

9 Feb 11

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Post-referendum Watch

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Highlights

South Sudan minister shot dead in Juba -army

Reuters 9/2/11 - A South Sudan minister was shot dead inside his ministry building on Wednesday, days after referendum results confirmed the region will become Africa's newest independent state, the southern army spokesman said.

"The minister for rural development and cooperation has been killed by a driver working at the ministry. He also killed a guard at the door of the ministry then shot himself," South Sudan's army spokesman Philip Aguer said.

Status of UN troops in Sudan under consideration – Foreign Minister

Al-Ahdath 9/2/11 – the Sudanese government announced the start of dialogue with the UN on the whether its troops would stay in the country or not after the end of their mandate on 8 July.

Foreign Minister Ali Karti, speaking at press conference with US envoy Gration yesterday, said that “officially the UN will remain in the country until 8 July and its stay or departure would be decided within two or three months before the end of the mandate”. He said a dialogue had actually started between the Government and SRSG Haile Menkerios two days ago, adding that Sudan would inform the UN on whether there is a need for these troops based on agreement of the North and the South, citing other roles UN could play such as humanitarian assistance, training and promotion of culture of peace which Sudan, as a UN member, could benefit from.

“The role of the UN troops in the Sudan will come to an end when the interim period expires. Their presence and mandate is governed by the CPA and they have come to the Sudan based on an agreement to ensure proper implementation of this agreement,” he said, according to *Al-Ahram Al-Youm* 9/2/11. He pointed out that the UN can also play other roles in the areas of humanitarian assistance and training and Sudan is a member of the UN and has the right to benefit from these services. He said he began a dialogue with SRSG Haile Menkerios who came to ask about the status of the UN in Sudan.

Karti affirmed the continuation of southern officials in their posts in the North until the end of the interim period, saying southern Ambassadors and diplomats would also remain part of the Foreign Ministry throughout the period.

US denies reports on agreeing to defer Bashir’s warrant

Sudan Tribune.com 8/2/11 - The United States described as "false" media reports that it has agreed on freezing the indictment of Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The Financial Times said last week that France and the US agreed to this at the African Union (AU) summit held late January in Addis Ababa.

A number of unidentified western diplomats told the Financial Times that the idea of deferral has resurfaced at the AU summit because they believe that strong incentives are needed to ensure

Khartoum does not derail the final stages of peace with the south and commits itself to ending a separate conflict in Darfur.

But U.S. State Department Spokesman Philip J. Crowley said on Monday that no discussion took place at the AU summit.

"Our delegation in Addis Ababa, led by Deputy Secretary Steinberg, had no such discussion," he said.

FM welcomes US intent to remove Sudan from US list of countries sponsoring terrorism

SUNA 8/2/11 - The Foreign Minister, Ali Ahmed Karti, has welcomed the announcement of Washington of the beginning of its procedure to remove the name of Sudan from the list of countries sponsoring terrorism. This came during his meeting Tuesday with the American special envoy to Sudan, Scott Gration.

Karti called for speeding up of the procedure for normalization of the relations between Sudan and the United States, lifting the economic sanctions being imposed on Sudan as well as working with the partners and the international financial institutions for writing off Sudan debts.

Karti and the American envoy discussed means of enhancing the relations between Khartoum and Washington and outcome of the visit of Gration to Port-Sudan and Darfur.

Gration said that he held successful talks with the government of the Red Sea and was informed on the economic developments and infrastructures in the state.

He underscored the importance of speeding up the Darfurian - Darfurian dialogue, calling on all the armed movements to join the negotiations in Doha, urging the Joint Mediation to intensify its efforts for reaching a final peace agreement in Darfur.

Gration reiterated the affirmations of President Obama and the commitments of the US administration to implement the agreed upon road map for normalization of the relations between the two countries, indicating that the procedure for lifting the sanctions on Sudan would take six months.

He said that the United States will work with the African Union's high panel for Sudan, which is headed by Thabo Mbeki and other parties concerned with peace in Sudan, for solution of the pending issues in Sudan, including Abyei issue, referring to the progress achieved in a number of issues like the borders' one.

Meanwhile, the two parties agreed on adoption of a number of procedures for boosting the confidence between Khartoum and Washington, especially reactivation of the cultural and sports' exchange between the two countries, the exchange of visits between the officials and specialized work groups in the two countries.

