

30 Sept 2010

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Referendum Monitor

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Highlights

SC delegation to visit Sudan on Tuesday, will not meet Al-Bashir

Al-Sahafa 30/9/10 – Sources said a delegation from the Security Council would visit Sudan on Tuesday to encourage conduct of the referendum on southern Sudan's self-determination on time but the delegation would not meet President Al-Bashir.

Meanwhile, State Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kamal Hassan Ali has downplayed the visit; describing it as routine, but reiterated Sudan government's rejection of the visit should the delegation members refuse to meet President Al-Bashir.

“We will not allow anybody to visit Sudan unless a meeting with the President is on agenda,” warned Fateh Al-Rahman Sheilla, NCP Information Secretary, in statements to journalists yesterday following a meeting of the NCP Council of Leaders, according to *Akhir Lahza* 30/9/10.

Sheilla also told reporters that the meeting of NCP Council of Leaders which was chaired by President Al-Bashir reiterated that referendum would be conducted on time and stressed the need for the SPLM to create a conducive atmosphere for other political forces to campaign for referendum.

Reportedly, president Al-Bashir will be in Libya to participate in an extraordinary African-Arab summit on Monday which will discuss a range of Arab issues with a focus on Sudan.

Referendum will take place on time – SSRC

Local dailies 30/9/10 – The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) has denied reports that it has decided to delay registration for the referendum.

Head of the SSRC Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil said there was no intention to delay the registration process, dismissing reports to that end. He said the referendum would be conducted on time and the SSRC is about to begin training referendum staff in the North and the South.

Presidential adviser calls on youth, student to prepare for possible war

Akhir Lahza (Khartoum) 30/9/10 – Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail who is also NCP Foreign Relations Secretary has called on youths and students to prepare for war, saying those capable of taking up arms should roll up their sleeves to defend the motherland should secession take place.

Ismail, who was addressing NCP political and popular leaders in Kassala yesterday lashed out at the international community and the west, accusing them of being unjust and aggressive.

Misseriya request UN intervention to revoke PCA ruling on Abyei

Local dailies 30/9/10 – The Misseriya tribe has called on the UN for immediate intervention to revoke what they described as “unjust” PCA Award, accusing the court of neglecting critical documents produced by the Sudanese Government to argue their case, adding the resolution of

the problem lies in the conduct of dialogue between the Misseriya and the Dinka in the area.

Reportedly, over a thousand Misseriya took to street yesterday in Mujlad to protest the PCA ruling.

According to *Sudan Tribune website* 29/9/10, members of the Arab Misseriya tribe today marched to the United Nations offices and handed over a letter in which they decried suggestions that they could be excluded from the vote on the region's future.

Mukhtar Babo Nimir, the chief of the Misseriya told the government run Sudanese Media Centre (SMC) website that today's demonstrations were meant to protest proposals made by the U.S. and also remarks by the SPLM chairman Salva Kiir on their exclusion from voting.

Nimir stressed that the tribe rejects the PCA ruling and leaving out the Misseriya from the referendum process.

"After today we will not recognize what came out of The Hague because in our view it is an agreement of [two] parties and not a ruling of a court," he told *SMC*.

In a separate interview with Reuters, Nimir threatened further measures should their demands not be met.

"If they don't accept our votes in the referendum there will be no voting," Nimir said. "We will use force to achieve our rights and we will use weapons against anyone who tries to stop us from voting in the referendum....If they don't meet our demands then we will set everything alight. If that leads to war then so be it." he warned.

The Misseriya fear if the south secedes and the north-south border becomes an international boundary, they will lose grazing rights to the land and their livelihoods.

South Sudan president has pledged in the past that the Misseriya will continue to enjoy grazing rights.

The tribe is heavily armed and some tribesmen were recruited by the northern government to fight the south as a proxy militia during the two decades north-south conflict.

Analysts believe unresolved disputes between local communities such as the Misseriya could flare up and drag the north and south back into war.

Abyei deadlock significantly enhances the chances of peace in Sudan," Prendergast said. "Maintaining this level of involvement in support of the African Union-led process is key to preventing the resumption of war between the North and South."

Umma Party calls for parties' summit on referendum

Al-Sahafa 30/9/10 – National Umma Party leader Sadiq Al-Mahdi has proposed the convening of an emergency summit in October of eight Sudanese political parties under the patronage of head of AUHIP Thabo Mbeki to discuss referendum.

Al-Mahdi, who revealed at a press conference yesterday that he sent a message to the Presidency and the UN to that end, said the proposed summit would focus on how to conduct a free and fair referendum so that the results are acceptable.

Meanwhile, Umma Party Secretary General Siddiq Mohamed Ismail has called for the immediate removal of Foreign Minister Ali Karti because of what he described as inappropriate statements he makes. He said the presence of Karti in this post would harm Sudan's foreign relations, adding Karti has a "Taliban-like way of functioning".

