

8 February 2010

www.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Headlines

- GoSS VP in Khartoum to resume dialogue with NCP (**Ajras Al-Hurriah**)
- We receive no notification about Qazi replacement – Government (**Akhir Lahza**)
- No evidence of arms supply to the South – SRSQ Qazi (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- NCP holds SPLA and Misseriya responsible for insecurity (**Akhir Lahza**)
- Residents flee a Unity state area fearing retaliatory attack (**ST**)
- South Sudan ex-rebels warn independents to toe party line (**AFP**)
- France praises Sudan's Bashir for role in kidnap release (**AFP**)
- Chadian President due in Khartoum today (**Dailies**)
- Egypt's Mubarak appears resigned to South Sudan independence (**ST**)
- US analysts worried over stability of Sudan (**EastAfrican website**)

Elections Special:

- UNAMID will not observe elections – Interior Minister (**Al-Ahdath**)
- Opposition rejects mechanism set up by NEC (**Al-Khartoum**)
- Court to rule today on appeal against Al-Bashir and Kiir candidatures (**Dailies**)

NOTE: *Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

Media Monitoring Report

8 February 2010

Highlights

GoSS VP in Khartoum to resume dialogue with NCP

GoSS VP Riek Machar arrived in Khartoum yesterday to resume dialogue with the NCP on pending CPA issues, *Ajras Al-Hurriah* reports. Machar told reporters that the SPLM would push for freezing of laws that impede democratic transformation, formation of commissions for the South Sudan and the Abyei area and the increase of South Sudan's seats in the National Assembly. Machar denied knowledge about a move by SPLM to cancel South Sudan's legislative elections should the NCP continues to suspend dialogue on census results.

We receive no notification about Qazi replacement – Government

President Al-Bashir, at meeting with Ashraf Qazi yesterday, affirmed the important role played by the SRSG towards the implementation of the CPA, *Akhir Lahza* reports. He said Qazi is leaving Sudan at the wrong time, citing elections as an important CPA milestone.

DG of Protocol Ambassador Ali Hayder told reporters that the President and the SRSG discussed bilateral relations between Sudan and Pakistan and asked him to convey his greetings to the President of Pakistan. The President said his Government did not receive a notification about the appointment of Haile Menkeriose but the Government would have no objection to his appointment.

The SRSG stressed the need to make unity attractive and expressed optimism over the success of the electoral process, citing efforts by the NEC. He said the CPA partners succeeded in overcoming the major obstacles. He said the year 2011 would be decisive and called for the conduct of fair referendum.

Meanwhile, *Al-Raed* reports Qazi has threatened to take decisive measures against GoSS and to report to the Security Council should GoSS involvement in purchase of weapons is proved.

The President who received Qazi yesterday on the occasion of the expiry of his tenure said the SRSG is leaving Sudan at an "inappropriate" time hoping he could depart after the elections which he described as an important CPA benchmark.

No evidence of arms supply to the South – SRSG Qazi

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports that SRSG Ashraf Qazi told a press conference yesterday that he was confident of Sudan's ability to overcome CPA obstacles. On claims of arms flow into the South he said, "There is no evidence of involvement of any quarter. We can not accuse anybody for arms flow into the South".

The Citizen reports the SRSG called for a clear strategy to specify the role of UNMIS in case of secession. He said there are advantages and disadvantages accompanying the interim period, but the commitment of the two parties' leaders during the celebration of the fifth anniversary to recognize the choice of southern Sudanese will assist in the success of the agreement.

NCP holds SPLA and Misseriya responsible for insecurity

Akhir Lahza reports NCP political secretary Ibrahim Ghandour as saying that the SPLA and the Misseriya are to blame for tension between them, saying maintaining security is the responsibility of the state. Meanwhile Ghandour said his party did not withdraw from elections in the South, citing participation in more than 90% of the constituencies in the South.

Meanwhile, *Al-Watan* reports an anonymous source as saying that the Misseriya have mobilized their fighters in anticipation for an SPLA attack in the backdrop of the recent clash resulting in casualties on both sides. According to the source, the Misseriya are adherent to the 1.1.56 border.

Residents flee a Unity state area fearing retaliatory attack

Sudan Tribune website 7/2/10 — Hundreds of residents of Biemnhom County, in the southern Sudan state of Unity, have started fleeing the area as speculations of possible clashes by Messeriya pastoralists and local police continues to capture attention of local authorities.

"They are leaving the area to avoid being caught up in the cross fighting in case of uncertainties as two parties are being rumored preparing for retaliatory attack," said Deng Mayom, an administrative officer in the area.

Deng said an increased movement of local residents is being seen in the areas which were recently attacked by Messeriya nomads because of fear about possibilities of clash between the two sides.

According to him, at least 378 families from Biemnhom and its surrounding have left the area on Saturday seeking protection from local police.

However, local authorities are reported to have deployed thousands of security forces in the area following speculations that members of Messeriya pastoralists are planning to carry out attacks in the coming days.

Sources from the area reportedly said the recent attacks were part of retaliatory attack for December clash between police and members of Messeriya pastoralists.

France praises Sudan's Bashir for role in kidnap release

AFP 7/2/10 — A French envoy thanked Sudan's President Omar Al-Bashir on Sunday for helping to secure the release of a Red Cross worker held by kidnappers for nearly three months.