They also agreed on bolstering the partnership for solving the pending issues and promoting the diplomatic representation between the two countries as soon as possible. Sudan has called on the American side to speed up the issuance of exportation to Sudan, especially in the fields of

agricultural and medical equipment, trains and security checks equipment at airports.

The Sudanese and American sides also agreed on continuing dialogue and intensifying the political contacts at highest levels.

“We hope this step will be taken without further conditions,” NCP leading figure Prof. Ibrahim Ghandour told reporters yesterday, according to *Al-Rai Al-Aam* 9/2/11. “We are confident that the step will be taken,” he said.

GoSS President Kiir says the Misseriya will participate in Abyei referendum

Al-Sahafa 9/2/11 – GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit said that the Ngok Dinka and northern tribes in the area including the Misseriya would participate in voting to decide whether Abyei territory is part of the South or the North.

Kiir made the statement yesterday upon return to Juba from Khartoum, affirming the right of the Misseriya to grazing and called for resolution of the problem during a period not later than March.

Abyei Administration urges Presidency to resolve the problem in the area

Al-Rai Al-Aam 9/2/11 – the Abyei Administration said concerned about possible security tension after the official declaration of secession.

The Administration spokesperson Chol Chang has called on the presidency to expedite efforts to resolve the problem to prevent possible security tensions, adding that the Dinka would not prevent anybody from water and pastures but pointed out that attacks on civilians would not be tolerated. He said the withdrawal of police to the South represents a crisis for the Dinka tribe.

The Administration also expressed concern over the continuation of blockage of roads which negatively affected the economic situation in the territory and urged the Presidency for a greater focus on the issue.

NCP and SPLM likely to agree on “grace period” to resolve pending issues

Al-Ahdath 9/2/11 –the NCP and the SPLM has agreed on an additional period after 7 July to allow time for resolution of the pending issues between the North and the South before latter actually declares the birth of its state.

According to SPLM SG Pagan Amum, the two parties agreed on an additional interim period after 9 July to allow time to address contentious issues such as citizenship and currency.

Amum said the two parties meeting also agreed to protect rights of citizenship in the North and the South and to maintain soft borders.

However, NCP leading figure and Cabinet state minister Mohamed Mukhtar has revealed that the joint committee between the two sides at its yesterday’s meeting agreed on a period of six months to allow time to address some issues but it is not an “interim period”.

The Citizen 9/2/11 reports that the tripartite committee for post-referendum arrangements

convened yesterday a meeting for discussion on the issues of border and citizenship.

SPLM SG Pagan Amum said the committee focused on reaching agreement on post-referendum issues to lay a solid basis for future relations between the two states, adding that the meeting discussed the pending issues relating to implementation of the peace agreement.

Amum said the committee agreed on issuing instructions for the start of border demarcation, pointing out that they would convene today with the border demarcation committee to apprise them of the political decision to start the demarcation process. He said they would also convene tomorrow to discuss the Abyei issue. He revealed that the committee discussed issues of protection of southerners in the North and northerners in the South during the remaining part of the interim period.

Parliament to meet on 21 February to debate referendum results

Al-Tayyar 9/2/11 – National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir has decided to call both houses (the National Assembly and the Council of states) to convene an emergency session on 21 February to debate the referendum results.

The Presidency has officially referred the referendum results to the Houses for consideration.

Al-Tahir said the Houses would also discuss other issues such as post-referendum arrangements, structuring of the new state and bills. Al-Tahir, however, said the results of the referendum process would be endorsed whatever they are but declined to comment on the status of southern MPs, saying “it will be decided after the meeting of the two Houses”.

Khartoum State and UN sign agreement to combat poverty

Al-Ahdath 9/2/11 – Khartoum state and UN Mission have concluded a memorandum of understanding to promote cooperation, enhance planning and ensure better utilization of resources. The agreement targets IDPs in Khartoum who live below the poverty line.

The Memorandum is signed by Khartoum state governor Abdul Rahman Al-Khidir and Director of UNICEF Fund.

Khartoum state social development minister Ms Afaf Ahmed said the agreement would consolidate efforts of the UN agencies and Khartoum state to provide services to the state population and to assist the state to implement its programmes.

Sudanese president urges supporters to use Facebook to overcome opposition

Sudan Tribune.com 8/2/11 - The Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir has called on his supporters to use Facebook in order to overcome groups that are opposed to his rule.

Bashir made the call during his visit to northern Kordofan state on Tuesday where he inaugurated a power plant.

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) cited Bashir as instructing authorities to pay more attention towards extending electricity to the countryside so that the younger citizens can use computers and internet to combat opposition through social networking sites such as Facebook.

