

19th May 2011

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Post-Referendum Headlines

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- Ancient Kadugli mosque caught fire (*Dailies*)
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Highlights

Government welcomes UNSC visit

Sudan Radio 19/5/11 – Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Khaled Musa has welcomed the visit of the Security Council delegation to the Sudan, saying the visit would focus on outstanding issues and issues of peace, adding that the members would hold meetings with VP Ali Osman Taha and FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit in Juba. Musa described the visit as routine.

With regard to the delegation's visit to Abyei, Musa said consultations were still continuing to arrange it, according to *Al-Sahafa* 19/5/11.

Sudan Vision 19/5/11 reports Musa as telling reporters that the delegation would start discussion on Sunday May 22 with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ali Karti, VP Taha and then travel to Juba to meet Southern Sudan Government officials.

He said the meeting would also review relations between the government of Sudan and the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

This visit will reinforce relations between Sudan and the UN, Musa added.

Meanwhile, Musa denied that the Foreign Ministry agreed or promised anybody that Ahmed Haroun, the elected Governor of southern Kordofan State, would not be present during the UNSC delegation's visit, saying Haroun was elected by the people of the State and anybody who wishes to visit southern Kordofan should have to coordinate with the Governor.

“Haroun is an elected governor. The SC or any other delegation visiting his state should respect national sovereignty and coordinate with the governor” Musa said, according to *Al-Rai Al-Aam* 19/5/11. “The Ministry has neither been asked nor committed itself to anybody to withdraw Haroun from the area” he added.

Presidency closes accounts of CPA Commissions

Al-Sahafa 19/5/11 – The Presidency has ordered the closure of accounts of all commissions established within the framework of the CPA except two: the Political Parties Commission and the Elections Commission.

The Referendum Commission sent a memorandum of protest, describing the measure as a violation of the freedom and independence of the Commission which is supposed to continue to exist until the 9th of July.

When the Referendum Commission enquired about its money, it was told by the Bank that the balance in its account, SDG 5 million, was also taken over.

No Ethiopian battalion will deploy in Abyei – SAF sources

Al-Sahafa 19/5/11 – SAF High Command affirmed that the task of the JIUs and UN observer troops would continue in Abyei territory in the manner it has been agreed upon.

A high-ranking military source has dismissed reports that an Ethiopian battalion would be deployed in Abyei to maintain peace, saying this is incorrect.

SPLM planting landmines east of Abyei - Misseriya

Al-Tayyar 19/5/11 – Misseriya leaders have disclosed that the SPLA has planted land mines in Goli area, east of Abyei, considering it a threat to the nomads' migration.

The tribe called on SAF to immediately engage in de-mining activity to clear the migration routes. The Misseriya also urged the Presidency to liaise with GoSS President to address the situation, warning of serious consequences if nomads are affected by the mines.

Trade between North and South resumed

Al-Rai Al-Aam 19/5/11 – The newspaper has learned from sources that business between the North and the South was resumed yesterday after the intervention of high level officials from both parties. According to the sources, traders started moving goods by land, river and air. According to *Al-Tayyar* 19/5/11, authorities have permitted river barges to leave for Malakal.

NCP and SPLM to resume talks in Ethiopia today

Al-Ayyam 19/5/11 – The NCP and the SPLM will resume high level talks today in Addis Ababa to discuss economic issues.

SPLM Luka Biong cited the likelihood of carrying the border demarcation issue over to the period after July 9, adding the talks in Addis represents the last chance for the parties to address the issues because there would be no sufficient time to focus on them.

Unity state: more than 7,000 cattle rustled

Sudan Tribune website 17/5/11 - More than 7,000 cattle were stolen from Riak district, Unity state, by gangs suspected of coming from the neighbouring Gongrial East and Twic counties of Warrap state, while 500 cattle were stolen from Pannhiany west of Mayom county on Tuesday.

An anonymous source in Mayom west suggests that the thieves were members of the Misseriya, ethnic group.

In an interview with Sudan Tribune on Tuesday member of parliament from Unity state legislative assembly and representative for Riak constituency, Peter Dak Khan confirmed that 7,200 cattle were stolen by gangs. This is in addition to attacks in the same area on 14 May in which 5,800 cattle were stolen.

Khan added that Mayom commissioner; Charles Machieng Kuol has been trying to keep in touch with Warrap state authorities on these issues but has not been able to establish telephone contact.

"These issues should be addressed at the national level in the South Sudan government, since we are part of new independent state, in which he believes there is a need to focus on peace and love for one another," he said.

Machieng and others MPs from Mayom County appealed humanitarian aid organisations to

assist the affected citizens. Aid organisations have difficulty operating in the area because there is a high number of a landmine.

