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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

Progress on southern peace "satisfactory" – Al-Bashir

Reuters 15/7/09 - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir described as "satisfactory" on Wednesday the implementation of a faltering north-south peace deal that ended over two decades of civil war.

Bashir said the meeting between both sides in Washington last month to discuss remaining disputes was "very effective".

Bashir also said he welcomed international supervision of national elections, now set for April 2010 after being twice postponed.

"I seize this opportunity in order to call on ... all regional and international organizations to participate in the supervising of these elections, because we are very interested to have integral and honest elections," Bashir said, according to an official translation of his remarks.

Misseriya, Dinka delegation to visit Kenya

Ajras Al-Hurriah reports a delegation from the Misseriya and the Dinka is to visit Kenya today for talks on ways to ensure co-existence between the two communities. Meanwhile, Abyei Chief Administrator Arop Moyak will begin a visit today to the Unity, Southern Kordofan and North Bahr El Ghazal States to urge officials to maintain security after the PCA ruling is announced. He expressed the readiness of the Abyei Administration to receive the delegations coming to witness the announcement of the ruling on the ground.

On the other hand, the US Administration has called on the NCP and the SPLM to implement the PCA ruling. It also called on the SAF and the SPLA to avoid confrontation and to allow UNMIS free movement in the region.

Al-Wifaq reports NCP official and member of the Abyei Commission Ahmed Sallouha has said his party had not decided yet on whether to send a delegation to Abyei to attend the announcement of the arbitration ruling on 22 July. He described the arrangements to contain any negative repercussions that may occur on the ground in the area after announcement as "insufficient", adding his party is confident that the PCA would accept its argument on the ABC report.

Akhbar Al-Youm reports it conducted an opinion poll yesterday on the forthcoming PCA ruling on Abyei scheduled for 22 July. The study covered random samples from civilians, university students, lawyers, journalists, physicians and foreigners who were polled on four questions: whether the PCA will rule for the South or the North; whether they expect violence or any form of confrontation among communities in the region; whether the precautionary and security measures taken are sufficient; whether the peaceful co-existence in the region will sustain after the ruling.

62% of those polled are expecting the PCA ruling to be in favour of the South while 38% say will be for the North. With regard to violence, 54% expect acts of violence while 46% rule out any incidents. Regarding precautionary measures, 54% feel they are insufficient while 46% hold that they are sufficient. 52% say existing peaceful co-existence will sustain while 48% feel otherwise.

Al-Khartoum reports a group of experts in Khartoum have warned of the serious consequences of any insecurity which they say will affect oil fields and other vital installations. They predicted that the Misseriya and the Dinka elites may stage non-violent demonstrations and marches. Former Abyei Commissioner Maj. Gen. (retd.) Abdul Rahman Arbab expected the GoSS to accept the ruling but said some unruly Dinka might cause trouble.

In Abyei, the Abyei Administration Information Officer Chol Angedi said preparations were underway to receive the delegations coming to witness the ruling announcement. Chairman of the Civil Society Organizations in Khartoum Dakarlo Abweil said if insecurity occurred in Abyei after the announcement of the ruling, it would engulf the entire country, calling on the government not to side with any tribe. He stressed the need to free the area of arms and to strengthen the JIUs.

Reporting from Abyei, Mr. Abbas Mohamed Ibrahim wrote to **Al-Sahafa** that a state of caution and suspense is noticeable in the region. However, he said, all the Abyei Administration officials agree that insecurity will not occur after the PCA ruling. But the Abyei Legislative Council chairman Charles Abyei said civilians have fears over the presence of militias led by Commander Thomas Tel just 5 km north of "Nama".

Sudan Tribune website 15/7/09 reported GoSS pledged to accept the upcoming PCA ruling on the status of the oil rich region of Abyei.

"This decision is about the people of Abyei, those who have suffered greatly through two wars, and those whose livelihoods depend on its resources during their seasonal migrations" the GoSS said in a statement yesterday.

"The SPLM wants to assure the people that regardless of the outcome, it is committed to implementing the Tribunal's decision ...and guaranteeing the rights of the Misseriya and other nomads to continue their traditional grazing throughout the Abyei Area".

The statement also invited representatives of the witnesses of the CPA to be present.

Courts formed to look into crimes during elections

Akhir Lahza reports Supreme Court Judge Taj Al-Sir Mohamed Ahmed as saying that the Judiciary has announced the formation of special courts to look into crimes that may be committed during elections such as bribery, rigging and violence.

