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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Watch

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Highlights

CPA parties discuss UNMIS status and security arrangement

Al-Sahafa 3/4/11 – AUHIP Chair Thabo Mbeki intends to submit a new proposal to the Presidency meeting on Wednesday as part of efforts to resolve the Abyei problem.

Meanwhile, *Al-Akhbar* 3/4/11 reports the Ngok Dinka as saying that they would reject an expected proposal by the AU mediation to address the dispute over the territory. Dinka Chief Kuol Deng said they would stick to The Hague-based PCA's ruling on Abyei. Deng wondered why the Presidency had proposed The Hague's arbitration if it would not abide by it.

The Misseriya tribe, however, has welcomed the reported proposal by the AU mediation, saying it would be the way out of the present crisis.

According to *Al-Sahafa*, the CPA parties' security committee, tasked to address the status of the southern troops in the SAF and vice versa as well as the status of UNMIS after the South attains independence, will conclude its meetings today in Addis Ababa. Sources said the two parties have diverged on many issues on the table particularly the presence of international troops after July 9. While the SPLM supports continued presence of foreign troops, the NCP voiced reservations but the AU mediation is working on proposals to narrow gap of differences between the two sides.

CPA parties trade charges over PopCon in Blue Nile State

Al-Akhbar 3/04/11 – The CPA partners are trading accusations over the conduct of the PopCon (Popular Consultations) in the Blue Nile State, with the SPLM saying the NCP is trying to manipulate the exercise so that it does not reflect the real views of the people.

The head of the SPLM parliamentary bloc at the state legislative assembly in the Blue Nile State said the SPLM should not be blamed for obstructing the process. Hashim Orta said that the NCP does not want the people of the areas east of Rosseires to participate in the process.

A senior NCP figure in the area has also accused the SPLM of obstructing the exercise.

Atem warns against revoking membership of southern lawmakers

Radio Miraya 31/03/11 – Atem Garang, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, has warned that the South may opt to sever from the North earlier than planned if the issue of the membership of southern Sudanese parliamentarians at the National Assembly is not resolved before parliament resumes sessions on 4th April. He has called on the parties to the CPA to find urgent solutions to the issue.

“New Sudan” a tactical ploy by SPLM leadership – Governor Haroun

Al-Rai Al-Aam 3/04/11 – NCP gubernatorial nominee for Southern Kordofan and incumbent Governor Ahmed Haroun said the SPLM in the North is now separated from the head after the conduct of the referendum results that favoured southern Sudanese separation. In an interview, the incumbent pointed out that the “New Sudan” slogan that was the rallying cry of the SPLM

leadership was a “tactical ploy” while the Movement’s views were set on separation.

In a related development, *Al-Sahafa* reports that GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit would be in Southern Kordofan next Thursday to launch the campaign of the SPLM’s nominee for the gubernatorial position in Southern Kordofan, Abdul-Aziz Al-Hilu. He would join SPLM figures James Wani Igga and Malik Aggar for the campaign launch. Abdalla Tiya, a prominent SPLM figure in the state, said that the official launch of the SPLM elections campaign would take place on 7th April in Kadugli.

GoSS calls for conduct of population census

Al-Khartoum 3/04/11 – A GoSS report has recommended the conduct of a population census after the new state is declared in the south. The report unveiled at a session of the GoSS cabinet last Friday also recommended the formation of a South Sudan Commission on Statistics and Census.

GoSS Spokesperson and Information Minister Barnaba Benjamin Marial said that such a move would facilitate the implementation of development projects and help strengthen the economy.

Politicians, military commanders supporting defectors – official

Al-Intibaha 3/4/11 - SPLM Intelligence official Fayang Deng Majok said some SPLM/A leaders and politicians are involved in supporting defectors and called for a change in the movement. Majok said the morale of SPLA soldiers who are battling the rebels is sinking, stressing the need for dialogue with the dissidents and called on the GoSS to seek military support of the neighbouring countries to battle the rebels.

Obama meets special envoy to Sudan, says concerned on Abyei & Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 1/4/11 - The United States President Barack Obama on Friday expressed "serious concerns" over the situation in Abyei and Darfur at his meeting with the new special envoy to Sudan Princeton Lyman.

"During the meeting, the President outlined his serious concerns over the situation in Abyei and the impact that increased bombings are having on civilians in Darfur," the White House said in a statement after the meeting.

Lyman was appointed this week to replace Scott Gration who is the president’s nominee for the post of ambassador to Kenya. Gration oversaw the South Sudan referendum process which took place in January and resulted in a near unanimous vote for independence.

However, a number of thorny post-referendum arrangements have yet to be agreed on including the fate of Abyei which lies on the North-South borders.

A referendum was supposed to be held in the area last January but the NCP and SPLM failed to agree on the eligible voters to take part in the plebiscite.

Yesterday Lyman acknowledged the growing tension in the oil-rich region saying there is a military buildup by both sides.

