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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Presidency to hold an important meeting today

Dailies 7/12/10 – The Presidency is to hold a meeting today to resolve pending CPA including Abyei territory based on proposals submitted by AUHIP Chair Thabo Mbeki. NCP Secretary Ibrahim Ghandour said the meeting would be attended by AUHIP as mediator.

GoSS Cabinet Minister Costa Manibi told reporters in Juba yesterday that the meeting would focus on outstanding issues including the border demarcation on the ground and Abyei. He said the meeting would be attended by GoSS Minister of Peace Pagan Amum and Minister of Regional Cooperation Deng Alor.

Al-Sudani 7/12/10 reports that President Al-Bashir and his FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit embarked yesterday on a series of meetings on outstanding issues and the meetings would continue for a week or until the issues are resolved.

Meanwhile, sources said the NCP had rejected 5 of 6 proposals submitted by Mbeki, adding that Mbeki had modified the proposals by addition and omission and resubmitted them to the Presidency before leaving for Cote D’ivoires but is likely to return today to take part in a decisive meeting of the Presidency.

Misseriya agree to one of Mbeki’s proposals on Abyei

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 07/12/10 – Representatives of the Misseriya tribe said they had agreed to one of AUHLP Thabo Mbeki’s 6 proposals to the CPA partners on Abyei. Misseriya representatives speaking at a mass rally in Al-Mujlad yesterday, expressed confidence that the NCP would not let them down on Abyei, especially since their interests are in line with those of the NCP. The rally focused largely on how far the NCP was willing to guarantee the rights of the Misseriya in Abyei.

SAF, SPLA sign framework agreement to secure oil fields

Dailies 7/12/10 – Federal Defence Minister Gen. Abdul Rahman Mohamed Hussein and SPLA Minister Nhial Deng Nhial signed yesterday a framework agreement in Falluj town in the Upper Nile to secure oil fields and installations south of 1956 border. The agreement is signed in presence of VP Ali Osman Taha and GoSS VP Riek Machar.

VP Taha, addressing the signing ceremony, said the two CPA partners’ agreement on oil security confirms the resolve of the Sudanese people to sustain peace based on the directives of President Al-Bashir and FVP Salva Kiir that there would be no return to war. “The protection will include oil fields, facilities, workers and companies,” he said.

Meanwhile, GoSS has confirmed its respect to all oil contracts signed before and after the CPA and stressed the need for mechanisms to resolve oil security-related problems.

According to the agreement, the JIUs will continue to secure oil fields in the South until 9 July 2011 based on the political directives to be agreed upon between the CPA parties after the

referendum result is announced.

The two parties agreed that the JDB would meet to discuss the immediate implementation of the agreement and that the federal government and GoSS would provide amenities needed for the implementation.

SUNA 6/12/10 reported that VP Ali Osman Taha said that the two CPA partners, the NCP and the SPLM, agreed to secure oil fields to ensure flow of the oil during the CPA implementation.

Taha underlined that the flow of oil represents the basis of the Sudanese economy now and in the future, whatever be the outcome of the referendum.

The agreement stipulated that security of the petroleum south of the border of 1956 is the responsibility of the joint integrated forces, and the security forces (of the National Security Organ and south Sudan Police).

The two parties agreed on formation of mechanism to observe implementation of the security plan and to carry out immediate intervention to contain any emergency incident, provided that this mechanism is to be headed by the federal Minister of Interior and the Minister of Interior of the Government of South Sudan as the deputy chairman, the Director of the Security and Intelligence Organ as member, Deputy Chairman of the Security and Intelligence Organ as member, the Commander of the Joint Integrated Forces and his deputy as members.

National companies excluded from referendum ballot printing

Al-Rai Al-Aam 7/12/10 – SSRC Spokesperson George Makuer said Danish, South African and British companies have been short-listed for the contract to print referendum ballots, adding that name of the winner would be released in NY during the coming days. He told reporters yesterday that the SSRC made it a condition for the winning printer to print the ballots within 12 days.

British firm to print Sudan referendum ballots

AFP 6/12/10 - A British company will print ballot papers for the Sudanese referendum on January 9 that could lead to the partition of Africa's largest nation, officials said on Monday.

"The UK company Tall Security Print got the contract," a UN official who requested anonymity told AFP, without being able to give the value of the contract.

Officials said the company won the tender after the 12 bids received by Sunday were whittled down to three - the British company, one from Denmark and another from South Africa.

"Twelve companies... applied including two Sudanese companies, one governmental and the other private," said commission spokesman George Makuer Benjamin.

"Three companies had been short-listed, one from South Africa, one from the UK and one from Denmark."

