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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

First ladies sign women empowerment deal

Gurtong.org Juba, 11/08/10 - In what is seen as a move to make unity attractive to South Sudanese ahead of next year's referendum, the wives of Sudan's top leaders yesterday signed a deal to support women empowerment and girl – child education.

The spouse of Sudan president Omar al Bashir Widad Babiker Omar and Mary Ayen Mayardit, the wife of FVP and President of the Government of Southern Sudan General Salva Kiir Mayardit yesterday met at Southern Sudan Hotel in Juba to sign a memorandum of understanding.

The new deal will raise awareness on the discrimination against women and girls.

The First Ladies promised to commit themselves to the partnership, affirming that the results of the referendum would not affect their collaboration. Mrs Mayardit said that the girls of today should be given a chance to go to school.

Mrs Mayardit heads the organisation Concern for Mothers and Children in Sudan (COMOS) while Mrs Omar heads SANAD Charitable Foundation.

Sudan pledges close monitoring of released Guantanamo detainees

Sudantribune.com Washington, 11/08/10 - The Sudanese government made a written pledge to the United States that it will place its citizens released from detention in Guantanamo in a rehabilitation program and closely monitor them to ensure their "de-radicalization", according to documents published by Wall Street Journal (WSJ).

The National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) said in a letter transmitted by the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum dated July 28 that it has "developed a standard process for individuals repatriated to Sudan from abroad through extradition or other means".

NISS agents would receive the freed Guantanamo detainee at the airport and take him to a secure location where he would undergo extensive rehabilitation program that involves education, job skills training, marriage counselling and de-radicalization counselling by moderate Islamic sheiks and scholars.

If the ex-detainee successfully completes the program he is then released, placed in a job and directed to only attend NISS approved mosques.

The spy agency would continue to monitor the individual through a surveillance team and informants to ensure that "no longer [adheres] to a radical ideology". The monitoring would include the ex-detainee's email and phone. The agency said its program is "85% effective."

Electronic Payment for S. Sudan Civil Service

Gurtong.org Juba, 11/08/10 - The GoSS Ministry of Labour and Public Service is set to introduce electronic payment for civil servants in South Sudan. The new move is seen as a final blow to ghost workers who have minted millions from the government in the past through dubious salaries.

"The Ministry this year is training staff on electronic payment of salaries which will be implemented immediately once the personnel to handle the operation are well equipped. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Finance so that this new system is put into action", GoSS Labour and Public Service Minister Awut Deng Acuil told the press during

a briefing at the GoSS Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Minister Acuil added that her Ministry had agreed with the relevant Ministry in Khartoum to be able to pay the pension of South Sudanese who worked during the war in the government and added that a team from Khartoum will visit Juba next week to look into the pension files in South Sudan.

Kiir directs authorities to prosecute captured officers of renegade George Athor

Sudantribune.com Juba, 11/08/10 – GoSS President and FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit has directed the legal authority in the region to prosecute the captured officers from the rebels led by the former SPLA General, George Athor Deng.

The officers including Athor's third in command were captured in a helicopter on transit at Falluj airport in Upper Nile State as the plane was returning from Jonglei State to Khartoum.

The Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and minister of Peace and CPA Implementation, Pagan Amum, announced the fate of the officers while addressing the press in Khartoum on Wednesday. He said Athor's officers were found on board the helicopter destined for Khartoum and were immediately arrested.

Impounded chopper was carrying relief items – Falluj Airfield administration

Al-Sudani Khartoum, 12/08/10 – Falluj airfield authorities have revealed new information with regard to the SudanAir helicopter held by the SPLA at Falluj airfield since two days. According to the SMC, the chopper which was chartered by the Fangak Greater Organization was carrying relief items and it was searched twice first in Fangak area where the cargo was unloaded and again at Falluj airfield where it landed for refuelling. Sources have confirmed that the chopper was not carrying weapons, ammunition or insurgents as it was rumoured.

Unidentified armed group kill 23 in Unity state

Local dailies Juba, 12/08/10 – SPLA Acting Spokesperson Brig. Malaak Ayuen said 23 policemen including three officers among them a captain were killed and six others wounded early this week when unidentified gunmen ambushed a civilian truck en route to Kuj area, 70 km southeast of Bentiu, the capital of Unity State. Ayuen said the SPLA has the situation under control but the identity of the attackers remains unknown but the SPLA believes they are remnants of Brig. Galwak Gai who rebelled against the SPLA in the Unity State after the recent elections.

"Galwak's mutiny has been brought to an end but may be some of his men continue to create trouble," Ayuen said. SPLA and Galwak Gai's forces reportedly clashed near Higlieg.

