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Highlights

UN envoy to Sudan welcomes appointment of Abyei top administrators

August 9, 2008 (KHARTOUM – **Sudan Tribune** website) — The head of UNMIS) welcomed the appointment of two top administrators to Abyei, pledging to assist the return of displaced people following last May clashes.

Ashraf Qazi, SRSG in Sudan and UNMIS head, said in a statement released today (Saturday) that he hoped the presidential decree would lead to further progress in efforts to ease tensions after deadly fighting in and around Abyei in May.

"He encourages the two parties to continue to move ahead with implementation of the remaining road map provisions so that those displaced by May's fighting can soon return in safety and dignity to resume their lives in a secure environment," the statement read.

Those steps include the final withdrawal from the area of the armed forces of the two sides, and the full deployment of joint integrated units and joint integrated police units.

Qazi pledged that the UN stands ready to assist any efforts to further ease tensions and he called on the international donor community to help fund the reconstruction of the town of Abyei, which was largely destroyed in the fighting.

The presidential decree requests the Chief Administrator and his Deputy to present recommendations within two weeks for appointment of the seven members of the Executive Council, and the 20 members of Abyei Area Council.

Sudan names Abyei administrator

(**Al dailies, Suna, Al-Jazeera-Int**) Sudan reached agreement on an administration for the disputed oil-rich region of Abyei, where clashes earlier this year had threatened to derail a 2005 peace deal.

A spokesman for Omar al-Bashir, Sudan's president, said Friday that Arop Moyak of the Sudan's People Liberation Movement (SPLM) has been named head of Abyei's administration, with Rahama Abdel Rahman al-Nour, of the National Congress Party (NCP), as his deputy. [Moyak is from the Dinka Ngok which traditionally inhabit the region and al-Nour is from the nomadic Misseriya tribe].

National Congress Party official Dirdiri Mohamed Ahmed said the announcement meant "that we have managed to finally clear this hurdle in the way of implementing the CPA." Yasir Arman, a senior SPLM official, confirmed the agreement.

Spokesman Faidul said that the development marked an "important step" in settling the Abyei dispute, but would not predetermine the result or influence international arbitration on the region.

Sir Derek Plumbly, head of the international body tasked with monitoring the north-south deal, praised the agreement after "very delicately balanced negotiations."

"This was the main single outstanding element in the roadmap that was agreed after the fighting in May," he said. "It means that the donor community will be able to move in and support the return of the people and support the administration in reconstruction."

Deputy Head of Abyei Administration Rahama Abdel Rahman al-Nour welcomed the decree and in statement to **Sudan Vision** pledged to work with Abyei Administration head Arop Moyak to encourage peaceful coexistence among the people of Abyei, restore the social fabric, promote development and stop war. He said that Dinka and Messeriya had lived in peaceful coexistence during the war in Southern Sudan and the recent conflict was ignited after the signing of the peace agreement.

Sudan's peace partners resolve some key outstanding issues on CPA

(*Sudan Tribune* website) — The Joint Executive Political Committee between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) have agreed on the formation of Electoral Commission and Abyei administration among a number of key outstanding issues in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

In his briefing to the GoSS Council of Ministers on Friday shortly after his arrival from Khartoum, the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan and Deputy Chairman of the SPLM, Riek Machar Teny, said the agreements reached by the two parties "are a step forward in the implementation of the CPA."

Machar led a high-level SPLM delegation to the national capital on Sunday and co-chaired the Joint Executive Political Committee panel with the Vice President of the Republic Ali Osman Mohamed Taha for the last four days debating on the issues.

The two Abyei leaders shall nominate five members to the Executive organ within two weeks after they take oath of office. There shall also be established a legislative assembly in Abyei.

After Machar's briefing to the Council of Ministers, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and official Spokesman of the Government, Gabriel Changson Chang explained that the two parties also agreed on the former Vice President of the Sudan, Judge Abel Alier to possibly head a 9-member Electoral Commission in the country.

Chang further explained to the press that Abel Alier shall have a deputy and 7 other members, 4 from the North and 3 from the South, possibly across various major political parties in the country.

He also explained that the issue of national customs has been resolved and that up to 588 customs duty police officers shall come from Southern Sudan.

Minister Chang said a National Reserve Committee has been set up to tackle the dispute between the Central Bank of the Sudan and the Bank of Southern Sudan over management of foreign currency reserves.

The NCP-SPLM panel also resolved on the creation of GoSS Missions abroad and that the Sudan embassies and GoSS Missions shall collaborate and enjoy the same diplomatic privileges abroad.

Abyei people reject appointment of Rahma as deputy Head of Abyei Administration

(**Rai Al Shaab**) An opinion poll by Rai Al Shaab revealed that there is a wide dissatisfaction over the appointment of Rahma a Rahman as deputy chairperson of Abei Administration. They attributed their rejection to the fact that he is a leader of the NCP that was involved in the recent Abei war and of committing real crimes during the war.

