

18th May 2011

www.unmissions.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Post-Referendum Watch

- New battalion to deploy in Abyei to protect civilians (*Al-Sahafa*)
- UN Security Council extends mandate of Sudan panel of experts (*Xinhua*)
- No justification for presence of UN troops between North and South –official (*Al-Khartoum*)
- South accuses the North of imposing a blockade (*ST*)
- NCP affirms commitment to Kadugli agreement (*Sudan Vision*)
- Abyei youth group disputes being part of the north(*ST*)
- Six people killed and one wounded in Ayod cattle rustling in Jonglei (*ST*)

Southern Kordofan Elections Focus

- SPLM's Al-Hilu vows to buck result of S. Kordofan's polls as killing incident stokes tension (*ST*)
- Misseriya demand NCP apology for recent statement on elections (*Al-Tayyar*)

Other Headlines

- Movement of aid groups restricted in South Darfur (*Reliefweb*)
- Parliament slams performance of international organizations (*Sudan Vision*)

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

Highlights

New battalion to deploy in Abyei to protect civilians

Al-Sahafa 18/5/11 –SPLM Luka Biong has disclosed an agreement between the NCP and the SPLM whereby an Ethiopian battalion will replace UNMIS Zambian battalion in Abyei to function under Chapter VII to protect civilians. Biong also revealed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs committed itself to withdraw Ahmed Haroun from the area during the visit of the SC members.

Biong confirmed the SC visit to Abyei on Monday, indicating attempts by some NCP elements to disrupt the visit. He said the NCP wants the SC delegation to meet with Abyei residents and the Area Administration in Muglad but it would meet with the Misseriya in Kadugli.

Biong has criticized attempts by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to deny reports of the Council mandating UNMIS troops to function under Chapter VII to protect civilians in Abyei. “The Ministry, instead of denying the resolution, should have expressed its rejection of a mandate under Chapter VII” he said.

UN Security Council extends mandate of Sudan panel of experts

Xinhua 17/5/11 The UN Security Council on Tuesday unanimously adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the panel of experts on Sudan sanctions until next year.

Determining that the situation in Sudan continues to constitute a threat to peace and security in the region, the Council has decided to extend the panel's mandate until Feb. 19, 2012, the resolution said.

The resolution also requested the Panel of Experts to provide a final report not later than 30 days prior to the termination of its mandate to the Council with findings and recommendations.

No justification for presence of UNMIS troops between the North and South – NCP official

Al-Khartoum 18/5/11 – The NCP has downplayed the change of UNMIS mandate in Abyei to act under Chapter VII. NCP leading figure Al-Haj Adam told reporters yesterday that there is nothing new in the SC resolution. “There is no justification for presence of these troops between the North and the South”, he said.

South accuse the North of imposing a blockade

Sudan Tribune website 18/5/11 The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) accused the north of imposing a blockade on the landlocked region ahead of the transition into a new state next July.

The Director of South Sudan Ports Jacob Daniel told the London-based Al-Sharq al-Awsat daily that GoSS undertook urgent measures to reduce the economic shock that he attributed to the "economic embargo by the north" adding that Juba provided great assistance for traders in the south to import goods from neighboring countries in Africa through the opening of the borders

with Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia for the flow of trade.

The Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) Secretary General in the North Yasir Arman accused the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in Khartoum of seeking to topple GoSS led by Salva Kiir through the blockade that he likened to the one imposed by Israel on Gaza strip.

Airline companies have complained of steep losses as a result of their inability to fly goods into the South.

There was no official confirmation from the federal government but the editor in chief of the independent Al-Tayar newspaper in Khartoum Osman Mirghani wrote in his daily column that he has ascertained that there is a decision taken to prevent flow of goods to the South.

Mirghani said that several truck drivers called him saying that they were not allowed to cross into the South and that some were waiting for ten days at the last stopping point before entering into the semi-autonomous region.

He slammed those behind the decision wondering if this was made to starve Southerners and warned that such tactics would not be in the interest of the North. The editor in chief questioned whether the NCP wanted to punish Southerners for voting in favor of independence.

NCP affirms commitment to Kadugli agreement

Sudan Vision 18/5/11 – NCP secretary of political sector Qutbi Al-Mahdi told the SMC that his party is committed to the implementation of Kadugli Agreement. He pointed out that the agreement obliges both parties to implement all articles guaranteeing rights of Abyei.