"It is a very tense situation, because this is taking place with the migration not taking – being

blocked, and that creates tension in and of itself. So we have to work on two fronts. We have to try and ease this immediate security problem, but I don't think we're going to get the tensions really resolved until the people in Abyei know what's going to happen to them, and particularly by July. Are they going to remain in the North, are they going to move to the South? Who – and that the Sudanese leadership has to address," he said.

Obama also noted the situation in Sudan's Western region of Darfur where the United Nations reported fresh air strikes this week which injured 13 people. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) banned all military flights over Darfur since 2005.

"They discussed the urgency of all parties joining the new opportunities in the Doha Peace Process and of elevating the level of international engagement on Darfur. The President charged Ambassador Lyman, working closely with his Senior Advisor for Darfur Dane Smith, to increase efforts towards achieving a lasting ceasefire and political settlement at Darfur peace negotiations in Doha" the White House said.

The US State department said Lyman will depart on Saturday for meetings in Ethiopia and Sudan on the transition of South Sudan to independence in July.

Government welcomes Lyman as new US Presidential Envoy for Sudan

SUNA 2/4/11 - Sudan on Saturday welcomed the appointment by the United States of America of Ambassador Princeton Lyman as a new Presidential Envoy to Sudan replacing his predecessor Gen. Scott Gration.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Sudan hopes the new envoy, Ambassador Lyman, would take along with his diplomatic expertise and high professional characteristics, the positive heritage left by the previous envoy Gration particularly with regard to respect of the previous US pledges on lifting the name of Sudan from the list of countries Washington considers harbor international terrorism, as a necessary introduction to normalization of relations between the two countries.

The statement said it would also expect him to adhere to neutralism in dealing with the two parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) besides bolstering of confidence, building on the joint understandings between the two states and not returning to the previous files.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, in the press release it issued Saturday, the announcement by the White House of the appointment of Ambassador Princeton Lyman as Special Presidential Envoy to Sudan succeeding Gen. Gration came at a time the government of Sudan is heading towards the fulfillment of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation and reaching agreement on pending issues through constructive partnership with the international community and the United States in Particular.

The statement has underlined that although the government of Sudan was fully convinced that the best channel for handling bilateral issues would be through the diplomatic channels and the resident representations at the embassies, it would still be dealing with the new Envoy in accordance with his commitment to the pledges of the American administration and the joint understandings between the two countries and the neutrality of the envoy towards pending issues and his positive contribution in pushing forward the peace process between the north and the

south and the realization of a peaceful settlement in Darfur.

Sudanese protesters take message to air waves

Reuters 2/4/11 - Sudanese protesters took to the airwaves on Saturday after failing via the Internet to mobilise anti-government marches like those in neighbouring Egypt and Libya.

A group calling itself the Sudanese Youth Forum said it would begin shortwave radio broadcasts every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m. (1530 GMT) for 30 minutes to reach the mostly rural population of Africa's largest country.

"Youth of Sudan, you have to focus and take to the streets all over the country," the anonymous broadcaster said.

"President Omar Hassan al-Bashir said himself ... he took power through force and he will only leave by force."

Youth activists say their groups on social networking sites have been infiltrated by government agents, hindering their usefulness even in the capital Khartoum -- one of the few cities where the Internet is widely accessible. The radio programme also discussed unemployment and corruption in Sudan which is suffering an economic crisis and will split this year after the South voted in a referendum this year to secede.

It was unclear how wide an audience the programme reached but in mostly rural Sudan, radio is the most popular way of getting news.

Bashir has promised to step down in elections due in 2015 and create an anti-corruption commission. He has faced strong calls for reform from within his own ruling party.

Heavy-handed police, and a society fragmented and tired by decades of conflict, have ensured anti-government protests have remained small.

A witness in Fedassi village in Sudan's agricultural heartland of Gezira state told Reuters several hundred residents blocked the main road to Khartoum on Friday afternoon protesting at a government plan to confiscate their land.

"After that the police used tear gas to break up the demonstrators and reopen the road," said the witness, who declined to be named for fear of arrest.

South Sudan security seize newspaper

The Citizen 3/4/11 – South Sudan Security forces have seized copies of a newspaper to quash a story quoting rebel claims that they would attack the southern capital, the editor-in-chief said on Saturday.

"Security officials said they objected to the story, and so they seized 2,500 copies of the newspaper at the airport, said Michael Koma, who runs the bi-weekly English newspaper *the Juba Post*.

Due to the lack of printing facilities, the newspaper is printed in Khartoum before being flown to the South.

Authorities in southern Sudan confiscate newspaper

Al-Rai Al-Aam 3/04/11 – Authorities at Juba Airport on Saturday confiscated all copies of the *Juba Post* presumably for having printed a story quoting a high ranking officer in General George Athor's army who said their forces are resolved to overrun Juba.

Meanwhile, *Khartoum Monitor* reports that George Athor told Sudantribune.com that he was not in Khartoum and reiterated commitment to a peaceful settlement to the problems in the South.

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