

02 July 2009

www.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Headlines

- Government urges civilians to accept Abyei arbitration decision (**Al-Wifaq**)
- Police asked to secure routes leading to Abyei (**Al-Sudani**)
- SSLA rejects census results, demands secession before referendum (**local dailies**)
- Reactions to the new NEC elections' schedule (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- SLM-MM warns against being barred from elections (**Al-Akhbar**)
- US calls on Sudan president to stand before ICC (**Sudan Tribune website**)
- AU top official says summit agreement over ICC-Sudan row unlikely (**Sudan Tribune Website/SUNA**)
- President Al-Bashir calls for AU monitoring for elections (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- DPA non-signatories ready to join Doha talks - Joint Mediator (**SUNA**)
- On statements attributed to President Gaddafi on SS secession (**Sudan Tribune website**)
- Crackdown may force Kenyans out of S. Sudan (**Daily Nation website**)
- Pagan Amum to start meetings with political forces (**Al-Ahdath**)
- LRA's Kony requests revival of peace talks (**Al-Ahdath**)
- SPLM member guns down civilian in Khartoum (**Al-Raed**)
- Government urges France for clear position on Darfur peace (**SMC**)

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

Highlights

Government urges civilians to accept Abyei arbitration decision

Al-Wifaq reports the government announced that it has begun readying the population in Abyei as part of precautionary measures to prevent insecurity when the PCA ruling is announced. MFA Spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq said that these preparations are within the framework of the continued expression of commitments by the two Parties to the PCA decision. He pointed out that the Abyei administration is also making efforts so that the people accept the decision.

Police asked to secure routes leading to Abyei

Al-Sudani reports that a Dinka-Messeriya peaceful coexistence conference that concluded yesterday has recommended the need to abide by the PCA decision on Abyei and has called on the police to secure the routes linking Khartoum with Abyei. The conference also recommended strengthening the native administration.

Meanwhile, the **SMC** reports that the Abyei Area Administration (AAA) has reiterated assurances that the security situation will remain stable before and after the PCA ruling. The AAA has requested citizens, particularly traders, to continue normal activities and not to heed to rumors of possible security lapses after the PCA ruling. AAA Deputy Administrator Rahama Al Nur said that the good news is that traders in particular have started to understand the situation. The AAA, he said, will be holding coexistence conferences particularly following resumption of schools.

SSLA rejects census results, demands secession before referendum

In an emergency session yesterday, southern Sudanese legislators have demanded that the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) declare the region's independence from within parliament before the 2011 Referendum, reports **Al-Intibaha**. These demands were reportedly receive with loud applause from the MPs. SSLA Speaker James Wani however warned of the consequences of such a move and pointed out that such a call is inconsistent with the spirit of the CPA and the Interim National Constitution. According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, the MPs said that the NCP is not serious in the implementation of the CPA. They reportedly unanimously rejected the census results, especially those on southern Sudan, saying it was tampered with and could be a prelude to rigging of the upcoming elections.

The MPs also urged that those results not be used for power and wealth sharing or the demarcation of electoral constituencies, **Al-Ahdath** reports.

In a related development, NCP's Kamal Obeid pointed out that the SPLM oversaw the **census** operations in southern Sudan and is wrongly accusing the NCP of foul play over the census results, reports **Al-Wifaq**.

Reactions to the new NEC elections' schedule

While the NCP has pledged full support to the NEC to ensure elections are conducted on schedule and the Umma Party has voiced its support, Farouk Abu-Eissa, the head of the National Alliance of Political Forces (that encompasses some 23 parties), said following a meeting of the Alliance yesterday that the Alliance is "not comfortable" with the postponement of the elections until April 2010, reports **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. Abu-Eissa accused the NEC of only consulting the NCP on the new schedule. This, he said, shades some doubts on the impartiality

of the NEC. SPLM's Atem Garang said however that the SPLM would study this development on the grounds that the NEC may have technical reasons for this decision.

Radio Miraya FM adds that SPLM SG Pagan Amum said his party has not been informed of the postponement but would deliberate on the issue and formulate a final position.

SLM-MM warns against being barred from elections

SLM-MM has warned against being barred from contesting in the forthcoming elections on the grounds that the Movement is yet to register as a political party, reports **Al-Akhbar**. SLM-MM Vice Chairman Al-Rayah Mahmoud said that such a development would have serious consequences but did not specify what these consequences would be.

He pointed out that the SLM-MM would continue carrying out its political activities and preparations for the elections.

US calls on Sudan president to stand before ICC

Sudan Tribune website 1/7/09 — President Omer Al-Bashir must face the charges brought against him by the International Criminal Court (ICC), US Assistance Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson said in an interview yesterday.

Carson said in an interview with All Africa website that the Obama administration is “engaging with the [Sudanese] government broadly to achieve important objectives” and is using its “diplomatic power” to come up with a solution to the problems facing Sudan despite the outstanding arrest warrant against its president.

“There’s no question that we’re going to have to work with the government of Sudan. It is both a part of the problem and part of the solution,” the US official added.

The statements made yesterday by the US official may anger Khartoum which has hailed a “new approach” by Washington that is “less hostile” than previous administrations.

AU top official says summit agreement over ICC-Sudan row unlikely

Sudan Tribune website 1/7/09 — The African Union (AU) summit is unlikely to adopt a new position regarding the ICC following its issuance of an arrest warrant earlier this year, Chairperson of the AU Commission Ping said yesterday.

He told reporters in Serte, Libya, that the items on the agenda of the summit include the issue of “abuse of the principle of universal jurisdiction”. The Associated Press (AP) said that the item is believed to have been raised by the Sudanese president who is attending the summit.

