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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Parties fail to address post-referendum economic issues

Al-Sahafa 12/4/11 – AU-sponsored talks in Addis Ababa between the NCP and the SPLM concluded yesterday with the two parties failing to make progress on post-referendum economic arrangements, especially with regards to oil revenue. The talks were concluded yesterday and the delegations returned to Khartoum but the two sides, however, agreed to resume negotiations at a later date.

The source revealed that the NCP is seeking ways for a long-term partnership on oil, an approach the SPLM is opposing. The source pointed out that some progress has been made on the issue of foreign debts, adding that the World Bank's meeting could provide a solid ground for further understandings.

Meanwhile, US Special Envoy to Sudan, Princeton Lyman, reportedly said that there was no major progress made on the Abyei and stressed the need to address the issue ahead of 9th July 2011.

“Reaching agreement on Abyei is very difficult,” Lyman told reporters following a meeting of the two partners in Addis Ababa, according to *Al-Tayyar* 12/4/11. He said the current situation on the ground is “very tense” and indicated a lack of commitment from both parties.

Al-Raed 12/4/11, however, reports that the two sides did make progress on the issue of currency and foreign debts. According to the paper, they agreed that the Sudanese Pound remain in circulation in southern Sudan until the new state prints its own currency. They have also reached agreement on common trade issues.

Task of border committee likely to be extended beyond July 9

Al-Khartoum 12/4/11 – The Ad hoc Technical Border Demarcation Committee has blamed the SPLM for delay of its work. Committee Chair Prof. Abdullah Al-Sadiq said it would not be possible to complete the demarcation within the remaining time of the CPA due to the absence of the SPLM members from meetings, adding the SPLM members are absenting themselves from sittings intentionally. He said the committee failed to reach an agreement on the five contentious points and they have been referred to the Presidency for decision. Al-Sadiq has expected the task of the committee to be extended beyond July 9th to enable the committee to complete the demarcation process on the ground.

Assembly terminates membership of 99 southern MPs

Local dailies 12/4/11 – The National Assembly yesterday officially terminated the membership of 96 SPLM MPs besides 3 southern Sudanese MPs who are members of the ruling NCP, bringing the total number of dropped MPs to 99.

According to *Al-Ayyam* 12/4/11, the House also unanimously passed a motion amending its membership to become 354 instead of 450 members and the House is also reportedly intending to ask the National Elections Committee to organize elections in three constituencies in the

North to elect three new members to fill three seats vacated by 3 MPs (southern Sudanese) who are members of the NCP.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly's Committee for Legislation and Justice has tabled before the House a bill to amend the Elections Act, 2008.

SPLM fails to kick off elections campaign in southern Kordofan

Al-Raed 12/4/11 – the SPLM has reportedly failed to launch its elections campaign in Talodi, Al-Leri, Abu Jibeih and Tegali areas in southern Kordofan state as majority electorate were unwilling to participate in the campaign's launch. Attendance at these areas did not exceed 100 people and an SPLM leader was seen urging the people to listen to presentation of the movement's campaign issues.

The NCP, however, launched yesterday its election campaign in the areas of Debeb and Setit, with NCP candidate Ahmed Haroun promising settlement of the Abyei crisis and the restoration of the western Kordofan state.

Meanwhile, *Akhir Lahza* 12/4/11 reports that politicians and security experts have painted a grim picture of the political and security situation in southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states, describing it as explosive. The experts, who spoke at a workshop organized yesterday by the International Centre for African Studies, criticized the CPA, saying it has consolidated separation of the South. The experts, however, demanded the resolution of the Abyei problem before the interim period.

Kiir, Akol set to hold talks on security

Al-Sahafa 12/4/11 – GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has reiterated the need to unify the ranks in southern Sudan ahead of the 9 July 2011 independence date.

Kiir met yesterday with delegates from the SPLM-DC to discuss security issues and allegations that militias loyal to the SPLM-DC are causing instability in the region.

The two sides agreed that Kiir and Lam Akol should hold a bilateral meeting in the next two days.

UN to intervene for the release of Telefon Kuku

Al-Ahram Al-Youm 12/4/11 – A source from the family of Telefon Kuku has revealed that a UN delegation is to visit him in his detention next Friday. The source said the UN is exerting efforts to release the independent candidate Kuku through contacts with the SPLM/A as the date for the launch of his election campaign in Kadugli nears.

The source revealed that the UN has received three memoranda from Kuku's supporters and relatives in Khartoum, Kadugli and Juba calling on the international organizations to shoulder their responsibilities towards securing his release."

Interview: BBC Interview with USG Alain Le Roy

BBC TV 11/4/11 - Well let's talk about today's dramatic developments; joining us now from the United Nations in New York is the head of the UN's department of peacekeeping operations

Alain Le Roy. Alain Le Roy, first of all can you tell us were the circumstances leading to Laurant Gbagbo's arrest?

LE ROY: The first circumstance was the resolution 1975 which was adopted with the unanimity of the Security Council.....

BADAWI: No sorry Mr. Le Roy, can I just ask you, sorry, I meant the military operations today immediately before his arrest.