Other Headlines

NCP local leader killed in southern Kordofan

Al-Raed 19/5/11 – NCP leader in Heiban Locality in Southern Kordofan, Rajab Badawi, was killed yesterday by an armed group suspected to be from the SPLA.

Former chairman of the legislative assembly in the state, Ibrahim Belandia, has condemned the killing, saying it is part of SPLM plan to eliminate NCP leaders.

White House assigned weekly meeting for Sudan (Sudan Vision)

Sudan Vision 19/5/11 - The US Department of State spokesperson, Katherine Van De has said the US administration has assigned a special weekly meeting for Sudan that is held at the White House on the ground that Sudan is the most important African state.

She added Washington has practically embarked upon removing economic sanctions imposed on Khartoum.

In an exclusive interview with Al Shorok, the US Department of State's spokesperson said the US feels now that great change has occurred in the policies of Khartoum with respect to many issues that represented the center of concern with respect to the relations between the two countries.

On the reasons why the US administration has put the name of Sudan in list of states sponsoring terrorism in the first place, Katherine Van De said Sudan was involved in supporting terrorism by hosting Osama bin Ladin during the nineties.

"The US has embarked upon the procedures for removing the name of Sudan from the list of states sponsoring terrorism according to its earlier promise after feeling that the Sudanese policies have changed," she said.

However, she relented by saying: "There is more to be done by the government of Sudan, on the top of which being the solving of the Darfur and Abyei issues and providing assurances that there will be no support of international terrorism in the future."

The US official said the process of removing sanctions is continuing according to a roadmap and that the US administration is working on the highest levels, starting from President Obama.

"They all place great importance to Sudan and there is a weekly meeting at the White House on Sudan," she said.

The US Department of State's spokesperson added the US wants stability and the support of North Sudan as in the case of South Sudan and this why the US has granted Sudan USD 10 billion during recent years, of which USD 3 billion being granted to the support of Darfur.

On the form of future relations, Katherine Van De e said Sudan is a state that receives the utmost attention of all decision makers in Washington more than any other African state.

She added the appointment of the veteran diplomat, Princeton Lyman, as a special envoy for the US to Sudan is a clear indication that the US places utmost importance of better relations with Sudan.

"Our objectives is better relations with Sudan and the support of security and stability in the country since Sudan is the most important country in Africa and has priority in US's policies in the continent," she said.

Old Kadugli Mosque caught fire

Sudan Vision 19/5/11 - A fire broke out early morning Wednesday at Kadugli ancient Mosque, damaging the entire interior and contents of the mosque.

The ceiling, walls and all air conditioners in addition to the Quran Books and religious books were burnt in the fire.

Civil defense forces were hurried to the site of the mosque, located in downtown Kadugli, and tried to save whatever that could be saved but the intense fire and flames prevented them from doing so.

The false ceiling and plastic carpets helped in intensifying the fire.

Some civil defense police staff said the fire had taken 45 minutes before it could be put down but those 45 minutes were enough to burn down the mosque.

A civil defense staff said an electric short circuit was suspected to have caused the fire and said they succeeded in putting down the fire but could not save the contents of the mosque.

Teams of intelligence and criminal evidences elements arrived at the scene and cordoned off the site of the fire in order to carry out investigations to know the cause of the fire.

On his part, the chairman of the Religious Coexistence Council, Abdel Rahman Abou Al Bashar, has called on citizens not to jump into conclusions and wait for the result of the criminal investigations. He excluded arson

"The State of Kordofan has never seen subversive acts that target religious buildings and even if there is evidence of arson, those who did it represent only themselves," he said.

Abou Al Bashar called on the citizens to be calm and assured them that the mosque will be rehabilitated and expanded to look more modern and more spacious to occupy more worshippers.

He added, architectural drawings are already in place and it is time that they were executed.

Sudan jets bomb Darfur village, says UN

BBC News 18/5/11 - Sudan has carried out an air strike on a village in the troubled western Darfur region, the UN says.

A team of peacekeepers is trying to enter the area of Sukamir in north Darfur to assess the damage, UN officials say. If confirmed it would be the second Sudanese air strike in Darfur in three days.

UNAMID, the UN mission in Darfur, said in a statement on Wednesday that warplanes on Tuesday had struck Sukamir, which is near Kuma, about 100km (60 miles) north of the main regional city of El Fasher.

It said a team had been sent to the area "to collect information on possible casualties and newly displaced persons".

The statement added that UN flights to the regions of Shangil Tobaya, Fanga Suk and other regions in north Darfur had been suspended.

Authorities step up security measures at key routes leading to South Darfur state following rebel attack (Al-Watan)

It said Sudanese officials had restricted the movement of aid workers in the region, citing security concerns.

Unamid head Ibrahim Gambari expressed concern over the air strikes. "I call upon all parties to exercise the utmost restraint in the use of lethal force," he said.

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