South-South dialogue conference next Saturday in Juba

Khartoum Monitor (Khartoum) 30/9/10 – GoSS announced that it would convene the south-south dialogue conference on the referendum in Juba next Saturday. Chairman of the Democratic Salvation Front, Joseph Malwal, in statement to *Khartoum Monitor*, said the conference aims to come up with a common vision on the referendum of the southern Sudan.

He added that dialogue and discussion are very important at this critical juncture and that no party can rule the south single-handedly. Our party is one of the parties which initiated this activity. The dialogue conference would bring the various tribal and racial components of the south together to face up challenges and aggression.

GoSS to deploy 60,000 police personnel to secure referendum

Al-Khartoum (Khartoum) 30/9/10 – GoSS has announced its readiness to secure the upcoming referendum process. Director of GoSS police Acuil Tony said a strategic plan is in place to secure the referendum, adding that 60,000 police personnel would be deployed all over the southern states to secure the process. He said 10,000 police elements have been trained and training for the rest would also be completed.

NCP southern members protest minister's statement

Ajras Al-Hurriya (Khartoum) 30/09/10 – Informed sources revealed that southern Sudanese members of the NCP have sent a petition of protest to party leader, President Al-Bashir, over recent remarks by the Federal Minister of Information warning that southerners would lose their citizenship should the south secede. In their petition, the NCP members described Kamal Obeid's statement as racist and insulting to the southern Sudanese, especially NCP party members.

Unity support body starts registering southern Sudanese in Khartoum

Al-Khartoum (Khartoum,) 30/09/10 – The Khartoum State High Peace and Unity Council launched a campaign to register southern Sudanese in the state ahead of the referendum. Council Chairman Paul Lelei said the Council recognises that southerners have a legitimate right to self-determination as per the CPA. He revealed that the Council has set up committees to be dispatched to the peripheries of the capital to encourage southern Sudanese to register in preparation for the referendum.

EU to send referendum monitors

Al-Sahafa 30/09/10 – EU Envoy to Sudan, Rosalind Marsden, said the EU hopes that Sudan's referendum would be conducted smoothly and peacefully. The envoy called for respect to outcome of the referendum, adding that the EU would exert all efforts to ensure that Sudan does

not slip back to violence. She told a meeting of the EU parliament yesterday that the EU intends to send a delegation to monitor the referendum in Sudan.

Christian and Muslim groups agree to consolidate national unity

Ajras Al-Hurriya (Khartoum) 30/09/10 – Christian and Muslim groups have signed a code of honour to work for national unity, pledging to spread the message of peaceful coexistence. The two groups have called on religious shrines (Churches and Mosques) to reform their discourse by desisting from fanatic and sectarian sermons. At a regular consultative meeting on the role of faith in consolidating national unity, the two groups pledged to work through a joint programme on conflict resolution, respect for human rights and the right of worship.

Presence of northerners in the South and southerners in the North “great resources”- SPLM

Ajras Al-Hurriya 30/9/10 – the SPLM has warned against attempts to incite tribalism and hatred between the northerners and the southerners if the vote is in favour of independence.

“Remarks by National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir to effect that southerners would be second class citizens if they opt for secession coupled with the remarks by Information Minister Kamal Obeid that the southerners would lose their citizenship prejudice on co-existence and respect to diversity,” SPLM Deputy Secretary General Yassir Arman said. “The presence of the southerners in the North and the northerners in the South is an invaluable wealth,” he added.

Other Highlights

Sudan summons Dutch envoy over PM statements on Bashir

Sudan Tribune website (Khartoum) 29/9/10 - The Sudanese ministry of Foreign Affairs today summoned the Dutch Ambassador to express the government outrage over the statements made by the prime minister of Netherlands Jan Peter Balkenende at the UN General Assembly meetings that took place this month in New York.

Balkenende said he thought it is "unacceptable to the Dutch government that someone like President Bashir of Sudan, against whom an arrest warrant is outstanding, should be allowed to move freely in a country that is an [International Criminal Court] ICC partner,"

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) quoted the head of Europe bureau at the Sudanese foreign ministry Philemon Majak as saying that his ministry has submitted "a sharp-worded diplomatic protest to the Netherlands government against these statements, describing the statements given by the Dutch Prime Minister as unacceptable and affirmed the Netherlands stance which aims to politicize the mechanism of the international justice and targeting the African countries".

He said that the Netherlands, with these statements, "reflected it stand against the will of the African Union, the Arab League and all the justice-loving people who clearly rejected the false ICC allegations against Sudan and its leadership".

"The involvement of the ICC is a threat to the peaceful settlement expected by the country" in Darfur and other regions threatened by conflict.

He called the case "crude political intervention" intended to be "a tool to break the will of people" of Sudan.

"We completely reject this intervention which has no place in international law, logic or policy." Taha praised African nations which have allowed Bashir to travel to their countries for international meetings.

He called on the UN Security Council "to withdraw the file completely from the ICC" and let it be handled by Sudan.

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