Interview with the Head of Abyei Administration

(**Akhbar Al Youm**) Moyak acknowledges serious challenges in their work. He will move to Abei within a couple of days to discuss recent developments and to select 20 persons and then return back to Khartoum to submit a list for the five administrations and council membership. SPLM will have 12 while the NCP 8 members 4 of whom are from Dinka Ngok. He expressed concern over security situation and assured the necessity to respect Abei Roadmap. He promised to free the area from arms except for the police. JIUs, SAF and even UNMIS forces should stay in their designated areas. The southern part should be left to the police. Their goal is to dry the area within three months from arms. He will work to demine the area in collaboration with stakeholders and assist in return of the inhabitants of the area.

He will undertake all measures for disarmament. He believes that the fund for development of the area would reinforce their mission though it depends on the donors and, GoNU and GoSS. He would be

meeting with donor countries through their offices in Khartoum and Juba.

Deployment of 300 Police in Abyei

(Al Sahafa) Units of al Mujlad unit withdrew and were replaced by 300 in accordance with the roadmap. Chairperson of Abyei Interim administration will take oath before the President today in preparation for resumption of consultation in Abyei to form the new administration.

Kiir to US envoy arrest of Bashir is not in the interest of NCP

(Al Sahafa, Al Ayyam) US Special Envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson arrived in Khartoum Yesterday in his second visit which will last for one week.

He initiated his visit by meeting First Vice President, Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit where they discussed the situations in Abyei, Darfur issue, and the ICC Prosecutor General's decision. First Vice President told the US Special Envoy that the arrest warrant for President Al-Bashir is not for the benefit of Sudan FVP, Kiir informed the US envoy that suspension of Al Bashir is neither of interest of Sudan nor for the CPA. It will have negative impact on neighboring countries and stability. And the CPA besides it negative reflections on the neighboring countries which live instability; adding that the issue requires a deep study over the ICC decision. On his response to US Envoy question on the situation in Abyei, Salva said that the GoNU formed an administration to the area and the citizens started their voluntary return affirming that the local administration will be formed besides the deployment of police forces to keep the security and stability in the area. For his part, US Envoy, Richard Williamson affirmed that Washington is not part in any decision issued by the ICC over Sudan. Williamson considered the presidential decree to form an interim administration for Abyei as a positive indication to resolve the problem, but at the same time he asked about the arrangements for the return of the IDPs and the relief operations for those affected. US Envoy expressed appreciation of President Bush to the wisdom of CPA partners in overcoming Abyei crisis and containment of the tension that took place recently.

He disclosed that he discussed with the First Vice President the developments in Darfur and the efforts exerted to arrange for political dialogue to resolve the crisis affirming that he will visit during the coming days each of Juba, Abyei and Darfur.

Taha accuses PCP of igniting and managing Darfur war

(Al-Sahafa) Vice President and the secretary general of the Islamic movement, Taha accused the PCP of igniting, managing and managing Darfur war. He denied that the NCP is flattering the PCP or seeking unity with their party.

Disagreement on nomination of Abelalier to chair elections commission

(Al Sahafa) Al Sahafa sources reported sever disagreement of the nomination of Abel alier to head the elections commission. His opponents believe that Aleier represents the SPLM in many positions which contradicts the constitution that provides for selections of commission chairpersons from persons of non partisan background.

Kiir and Taha discusses composition of the Election Commission

(Al-Ray alam) FVP Kiir, head of the High Committee to deal with the ICC crises and Taha affirmed in a meeting yesterday the importance of composition of the Election Commission and to follow up the

Presidential decree to establish an administration for Abei.. They discussed rounds made by Sudanese envoys to heads of states to explain repercussions of the ICC decision.

Border Demarcation Commission gives sub- committee 10 days to finish report

(Al Sahafa) The technical demarcation committee gave its sub committee for classification of documents 10 days to submit their final report to the main committee.

Bashir signs Police Act

(Al-Ayam) Ministry of Interior affirmed settlement of debate on the Police Act after the signature of the President. This move will enable the police force to face security, economic, political and social challenges.

Directors of states' Vaccination department warn of return of polio

(Al Ayyam) the evaluative meeting of Directors of states' Vaccination department warned of return of the polio in Sudan, expressing anxiety over demographic movement from neighboring countries and the rainy season. The meeting called for continuation of the polio eradication campaigns.

SSDF calls on SPLM to appoint women candidate for presidency

(The Citizen) Southern Sudan Democratic Front (SSDF) Information Secretary Gordon Buay said his political party is calling on the SPLM to appoint a woman candidate to contest for the seat of presidency in Southern Sudan.

Since SPLM has already nominated Kiir to contest for the national presidential seat in Khartoum, SPLM should nominate a woman candidate to contest the presidency of Southern Sudan, said Buay.

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