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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Watch

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Highlights

Presidency to meet today

Al-Sahafa 08/03/11 – The Presidency is to meet today to discuss a range of outstanding issues including the conflict in Abyei. According to *Al-Ahdath* 8/3/11, GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar said that FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit is due to travel to Khartoum today for talks on the pending CPA issues but it is not clear whether the meeting would take place today amid reports President Al-Bashir is also expected to fly to Cairo later today for talks with Egyptian officials.

SPLA prevents UNMIS movement in Abyei

Al-Intibaha 8/3/11 – Abyei residents were panic-stricken as SPLA begins massive deployment north of the territory. The SPLA is also reported to have stopped UNMIS patrols from moving northward to investigate alleged breaches.

Meanwhile, Misseriya leader Abdul Rahman Abu Saffa told the newspaper yesterday that the SPLA had breached the recent agreement concluded between the central government and the GoSS, adding their cattle would begin migrating southward for grazing whether the GoSS agrees or not.

Leaders of SPLM north hold talks with VP Taha

Al-Ahdath 8/03/11 – SPLM-North, under the leadership of Malik Aggar, held a rare meeting yesterday with Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha. Aggar told the press after the meeting that the two sides discussed mechanisms for coordination with the NCP and the other political parties including the future of the SPLM in the North. He added that the meeting is also part of the SPLM effort to reorganize itself in the North. He further noted that the SPLM is legally registered in the North and would therefore not find difficulties to operate or interact with the other political forces.

Sudan's Bashir to visit Egypt on Tuesday

AFP 7/3/11 - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir is to travel to Cairo on Tuesday, state media reported, marking the first visit to post-Mubarak Egypt by an Arab leader and one by the only head of state wanted by the International Criminal Court.

"President Omar al-Bashir will begin an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt on Tuesday, where he will meet Field Marshal Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, the head of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces and senior Egyptian officials," SUNA said in a statement.

The Sudanese news agency said the visit confirmed Sudan's "support for the Egyptian people at this historical juncture... and reflects the strong ties that bind the two countries."

Egypt, which is not a signatory to the ICC, has been a key ally for the Sudanese president, who has visited the country numerous times since he was indicted by the ICC for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur in March 2009. He has since been charged with genocide.

Despite his cordial relationship with former president Hosni Mubarak, Bashir was quick to congratulate the Egyptian people when they ousted their veteran leader last month after weeks of

protests, hailing the "triumph" of their revolution.

Sudan, meanwhile, remains an important ally for Egypt in its efforts to block initiatives by upstream Nile countries that would allow them to implement irrigation and hydropower projects without first seeking Cairo's consent.

GoSS VP Machar advises dialogue with Athor

Al-Rai Al-Aam 8/3/11 – GoSS VP Riek Machar, speaking at Fangak County yesterday, announced his rejection of SPLA's war on George Athor.

Machar advised pursuit of dialogue for peaceful resolution of the problem with the dissident, warning that confrontation with Athor could plunge the region into a civil war.

Meanwhile, fresh clashes between SPLA and Athor left 108 soldiers killed and 64 wounded on the part of the SPLA, according to *Al-Intibaha* 8/3/11.

Sources have revealed that forces of dissident David Yauryau were also advancing into eastern Equatoria state, adding the forces were spotted moving in the region.

Rebel Athor claims Oliny as new ally

BBC News 7/3/11 - At least 50 people have reportedly been killed in South Sudan clashes, as rebel leader George Athor claims a new militia has joined him.

Both Mr. Athor and South Sudan's army say more than 50 people have died in clashes in Upper Nile State but each says most of the casualties were on the other side. The claims have not been verified.

The increasing violence comes as South Sudan prepares to declare independence from the north in July. An overwhelming majority of voters backed secession in January's referendum - part of a peace deal following decades of north-south conflict.

President Omar al-Bashir has said he accepts the independence of the oil-rich south. His advisers deny southern claims that they are linked to Mr Athor's fighters.

"We hope the south will be strong - this will reflect stability in the north," Rabie Abd al-Atti, a senior official with Mr Bashir's National Congress Party, told the BBC.

But southern army spokesman Col Phillip Aguer said weapons and munitions had been seized from a militia led by a man called Oliny in Upper Nile state, which came from the north.

Mr. Athor told the BBC that Mr. Oliny's fighters had joined his rebellion. He also said his forces had been attacked by the army in Jonglei State.