Ping told reporters that the AU’s final statement would not adopt “dramatic or binding conclusions” for African members of the ICC. He added, however that African leaders “are tired of being the only ones targeted” by the ICC”.

Meanwhile, **SUNA** 1/7/09 reported that Arab League Secretary General, Amro Musa, has expressed the Arab League's support for Sudanese political will to address the challenges facing the implementation of the CPA. Addressing the opening sessions of the AU Summit, Musa underlined the important role of projects aimed at making unity an attractive option and at preventing harmful interventions. He reiterated the keenness of the Arab League and the AU to cooperate with the UN in support for the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and highlighted the efforts for normalization of relations between Sudan and Chad. Musa said that the team of African experts, which was formed by the African Union under the chairmanship of the former South African President, Thabo Mbeki, can play a major role for solution of Darfur issue.

President Al-Bashir calls for AU monitoring for elections

Addressing the opening session of the AU summit in Libya yesterday, President Al-Bashir said Sudan is committed to involving Africans in efforts to resolve the country's problems, according to ***Al-Rai Al-Aam***.

He said that all CPA benchmarks except the Elections and Referenda have been met and called on the AU to monitor the forthcoming elections in Sudan to ensure a credible and fair process. He also highlighted the African roles towards the CPA, the DPA and the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement and lauded efforts by the AU Panel on Darfur to help resolve the problems in Darfur.

DPA non-signatories ready to join Doha talks - Joint Mediator

SUNA 1/7/09 – UN-AU Joint Mediator for Peace in Darfur, Djibril Bassole, has officially announced that the non-signatory movements of the DPA have expressed readiness to join in the Doha negotiations with the government, reveals the head of the Sudan Government delegation to the Doha talks, Dr. Amin Hassan Omer. In a press statement on Wednesday, Dr. Omer underlined the need for successful arrangements between the government and the movements for the negotiations, referring to the task of the international mediators for setting a date for a new round of talks between the two sides. Dr. Omer reiterated the government's unshakable position to negotiate with any movement that desires to join peace talks.

On statements attributed to President Gaddafi on SS secession

Sudan Tribune website 1/7/09 – Sudan's ruling party has slammed promises by the Libyan leader of support for the independence of southern Sudan describing it as interference in Sudanese internal affairs.

Rabi Abdel Atti, a Sudanese government negotiator at the talks that led to the CPA said such statements could affect the future of bilateral relations between the two countries and the southern Sudanese Referendum on self-determination.

Meanwhile, SPLM's Pagan Amum has downplayed the impact of Gaddafi statements but renewed his rejection to recent statements by Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir saying that his party, the NCP, would not facilitate southern Sudan secession through a Referendum Bill that is still under discussion.

Observers fear that increasing statements by SPLM leaders about the 2011 referendum could push the NCP to support southern Sudanese opposition parties and at the same time would weaken the popularity of the SPLM, in the rest of the country.

Meanwhile, ***Al-Raed*** reports a senior Libyan official said Gaddafi's statement was taken out of its context. "Gaddafi said that the will of the southerners will be respected if they choose secession but this statement does not mean support to separation" he clarified.

Crackdown may force Kenyans out of S. Sudan

The Daily Nation 2/7/09 - Hundreds of Kenyans living in southern Sudan could be forced to return home following the latest crackdown on immigrants. The crackdown which is being carried out in all ten states of southern Sudan targets illegal immigrants whose influx has now been blamed for the worsening insecurity in the region. Most of those affected are individuals who have been operating food kiosks, saloons, barbershops, boda-boda (motorbike transport business), car wash and even hawking households and vehicles parts.

Last month, the GoSS directed security agents to firmly deal with rising cases of insecurity that have also seen a number of foreigners lose their lives in attacks by gangs. In his directive President Kiir said, "I removed the army, (SPLA) from towns but I will have to redeploy it because I am not happy about insecurity in Juba city in particular.

Records at the Juba traffic headquarters put the number of the already confiscated a number of vehicles and motorcycles to 3,000 within the last three days of intensified crackdown.

Those affected have been forced to forgo their motorcycles or vehicles most of which are said to be lacking proper documents such as insurances, number plates and even log books.

On the other hand, *The Citizen* reports that Southern Sudan Traffic Police Director Gordon Micah Kur said that the Minister of Interior's order to crackdown on motor vehicles in Juba is targeted at curbing insecurity. He called on citizens who are venting their anger on the police to bear with them.

Pagan Amum to start meetings with political forces

SPLM SF Pagan Amum is set to start a series of meetings with different political forces, including the NCP, in a bid to lay down final touches to preparations for the Juba forum for political parties, *Al-Ahdath* reports. The SG's Press Advisor, Mohamed Al-Moutassim, said that the Juba forum has nothing to do with elections or the forging of political alliances.

LRA's Kony requests revival of peace talks

LRA Spokesperson David Matsinga issued a statement yesterday announcing that LRA leader Joseph Kony is prepared to resume peace talks, *Al-Ahdath* reports. Matsinga pointed out that the Ugandan Popular Defense Forces (UPDF) could not win a military victory. This means that it is inevitable that the two sides hold talks, he said.

SPLM member guns down civilian in Khartoum

A dispute over a bank cheque reportedly caused an SPLM member to brandish a revolver and shoot to death a civilian in Omdurman, *Al-Raed* reports. The accused has been arrested and authorities have launched an investigation into the issue.

Government urges France to take clear position on Darfur peace

SMC 1/7/09 – The Sudan Government has urged France to take a clear position with regards to the Darfur peace process by supporting the Doha track.

Information Minister Al-Zahawi Ibrahim Malik said France has an influential role over Chad and SLM leader Abdel Wahid Mohammed Nur and could pressure both to join the peace process.