LE ROY: Ok. As you know, yesterday, Sunday, the Secretary-General of the United Nations decided that our UN troops on the ground called UNOCI had to launch another military operation against the heavy weapons which were shelling the population. We did that. And he requested also the support of French forces (Licorne). That has happened and we had destroyed many of the heavy weapons. I understand that Later in the night the force loyal to Mr. Ouattara attacked and went into the residence where former President Gbagbo was sitting for several days, and President Gbagbo surrendered himself to the Ouattara forces. He was then brought to the Gulf Hotel, which is the place where president Ouattara is. And as we speak President Gbagbo is in the Gulf Hotel.

BADAWI: Alright, so just to clarify, he was arrested by Ouattara forces, not at all by UN forces or the French. Absolutely explicit on this, he was arrested by Ouattara forces.

LE ROY: Absolutely explicit. Neither UN forces nor French forces entered the residency. Only the forces loyal to Mr. Ouattara entered the residency. I am 100% explicit on that.

BADAWI: Ok, because you know why I am asking you that. Because there have been some criticisms obviously from Gbagbo's supporters that the United Nations has not been neutral in this conflict, it's almost become a party in the conflict on the side of Ouattara

LE ROY: Yes, but I just briefed the Security Council in New York and everyone recognized that we have fully implemented the resolution. The council, would ask us to target the heavy weapons which threaten the civilian population, but we can not been inside the residency at all.

BADAWI: What would you like to happen to Gbagbo now? What's the United Nations going to say? Do they want to see him perhaps be held to account for possible atrocities done by his supporters?

LE ROY: For the time being, he is in the custody of President Ouattara. It's President Ouattara's call. What I understand is that, from discussions with his entourage from President Ouattara that they intend to transfer him to another city in the country, probably north of the country, and they have intention to prosecute him at home. That's what is going on, and our task will be to protect Former President Gbagbo and to ensure his physical integrity and he is treated with dignity.

BADAWI: Ok, Alain Le Roy thank you very much indeed for joining us live from UN headquarters in New York, Head of the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Other Highlights

PCP warns of consequences if Turabi's health worsens

Local dailies 12/4/11 – The Popular Congress Party (PCP) has said it would hold the ruling NCP responsible for any deterioration of health of its leader Hassan Al-Turabi who was reportedly hospitalized last Saturday.

According to *Al-Ahdath* 12/4/11, PCP political secretary Kamal Omer has warned of serious consequences should the health of their leader deteriorate.

Al-Tayyar 12/4/11 reports the PCP did not rule out that Al-Turabi had been poisoned in his detention and warned the NCP of serious consequences should he die in prison.

Sudan Tribune website 11/4/11 reported that the PCP charged security quarters of poisoning Al-Turabi who was hospitalized on Saturday due to injuries he sustained a week ago while in detention at Kober Prison in Khartoum.

The veteran Islamist leader was detained on 17 January for the sixth time since he was ousted from power in 1999 following a schism in the ruling Islamist movement which he masterminded its seizure of power in a military coup in 1989.

Verging on his eighties, Al-Turabi was arrested after he warned that the current government of President Al-Bashir could face a popular uprising modelled on those currently seen in some Arab countries if it fails to share power.

Al-Turabi's family demanded that the authorities allows him to travel abroad to receive medical treatment, citing lack of faith in the medical attention he was receiving at Sahiroon police hospital in Khartoum.

Speaking in a press conference packed with PCP supporters chanting calls for retribution, Kamal Omar warned that if any repercussions occurred in Al-Turabi's case "the streets will not be enough for us and then the NCP will know the wrath it brought upon itself."

UNAMID involved in transporting detainee – PCP

Al-Rai Al-Aam 12/4/11 – The Popular Congress Party (PCP) led by Hassan Al-Turabi said it would complain to UNSG Ban Ki-moon against UNAMID in Darfur.

PCP Human Rights Secretary Hassan Abdullah Al-Hussein said the mission had transported in its aircraft a PCP figure, Ahmed Dahiya, from detention in All'aid Jar Al Nabi area to El Fasher. Hussein told a press conference yesterday that transportation of a prisoner is not part of the mission's mandate, saying collaboration between the mission and the security apparatus is unacceptable.

"UNAMID had participated in transporting political prisoners from remote areas in Darfur to state security offices in big towns" Al-Hussein said, according to *Sudan tribune website* 11/4/11.

The PCP official alleged that UNAMID used one of its private jets two months ago to transport

the party's member Hassab Allah Gamaa from an area called All'aid Jar Al Nabi to Al Fashir town in north Darfur.

Al Hussein said that he had met UNAMID's chief Ibrahim Gambari who promised to probe the case.

Darfur crimes prosecutor resigns

Al-Ahram Al-Youm 12/4/11 – Reliable sources have revealed to the newspaper that the Justice Ministry Undersecretary who is also the Darfur war crimes prosecutor, Abdul Moneim Zumrawi, submitted his resignation to the Presidency yesterday. The sources cited overlapping of powers as reason for the resignation. Jurists are reportedly trying to prevail upon Zumrawi to review his decision.

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