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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Monitor

CPA partners to hold talks on oil, foreign debts, currency

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 27/02/11 – The NCP and the SPLM are due to discuss post-referendum economic issues in meetings to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1 – 5 March 2011. The talks would focus on the issues of currency, Sudan's foreign debts and oil revenue.

SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum who would co-chair the talks alongside NCP's Salah Gosh told *The Citizen* that the Joint Political Committee meeting last Friday discussed the points of differences on the border demarcation issue but Abyei was not discussed. The Joint Political Committee would continue meetings on 7 March in a bid to find lasting solutions to the borders dispute, he said.

Secession creates shockwaves to the national economy – Central Bank chief

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 27/02/11 – The Governor of the Central Bank of Sudan, Sabir Mohamed Hassan, says secession would mean that the north stands to lose much revenue from the oil industry. This, he adds, may cause "economic shockwaves".

While acknowledging that oil revenue constitutes only about 8% of the GDP, he said that it contributes to some 75% of the country's hard currency earnings and to 45% of earnings going into the national treasury.

Speaking to Qatar-based *Al-Sharq* newspaper, Sabir said that the north has put measures in place to address the deficit and these would include increased oil explorations in the north of the country. He pointed out that the oil revenue requires much coordination on how the south would be able to utilise the present infrastructure in place. The two sides may be able to reach an agreement over these issues, he said.

Constitution review process would exclude nobody - NCP

Al-Wifaq Khartoum, 27/02/11 – The NCP says political dialogue with the National Umma and Democratic Unionist parties has extended to include some other opposition parties. NCP figure Mustafa Osman Ismail said yesterday that progress has been reached in discussions his party was engaged in with other opposition parties.

Mustafa further noted that the NCP was very much committed to see to it that all political forces in the country are involved in the drafting of a permanent constitution. "Any agreement reached in discussions with the Umma and Democratic Unionist parties would be tabled before the other parties for discussions," he said.

South Sudan political parties happy with inclusive approach – Machar

Sudantribune.com Juba, 25/02/11 - South Sudan political parties are happy with the recent inclusive approach that saw their representatives participating in various decision-making processes which the emerging independent state has been undertaking, says the region's Vice President Riek Machar.

Representatives from various political parties, civil society organizations as well as faith-based groups have been included in different established committees on constitutional review that amends the current interim constitution of Southern Sudan and Southern Sudan 2011 Taskforce which tackles post-referendum arrangements with the North and future governance in the South.

They are also included in membership of another committee that decides on the right venue for independence celebrations and hoisting of flag, who should be invited from foreign heads of state and type of celebrations that should be organized in the region following its people's overwhelming vote for secession from North Sudan.

Machar made the remarks during his meeting with a Swedish diplomat in Juba, Stein Erik, who wanted to acquaint himself with the level of representation of the other political parties in the various decision making processes on future governance.

He explained that the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) had provided opportunity for all the political parties in the region to participate in charting the way forward, adding that the government was dealing with all the registered political parties irrespective of their different sizes and weak presence on the ground.

He further explained that the political parties are establishing a secretariat and appealed for technical or logistical support in running their day to day activities. The Swedish diplomat appreciated the inclusive approach and expressed his mission's readiness to support their secretariat. He called for further discussions with the secretariat about the details of the required support.

Opposition alliance rejects Southern Kordofan electoral register

Khartoum Monitor Khartoum, 27/02/11 – The opposition alliance has filed before the National Elections Commission (NEC) a memorandum citing irregularities in the Southern Kordofan voter register. The National Consensus Forces noted that the number of registered voters from the committees does not tally with the latest register. They maintain that these disparities be addressed before the final register is publicised.

Al-Sahafa meanwhile reports that the opposition parties and the SPLM are planning a peaceful procession to the offices of the National Elections Commission demanding amendments to the Southern Kordofan elections register. SPLM figure Yassir Arman told a joint press conference with the opposition alliance in Juba yesterday that the procession would send a "small message to the NCP" warning the northern party and the NEC not to ignore these protests.

Other Highlights

Sudan calls for ending the mandate of UN human rights expert

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 26/02/11 – Justice Minister Mohamed Bushara Dousa said today that his country will seek to terminate the mandate of the independent expert appointed to monitor human rights conditions in the East African nation.

The minister said ahead of his departure from Khartoum to Geneva that he will deliver these remarks before the 15th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Dousa reiterated Sudan's refusal of having a rights expert stressing that his country does not need any form of monitoring.

Mohamed Chande Othman, who is the UN rights investigator for Sudan, will see his term expiring next May unless he gets a renewal.

Othman, a justice on Tanzania's court of appeals, had criticized Khartoum's crackdown on political opposition leaders, journalists and students saying they represent "a serious setback". He has also called for a probe into militia attacks on civilians in Sudan's western region of Darfur that took place last year.

Last December, he urged the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) to release eleven human rights activists and journalists arrested between 30 October and 3 November.

"The government has not specified the charges brought against them, provided them with access to legal counsel, or brought them before a judge to review the lawfulness of their detentions" he said.

Kiir orders South Sudan army to protect civilians from rebels' attacks

Sudantribune.com Juba, 26/02/11 - General Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Government of South Sudan has instructed the military command council of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to protect civilians vulnerable to attacks by forces loyal to renegade General George Athor.

Kiir, who is the commander in chief of the SPLA forces, made the remark while addressing hundreds of military officers at the SPLA General headquarters in Bilpam, at the outskirts of Juba town.

