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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Monitor

- Sudan's Bashir agrees to Abyei withdrawal – diplomats (*Reuters et al*)
- SAF denies rebel claims of downing two aircraft – criticises UNMIS (*Al-Sahafa et al*)
- Sudan tells south not to back border state "rebellion" (*Reuters*)
- Over 53,000 flee fighting in Sudan border state - UN (*Reuters*)
- Northern Sudanese claim forced to leave the south (*Al-Ahdath et al*)
- Casualty figures could not be verified due to continued fighting – MP (*Al-Ahdath*)
- NCP rules out appointing military administrator for Southern Kordofan (*Al-Tayyar*)
- 16 IDPs killed or injured in an ambush near Diling, Southern Kordofan (*Al-Tayyar*)
- NCP, SPLM talks on oil revenues suffers major setback (*Akhir Lahza*)

Other Highlights

- South Sudan “entitled to join Arab League” (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Calm returns to Unity State after SAF bombardment (*Gurtong.org*)

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Post-Referendum Monitor

Sudan's Bashir agrees to Abyei withdrawal - diplomats

Reuters et al Addis Ababa/ Khartoum, 13/06/11 - Sudan's president agreed to pull northern troops out of the disputed Abyei border region before the south secedes on July 9, diplomats said on Sunday, signalling possible progress in talks before the split.

"President Bashir has agreed to pull his troops out before July 9 with Ethiopia sending two battalions as peacekeepers. They will be deployed under the UN flag," one diplomat said. A second diplomat confirmed Bashir had agreed to the troop withdrawal and the deployment of Ethiopian peacekeepers.

"The (Ethiopian) unit has already been identified and is only waiting for a green light from the United Nations Security Council," the diplomat, who asked not to be named, added.

But *Al-Ahram Al-Youm* reports that the closed meeting in Addis between Presidents Al-Bashir and Salva Kiir, Prime Minister Meles Zinnawi and AUHIP's Thabo Mbeki ended yesterday without agreement on the security situation in Abyei.

The paper quotes Al-Bashir as having told the press following the meeting that the talks on possibilities of deploying Ethiopian peacekeepers to the Abyei area still continue. He said the issue of deployment of these troops and their mandate is still under discussion.

Sources reveal that Al-Bashir had vehemently rejected requests for a timetable for SAF withdrawal from Abyei before a bilateral agreement is reached between the two parties that does not include UNMIS forces.

SAF denies rebel claims of downing two aircraft – criticises UNMIS

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 13/06/11 – SAF Spokesperson Al-Sawarmi Khaled says the army has been monitoring suspicious moves by the SPLA since April this year after the elections in Southern Kordofan. He said they had planned to carry out sabotage by bringing in armoured vehicles in the area. Al-Suwarni rebuffed SPLA claims to have downed an Antonov and MiG aircraft.

In a statement yesterday, the SAF pointed out that the SPLA had denied UNMIS access to the designated assembly points for the SPLA in the Buheirat Al-Abyad area in May.

The SAF also expressed regret over the "imbalance criticism" on the part of UNMIS for having criticised the SAF of disproportionate use of force against innocent civilians and implying that the SAF was responsible for the plight of the displaced.

In a related development, *Al-Khartoum* reports that the SAF spokesperson has rebuffed speculation of a mutiny within its ranks in Southern Kordofan. He assured that unity within the SAF was key to the restoration of stability in that region.

Sudan tells south not to back border state "rebellion"

Reuters Khartoum/ Juba, 12/06/11 – The NCP has warned the south on Sunday against supporting a "rebellion" in Southern Kordofan, saying such a move could affect recognition of the south when it secedes.

"If the southern government ... continues to disrupt stability in the north, it will greatly affect the

issue of recognising the nascent southern state and efforts to maintain good cooperative relations between the two nations," the state news agency *SUNA* said, citing northern official Haj Majid Suwar.

But SPLA Spokesperson Philip Aguer denies suggestions Juba was supporting fighters in Southern Kordofan, saying they were no longer part of its army although they are referred to as members of the south's Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA).

"There is no link between southern Sudan and the rebels in Southern Kordofan. These people look after their own affairs. We have the same name, that is it," Aguer said.

Analysts say a protracted and bloody conflict could continue long after secession in Southern Kordofan because it is home to thousands of fighters -- largely from the Nuba mountains region -- who sided with the south during the last civil war.

There have also been fears similar fighting could erupt in the northern Blue Nile state, where Aguer said Khartoum was moving troops.

"Forces going to Blue Nile left from Khartoum yesterday. If they are not careful the same thing happening in Southern Kordofan will happen in Blue Nile," he said.

Northern army spokesman Khaled said any problems in Blue Nile would be solved diplomatically and Khartoum is free to move troops into Blue Nile because it is a northern state. "I can assure that we are not preparing for a war in Blue Nile," he said.