The BBC's James Copnall in Khartoum says Mr. Athor's rebellion is one of the great challenges facing the southern authorities as they move towards secession. If it is not stamped out quickly it may well encourage others to take up arms, our correspondent says.

SPLA chief of staff intervenes to end fighting in Upper Nile

Al-Ahdath 8/03/11 – The GoSS has dispatched SPLA Chief of Staff James Hoth to Upper Nile

State in a bid to put an end to the fighting there. Hoth would be travelling to Upper Nile in the company of a number of other senior SPLA members.

GoSS VP Riek Machar says the region's military leadership has drafted a plan and a series of security measures to help stop the clashes in the area.

South rejects 7-year oil partnership with the North

Al-Sahafa 8/3/11 – The NCP has reportedly proposed a 7-year oil partnership with the SPLM amid news that the AU-sponsored talks between the two parties in Addis Ababa failed to achieve breakthrough on oil and currency issues.

According to the newspaper, the NCP proposed that the CPA's oil sharing percentages be maintained between the North and the South for a period of seven years but the SPLM rejected the suggestion. The SPLM also revealed that the NCP is also pressing the South to stop circulating the Sudanese pound and look for another currency as from 9 July.

The AU mediator (Thabo Mbeki) presented to the two parties similar experiences on currency, oil sharing and debts and the parties will resume their meetings on 5 April.

SPLM set up a new party in the North headed by Malik Aggar

Al-Ayyam 8/3/11 – The SPLM formally announced yesterday the establishment of a new political party in the North headed by governor of the Blue Nile state Malik Aggar.

The SPLM, at a symposium yesterday called for internationally-monitored elections in southern Kordofan should the Commission fails to organize free and fair vote.

Meanwhile, the opposition national consensus forces said talks with the NCP have deadlocked, leaving them with no option but to seek the overthrow of the regime. "Opposition leaders have agreed to overthrow the regime after dialogue has deadlocked," Farouq Abu Essa, Chair of the opposition national consensus forces, said.

While Ms Nagad Al-Hadi, DUP leading figure, told the symposium that her party favours mobilizing the people to topple the regime, SPLM SG Yassir Arman said their newly-established party needs no registration since the SPLM is already registered, adding the party would work for Sudan's reunification after secession.

The Government has officially welcomed the formation of the SPLM's new party in the North, according to *Al-Akhbar* 8/3/11.

North and South disengage institutions to form two independent states

Sudan Tribune website 7/3/11 - The two governments of North and South Sudan have begun the process of disengaging national institutions to form two separate independent countries, following the overwhelming vote for independence by the people of South Sudan in January's referendum.

Officials from both North and South have acknowledged that South Sudan is already an independent state after the popular vote in January. July 9 is said to only mark the end of

disengagement process of the two governments and witness the formal announcement of Africa's 54th state.

"South Sudan is already an independent state by the vote of the people," South Sudan's vice president Riek Machar said Saturday, who further explained that what had remained were mere formalities to July 9's announcement of the new state...

Machar, who chairs the government's taskforce which is also charged with the responsibility to prepare the emerging independent state, held a series of meetings with government officials, representatives of the United Nations and international partners on the disengagement process on Saturday.

He said his government had considered calling all the dismissed members of the national parliament to Juba the seat of the government of South Sudan. Machar said the interim constitution of South Sudan, which is currently under amendment in preparation for independence would provide for their reintegration. One of the immediate options he said would be to consider widening the size of the present membership of parliament in order to accommodate them.

The Vice President also said a further arrangement could be made on the fate of the executive and other national organs in Khartoum. He explained that only the Presidency, including the First Vice President Salva Kiir, who is also the President of South Sudan and few key South Sudanese ministers, would remain in Khartoum until July 9.

Machar has directed the minister of Human Resource Development, Mary Jervis, to provide comprehensive data on all the South Sudanese civil servants currently working in all the 15 states in the north.

On Saturday, the vice president and a number of ministers including the minister in the office of the president, Cirino Hiteng, minister of labor and public service, Awut Deng Acuil, and state minister in the office of the president in Khartoum, Wek Mamer, discussed plans on repatriation of the South Sudanese civil servants from the North before July 9.

Machar also directed the relevant ministers of labor and public service and of human resources development to provide information that will guide the government's plans on reintegrating into South Sudan's civil service the incoming civil servants from the north.

