior advisor to President Salva Kiir Mayardit, Lual Ding Wol, was reported to have expressed his discontent with the government in Juba, saying he would not accept to be part of the next government.

Lual Ding comes from Northern Bahr el Ghazal and was supporter of Gen. Dau Aturtong who went to Khartoum after losing the gubernatorial elections as another independent candidate, prompting fears that something unpleasant could be brewing in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state.

However, Kuol in his recent statement refused to make comment on General George Athor violence against SPLA forces in Jonglei state.

SPLA forms squads in Blue Nile to eliminate defectors

Al-Intibaha 30/5/10 – an unnamed source in the Blue Nile state revealed that the SPLA in the area has formed squads to carry out organized assassinations against SPLA defectors whose number is reportedly increasing. According to the source, the SPLA sent one squad to El Roseiris to kill Yasin Sultan but he knew about the plan of his assassination and was secretly transported to Khartoum.

Population census in Kordofan to begin in mid June

The Citizen 29/5/10 - The census of Southern Kordofan State will start in mid June, to be completed at the end of the month. A training course for the census will kick off today [29 May] to coach supervisors and officers of the census.

The course will continue until 29 June, after which attendants of the course will head for Southern Kordofan to train supervisors and officers who will work on the census there.

About 20 supervisors and 81 officers will be trained to take part in Southern Kordofan census. Both supervisors and officers will convene in the ministry of information and communication to receive general instructions and directives on field work and administrative work on filling the census information related to nomadic eldership in South Kordofan.

NCP scoffs President Zuma's threat to arrest Al-Bashir at World Cup

Al-Ayyam 30/5/10 - Abdulrahman Al-Khalifa, the head of the Sudan Bar Association and a prominent member of the NCP, has denounced recent statements by South Africa's President Jacob Zuma threatening to arrest President Al-Bashir if he attends the World Cup. The NCP member described the statements as "strange".

According to **Reuters** 28/5/10, South Africa has invited Sudan's Omar al-Bashir to the continent's first World Cup along with the rest of Africa's leadership, but will arrest him if he takes up the invitation, President Jacob Zuma said.

Zuma said in response to a question in parliament that South Africa had a responsibility to arrest him should he act on the invitation, sent to all African leaders, and attend the June 11 opening ceremony.

"South Africa respects the international law and certainly we are signatories (of the ICC statute), we abide by the law," he said in a parliamentary session on Thursday.

Zuma said the African Union had asked the court to postpone any action against Bashir due to

the chances of his arrest heightening tensions in Sudan, but it had not rejected the warrant.

"The AU has not said we must not arrest Bashir... South Africa respects international law," Zuma said.

Sudan denies three opposition members from attending ICC conference

Sudan Tribune website 29/5/10 - Sudan has banned three opposition members and rights activists from travelling to the Ugandan capital Kampala to attend a conference organized by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to review its statute since its entry into force on 1 July 2002.

Sudanese authorities on Saturday morning barred Miriam Al-Mahdi of the Umma Party, Mahmoud Saleh of the Communist Party and Al-Bukhari Aljaali of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). Amin Maki Mekki Madani, a rights defender and political activist had to depart in the afternoon but cancelled his trip after the incident.

Miriam Al Sadeq Al-Mahdi said they were on board when the security agents confiscated their passports and asked them to collect it from the headquarters of the National Security and Intelligence Services within a week.

Speaking in a press conference held in Khartoum, Miriam said the ban of travel was regrettable and dangerous adding it intervenes after a series of measures restricting freedoms in the country after "the rigged elections". She stressed the ICC invited her in her personal capacity and not as member of the opposition Umma led by her father Sadiq Al-Mahdi.

She demanded the security authorities to give them back their passports to catch another plane scheduled to fly to Kampala on Sunday.

Al-Bukhari who is also a professor of International law, criticized the denial of travel saying it was preferable for the security service to discuss their thoughts instead of barring them to travel. He further pointed out they did not coordinated in advance to attend the Review Conference. The ICC issued three arrest warrants for the Sudanese President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, a former state minister, Ahmed Haroun and a militia leader Ali Koushaib for crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.

The judges of The Hague based court are currently reviewing whether genocide charges should be added after an appeals chamber in the tribunal said that pre-trial chamber erred in the legal standards they used in deciding to scrap it in the warrant phase against President Bashir.

South Sudan defends suspension of Radio and TV staff members

Sudan Tribune website 29/5/10 - Authorities from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services of the Government of South Sudan have strongly defended the suspension of 28 staff members most of which are from the Arabic departments of South Sudan's radio and television.

This came following reports of the alleged closure of the station by staff members reported to have gone on strike on Friday the 21st of May over the delay of their rental allowances, which coincided with the ceremony of the President of the Government of South Sudan being sworn in after winning the elections in April.

Their strike angered security forces, triggered crackdowns on staff members who participated in a non-violent and non-political strike and resulted in the immediate arrest of eleven individuals.

On Tuesday the 25th of May the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning transferred

arrears to the account of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services which subsequently started paying unclassified staff members and initiated the immediate transfer to individual accounts of classified staff members the same day.

