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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Monitor

11 policemen killed or injured in clashes in Abyei

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 28/02/11 – The Misseriya and the Abyei Area Administrator are trading accusations over the cause of violent clashes that left 7 dead and 4 injured last Saturday. All were members of the Joint Integrated Police Forces. Abyei Chief Administrator Arop Deng accuses armed militias for the clashes that occurred in the Today area some 13 km north of Abyei. Arop who cut short a visit to Juba to return to Abyei warned that Abyei is at the verge of war and blamed the Presidency of the Republic for any ill that may befall the area because of its failure to resolve the issues on the ground.

Arop said he was surprised by reports yesterday that an armed militia group made a surprise raid on a small number of joint integrated police forces positions north of Abyei causing the casualties. He pointed out that this development comes at a time when the Area Administration is striving to avail water, identify nomadic migration routes and avail security for them and the citizen. Arop accuses Hamad Dudu and Eissa Bushra, both prominent members of the Misseriya, of backing the raid. He noted that the Misseriya have assembled their forces in the vicinity in preparation for further attacks.

The Chief Administrator also said that the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) positioned in the vicinity were “useless” and did nothing to help rescue the police.

On the other hand, prominent Misseriya figure Nimir Babo Nimir says his tribe still adheres to the Kadugli Agreement and would only attack in self defence.

Meanwhile, Bashtana Mohamed Salim, a prominent Misseriya member, said that the clashes occurred when the police tried to collect the guns from the hands of the Misseriya. He pointed out that the Kadugli Agreement stipulates that the police should not be positioned north of the Abyei area and that the Misseriya nomads were allowed to carry five guns in their treks.

Al-Sudani reports that the Misseriya have formed a team made up of members of the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) to investigate. .

Joint Defence Board to sit today

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 28/02/11 – The Joint Defence Board (JDB) holds its regular meeting at the Officers’ Club in Khartoum later today. The meeting would discuss a number of outstanding issues on the military arrangements stipulated in the CPA and Abyei.

JDB Spokesperson Ahmed Abdalla told the *SMC* that the key agenda points for discussion include discussions over the performance of the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) and updates on military redeployment north and south of the 1.1.56 line. He said that some positive steps have been taken on the issue of oil-field security.

SPLM parliamentarians threaten to stop oil shares for the north

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 28/02/11 – Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir insists that parliament would return from recess in April without its southern Sudanese membership – be them from the NCP or the SPLM.

In response, members of the SPLM parliamentary bloc said at a press conference yesterday that they may resort to the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly to stop the 50% revenue in oil

shares to the north as a result of such action. They have also called for the resignation of the Justice Minister.

At a press conference yesterday, State Minister for Justice, Paul Lual (SPLM), slammed the Justice Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly over the reasons they gave for saying southern Sudanese lawmakers would not longer be members of the National Assembly from April.

Sudan clamps down on election protest

Reuters/ local dailies Khartoum, 27-28/02/11 - Sudanese riot police and security agents surrounded organisers of a protest against alleged election fraud on Sunday, witnesses said, in the latest sign of a clampdown following uprisings across the Arab world.

Police, armed with batons and teargas have quickly broken up dozens of small anti-government protests in north Sudan this year, many of them against rising prices and some calling for regime change. Dozens of activists are in jail.

More than 100 police and plain-clothed agents staked out the offices of the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), which planned the protest in Khartoum, *Reuters* witnesses said.

Security officers also prevented people from approaching the nearby offices of Sudan's National Elections Commission to hand in a petition about irregularities in registering voters in the oil-producing state of Southern Kordofan, organisers said.

"They turned the commission into a security garrison," senior SPLM official Yassir Arman told *Reuters*.

Arman said security officers stopped his supporters in streets around the area. He had finally got into the commission by a back route with representatives of nine opposition parties.

"It is a violation of the constitution and it is a violation of human rights. It is what is happening in Egypt, Tunis and Libya," he added, referring to the security presence.

The SPLM has accused Sudan's dominant National Congress Party (NCP) of rigging the voter registration, adding more than 38,000 names to areas of Southern Kordofan it says are controlled by security services.

Senior NCP official Rabie Abdelati dismissed the accusation as "political rumours" and said peaceful demonstrations were allowed, as long as protesters applied for a licence.

Sudan's president and NCP head, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, held on to power in elections in April 2010. Gubernatorial and state assembly elections in Southern Kordofan were delayed until May this year after disagreements over an earlier census.

NCP warns against use of opposition to topple government

Al-Khartoum Khartoum, 28/02/11 – Prominent NCP figure Haj Majid Suwar told the press yesterday that his party would seek to institute amendments to the Constitution to grant youths key roles in the party's institutions. He pointed out that the general orientation in the state is that any institution that depends on ease of mobility and interaction with the people would be headed by youths.