Abyei youth group disputes being part of the north

Sudan Tribune website 17/5/11 While thousands of local residents and organized forces in Abyei took part in celebration marking 28th anniversary of inception of the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), youth groups used the event to categorically dispute being part of northern Sudan.

"There is nothing that shows we have ever been part of the north. Geographically and culturally we have nothing in common which links us to the north. We are geographically and culturally link to South Sudan where we have our clans and sections. There is nowhere else a Dinka tribe is found in Sudan apart from the South", explained Deng Majak, an executive member of Abyei Youth Association in an interview with press at Abyei freedom Square on Monday.

Majak said the citizens of Abyei have taken a decision to return to the south and that nobody else can stop them from going to the south. "We have taken a solid decision as community to return to the south. This is a determination which can not be undermined and stopped by anybody else".

The furious youth, who was speaking to press shortly after delivering his speech, as one of the youth groups allowed to address audiences celebrating SPLA day said South Sudanese cannot even dare forgetting Abyei citizens as part of the south by all justifications, saying if he goes to the North he will not find any of his relatives than in the south where he claimed would get them anywhere.

Kuol Deng Kuol, a paramount chief in Abyei voiced deep concern at the tension and called on the international community to exert more pressure on the North to stop using Misseriya as curtain to advance political interest and resume and conclude negotiations on Abyei as a matter of priority.

"We have never had any major differences with Misseriya in the past until governments came with politics of tribes and identity. The Misseriya have never claimed being part of Abyei. There have never been land issues between us and the Misseriya. What has been there was peaceful coexistence, in which their cattle use Abyei as passage to the south for grazing every year", explained chief Kuol.

The Misseriya also from their part, say they had always good relations with the Dinka Ngok of Abyei but allege the ownership of the area.

He deplored the recent incident in which four soldiers from the United Nations Mission in Sudan were attacked and injured by armed groups allegedly identified as members of the Arabic Nomadic tribe of Misseriya.

"The fact that the UN Mission in Sudan which has intensified its patrolling activities on the ground and is on standby to reinforce its peacekeeping presence if the need arises, has been consistently refused access to areas of conflict and considerably restricted in its movement to some areas in the extreme north of Abyei shows that the government of Khartoum is indeed renegeing pledges it made to implement the Abyei protocol as per the ruling of the International Court of Arbitration", he said.

He called on the government of Khartoum to withdraw illegal troops it deployed in Lenger, named by the Misseriya as Goli, and allow UN access to surrounding areas to assess the situation and immediate needs on the ground.

Kuol further welcomed the planned visit of the 15 members of the United Nations Security council to Abyei on 23, May 2011.

"I very much welcome the expected visit of members of the United Nations' Security Council to Abyei. I welcome their visit in advance because members of the Security Council represent international community".

"The issue of Abyei is not a simple issue. It is an issue known by the international community. The Abyei protocol was endorsed by the international community when the two parties were not able to reach any consensus on Abyei when talks were underway in Naivasha, Kenya," he explained.

He said tension in the region has been building between the two sides because of the delayed referendum on the fate of the contested region. He also deplored the displacement of Abyei people to different areas in the south following renewed clashes in late February and early march, 2011.

"You all know most of our people currently under trees in area to which they fled after clashes in which a lot of people were killed and all three villages of Tajalei, Noong, Todac and Maker

Abior were burned down. Have you even seen their conditions?"

"Have you ever visited them? Some of them are in Agok. Others have fled to Twic (Warrap State and Abiem (Northern Bahr el Ghazal State). I visited then last week and found them in very bad conditions. They are outside in open areas and under trees in most places even in Agok".

"Their situations are appalling. I am concerned that without immediate humanitarian assistance the situation of these people, many of whom have been displaced for a second or third time, could reach catastrophic levels," warned Paramount chief of the oil contested region.

Six people killed and one wounded in Ayod cattle rustling in Jonglei

Sudan Tribune website 17/5/11 - at least six people were killed and one wounded in what appeared to be a new cattle rustling in Ayod South area, particularly Kuanydeng village in which a huge herds of cattle was confiscated.

Jonglei minister of law enforcement, Gabriel Duop Lam told Sudan Tribune that the attack took place on May 16, in the morning at Kuanydeng where the attackers managed taking un-estimated number of cattle.