Over 53,000 flee fighting in Sudan border state - UN

Reuters Khartoum, 13/06/11 – More than 53,000 people have fled fighting, including bombardments and artillery shelling, in Sudan's Southern Kordofan border state, the United Nations said.

OCHA said its partners had reported the "burning of tukuls, looting of humanitarian assets and emergency relief stocks, and the presence of land mines" in the state capital Kadugli.

"As the security situation shows no sign of improvement, the number of displaced civilian populations who are in urgent need of relief assistance is increasing with unconfirmed reports of more than 53,000 people displaced," it said in a statement.

Northern Sudanese claim forced to leave the south

Al-Ahdath et al Khartoum, 13/06/11 – Returnees from southern Sudan to the north claim they have been mistreated by the SPLM/A forcing them to leave southern Sudan. They also said that authorities in the south had stopped them from bringing along some of their belongings. The over 550 returnee households, about 3,000 individuals, are calling upon the Khartoum government to urgently intervene to save northerners remaining in southern Sudan before the south declares independence.

The Presidency of the Republic had dispatched a delegation led by Minerals Minister Abdulbagi Al-Jeilani to assess the condition of the returnees in the camps set up for them in different parts of White Nile State.

Addressing the returnees, the minister said that the federal government has earmarked funds to help settle the returnees and compensate for their loss of livelihoods.

Casualty figures could not be verified due to continued fighting - MP

Al-Ahdath Parliament, 13/06/11 – Addressing parliament yesterday, Mohamed Markazo who heads the parliamentary committee on security and defence said that authorities could not verify the casualty figures on the ground in Kadugli due to the ongoing fighting in the area. He said that a delegation from the committee would travel to Kadugli after listening to the Minister of Defence's brief later today on the situation in Abyei.

Markazo said authorities have arrested some people over suspicion of involvement in the violence and would bring these people to trial.

The lawmaker warned that the north would not allow the emergence of another Darfur in Southern Kordofan and expressed readiness to fight should the need arise.

NCP rules out appointing military administrator for Southern Kordofan

Al-Tayyar Khartoum, 13/06/11 – The NCP has ruled out speculation that the government intends to appoint a military administrator for Southern Kordofan noting that the state already has a democratically elected governor, says NCP Political Affairs Secretary Gutbi Al-Mahdi.

Al-Mahdi warned that legal measures may be instituted against some members of the SPLM should parliament recommend demands by some lawmakers that SPLM representatives be dismissed from the House.

“We call upon all politicians to clarify their positions – whether with the saboteurs and the rebels or with the state and the people,” he told the press.

16 IDPs killed or injured in an ambush near Diling, Southern Kordofan

Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 13/06/11 – SPLA elements attacked yesterday a civilian vehicle transporting about 50 IDPs from Al-Hurra near Diling in Southern Kordofan. Five people were killed and 11 others injured in the ambush.

NCP, SPLM talks on oil revenues suffers major setback

Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 13/6/11 – National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir says talks in Addis Ababa between the NCP and the SPLM on oil revenue suffered a major setback when the SPLM delegation to the talks came without suggestions on the use of the refinery and ports in the north for the oil exports post 9 July. He said that Norwegian experts attending the talks were angered as a result and that the NCP asserts it would not allow the exportation of oil from southern Sudan.

Al-Tahir noted that the SPLM fielded a delegation to the talks mostly made up of people with political positions who were only bent on harming the north even if such action was at the expense of their mutual benefits or even the benefit of the south itself, reports *Al-Raed*. The north may have to brace itself for tough economic times ahead, he warned.

Other Highlights

South Sudan “entitled to join Arab League”

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 12/06/11 - The soon-to-be independent state of South Sudan is perfectly entitled to join the League of Arab States (LAS), according to the organization’s envoy in Juba.

According to the head of LAS office in South Sudan capital Juba, Mohamed Munsif Amin, South Sudan has “every right” to join the LAS alongside the already-existing member state of Sudan. The Arab league envoy on Sunday explained that the Charter of the Arab League endorses the membership of south Sudan, citing an article stating that any Arab country that splits in two gives its splinters the right to become members of the Arab League.

Amin went on to say that top officials of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) welcomed the idea of South Sudan joining the LAS, adding that South Sudan president Salva Kiir welcomed LAS to maintain its presence in the region after independence.

The Arab League official said that Arab countries intend to implement development projects in south Sudan, in line with the outcome of LAS’s conference on South Sudan development which was held in Juba in February 2004.

Calm returns to Unity State after SAF bombardment

Gurtong.org Juba, 12/06/11 - Simon Maguek Majak, the Speaker of Unity State Legislative Assembly, says calm had returned to the state since Khartoum’s recent air raid into Yau, a village on the border.

Speaking to the media after conclusion of the Fifth Speakers’ Forum in Juba, Maguek said Khartoum targeted Yau because the SPLA’s Division 9, under command of James Gaduel Galuak, was stationed there. He did not immediately confirm any casualties, but he added that the air raid caused a lot of damage in the area.

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