The former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), which governs the autonomous south, was opposed to having the ballot papers printed in the country.

"We prefer that this material is produced outside Sudan" to prevent anyone from tampering with them, Anne Itto, the SPLM's deputy secretary general in the south, said ahead of the decision.

The authorities plan to give the go-ahead for the ballot-printing to start once voter numbers are confirmed at the end of the registration period on Wednesday...

Arab tribes in the South file suit against SSRC

Al-Intibaha 7/12/10 – Arab tribes in the South have filed a suit with the Constitutional Court challenging the latter's refusal to register them as voters for the upcoming referendum, hinting further undisclosed steps should the SSRC continue to deny them the right to register.

Advocate Ghazi Suleiman, who participated at a press conference convened by the group yesterday, criticized the SSRC for refusing to register the members of the Arab tribe of Manj County of north Upper Nile state.

SSRC request Justice Ministry to establish courts

Al-Intibaha 7/12/10 – the SSRC has requested the Ministry of Justice to set up courts to dispose referendum-related objections. SSRC spokesperson George Makuer said committees had been formed to receive objections after the registration.

Makuer told reporters yesterday that 2,496,000 voters have registered in the South, 95,000 in the North and 40,000 abroad.

According to *Al-Akhbar* 7/12/10, the SSRC has sent a letter to the Ministry of Justice requesting formation of referendum courts to dispose registration-related objections.

SPLM-DC accuses SPLM and the SSRC of hampering voter registration

Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 07/12/10 – The Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement - Democratic Change (SPLM-DC) is accusing the SSRC and the SPLM of violating the Referendum Law and attempting to weaken the voter registration process. SPLM-DC's secretary for youths, Pasquale Otweil, noted that the SSRC has hampered voter registration in the north and south of the country through by engaging young "identifiers and monitors" while focusing also on tribal bias in order to "lay the grounds for rigging in the referendum in the same manner the April 2010 elections were rigged in southern Sudan."

Talks between Gen. Athor and GoSS

Al-Intibaha 7/12/10 – a delegation representing renegade Gen. George Athor headed by Dak James arrived in Juba yesterday for consultation with GoSS on reconciliation to end Athor's defection.

Dak James said that Commissioner of Ayut County had put two Gen. Athor's officers in prison for unknown reasons.

GoSS President Kiir meets Menkerios and Margelov

Al-Sudani 7/12/10 – FVP and GoSS president Salva Kiir Mayardit met yesterday in Khartoum with SRSR Haile Menkerios and Russian envoy Mikhail Margelov for discussion on political developments in the country and Sudan Government's vision on the CPA implementation.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Margelov stressed the need for full implementation of the CPA including a timely and monitored referendum process.

For his part, the SRSG told the reporters after the meeting that the Sudanese leaders are capable of resolving their differences, avoiding North-South confrontation and carrying the CPA forward to its logical conclusion, stressing the need for continued consultation between the UN and the two parties to sustain peace, to provide assistance and to narrow gulf of differences between the two parties.

Xinhua 6/12/10 reported that Russian Special Envoy to Sudan Mikhail Margelov on Monday reiterated Moscow's support to the south Sudan referendum on a fair and transparent manner with accepted results.

"Russia hopes that the referendum would be conducted as scheduled and in a transparent and fair manner and satisfactory to all parties," Margelov told reporters after meeting Sudanese First Vice-President and President of south Sudan government Salva Kiir Mayardit here Monday.

"Russia is keen to see Sudan pressing towards stability, peace and development whatever the result of the referendum is," he added.

The Russian envoy further urged the Sudanese government partners, the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), to work to overcome their outstanding issues regarding what remained in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), inked between north and south Sudan in 2005.

Margelov, during his current visit to Sudan, is expected to hold talks with a number of senior Sudanese officials and to visit Darfur and south Sudan.

Neither the South, nor the North is prepared for the referendum result – UN official

Al-Wifaq 7/12/10 – Adviser to the UNSG Lakhdar Ibrahimi said neither the South nor the North is presently prepared for the referendum result. Speaking to reporters yesterday on the sidelines of a conference for support to “prisoners in the occupation’s prisons” said the North is not prepared for secession and the South is unable to bring matters of governance under control due to tribal complications.

No elections in the north if the south secede – Nafie

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 07/12/10 – “The NCP will not be blamed alone if the South secedes,” says President Al-Bashir aide, Nafie Ali Nafie. He pointed out that the CPA was not the making of a particular group within his party but that of the party leadership. He said that his party has democratic institutions. “There is no single group that holds a monopoly on the party’s decision-making and we don’t have hawks and doves within the party,” he said.