According to Duop, the attackers killed three civilians and injured one police in the battle that left their (attackers) three people dead before they made away with cattle.

Duop said he has sent more police force in vehicles to run after them in attempt to retrieve the confiscated cattle.

Jonglei state is the second largest state in South Sudan and most populated state in the region with the highest insecurity issues reported yearly that arise from within the major tribes, Murle, Dinka Bor and Nuer with child abduction and cattle raiding as the center of conflicts. The state has never been peaceful since the north-south peace deal was signed in Naivasha Kenya in 2005 that ended a two-decade civil war between north and south.

Southern Kordofan Elections Focus

SPLM's Al-Hilu vows to buck result of S. Kordofan's polls as killing incident stokes tension

Sudan Tribune website 17/5/11 – SPLM leader in southern Kordofan, Abdul Aziz Adam al-Hilu, on Tuesday reiterated refusal to recognize the result of the state's elections, stressing that his party would not participate in a government resulting from a "rigged" vote.

In his first public appearance since Sunday's announcement of the result, which declared that his main rival Ahmad Haroun of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) beat him to the office of state governor by 6,500 votes, Al-Hilu addressed thousands of SPLM supporters celebrating the 28th anniversary of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the SPLM's military wing, in the state's key town of Kadugli on Tuesday.

Al-Hilu declared that the SPLM had decided not to participate in any government formed according to the result, accusing whom he called "enemies of peace and unity" of rigging the elections "on a scale never witnessed in the world before."

The SPLM's veteran promised his supporters as they chanted anti-Haroun slogans that the SPLM would continue to resist the result and would not participate in any government formed according to the result.

"We remind you that there is no going back in defending your rights through peaceful struggle in order to eliminate all the powers seeking to take you backward," Al-Hilu told the crowd. Al-Hilu further revealed that he was currently conducting high-level contacts with the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) which, according to him, reaffirmed support to the people of "new southern Kordofan."

Meanwhile, the already-tense climate in southern Kordofan escalated further after a regular force member shot dead the chieftain of Al-Amma tribe at a checkpoint barrier on the road to Slara area in Kadugli's south western side.

Eye-witnesses told Sudan Tribune that Al-Amma chieftain, Awad Engiliz, stopped his car at the orders of the checkpoint's policemen before one of them fired bullets on him.

An angry crowd of Al-Amma tribesmen gathered around the morgue to which the deceased's body was taken.

The three-hour siege of the morgue ended after the authorities responded to Al-Amma tribesmen's demands of extraditing the perpetrator and removing the checkpoints.

Shops in the town market closed down as armed men were spotted in the town during daytime, according to eye-witnesses.

Analysts fear that the existence of numerous armed groups in South Kordofan, including north Sudan army, the paramilitary Popular Defense Forces, SPLA as well as tribal militias may lead to violent confrontation if tension persists.

Misseriya demand NCP apology for recent statement on elections

Al-Tayyar 18/5/11 – Misseriya Union has denounced recent statements by NCP leader and head of the National Assembly Health Committee, Ms afaf Tawor, in which she said the Misseriya have let the NCP down by not voting for Ahmed Haroun. The Union called on the NCP for an immediate apology.

Ms. Tawor claimed that if the Misseriya have voted, Haroun would have swept the elections by a far larger margin.

Other Highlights

Movement of aid groups restricted in South Darfur

Reliefweb 17/5/11 - Representatives from non-governmental organizations, UNAMID and UN agencies were today informed by the Sudan Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission that the State of South Darfur would be immediately restricting all movement of humanitarian actors beyond a 15-kilometer radius of Nyala. Further, despite falling within the radius, the Kalma

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp has also been restricted. Flights to UNAMID team sites and movements to Otash IDP camp will not be affected.

Ongoing military operations and security threats were cited as the reason for these latest restrictions, according to information the Commission gave to UNAMID.

Parliament slams performance of international organizations

Sudan Vision 18/5/11 - The Members of Parliament (MPs) have sharply criticized the performance of foreign organizations operating in Sudan particularly UN groups and its agencies.

During a discussion on performance of international organizations yesterday, MPs mentioned a number of negative impacts related to the work of some organizations and called on the government step in to correct the situation. They mentioned that some UN organizations have modified their area of work from developmental to humanitarian which created political and security challenges, urging the government to oversee the implementation of the plans of these organizations.

United Nations Mission in Sudan - Public Information Office

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200