The Director- General of Southern Sudan Radio and TV, Arop Bagat, stated in an interview with Sudan Tribune from the regional capital of Juba that the staff payment is confirmed.

He added that "the ministry started paying them the same day, as I did tell you in the previous interview that these arrears will be transferred to the ministry account on Tuesday."

Asked about the suspension of 28 staff members, he said that the decision suspending ring leaders was reached by an administrative committee in accordance to the public service rules and regulations.

In an attempt to explain the government's actions, he said " what do you do to staff members who have gone against public service rules and regulation; even if in your house what do you do to a child who misbehaves notwithstanding care being shown by the family, what do you do to such a child so as to avoid repeating the same mistake or allow other children not behave the same way", he asked.

The Director-General called for their suspension not to be politicized by adding that it is an administrative issue taken by the committee not by individuals; Arop stressed that rules and regulations prohibit taking decisions by employees without giving proper and convincing reasons.

"The decision taken by staff members who participated in the strike was wrong because they knew their money was coming the next day and of course it came as I was the one following all procedures involving the release of their arrears," he explained.

He however said suspension does not mean dismissal.

"It is an initial administrative step usually taken by a committee pending final decision", he said revealing that a board of inquiry will again be formed to conduct proper examinations behind the strike.

"A board of inquiry will soon be formed to look into this case and if it finds that they have a ground, they will return," he said, adding that he hopes all of them will return. The findings of the board of inquiry may come out with recommendations with legitimate ground to return to their duties.

However, a staff member who declined to be named blamed the administration saying that it is infringing upon individual rights to express their anger in addition to delays following the payment of the arrears.

"If there was a proper system of administration, why did it take such a long time to pay these arrears", he asked.

The staff member questioned the administrative abilities of the ministry, claiming that their reaction was to cover-up their mistakes.

"They do not look at how best to settle in house problems. They are always aggressive and behaving violently as if is the only way to address grievances" he explained.

LRA rebels murder three people including two policemen in Sudan's Tambura

Sudan Tribune website 29/5/10 - Sudan Tribune has uncovered remote villages in Western Equatoria's Tambura County, where murders took place on Wednesday, leaving at least three dead and few villagers abducted.

The murders were committed by fighters from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a notorious militia group originating in Uganda that now spreads mayhem and terror to neighbouring Southern Sudan.

Eye witness says this is one of the worst attack carried out by the LRA in part of Tambura. The stench of the three of bodies, hacked to death by the LRA, lingered for long earlier this week. But the world is only hearing about the brutal deaths of one man and two policemen later, due to the remoteness of the villages.

"Mr. Clement Ugali was shot dead on Wednesday by the LRA at Duma , just 7 miles away from Namutina when he was finally going back to transport his family to Tambura. His body arrived Tambura Town and buried immediately," said Clement Babitimo in Tambura.

The credible source says, "All Farm activities around Tambura have come to a standstill, [we] are just foreseeing great hunger this year, according to what I got was that about 18 people who were going to Namutina to check on their relatives were the ones who fell into the ambush I cannot tell how many where taken.

A resident of Tambura said, "villages of Nabaria, Dingimo, Akpa, Duma, Bangaru, Baranga and Namutina Payam on Wednesday have evacuated the village and left in groups of Hundreds heading to Tambura Town for Security".

The Ugandan Army has deployed additional forces to area villages, after hearing rumors of a LRA attack earlier this week, but the remote villages, deep in the forest were left unprotected. And the tiny Tambura villages paid the price.

President Barack Obama on Monday signed a law aimed at helping Uganda and its neighbors combat the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group that has brutalized Central Africa for decades.

Obama called the LRA's actions — killing, raping, and kidnapping children to serve as child soldiers — "an affront to human dignity" that must be stopped.

South Sudan's Western Equatoria state has been the centre of a brutal, reprisal insurgency by a cult-like rebel group that saw over 100 thousand people uprooted from their homes and tens of hundreds kidnapped, mutilated or killed.

Sudan proposes consultative meeting on Nile Waters

Al-Ahdath 30/5/10 - Sudan has called for a consultative meeting in a bid to resolve the Nile Waters' standoff before the problem snowballs into crisis. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Al-Sammani Al-Waseela said that the Nile Basin states need to sit down for consultations over the appropriate use of the waters of the Nile.

UN urges to facilitate humanitarian activities in Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 29/5/10 - Humanitarian situation in Darfur remains serious, said a UN

senior official during a visit to western Sudan on Saturday urging local authorities to facilitate the activities of aid groups.

The top United Nations aid official, John Holmes, was today in South Darfur state where he visited camps of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and discussed the humanitarian situation with the state officials.

The recent fighting in eastern Jebel Marra between the government and rebel groups triggered new waves of IDPs who do not receive the needed assistance because insecurity pushed the aid groups to suspend their operations.

In a meeting held with the acting governor of South Darfur, Holmes stressed on the need for the government to authorize and facilitate access for aid groups to the affected population in the region.

"The problem in eastern Jebel Marra is that we don't know what the situation is because we don't have access," he said.

The Under-Secretary-General also expressed serious concern over the safety of aid workers in Darfur who are subjected to kidnapping by armed groups in the region.