Nafie accused the SPLM of “implementing a US agenda” by hosting and supporting representatives of the armed groups of Darfur. He called on the SPLM not to bend to the wishes of “a small group from Abyei led by Deng Alor who vetoes on any solution to the Abyei issue.” He pointed out that the NCP would propose solutions to the Abyei problem at the Presidency

meeting later today that would be acceptable to the SPLM, he said.

The presidential aide accused the opposition of trying to use the SPLM as leverage to weaken the regime in Khartoum after the referendum but pointed out that the regime would emerge stronger than before. He pointed out that there would be no elections in the north should the south secede, adding the current institutions would continue to their full term.

SPLM rules out hosting Darfur armed groups after the referendum

Al-Ayyam Juba, 07/12/10 – The SPLM has denied recent reports by the Sudan Media Centre (SMC) claiming that senior SPLM military and political figures were engaged in consultations in Yei town with Ahmed Adam Bakhiet, a prominent member of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in the last two days. The SMC had reported earlier that the talks focused on SPLM guarantees for a safe haven for the Darfur armed groups should the south separate as alternatives to Chad that has normalised relations with Sudan.

SPLA Spokesperson Philip Aguer described the reports as “untrue which are designed to spoil relations between the government and the SPLM.” The SPLM, he said, remains committed to the ceasefire agreement.

SPLM threatens to conduct a unilateral referendum on Abyei

Al-Tayyar Juba, 07/12/10 –Following the formation of a Misseriya government in the area, SPLM leading figure Edward Lino said the Dinka Ngok of Abyei might conduct a unilateral referendum to decide the fate of their area should they feel the ruling party is dragging its feet on the issue. He pointed out that the SPLM is committed to the Permanent Court of Arbitration’s ruling on the territory.

Other Highlights

UN providing heavy arms to Darfur rebels –Darfur Governor Kasha

Al-Akhbar 7/12/10 – Governor of South Darfur state Abdul Hameed Musa Kasha has directed harsh criticism to UN, calling on it to stop arming rebel movements in Darfur.

Addressing DDR workshop in Nyala yesterday, Kasha called on the UN to stop “killing the people of Darfur” by providing heavy arms and vehicles to rebel movements, accusing it of pursuing a double standards policy. He said UN provides arms to rebel movements and complains of arms in civilian possession.

Presidential adviser criticizes South Sudan role in Darfur conflict

Sudan Tribune 6/12/10 - Presidential adviser in charge of Darfur file slammed the role of the Sudan people's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Darfur conflict and asked Juba to stop its support to the rebel groups in western Sudan.

Gahzi Salah Eddin urged the southern Sudan ruling party "to lift her hand from Darfur conflict" saying that the role of the SPLM in Darfur was always negative since the start of the conflict.

"What is surprising that the SPLM wants to return this negative role again through the hosting of the Darfur movements," he said.

Ghazi Salah Eddin, made his remarks from Nyala capital of South Darfur state where he attended a reconciliation meeting between Misseriya and Rizzagat tribes in Kass. He also met with the representatives of political parties to brief them on the peace process.

Today, the ministry of information released a statement condemning the semi-autonomous government in Southern Sudan for backing Darfur rebel groups stressing that this support clearly violates the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

"Explanations given to justify this (support) are without value and are regarded as beyond the red lines and playing with fire," further added the statement.

The federal ministry said that Southern Sudan authorities have to apologize and correct their behavior in order to avoid that the consequences of this "violation" affect the signed peace agreement and to create the suitable atmosphere for the completion of the remaining benefits of the peace process.

Southern Sudan army dismissed the accusations and said Khartoum seeks to topple the implementation of the referendum process.

Security raided Interim Authority HQ in El Fasher, arrest Minnawi's cadres

The Citizen 7/12/10 – A joint force of the central reserve and intelligence services broke into the HQs of the Darfur Interim Authority in El Fasher yesterday and arrested all the person present in the premises. The Authority was previously headed by Minni Minnawi, leader of the SLM. Sources said the reasons for the measure were still unknown, adding that the security forces had embarked on a search for affiliates of Minnawi faction to arrest them. The director of the Compensation Commission, Ahmed Haqub, is already arrested.

Authorities stop Radio Dabanga broadcasts

Al-Ahram Al-Youm 07/12/10 – Authorities have stopped Radio Dabanga broadcasts to Darfur on the grounds the station has violated the relevant laws governing radio broadcasting as well as laws on national security. Sources reveal that security authorities are currently interrogating 14 suspects on charges of collaboration and incitement of violation of the national security laws. The charges also include spying.

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