"I came on behalf of the French authorities to thank President Bashir and the Sudanese authorities for leading efforts that led to the release of the French ICRC worker," said Andre Parant, an adviser to French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

The kidnappers freed Laurent Maurice, an agronomist for the ICRC on Saturday after 89 days in captivity, first in Chad and then in Sudan's volatile Darfur region.

He had been seized by a shadowy group calling itself the Falcons for the Liberation of Africa on November 9, 2009 in Chad, where he was assessing the harvest near the Sudanese border.

Speaking to reporters in Khartoum, Parant said that he had also reminded Bashir of "three other French humanitarian workers who are still being held."

Apart from Maurice, another three other French aid workers were abducted since October in a string of attacks in an area straddling eastern Chad, Sudan's troubled Darfur region and the Central African Republic.

Chadian President due in Khartoum today

Local dailies report President of Chad Idriss Deby is due in Khartoum today on 2-day visit for talks with President Al-Bashir on bilateral relations. Deby is scheduled to address a rally of Chadian community at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum tomorrow.

Egypt's Mubarak appears resigned to South Sudan independence

Sudan Tribune website 7/2/10– Egypt's top official for the first time appeared to acknowledge that South Sudanese will likely choose to secede in the self-determination referendum scheduled for early next year.

The Kuwait-based Al-Jarida newspaper said that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak made rare remarks speaking of "peaceful" separation between North and South Sudan during his visit to the city of Sohag last week.

Mubarak has reportedly criticized Khartoum for lacking the will to preserve the unity and warning that there are regional powers wanting to fuel conflict in the area which he described as "vital to Egypt".

Al-Jarida newspaper quoted Egyptian sources as saying that Cairo also fears massacres in Khartoum against Southern Sudanese and Northerners in the South which they believe will witness armed conflicts.

The matter of South Sudan was to be discussed with visiting Sudanese 2nd Vice President Ali Osman Taha who held meetings today with Prime Minister Ahmed Nazeef. Taha's visit received little coverage by Egyptian newspapers for unknown reasons.

Taha is scheduled to meet with Mubarak before he ends his three day visit on Tuesday.

US analysts worried over stability of Sudan

EastAfrican website 8/2/10 - With southern Sudan now believed virtually certain to vote for independence in less than a year, worries are growing in Washington not only over a possible resumption of the North-South civil war, but also over the likelihood that the newly independent state will not prove viable.

Officials and advocates alike fear that east the Africa's largest country may again be convulsed by violence after a concerted, protracted and ultimately successful US-led effort to end 20 years of disastrous fighting.

Renewed North-South warfare might yet be averted, a panel of 20 Sudan experts suggested in a report published a few months ago, but only if major disagreements are resolved before the southern Sudanese take part in a referendum scheduled for January 2011. And "absent a change in the status quo", added the report by the nongovernmental US Institute of Peace, "most of the important substantive issues between North and South - oil revenue sharing, security arrangements and the demarcation of boundaries - will not be resolved before the referendum."

All analysts agree that the USA, its allies and leading multilateral institutions must push harder for full implementation of the 2005 North-South peace treaty. But "the international community's position toward Sudan at this vital time reflects neither consensus nor coherence," experts at the Enough Project, a Washington think tank, warned last month. Instability is increasing in the south as weapons pour in from all sides.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice spoke out strongly against this arms race two weeks ago, suggesting that the Obama administration may be sharpening its focus on Sudan.

After months of deliberation, the administration recently announced that a new Sudan policy is being put in place that pushes Khartoum to meet benchmarks in regard to both southern Sudan and the devastated Darfur region in the west of the country.

Ms Rice declined to name the suspected sources of the arms shipments into the south, and the Obama administration's special envoy for Sudan, Ambassador Scott Gration, indicated last week through a spokesman that he would not comment on reports of Kenya's involvement.

Elections Special:

UNAMID will not observe elections – Interior Minister

Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid said UNAMID troops would not participate in monitoring upcoming elections because securing the exercise is the responsibility of the Sudanese police, *Al-Ahdath* reports. He said UNAMID has no mandate to secure elections but it can assist the Sudanese Government.

Opposition rejects mechanism set up by NEC

Al-Khartoum reports that opposition parties have rejected the media mechanism set up by the NEC to regulate media coverage of candidates' electoral campaigns. Opposition alliance member Farouk Abu Eissa claimed that the mechanism is unacceptable because 90% of its members are pro-NCP.

Court to rule today on appeal against Al-Bashir and Kiir candidatures

Local dailies report that the Supreme Court at an open sitting today will pronounce its ruling on the appeals filed against nominations of Omer Al-Bashir, Salva Kiir as well as other nominees for state governor posts.

South Sudan ex-rebels warn independents to toe party line

AFP 7/2/10 — South Sudan's former rebels warned on Sunday that leading party members must not contest seats in upcoming elections as independent candidates, and issued a deadline for them to withdraw.

"We ask them to maintain the unity of the party by not contesting but rather to endorse the official SPLM candidates," SPLM SG Pagan Amum told reporters in the southern capital.

"We really do not want a situation where the party divides itself on issues of power struggle."

Amum said that SPLM members standing as independents must withdraw their names by February 13; the day election campaigning officially begins.

"By 13 February we will expect them to withdraw their candidature and not to proceed to elections," he said.

"After that, we will make our position clear if there are some who refuse," he added, without elaborating.