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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Al-Bashir meets, Kiir and Mbeki in Addis

Al-Raed 4/7/11 – President Al-Bashir, at meeting yesterday with GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit in Addis Ababa received a formal invitation for participation in the upcoming South's Independence celebrations. Kiir also briefed Al-Bashir, who arrived yesterday in Addis, on the ongoing preparations for birth of a new nation and the way forward with regard to relations between the North and South. Kiir said relations with the North would remain strong.

Meanwhile, AUHIP Chair Thabo Mbeki also briefed Al-Bashir on the recent agreement reached between the two parties and the ongoing talks between them in Addis.

SAF Chief of staff to visit Kadugli today

Al-Ahram Al-Youm 4/7/11 – SAF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Esmat Abdul Rahman Al-Zain is to visit the town of Kadugli today to oversee work of the 4th Infantry Division.

SAF military source said the visit of the Chief of Staff to Kadugli comes in implementation of President Al-Bashir's clear orders on the need to bring security and stability to the region and to track down rebels and bring them to justice. According to the source, Al-Zain would be accompanied by SAF Chief of Operations and several other army commanders.

SPLA threatens an all-out war if Addis Ababa agreement is breached

Al-Tayyar 4/7/11 – The SPLA has warned of serious consequences of reneging on the framework agreement signed with the Government in Addis Ababa on cessation of hostilities in Southern Kordofan.

Chair of the SPLM (North) Malik Agar told a press conference yesterday in Khartoum that the framework agreement is binding on both parties, pointing out that some groups within the NCP are not happy with the agreement. He said what is happening in southern Kordofan is just skirmishes, not yet a full war, warning that all options are open and if war breaks out in the Blue Nile state that would mean an all-out war.

Commenting on President Al-Bashir's statement, Agar said the statement was inappropriate because everybody would lose if war breaks out.

Also, SPLM leader in southern Kordofan Abdulaziz Al-Hilu described Al-Bashir's statement as negative and would not advance the interest of the country.

Ex-rebels warn of widespread Sudan conflict over Kordofan

AFP 3/7/11 - The northern branch of the ex-rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement warned Sunday that the Southern Kordofan conflict could spread all across the country's new southern border unless Khartoum agreed to a ceasefire.

"There are some voices in Khartoum that are against this framework agreement (signed on Tuesday). Those voices are playing with fire," the SPLM North's secretary general Yasser

Arman told AFP.

"The only alternative to this agreement is a war from the Blue Nile to Darfur. We don't want that," he added.

"The north needs to be at peace, it needs to reach an agreement on Darfur. The north does not need to create a new south," Arman said.

He was speaking after a press conference in the Sudanese capital, just hours before flying to Addis Ababa with Malik Agar, the party's chairman, to try to resolve the Southern Kordofan crisis.

On Tuesday, Agar signed a preliminary accord with top presidential aide Nafie Ali Nafie that boosted hopes of a comprehensive political and security settlement for Blue Nile and South Kordofan, both home to a large number of SPLM supporters.

But President Omar al-Bashir dealt a blow to those hopes when he announced on Friday, shortly after his return from an official visit to China, that he had ordered the army to cleanse South Kordofan of rebels.

Ex-official in Southern Kordofan describes militia activity

Radio Dabanga 3/7/11 - The dismissed commissioner of Talodi, Mohammed Kamal, alleged that the National Congress Party (NCP) is carrying out recruitment, forming an army and arming people in certain programs and militias in South Kordofan.

In an interview with *Radio Dabanga*, the former commissioner also accused the army of being undisciplined. He said that the militias, with direct orders from leading figures in the NCP, have wiped out cadres of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and destroyed homes and robbed them, stating that his government house was robbed of properties worth one hundred thousand pounds.

Kamal also pointed out that the living standards of the civilians in Talodi are terrible now and that there is an increase in prices of consumer goods, which now have to be brought through the Abassiya road instead of the blocked Kadugli road.

N. Sudan: UN should leave volatile border area

AP 3/7/11 - Sudan's northern government expects United Nations peacekeepers to leave a volatile border state immediately after Southern Sudan becomes independent next weekend, an official said Sunday, a move could leave tens of thousands of southern-supporting civilians without UN protection.

Northern government spokesman Rabie A. Atti told the Associated Press that the U.N. should leave Southern Kordofan immediately after the Independence Day, and said the northern army could secure the area on its own.

"I don't think there is any reason for U.N. forces to stay in the north after the CPA and (southern) secession," he said.

A U.N. spokeswoman in Juba said she could not say what the U.N. might do, because such a

decision would be made by the U.N. Security Council.