Meanwhile, Ayuen said Athor's third in command Maj. Gen. James Yor Chol has been transported to Juba for prosecution, adding that GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has ordered his trial on charges of crimes against the people of the South.

MPs reject motion to restore waived immunity of SPLM-DC MPS

The Citizen Juba, 12/8/10 – Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) members yesterday overwhelmingly resolved to reject a motion moved to revoke a resolution that waived the immunity of members of the splinter SPLM-DC, who were subsequently arrested in June for an alleged connection in the Panyikang killings, in which seven persons including a paramount chief were murdered in Upper Nile State last May.

The members said the motion was not procedural, arguing that the immunity was waived based on

request of the Ministry of Internal Affairs through the Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development and therefore, it should be the Minister for Legal Affairs to table the motion seeking its restoration...

SPLA resists UNMIS patrols on border between south and Darfur

Sudantribune.com *Khartoum, 12/08/10* - The Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), told the UN Security Council (UNSC) last week that the southern Sudanese army had resisted their efforts to patrol the area of south Sudan that borders the troubled western state of Darfur.

Major-General Moses Bisong Obi said August 6 that the area was of particular concern. He told the UNSC that the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had often resisted UNMIS efforts to send patrols to the area.

A UN source told **Sudan Tribune** on Tuesday that as far as they could tell there was no indication that SPLA were making a concerted effort to restrict access to the area.

The issue was isolated to only two or three incidents and was most likely to have been due to a failure of communication between SPLA leadership and its commanders on the ground, said the official who did not want to be named.

The South Sudan-Darfur border area has been allocated as a hot spot for potential unrest along with other areas such as Akobo and Yambio.

Opposition forces to hold comprehensive conference

Al-Ahdath *Khartoum, 12/08/10* - The opposition national consensus forces have resolved to hold a comprehensive conference to discuss all issues of the country and declared their rejection of NCP's call for limiting discussion at such conference to referendum rather than other issues such as freedoms, Darfur and the difficult living conditions.

PCP Political Secretary Kamal Omer at press conference yesterday accused the NCP of lack of seriousness and credibility to resolve issues of unity, freedoms and Darfur, describing the NCP's new strategy on Darfur as a cover for war strategy.

Meanwhile, Umma Party leading figure Meriam Al-Mahdi, speaking at the press conference, stressed that a comprehensive conference is the sole way-out from the current crisis. She said representatives of the opposition political forces would meet on Saturday to prepare for the conference.

According to **Al-Ahram** daily, the opposition parties have invited the NCP to participate at the envisaged comprehensive political conference slated to take place during the month of Ramadan and to participate at the meetings of the preparatory committee that kicks off next Saturday at Umma House.

Gaddafi's son supports prosecuting Al-Bashir for Darfur war crimes: report

Sudantribune.com *Washington, 11/08/10* - A Libyan human rights group headed by the son of Muammar Gaddafi has issued a statement last week calling for prosecuting perpetrators of war crimes in Darfur "irrespective of their positions" in what appears to be a subtle reference to the indictment of Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The Qatar-based **Al-Jazeera** website said that the statement by the Arab Alliance for Democracy, Development and Human Rights (ADDHR) coincided with a visit made by Bashir to Tripoli last Wednesday for talks with his Libyan counterpart.

UNAMID chief threatens to hand over Kalma delegates to government - IDPs

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 11/08/10 - Representatives of Kalma IDP Camp in South Darfur State today said they had been threatened by the head of UNAMID to hand them over to the Sudanese authorities if they refuse joint patrols by local police and peacekeepers.

They further urged the international community and the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to intervene and save their life.

In an exclusive interview with **Sudan Tribune** Wednesday, the five sheiks and a woman said the Joint Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari met them on Wednesday in the presence of a government delegation led by State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Mutrif Sidiq.

The IDP representatives said Gambari asked them to accept the presence of joint patrols formed by the Sudanese government and the hybrid peacekeeping mission. "If you refuse to accept this deal I will have no choice but to hand you over to the Sudanese authorities," Gambari told them according to the six representatives who are still in the UNAMID policing centre inside the camp.

The representatives of Kalma IDPs refused the offer of the joint patrols saying they were deeply shocked by the presence of the Sudanese minister in the meeting. They further said they were happy when they had been informed about their meeting with Gambari because he is the "representative of the UN Secretary General but they found in him a representative of the Sudanese government". They further said they feel their life is in danger and appealed on Ban Ki-moon and the international community to intervene in their favour to protect their life.

In a separate interview, the spokesperson of Kalma IDPs camp, Yagoub Furi urged the UN Secretary General to remove Gambari because he has become "a representative of the Sudanese government". Yagoub said they were expecting Gambari to come alone and to meet them. "But he refused to meet us and to take memorandums that we prepared for the intention of (UN chief) Ban Ki-moon".