Holmes arrived in Sudan on Wednesday after visiting Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad.

The visiting international official toured the Sakale Ali Wali settlement, in Nyala, where reside some 1000 families that have been given title to their land for building houses.

"We need to recognize and to support the efforts of IDP communities to build and sustain livelihoods and move beyond hand-outs," he said. "We can see here a step in that direction and it is encouraging."

GoSS earmarks \$35 m for humanitarian affairs

Al-Khartoum 30/5/10 – On the occasion of USG John Holmes' visit, the GoSS has announced the allocation of \$35 million to redress the good gap. GoSS VP Riek Machar described the humanitarian situation in the South as "dangerous", saying GoSS initially decided to allocated \$700 but cut it down to half due to lack of resources.

Sudan says UN will not transport JEM leader to Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 29/5/10 - Sudan voiced its opposition to transport the leader of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) into Darfur by the United Nations after suspending the participation of his group in the peace talks.

Chad denied Khalil Ibrahim on May 19 from entry to Ndjamena in order to join his troops in western Sudan where they are based. Since he urged the UN-African Union mediator to secure his return to Darfur threatens to withdraw from the negotiating table.

The United Nations would not dare to move Khalil to Darfur, said Salah Gosh Presidential adviser for security affairs in remarks he made on Thursday at the Sudanese parliament. "The government has shown a clear opinion in this matter," he disclosed.

The mediation can use only the logistical means of the hybrid peacekeeping mission to transport JEM leader to Darfur, although in accordance with the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) signed in February with the government, UNAMID has to get prior permission from the

Sudanese authorities.

The rebel leader, who has no travel document because Chad destroyed the passport it had delivered to him, is currently in Libya.

Khartoum exerted pressures on Tripoli to force Khalil Ibrahim to return to Qatar to resume the peace talks. But Libya said dialoguing with the rebel leader to persuade him to return voluntarily to the venue in Doha.

Qatar and the Joint Chief mediator said willing to deliver travel documents enabling him only to fly to Doha to resume the peace negotiations.

The mediation announced peace talks will restart on June 6, and an invitation will be extended to the rebel groups including JEM.

Referendum

SPLM and NCP disagree on police involvement to secure referendum

Miraya FM 29/5/10 - The SPLM and the NCP are in disagreements over involvement of the national police in securing the 2011 South Sudan referendum. SPLM Deputy Secretary-General for Northern Sector, Yassir Arman, reiterated the movement's demand for conducting the South Sudan referendum under the supervision of the United Nations.

He added that disputes still hinder an agreement on the Abyei referendum arrangements. However, Arman said that the two partners, the SPLM and NCP, are in consultations to resolve the outstanding issues.

South Sudan Democratic Forum launches pro-separation campaign

The Citizen 30/5/10 - The South Sudan Democratic Forum (SSDF) has launched a "Yes Separation" campaign ahead of the unveiling of its referendum manifesto for the independence vote in 2011.

"We can not afford complacency in this extremely important matter," said party chairman Marin Lomoro as he pointed out that the time remaining for the conduct of the referendum is now too short.

Swiss pledges to support South Sudan in the CPA security aspect

Sudan Tribune website 28/5/10 - Switzerland has pledged to give technical support to the semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan as well as the Government of National Unity, especially in the implementation of the security aspect of the 2005 North-South peace deal, as the region's referendum on independence nears.

This was revealed in a meeting on Wednesday in Juba between the Vice President, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, and the visiting Swiss delegation led by Ambassador Andrea Semadeni, who is also the Special Envoy for the Sudan and the Horn of Africa. He was also accompanied by Ulrich T. Muller, Counselor for Humanitarian and Development Affairs.

The meeting discussed the role the Swiss government can play in enhancing security in Southern Sudan and promoting peace and stability with more emphasis on the issues of human security versus national security in the region.

With the current trend focusing on the national security in the country, Machar also stressed to the visiting Swiss Special Envoy the importance of supporting the concept of human security aspect of general security in the region. This, he said, would include, inter alia, community security, economic security and food security especially when linking it with the post referendum issues.

If the South secedes in the next seven months, it would be crucial to have two federations that are physically viable, he said, adding that the two countries would also forge economic cooperation as well as maintain cross-border movements and grazing rights.

He warned that any economic weakening of one part of the two would-be independent Sudans can also destabilize the other.

The post-referendum arrangements will also include the future of oil, its production and transport through the more than 1,400 kilometers long pipeline that passes from the oil-rich Unity state in the South -- through the vast region of northern Sudan -- to the Red Sea destined for international markets.

The semi-independent Southern Sudan solely depends on the 50% share of the oil revenues generated in the South and constitute 98% of its annual budget.

Machar further informed the Envoy that the Referendum Taskforce, which he leads with membership of eight ministers and deals with the conduct of referendum and post-referendum issues, will soon resume its work with the Khartoum partner, after formation of government when it shall be clear who to head which sub-committee among his team of ministers in the new cabinet.

The Swiss Ambassador on his part said his team would now workout a specific proposal outlining the type of support they will be ready to provide for the processes.