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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Al-Bashir directs elected governors to serve the people

Local dailies 4/5/10 - The elected governors of the northern states were sworn in yesterday in front of President Al-Bashir and Chief Justice Maulana Jalal Al-Din Mohamed Osman. President Al-Bashir directed the governors to dedicate their efforts to serve the population of their respective states.

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 3/5/10, the governor of the Blue Nile State, Malik Agar voiced his support to the unity of Sudan ahead of the 2011 referendum in the South to decide on whether they want to create their own state or remain united with the North.

At the swearing-in ceremony of governors today, Agar told reporters that he would dedicate all the resources at his disposal to work for the Sudan's unity adding that the realization of this goal is the responsibility of all the people in the North and South Sudan.

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) quoted Agar, who is a senior figure in Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM), as warning against some secessionist sentiments working on separating the South from the North, calling this trend "a serious threat to the security and stability of the Sudan and would lead to splitting the country".

Agar pointed out that people must examine the disadvantages of South Sudan secession and then work on convincing the people about that and urged all parties to consider "the painful consequences of separation".

Referendum Commission to be formed next week

Local dailies 4/5/10 Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mutrif Siddiq, said the formation of the referendum commissions for the South and Abyei area would be completed next week, adding that practical steps have been taken to ensure conduct of the referendum on schedule. Siddiq made the remarks yesterday at a meeting with several international envoys who have come to participate in the AEC meetings.

Post-separation plans in place – Kiir

Al-Ayyam 4/5/10 - SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir Mayardit has said that post-secession plans were ready should the southerners vote for independence, adding that the South, in terms of organization and administration, is better than many territories at the time of gaining their independence. He considered the election victory of Al-Bashir as a guarantee for the implementation of the CPA, saying if any other party wins the elections it will not commit itself to the agreement.

Al-Bashir will face a difficult task to bring unity – Amum

Al-Ahdath 4/5/10 - SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum said that President Al-Bashir will face a difficult task to make unity attractive to the southern Sudanese during the remaining period because he has largely ignored the south since the signing of the CPA. The President, he said, had been concentrating on the North at the expense of the South throughout the past period and it would be too late to start concentrating on the south now. Amum pointed out that the number of southern Sudanese who voted for Yassir Arman despite his withdrawal from the presidential race is a proof that southerners are opposed to President Al-Bashir's programmes.

GoNU to be dissolved, Bashir's swearing-in by end of May

Sudan Tribune website 3/5/10 - The government of National Unity (GoNU) formed in accordance with the 2005 CPA will be dissolved within the next few days, according to local media reports.

The independent *Al-Sahafa* daily said that new faces will join the government ranks which are due to be announced this month. Sources told the newspaper that individuals who played a pivotal role in the negotiations and execution of the CPA will enter the new government to give a thrust to work in the upcoming period which demands their skills.

The pro-government *Al-Raed* newspaper also reported that Bashir will be sworn in before the legislative bodies at the end of this month.

Defeated Sudan candidate says armed, makes demands

Reuters 4/5/10 - A renegade army general in South Sudan said on Monday he had taken command of a body of soldiers and demanded the removal of the man who beat him in recent elections.

South Sudan's army accused George Athor of masterminding an attack on one of its bases last Friday and plotting further assaults after he lost in the race to become governor of the oil-producing south's Jonglei state last week.

The confirmation that Athor set up his own military force days after the contested vote will stoke tensions in the region already hit by tribal violence and decades of civil war.

Athor denied leading Friday's attack, but told Reuters on Monday he had moved to a location near the border of Jonglei and neighboring Upper Nile state with a number of soldiers. He would not say how many men he commanded.

Speaking by satellite phone, Athor declined to give details of his immediate plans but warned he would respond to any provocation from the south's Sudan People's Liberation Army.

"If I am provoked I can attack anywhere ... I have enough forces that can capture Malakal, Bor or anywhere."

Athor and other independent candidates accused the south's dominant party, the SPLM, of harassing their supporters and rigging the vote.

Athor, a member of the large Dinka tribe, said he had a number of demands which he hoped to achieve through negotiation.

"I need Governor Kuol to be removed from his position," said Athor, referring to Jonglei's incumbent SPLM governor Kuol Manyang who kept his seat in the elections. Athor said he had no ambition to take Manyang's place but just wanted him removed.

"And the forces that have joined me are to be given amnesty and to return to their units without punishment," he added.

The southern army played down Athor's warnings, saying he did not have a large enough force to mount large-scale attacks.

Southern army spokesman Malaak Ayuen said the latest intelligence suggested Athor was on the move, heading south.

"I don't think he will attack a big town but he will try to destabilize communities ... Now SPLA forces are very much aware and they are prepared to face him."

An international source in Juba, who asked not to be named, said Friday's attack was a worrying development. "The fact that arms were reportedly stolen is worrisome for the future security of the area. Clearly there is a danger."