He added that the IDPs were disappointed when Gambari came to the camp accompanied by Sudanese government officials who considers the residents of the camps "as criminals".

According to Yagoub, Gambari told the six representatives that his mission is not to protect the IDPs but to promote efforts to achieve peace in the region. "If that is what he thinks, then he has to meet (SLM leader) Abdulwahid Al-Nur and not meet the IDPs," he commented.

Referendum Monitor:

Commission deadlock threatens Sudan independence vote

Reuters Khartoum, 12/08/10 - South Sudan's referendum on independence will not happen unless a deadlock within the commission planning it is broken within weeks, south Sudan's main ruling party said on Thursday.

Pagan Amum, Secretary-General of the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), also said unity had not been made attractive to southerners by the NCP since the CPA was signed.

"The referendum commission clearly seems to have reached a deadlock in the process of selection of the secretary-general. The commission is now paralysed, it is not working," Amum said.

Amum said he feared members of the commission were stalling to derail the independence vote.

"The Sudanese state lacks the critical ingredients for a united country because the ... basis around which the state is founded is faulty -- this basis cannot sustain unity and the Sudanese edifice must come down as a result," he said.

Amum said postponing the vote was impossible. "The hopes and expectations ... of the people of south Sudan ... are so pinned on that date that it would be dangerous to postpone it because the level of frustration and disappointment would be so high for anybody to manage," he said.

South Sudan referendum returnees 'face food shortages'

IRIN Juba, 11/08/10 - Months before Southern Sudan holds a referendum on possible secession from the north, officials have warned that feeding the influx of expected returnees will pose a problem.

"A lot of people came just before the census, more came just before the elections," said Matthew Abujin, Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) secretary in charge of Central Equatoria. "With the referendum, we are expecting a very big number. Nobody wants to stay on the wrong side of the border."

In Central Equatoria, some 25,000 out of 47,579 people who are registered as displaced have so far returned. Many of the returnees have, however, come back to a food-starved region.

"I foresee increased food needs," said Alghassim Rhasim Wurie, deputy coordinator for the UN World Food Programme (WFP) in Southern Sudan. "Last year there was drought in the region, including Ethiopia and Southern Sudan. And there is insecurity."

North-south border demarcation committee may resort to Presidency

Al-Sudani et al Khartoum, 12/08/10 - The technical border demarcation committee may refer its differences over the western parts of the north-south border that extends from Goz Nabag to the border with the CAR to the Presidency of the Republic. Riek Degoul, a representative of the GoSS at the committee, said that the border demarcation would contribute to security and social stability and would help improve relations between the local communities. He said that the committee would abide by whatever decision the Presidency of the Republic comes up on with regards the contentious points. He said however that the committee has to decide on whether or not to resort to the Presidency.

GoSS representative says separate southern state would have links with Israel

Local dailies/agencies Khartoum, 12/08/10 - The head of the GoSS delegation to Washington, Ezekiel Gatkuoth, says the new state that may emerge after the 2011 referendum may establish links with Israel since a number of Arab states also do have diplomatic links with it. In an interview with the *MiddleEast* yesterday, Gatkuoth expressed confidence that 98% of the people of southern Sudan may opt for separation.

"For the SPLM, the concept of a united Sudan is finished," he said, pointing out that the system needs to be changed for Sudan to remain united and transformed into a better state for all.

Of the new state, he pointed out that the separate state would be a free, democratic and secular state in which no single religion dominates. English would be the main language while Arabic may come second or third.

Gatkuoth ruled out fears that southern Sudan may become a failed state and instead warned that the north may become a failed state. He cited the conflict in Darfur and the shortage in resources as factors that may cause a failed state in the north. "We would assist northern Sudan so it does not become a failed state and thus negatively affect its neighbours," he said.

SPLM arrests NCP members “advocating unity” in Bahr-el-Ghazal State

Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 12/08/10 – The SPLM arrested in Bahr-el-Ghazal yesterday some members of an NCP delegation on charges of “advocating for the unity vote at the referendum”.

Speaking from the NCP headquarters in Khartoum, Bishop Gabriel Roriech called on the Government of Bahr-el-Ghazal to release the party members and to order police not to interfere with political issues. He also called on the international community to monitor the forthcoming referendum to guarantee it would emerge as a fair and transparent exercise.

Committee formed on referendum security

Al-Sudani Khartoum, 12/08/10 – Ahmed Imam Al-Tihami, the Assistant Director-General for CID and Security, has revealed of the formation of a high committee for referendum security. The committee, he says, would coordinate with the South Sudan Referendum Commission and the South Sudan Police Services.

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