Atti said U.N. forces have done "nothing" to improve peace and security in Sudan. He also said that the prolonged stay of U.N. peacekeeping forces in northern Sudan "will escalate and not solve the problem."

After the oil-rich south secedes, Atti said the northern government and army are "capable to preserve our security and peace."

Sudan's oil minister accuses top SPLM official of embezzlement

Sudan Tribune website 3/7/11 - The Sudan's federal minister of petroleum, Lual Achuek Deng, has accused the Secretary General of South Sudan's ruling party the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), Pagan Amum Akech, of embezzling millions of dollars.

The petroleum minister, who is Southern Sudanese and member of the ruling SPLM, was accused by Amum of betraying the South by selling and giving the North Sudan half of the revenue from South Sudan's oil for the month of July despite the South becoming independent on July 9.

In his response to Amum's accusations published by The Citizen daily newspaper on Sunday, Lual Achuek, who arrived in Juba on Saturday accused SPLM Secretary General of embezzling three million US dollars to his own account.

He said Amum, who is also the minister responsible for the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, transferred the money to his own account when he sold VIVACEL network Telephone Company. He also criticised the SPLM SG for failing to build the headquarters of the party.

The minister further accused the senior member of the party of violating the SPLM constitution.

Lual denied the accusations labeled against him by Amum on the sale of southern oil for July, saying he was only implementing orders from the President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit.

"The selling of the oil was not only my responsibility because I came to the president of the Government of Southern Sudan, General Salva Kiir Mayardit and he gave order number 33 of forming the committee, selected in the ministry of finance and economic planning and the ministry of energy and mining in the government of southern Sudan in collaboration with my ministry in Khartoum," Lual was quoted as saying.

On the current shortage of fuel in South Sudan, Lual blamed it on the ministry of Energy and Mining in the Government of Southern Sudan, revealing that the contracted company by the ministry of Energy and Mining which was supposed to deliver the fuel from North to South Sudan failed to deliver.

He further explained that the ministry of Energy and Mining in the South was given 10 million US dollars in order to contract nine registered companies to deliver fuel to Juba from Khartoum but instead opted to deal with one wrong unlicensed company which did not deliver the fuel to

the South.

Lual however called on the people of Southern Sudan to remain calm and celebrate the independence of the region.

Sudan's ruling party rejects demands for a national government

Sudan Tribune website 3/7/11 The leading figure in the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan's parliament speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir dismissed demands of opposition party for the formation of a national government following the official secession of the South next week.

At a press conference in Khartoum, al-Tahir challenged those making such proposals to take to the streets in a manner similar to Tunisia and Egypt to press for the national government.

The top legislator also downplayed the threat made by the opposition to resort to the Constitutional Court to sue the government for what it describes as a loss of its legitimacy after July 9th saying it is a "lost cause".

On the recent Addis Ababa accord on South Kordofan brokered by the African Union (AU) he denied rifts in the government with regard to the agreement saying that the latter is a step discussing security arrangements after the South secedes.

Al-Tahir added that the government through this agreement wanted to assist in incorporating some of the Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA) units that are comprised of Northerners in the federal army after the South becomes independent or in the alternative help disarm them.

He stressed that the SPLM can only continue as a political party in the North if it complies with the laws and regulations governing the work of political parties.

UNAMID radio starts broadcasting in Darfur

Sudan Tribune 3/7/11 - A UNAMID radio station finally took to the airwaves in the restive region of Darfur on Sunday after years of wrangling with the Sudanese government, which seeks control media programmes there.

Titled Yala Nabni Darfur (Let's Build Darfur), the new radio will broadcast besides the local radio stations, the US-based Afia Darfur Radio and the Netherlands-based Radio Dabanga which broadcast on the short waves.

While the local radio are perceived as propaganda radio by the rebel groups because they seek to advocate the government policy, Afia and Dabanga, which are banned from having local reporters, seek to be liberal tribunes opening their programmes to the rebels groups and report human rights abuses in the region.

The UNAMID radio "will feature a unique perspective into the lives of the region's people and present the latest on UNAMID's activities and its mandate in helping to achieve peace," said the joint peacekeeping operation in Darfur.

The "Radio programmes are within the framework of UNAMID mandate of achieving peace in

Darfur and mainly are features of discussions, interviews and cultural programmes," stated Said Musa, head of UNMAID Radio Unit when asked by Sudan Tribune about Yala Nabni Darfur.

The two-hour radio daily programmes will be broadcasted on the waves of the government owned Al-Salaam Radio one hour at 8:30 am and the second at 02:00pm local time in line with a cooperation protocol signed last June.

The hybrid mission and the National Public Radio Corporation (NPRC) reached on 26 June an interim agreement to air UNAMID programmes on Al Salaam Radio and Darfur state radio stations...

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