Meanwhile, **Al-Watan** reports NEC SG Jalal Mohamed Ahmed has said the electoral rolls have been finalized and would be published early January.

According to **Al-Sudani**, security, legal and political experts are expecting violence and rigging during the upcoming elections due to lack of coordination between the security and the monitoring apparatuses. Police DG Gen. Al-Adil Ajib has warned of possible insecurity during the exercise given the circumstances the country is experiencing. Meanwhile, NEC member Gen. Al-Hadi Mohamed Ahmed has warned that any attempt to disrupt elections would be dealt with firmly.

Opposition is too weak to overthrow the government – Nafie

Local dailies report Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie has once again slammed the opposition parties. According to **Akhir Lahza**, Nafie said the opposition is too weak to overthrow

the government. "A helpless opposition, with no popular following or will can not topple a government," he said at a ceremony organized by youths yesterday in Khartoum to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Salvation Revolution. "Their argument to delay elections is evidence that their leaders do not qualify to lead the nation," he added.

Darfur mediator rejects JEM demand for separate talks

Sudan Tribune website 15/7/09 reported the Joint Chief Mediator, Djibril Bassolé reiterated the need to involve all the rebel groups in the western Sudan region in Doha peace process brushing aside a demand for separate talks by the JEM.

Bassole met yesterday in Khartoum with the Sudanese Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Eddin who is in charge of the Darfur file to discuss the next round of talks in the coming month.

"I have provided a proposal to hold the next round of negotiations in August. We hope that can be achieved, and we are seeking a broad participation by the armed movements in Darfur," Bassolé said following the meeting.

JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim threatened on Monday to pull out of the peace process if other rebel groups are invited to take part in Doha peace process that started last February between Sudan's government and JEM.

JEM says it gathered some 18 rebel groups and additional groups can join its delegation to avoid chaos during the negotiations.

But Bassole who met in Tripoli with other rebel groups in order to join the talks said "We will continue the discussion with Khalil Ibrahim to convince him that the lasting peace will only be realized through the participation of all movements."

Uganda urges Sudan to reconsider Bashir's visit

Sudan Tribune website 15/7/09— The Sudanese government should reconsider a visit by President Omar Al-Bashir to Kampala, a Ugandan official told lawmakers.

"We wish to avoid a possible diplomatic incident that may arise as a result of a visit by President Bashir," East Africa and Regional Affairs Minister Isaac Musumba said in a statement to parliament.

"The government is therefore diplomatically engaging the government of the Sudan with a view to ensuring that, while the invitation to President Bashir still stands, a possible diplomatic incident is avoided".

Ugandan official have been making conflicting statements on the way they would react to Bashir arriving for the summit despite the invitation they have extending to him.

Lule Mawiya, who chairs the Ugandan House's Foreign Affairs Committee, was critical of the government's conflicting positions on the matter and accused Musumba of presenting an ambiguous statement.

"Are you saying you are inviting Gen. Bashir for arrest? Be clear in your statement so that we know exactly what Uganda is doing," he said.

Editorial: The way ahead in Sudan

Egyptian Gazette, 15/7/09 - The power struggle in Sudan, which has been going on for years, leaves little hope for an alternative other than the division of a country that enjoys great natural resources. The harm already done whether in Darfur or in Southern Sudan should spur the Sudanese to avoid further regional conflicts. Bearing in mind the catastrophic consequences of such a division, evidenced throughout the history of the human struggle, conflicting factions should be keener on brushing aside any separatist scenarios. By allowing Sudan to be divided, its people would be submitting their country's wealth on a silver platter to local and foreign bodies waiting for just such an opportunity.

However, the present Egyptian-Libyan reconciliation role in bringing Sudanese factions in Darfur to a unified stand in preparation for inter-dialogue with the Sudanese government hopefully raises the stakes for a solution to be hammered out. The factions have clearly stated their wish for a unified Sudan provided that their desire for sharing power and wealth in proportion to the potential and topographical distribution of each region would be respected.

Owing to historical relations of a very special nature between the two countries, Egypt has the right more than any other country to understand the mentality and demands of the negotiating parties. The success of the ongoing dialogue does not only rely on the readiness of the factions to realize rapprochement but also on the seriousness of the Sudanese government to cooperate for the sake of a possible political solution.