The southern army said at least eight people died in the attack on its base in Doleib Hill, near the border of Jonglei and Upper Nile on Friday. Athor said soldiers in the base had mutinied after receiving orders to arrest him.

According to **VoA.News.com** 4/5/10, Minister for regional cooperation Oyay Deng Ajak says those responsible for the attack will be brought to book and if possible banned from the SPLA.

Oyay Deng Ajak, south Sudan's minister for regional cooperation said those responsible for the attack will be brought to book and even banned from the SPLA.

"On Friday, there was an attack on a place called Doleib Hill, 12 miles south of Malakal, and the attack was on the SPLA military base. Honestly, we do not know why they attacked that location. The information we are getting is that they are supporters of one SPLA officer, George Athor, who contested for the position of the governor of Jonglei State, and, of course, he could not make it," he said.

Ajak said no election defeat should justify the killing of innocent people.

"I think there were three people who contested for the governor of Jonglei State, and of course if we are to go by the elections, Kuol Manyang (incumbent Jonglei governor) won the election and the rest should abide by the decision of the electoral commission. I really don't think that somebody will pick up arms and fight because he didn't win an election," Ajak said.

He said Athor's reported demand for Jonglei state incumbent governor Kuol Manyang to step down is a waste of time.

"To be very honest with you, as a minister for regional cooperation, I really think that those who are responsible for the attack at Doleib Hill the SPLA should keep them banned and of course we will bring them to book. As for the governor to step down, I think this is too far. The governor has been elected and the results had been announced, and if he (Athor) has any case against the governor he must go to the courts," he said.

Ajak rejected any suggestion that the dispute with Athor signals a split in the ranks of the SPLM, south Sudan's dominant party.

"I think the SPLM is very much united and very strong and solid, and we are, of course, celebrating the victory that has been won by the SPLM. We hope we will take the people of south Sudan to the end of the interim period, which is 6 or 7 months left for the referendum," Ajak said.

He said Athor is welcome to come before south Sudan authorities to defend himself against the allegations he carried out the attack on the military base.

Taha receives AU commissioner of peace and security

SUNA 3/5/10 – AU Peace and Security Commissioner Ramatane Lammamra has congratulated Sudan on success of the election process, indicating that the election process will enrich the democratic process in Africa, adding it represents a step on the right path. Lammamra made the remarks yesterday at meeting with VP Ali Osman Taha.

In a statement to SUNA after the meeting, Lammamra said that a series of consultative meetings will be held in Addis Ababa in the coming few days to deliberate about the Sudanese issues.

He said that international and regional personalities will take part in these meetings, including chairman of the African Union Panel on Darfur, Thabo Mbeki, the joint UN and African Union mediator, Djibril Bassole, the representative of the UN and African mission for Darfur (UNAMID), Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, and the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sudan, Haile Menkerios, besides representative of the member states at the African Union.

Lammamra said that another meeting of the tripartite mechanism of Sudan, the United Nations and the African Union will be held to discuss the hybrid operation process in Darfur.

Sudanese army say still committed to ceasefire deal in Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 3/5/10 - Sudanese army today reacted to JEM decision to freeze its participation in Doha peace talks saying it remains committed to the signed framework agreement.

The Justice and Equality Movement accused the Sudanese government of attacking its positions in West Darfur state. The rebels said Khartoum has abrogated de facto the ceasefire agreement included in the framework agreement but not detailed.

Sudanese government top negotiator Amin Hassan Omer said JEM decision to freeze the talks is linked to other political forces but he didn't elaborate, adding this is not the first time; JEM had used in the past to stop the process under other pretext.

Journalist Lubna Hussein demands repeal of criminal law provisions

Al-Sahafa 4/5/10 – Nabeel Adeeb, the lawyer of Journalist Lubna Ahmed Hussein, yesterday filed a constitutional appeal against the Sudan Government demanding the repeal of articles 175, 176 and 177 of Sudan's Criminal Procedures Act, 1991 which permit summary trial of any crime punishable by imprisonment, flogging or fine including amputation except execution. The appeal said article 177 contravenes the principles of justice and the right of the defendant/accused to appeal.

Editorial: Pre-referendum phase sensitive

Al-Ayyam 4/5/2010

“With referendum approaching, it is important that a favourable atmosphere is created for this serious process. All pending issues should be resolved and a national dialogue is conducted on the issue of unity and separation. Recent statements by SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir Mayardit warning of possible collapse of the CPA and the need to keep the two armies apart should be taken seriously. The two partners should agree on security arrangement to avert increasing tension at this sensitive phase. The security arrangements agreed upon in the CPA including redeployment, demobilization and disarmament should be carried out with the assistance of the UN to avoid uncalculated confrontations. The few coming months are extremely sensitive stage which requires credible efforts to move through peacefully and safely”.