Tens of thousands of South Sudanese officials in the civil service are expected to be repatriated from the north's national institutions.

Sudan's electoral body sets date for nomination of Kordofan governor

SUNA 7/3/11 - The higher elections committee of southern Kordofan State has announced nominations are open during March 11-17 for the position of the Wali (governor) of southern Kordofan State.

The conditions set by the law for nomination to the position of the governor include that the nominee shall be a Sudanese national, his age shall not be less than 40 years, able to read and write and should not have been convicted of a crime affecting his honesty and morals.

The committee also announced that nominations are open for membership of the Legislative Assembly of southern Kordofan State through the geographical constituencies and the women and parties' lists in the same period and under the same conditions.

Other Highlights

Two new states to be established in the Darfur region

Sudan Vision 8/3/11 - The addition of two new states in Darfur has been approved on Monday by the Higher Committee on Darfur, chaired by President Omar Al-Bashir. This move will bring the administrative status of the region from three to five states.

Presidential Advisor, in charge of the Darfur Dossier, Dr. Gazi Salahuddin said in a press statement after the meeting that the approval came following recommendations by a special committee charged with studying the situation in Darfur. That committee was formed in accordance with the recommendations of the People of Sudan Forum held at Kenana.

Dr. Ghazi said that the meeting discussed and adopted the said recommendation as it represents the popular will of the people of Darfur. The two new states in Darfur will be the Central Darfur State, with Zalingei as its capital and the Eastern Darfur State, with al-Diein as its capital.

He added that the meeting also tackled the administrative referendum issue in Darfur as one of the terms of the Abuja Peace Agreement saying "There is a legal obligation to conduct the referendum as scheduled in April 2011.

He further confirmed the government commitment to the enforcement of Abuja Agreement until terminated or amended by another agreement adding, "We do not see a conflict between the administrative referendum and the recommendation of the division of the states of Darfur as each one has a separate procedure with specific legal activations."

Ghazi explained that the said meeting also discussed the humanitarian issue in the region and reduction of dependence on relief work to enable people to voluntarily return to their villages and engage in economic activities...

Rate of crime declines in Khartoum state – police

Al-Sahafa 8311 – Khartoum state police Director Lt. Gen. Mohamed Al-Hafiz said the annual criminal report for 2010 indicated that the rate of crime in Khartoum state saw significant downturn compared to 2009.

Gen. Al-Hafiz attributed the decrease to the efforts exerted by the state's police forces to combat crimes of murder, theft, currency counterfeiting etc.

JEM leader Khalil turns down offer to leave Libya

Al-Intibaha 8/3/11 – Diplomatic sources have revealed to the newspaper yesterday that Libyan leader Qaddafi had made an offer to JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim to leave the Libyan soil due to the ongoing Intifada but Khalil turned down the offer.

Reportedly, Qaddafi had earlier made necessary preparations to relocate Khalil to one of Sudan's

neighbours but he refused.

President appoints New Central Bank of Sudan Governor

Sudan Vision 7/3/11 - A presidential decision issued yesterday appointed Dr. Mohammad Khair al Zubair as the Governor of Central Bank of Sudan (CBOS), following the resignation of Dr. Saber Mohammad al Hassan.

The newly appointed Governor of CBOS Dr. al Zubair said that he has accepted the office and appreciated the President's trust in him. The President met yesterday with both the former and current governor of CBOS.

Dr. Saber told the press that the meeting was held as part of handover takeover arrangements.

Police say receive no request for peaceful march tomorrow

Al-Rai Al-Aam 8/3/11 – Khartoum state police said they received no application for permission from the opposition forces to organize a peaceful demonstration tomorrow, warning of illegal gatherings, adding they would not tolerate any threat to security of the state.

“Police has a legal and constitutional duty to discharge. It is a national entity and should be respected,” Khartoum state police, Gen. Mohamed Al-Hafiz Attiya, told a press conference yesterday. “We will not allow any quarter or individual to demonstrate without permission. Police forces have the right to disperse any unlawful assembly by order from the Prosecution” he warned.

Meanwhile, the opposition forces released a statement yesterday saying the peaceful demonstration would be organized tomorrow Wednesday in Khartoum and that Egyptian and Tunisian Ambassadors in Khartoum have been invited to attend the peaceful gathering. According to the statement, the assembly would be addressed by the opposition leaders including Mr. Sadiq Al-Mahdi, leader of the National Umma Party.

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