

25 May 2009

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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- Gen. Paulino Matip appeals to support SPLA (**SMC**)
- Darfur fighters attack Sudan army base – UNAMID (**Reuters**)

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Highlights

Census head claims count of southerners in the north incorrect

Sudan Tribune website 24/5/09 – Former Census Commission Director Awad Haj Ali has conceded in an interview that the reservations voiced by South Sudanese about the accuracy of the figures concerning the number of southern Sudanese in the north is true, adding that their number may be more than a million or a million and a half.

Opposition parties threaten to boycott elections

Local dailies report seventeen political parties have formed an alliance to contest upcoming elections. According to **Al-Sahafa**, the alliance warned that it might boycott elections if their demands are not met by the NCP. The alliance, which held a meeting yesterday at the PCP HQs, called for formation of a national government to conduct the elections.

However, the NCP has downplayed the alliance, saying it is a group of “desperate parties” seeking to disrupt the elections. The NCP has criticized SPLM’s participation in the opposition meeting. According to **Al-Ahdath**, the allied parties announced that they would name one candidate to run against NCP’s Omer Al-Bashir.

Interior Ministry sets plan to secure elections

Sudanese Media Centre 24/5/09 reported the Interior Ministry revealed a plan to secure forthcoming general election. It said the election security plan was estimated to cost US\$98m which would be covered by some loans.

SPLM Dinka soldiers involved in Pibor incidents - report

A report by a fact-finding mission revealed that a group of SPLM soldiers from Dinka were involved in the recent incidents which claimed lives of many Murle, **Al-Intibaha** reports. The committee headed by an SPLA officer established that a group of Dinka Bor within the SPLA had fomented problems and made mischief between the SPLA and the Murle tribe. The committee recommended the arrest of whosoever found guilty and also recommended relocation of officers found responsible for the incidents.

New party is conspiracy by NCP – SPLM

SPLM has accused the NCP of supporting the new “People Movement for Democratic Change Party”, **Khartoum Monitor** reports. “The new party is part of a series of plots by the NCP, started with the census and followed by Kenana conference for southern leaders,” SPLM spokesperson Yen Mathew told a press conference yesterday. Meanwhile, Mathew reiterated SPLM’s rejection of the declared census results and demanded formation of a technical committee to review the census in accordance with the Constitution. He said FVP Kiir, SPLM SG Amum and many other SPLM leaders had not been counted.

According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, Mathew said that by creating this party, NCP is plotting to divide the SPLM, pointing out the presence of a group that seeks to wreck the CPA.

Kiir to meet Haroun and Hilu in Juba

Al-Sahafa reports FVP Salva Kiir is to meet southern Kordofan State governor Ahmed Haroun and his deputy Abdul Aziz Al-Hilu in Juba today for discussion on the situation and the challenges the state government has encountered.

Simar Samar to meet convicted JEM fighters

The UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Sima Samar arrived yesterday on a week-long visit to review the human rights situation in southern Sudan, Darfur and Khartoum, ***Al-Rai Al-Aam*** reports. The paper has learned Samar will meet today with the Human Rights Advisory Council Chairman Abdul Moneim Mohamed Osman, GoNU officials and the SRSG. A source told the paper Samar is determined to meet with the convicted JEM fighters as well as PCP leader Hassan al-Turabi.

Tribal fighting left 13 dead in southern Kordofan

Al-Ahdath reports thirteen peoples were killed in a tribal fighting Saturday in Um Ajaj area, 65 kms south of Mujlad, Southern Kordofan State. State government representatives, security officials, MPs and tribal chiefs have rushed to the scene to calm the situation. However, sources said fighting resumed yesterday evening.

Sudan says ready to normalize ties with Chad

Sudan Tribune website 24/5/09 — Sudan renewed its support yesterday to the Qatari efforts to ease tension between the Sudan and expressed readiness to normalize bilateral ties.

President Omer Al-Bashir met yesterday with the visiting Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, Ahmad bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, who delivered a message from the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani related to Doha's efforts to normalize the relations between the two neighboring countries.

"We expect to achieve reconciliation between the two neighboring countries in the near future," the Qatari official said in a statement made after his meeting with the Sudanese President. He also stressed that Al-Bashir supports the joint efforts held with Libya to end the current tension between Sudan and Chad.

Gen. Paulino Matip appeals to support SPLA

Sudan Tribune website – SPLA Deputy C-in-C Lt. Gen. Paulino Matip Nhial said the SPLA is the people's army to protect peace and defend the territorial integrity of Southern Sudan.

Matip, who returned to Juba from the United States of America on Saturday after nine months of medical treatment in the US since August last year, appealed to the citizens of Southern Sudan to support and cooperate with the SPLA in maintaining security in the region.

In a welcome ceremony organized at his Juba residence which was attended by a number of senior government officials, military officers and hundreds of citizens, Gen. Paulino Matip urged the people of Southern Sudan to remove tribalism from their mindset and unite to face any challenges ahead towards referendum.

"If the talks about tribalism are true that the Shilluk recognize only Shilluk, Dinka recognize only Dinka, Nuer recognizes only Nuer, or Equatorians recognize only Equatorians and so on, then this is not acceptable," he said.

Gen. Matip warned that the CPA implementation may be heading towards uncertainties that need our unity as a people with common cause and destiny.

Darfur fighters attack Sudan army base -UNAMID

Reuters 24/5/09 - Armed raiders using mortars and heavy guns attacked a Sudanese army base close to the Chadian border in Darfur yesterday, international peacekeepers said.

UNAMID said they could not confirm the identity of the fighters attacking the base at Umm Baru but suspected JEM which has been active in the area in recent months.

"The attack started at around 1600 hours (1300 GMT)," said UNAMID information director Kemal Saiki. "Our own base just a few kilometres away heard the heavy gunfire. It is still going on."

However, **ST** 24/5/09 reported the Sudanese army denied yesterday a statement by UNAMID about the seizure of Um Baru.

The Sudan Armed Forces spokesperson Mohamed Osman Al-Agbash said on yesterday evening that SAF defeated the assailant JEM. He further added the rebels suffered large material losses and many casualties.