The president condemned attacks and killings of civilians which the two forces accused each other of committing in recent clashes in Fangak County, Jonglei State.

Colonel Phillip Aguer Panyang, SPLA spokesperson on Saturday said in an interview with the *Sudan Tribune* that President Kiir condemned the attack waged by Athor forces in February in Fangak underscoring that he ordered the army to deal with him and David Yauyau in Pibor and Colonel Gatluak Gai Unity State.

South Sudan denies rape and physical abuse of police recruits

Sudantribune.com Wau, 25/02/11 - A key police officer in the minister of internal affairs of the government of south Sudan denied Friday allegations of rape of female police recruits and physical abuse during a year-long police training period in Juba.

Speaking in an interview with *Sudan Tribune* Friday, General Acuil Tito Madut, the inspector general of the South Sudan Police Service, said the *Associated Press* story attributed to investigators from the United Nations "lacks ethics". He said that the allegations were not correct.

AP reported that: 'U.N. investigators say police recruits were beaten to death, sexually assaulted and forced to stand for hours in the blazing sun as part of a training program funded by international donors, demonstrating the challenges ahead for what will soon be the world's newest nation.'

"The so called human right report attributed to investigators from the United Nations lacks ethics of investigation. It is all about allegations which are not correct. They are fabrications. No women were raped. There were quarters for different sexes. Men and women were living in separate quarters, right from the time the training commenced until graduation day", said General Tito.

"They were not mixed so that one could say this happened because the recruits were grouped together," said General Acuil, denying also that this report does not come from the United Nations because UN took part in the training.

"Although it is alleged to have been a report from investigators from the UN, I do not believe this is a report from the UN because the UN itself took part in the training", he said.

Tito, who is also the second top officer in the minister of internal affairs, equally denied beating female recruits to death. "The training was not organized to specific gender. It was general police training opened to all sexes including women and there were quarters".

"So why is the report talking about women to have been raped and beaten as if they had their training without other sex group. Why is there no report about men whom they were trained complaining about beating? These are just fabrications to tarnish image of the government of south Sudan", said Acuil.

Sudan Tribune has also spoken to policemen who say they have experienced harsh training styles and procedures.

Speaking to *Sudan Tribune* from Wau, capital of Western Bahr el Ghazal, Rizik William Vicente, one of the new recruits graduated at Rejaf police academy in Juba, denied beating but said he experienced difficulties with practical demonstrations during the initial days of the training.

"The training was really very good though tough. It equipped us with necessary skills and knowledge in crowd control, investigation procedures, plans and techniques to capture and arrest harmful suspects but we faced difficulties in drills during the first weeks of the training", said Vicente.

The officer, however, said women found it hard and some of them had to run away during the training because drills were difficult for them.

"For some of us, especially men, it was not a big problem but it was not easy for the women some of whom were old. Practical demonstrations were not easy. Most of the women who showed interest in the training were old. A negligible number were young, so it became difficult for them", said Vicente.

He said around 400 women showed up for training classes started in January 2010, but less than the initial figure were graduated with them in December when the training was completed.

Gedharef to host workshop on small and light arms

Al-Sahafa Al-Gedharef, 27/02/11 – The North Sudan DD Commission in collaboration with the UNDP is organising a workshop today on small and light arms control.

The workshop is held under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior and would discuss the dangers of illegal arms to peace and stability.

Sudan suspends Catholic aid group's work in Darfur

Reuters Khartoum, 26/02/11 - Sudan has suspended the work of the humanitarian agency Catholic Relief Services in West Darfur state, accusing it of distributing Bibles, a local aid official said on Saturday.

"The work of CRS has been suspended in West Darfur after there was an accusation that they had been distributing Bibles," Mohamed Awad, head of the government's Humanitarian Aid Commission in the state, told Reuters by telephone.

Awad said Bibles had been found in refugee camps and schools and the governor had ordered an investigation which showed they had been handed out by CRS.

He said a final decision had yet to be made on CRS operations in the state.

CRS, whose programmes include education, and water and sanitation, declined to comment but said its operations were continuing in Khartoum and south Sudan.

Sudanese army attack rebel positions in Darfur

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 25/02/11 – The Sudanese army attacked rebels groups in the mountainous area of Jebel Marra to open roads in the troubled Darfur region, said the spokesperson of the Sudan Armed Forces on Thursday.

Khalid Al-Sawarmi said government troops on Thursday morning assaulted rebel positions in Al-Sharfa south –west Takmari in Jebel Marra killing 25 rebels and captured four vehicles. He further said they lost two soldiers.

The SAF spokesperson stressed that the army would continue to carry out its attacks on the positions held by the SLM- Abdulwahid (SLM-AW), SLM-Minni Minnawi (SLM-MM) and other factions to provide security for civilians and open roads.

The UNAMID said civilians continue to arrive to IDPs camps in North and South Darfur fleeing the surge of violence in the region. The army and rebel groups clashed this week in Thabit and Shangil Tubaya areas, in West Darfur.

Adam Saleh Abakar, SLM-MM spokesperson, confirmed today SAF's attack in eastern Jebel Marra. He however said they inflicted heavy losses on the regular troops without elaborating and captured 18 vehicles.

A rebel official of the SLM-AW, Ibrahim Al-Hilu, said they lost only six fighters and the rest of the victims were civilians.

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