This is the first call of its kind by an Arab president since a wave of revolts spread across the Middle East leading to the downfall of the 23-years old regime in Tunisia and forced the Egyptian government to loosen its grip on the power and make unprecedented concessions.

In both instances, Facebook and Twitter were among Internet social networking services used by protesters to share information and coordinate activities. Mobilization for similar uprisings is underway in other Arab states such as Yemen, Algeria, Libya and Syria.

This week Syria lifted its long-standing ban on Facebook and YouTube in an apparent bid to stave off any potential unrest.

Sudanese youths attempted to stage mass demonstrations using the same tools last month but has met with little success as anti-riot police quickly managed to quell the protests and jailed dozens of the demonstrators.

Shortly afterwards a senior official at the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) headed by Bashir revealed that they have been closely monitoring and analyzing anti-regime Facebook pages and reached a conclusion that it has limited participation consisting mostly of users stationed abroad.

Sudanese officials have insisted that revolts in Tunisia and Egypt cannot be repeated in Sudan because of the freedoms and openness enjoyed by citizens in the country.

Sudan independence vote “expression of hope”: Tutu

AFP 8/2/11 - Nobel peace prize winner Desmond Tutu and other members of a group of global statesmen known as The Elders on Tuesday praised south Sudan's landmark independence referendum.

"This referendum was a remarkable expression of hope by the people. I was very moved by their determination to vote; some walked for days to do so," said Tutu in a statement issued by The Elders.

"Everyone who took part should be praised for ensuring that voters were able to exercise their rights freely. I applaud the people for their peaceful participation and their remarkably high turnout to vote."

Final results announced Monday showed that 98.83 percent of southern Sudanese had voted to secede from the north, paving the way for the declaration of a new state in July.

The January referendum was the centrepiece of a 2005 peace deal that ended a devastating 22-year conflict between the largely African Christian south and mainly Arab Muslim north.

Former US president Jimmy Carter, who oversaw an observer mission to Sudan with fellow Elder and former UN chief Kofi Annan, said in the statement that the north should not be overlooked.

"While the world will join the people of Southern Sudan in celebrating the birth of Africa's newest country, we should not turn away from the North where challenges of poverty, conflict

and human rights abuses remain of great concern," said Carter.

The two Sudans would remain dependent on each other, said Annan, who called on the international community and neighbouring states to support their efforts to work together.

"Without peace in the North, the South will not be able to address many of its development challenges. At the same time, development in the South is a prerequisite for economic and political stability in the North," he said.

The Elders is a grouping brought together in 2007 by former South African president Nelson Mandela.

Other Headlines

Authorities free five opposition figures

Al-Ahdath 9/2/11 – Authorities released yesterday five opposition cadres among them journalist Ahmed Sir Al-Khatim, detained for a week after protesters in Khartoum attempted to take to streets.

One of the freed figures said authorities subjected them to intense investigation trying to establish whether the demonstration was pre-planned or spontaneous.

Those freed are: Abdul Rahman Al-Sanjak, Ala Al-Din Adarob (DUP), Hatim Azhari and Mohamed Emad (Democratic Front).

Sudan says what is happening in Egypt is an internal affair

Al-Khartoum 9/2/11 – Sudan Government official spokesperson Kamal Obeid told Al-Shuruq TV yesterday that his country views developments in Egypt as an internal affair, saying Sudan knows how much harm a country can sustain if others interfere in its domestic affairs, citing the Sudanese case where the country suffered because of inferences by others countries over the past years.

Meanwhile, Sudan Tribune.com 8/2/11 reported that a coalition of Sudanese opposition parties has voiced support for the ongoing protests in Egypt, saying that success in toppling the Egyptian regime represents "a victory to the Sudanese people."

The National Consensus Forces (NCF), a clutch of anti-government groups including the National Umma Party of former Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the Popular Congress Party of detained Islamist leader Hassan Al-Turabi, said on a press release seen by Sudan Tribune on Tuesday that the NCF "stands in solidarity with the Egyptian revolution."

The NCF called for immediate cessation of hostilities against the demonstrators, and said that the success of Egyptian people in taking their rights and freedoms by getting rid of the oppressive and corrupt regime is a victory for the people of Sudan.

Meanwhile, the Nasirist Democratic Unionist Party (NDUP), which stands for Arab nationalism and has a close affinity with Egypt, also issued a press release saying it stands in solidarity with the Egyptian revolution...