Suwar brushed off allegations levied by the opposition of irregularities in the Southern Kordofan voter register, saying that such accusations are not new. He challenged the opposition to

produce any evidence of irregularities supported by the party. He called on the SPLM however not to use the opposition to spark an uprising.

Opposition alliance rejects invitation for talks with security body

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 28/02/11 – The opposition alliance says its embers would not participate at a meeting called for by the Presidency's Security Advisory Council. Sidig Yusuf, a member of the Sudan Communist Party, said yesterday that none of the opposition forces under the umbrella of the National Alliance Forces would participate in meetings with any security body. He pointed out however that talks with the NCP, as a political party, would continue despite their differences with the party.

Other Highlights

SPLA clash with Athor's forces

Al-Intibaha Khartoum, 28/02/11 – Renegade SPLA General George Athor says his forces clashed two days ago with the SPLA in Jonglei. The SPLA lost 86 fighters while 6 of Athor's forces were killed in the battle, Athor said. He also revealed that they seized some 90 firearms after the SPLA withdrew.

"The SPLA's threat to wipe out our forces within one month is a laughing matter but we consider it as a challenge and we will show our ability to defeat them," he said.

SPLM tries General Telefon Koko

Al-Intibaha Juba, 28/02/11 – A decision by an SPLM military tribunal to sentence SPLA officer, Mjr. Gen. Telefon Kuku to six years in prison has caused angry reactions from the Nuba tribe where he hails from. The court ruling found Kuku guilty of planning a military overthrow against authorities in Southern Kordofan, defying his superior officers in the SPLA by refusing to join the hunt for George Athor and planning to cause a rift between SPLA officers along racial lines.

SPLA officers from the Nuba Mountains area were angered by the court's ruling and have called for an expulsion of southern Sudanese in the area within one month.

The people of Burram where Kuku hails from have issued a statement calling for his immediate release and threatening that southern Sudan would never know peace if he is kept in detention.

Central Bank eases restrictions on hard currency

Allafrica.com Khartoum, 27/02/11 - The Central Bank of Sudan announced two set of measures aimed at easing restrictions on hard currency as officials here say that the foreign exchange market has stabilized.

Under the revised rules, cash withdrawals are now allowed from special accounts in accordance with the internal regulations of each bank, along with doubling the amount of hard currency travellers can buy.

The central bank said that in addition to the recent stabilization in the foreign exchange market, the reasons which caused deterioration in the position of the Sudanese pound have disappeared in reference to speculations about the economic effects of the South's separation which becomes official next July.

The pro-government *Al-Rai Al-Aam* newspaper said that the central bank aims to unify both the official rate and that of the black market at around 3 pounds to the dollar although the national budget forecasted a rate of 2.7 pounds.

Many observers say that any drop in revenue from oil exports and a slowdown in foreign investment will delay any recovery to the foreign exchange market and the economy as a whole. Khartoum is hoping that it will compensate for loss of oil through non-petroleum sectors such as agriculture and gold mining.

Sudan has stopped imports of some goods and raised duties on others to lower outflow of hard currency.

The finance ministry is already facing the possibility of lawsuit by importers of used cars who say that the minister granted exceptions to some unspecified parties despite a total ban imposed since last year.

Darfur rebels say will only sign applicable peace agreement

Sudantribune.com Doha, 27/02/11 - The rebel Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) say they would not sign any agreement that does not include guarantees ensuring its implementation on the ground.

The government and LJM rebels handed their position this weekend to the mediation over a new set of proposals on six pending issues dealing with Power Sharing; Wealth Sharing; Compensation and Return of IDPs and Refugees; Justice and Reconciliation; Permanent Ceasefire and Security Arrangements; and Human Rights.

Under the new proposals the mediators separated the two positions and asked to amend the constitution before to appoint a vice-president from Darfur. The regional authority also becomes the principal tool to monitor the implementation of the agreement in Darfur but the three states continue to function independently.

"We informed the mediation that we cannot sign a peace agreement that we do not have the needed tool to ensure its implementation on the ground, said LJM top negotiator, Tadjadine Bechir Niam.

The rebel group demanded initially to establish an independent regional authority to administer the region during the interim period and to represent it at the level of the central government. The rebel official further slammed statements by the head of government delegation who said rebels seek positions but not to end the suffering of Darfur people.

Niam went on to say that the Sudanese government refuses to make any concessions on the two issues of the vice-presidency and Darfur status, stressing "they if they want peace they have to concede on such matters".

Omer Adam Rahama, the spokesperson of the government negotiating team refused to disclose the content of their reply to the mediation but said the text is comprehensive and can be a draft for a final peace agreement.

The mediation is expected to put forward very soon new proposals based on the responses given by the two parties.

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