



United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Media & Spokesperson Unit
Communications & Public Information Office

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

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Highlights

S. Sudan cabinet forms emergency committee on oil issue

Sudantribune.com — June 9, 2013 (JUBA) South Sudan cabinet on Sunday put in place an emergency committee, comprising officials from oil companies and the Petroleum ministry, to monitor the country's oil situation.

The decision was reached at a crisis meeting held in the capital, Juba, a day after neighbouring Sudan announced it had ordered the closure of the pipeline that transports crude oil from the landlocked nation to its Port Sudan.

South Sudan president, Salva Kiir chaired the meeting, which lasted nearly five hours.

The Sudanese leader, on Saturday, ordered oil minister Awad al-Jaz to block the pipeline carrying South Sudan's crude all the way to Red Sea coastal city of Port Sudan.

Bashir, who was speaking in Khartoum state, said this decision was in response to Juba's continued support to the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) rebels fighting Khartoum on multiple fronts.

The Sudanese president said the decision was taken after thorough study to examine its advantages and drawbacks.

At least 6 million barrels of South Sudan's crude oil, according to South Sudan information minister, had reached Port Sudan, hours before the Sudanese president ordered for the blockage of oil flow from the south.

"An additional 700,000 barrels [of oil] was flowing through the pipeline to from Paloch in South Sudan to Jebellen in Sudan", Barnaba Marial Benjamin told reporters shortly after the meeting.

He however said the southern government was yet to receive official notification from its Sudan in relation to the oil matter.

President Kiir and other senior officials, on Saturday, held an informal meeting to devise new mechanisms, after Khartoum announced it would halt oil flow from the south.

Sources told Sudan Tribune that the night meeting, which took place at the president's residence, was attended by senior government officials, who included the ministers of the presidency, oil, defense, information, cabinet affairs, security, finance, cabinet and foreign affairs.

Sudan and South Sudan, in September of last year, signed a series of cooperation agreements, which covered oil, citizenship rights, security issues, banking, and border trade, among others.

The two countries, in March, also signed an implementation matrix for these cooperation agreements.

The decision to close the oil pipeline comes two weeks after the Sudanese leader issued an ultimatum, demanding that its southern neighbor stops its alleged support to rebel groups.

Juba has repeatedly denied these claims and instead accuses Khartoum of using proxy wars to fight its leadership.

South Sudan took with it nearly 75% of oil it previously shared with neighboring Sudan, when it broke away from the latter in July 2011 as part of the peace accord signed six years earlier.

In January last year, however, the young nation shut down its oil production over a dispute with Khartoum over transit fees. Revenues from oil initially accounted for nearly 98% of South Sudan's annual budget.

South Sudan's cabinet holding an emergency meeting on oil shutdown

Sudantribune.com — June 9, 2013 (JUBA) — South Sudan's cabinet is in an emergency meeting today in response to the recent development on announcement by the Sudan's president Omer Hassan Al Bashir to close the oil pipeline and shut down the South's oil transport through its sea port.

President Al Bashir on Saturday announced he had ordered his petroleum minister, Awad Al Jaz, to close the oil pipeline and cut off South Sudan's oil. Bashir accused South Sudan of supporting rebels of the SPLM-N.

A reliable source close to the cabinet told Sudan Tribune that the emergency meeting called by President Salva Kiir Mayardit, has been going on for the last two hours discussing the action Juba will take in response to the development.

The two countries have signed a matrix and mechanisms for implementing the cooperation agreements including the proposed formation of a high level committee co-chaired by the two countries' vice presidents, Ali Osman Taha and Riek Machar.

Machar and Taha, who were responsible for the file in implementing the CPA during the six years interim period, were to implement the cooperation agreements and avert any tensions.

However the proposed committees have not been formed, leaving the two sides with no high level forums to resolve the outstanding issues.

Fears oil shutdown could cause environmental damage

Sudantribune.com — June 9, 2013 (JUBA) — South Sudan's information and broadcasting minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin has warned that an order by Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir to halt oil flows from the new nation could have serious environmental implications.

Marial made the comments as he addressed the media following an emergency cabinet meeting, on Sunday following remarks made by Bashir, in which he ordered his oil minister, Awad al-Jaz, to block the flow of oil from South Sudan to international markets via Sudanese pipelines.

Marial said the cabinet meeting, chaired by President Salva Kiir Mayardit, was called to discuss Juba's response to the development.

Bashir's announcement on Saturday came in response to allegations the South is continuing to provide support to the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) rebels fighting Khartoum on multiple fronts.

Speaking at a rally at the inauguration of an electricity plant in Shil'ab area in Khartoum state, Bashir vowed that: "The oil of South Sudan will not pass through Sudan ever again".

However, South Sudan claims the order would violate an implementation matrix agreed in March for a series of cooperation agreements signed between the two countries last September.

“One of our observations from our studies was that the president Bashir did not observe the term of references of the [cooperation] agreement. There is a timeframe during which the party signatory to the agreement must formally notify the other party in writing in a period not less than 60 days. This did not happen and we think it is not right for president Bashir to just order [an] immediate stoppage of the oil flow without considering [the potential] environmental damage”, he said.

The proposed shutdown would come as a heavy blow to the agreements brokered by the African Union (AU) mediation team.

The March deal allowed for the resumption of oil exports the following month, which landlocked South Sudan suspended more than a year ago amid a dispute over transit fees with Sudan.

The stoppage had severe economic ramifications for both countries, particularly South Sudan, which relies on oil for 98% of its budget revenue.

Marial has warned that the enforcement of Bashir’s orders without prior consultation would have dire consequences, including potential tearing to the main pipeline from Palouge oilfield in Upper Nile state.

“The cooperation agreement was not just a bilateral agreement between the two countries. It was the agreement which involved different stakeholders. It involved the African Union (AU), the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and oil companies who [hold] a stake. These people have to be involved if there are issues with the implementation”, Marial said at the press briefing.

“[A] decision to terminate the validity of this agreement cannot therefore be decided by one party because there [are] technical issues which can be done within a specific timeframe because this can cause the explosion of the pipeline. You have 700,000 barrels of oil already in the pipeline. This can cause environmental damage to the Nile which is used by other countries. This will not be the issue of Sudan and South Sudan alone if it happens. It requires technical attention to manage it properly so that it does not cause any damage”, he added.

SRF launched attacks on several Sudanese towns in April, briefly occupying the major town of Um Rawaba in North Kordofan state. They also took control of Abu-Kershola in South Kordofan for one month.

The rebels who control areas in Blue Nile state and South Kordofan have also vowed to carry out further attacks in order to topple the Khartoum regime.

South accuses Khartoum of “making up” rebel claims

Sudantribune.com - June 9,2013 (JUBA) - South Sudan on Sunday accused neighbouring Sudan of “making up” claims that the new nation supports rebel groups fighting to topple the northern regime.

In an interview with Sudan Tribune, the army (SPLA) chief of general staff, described as “unfounded” allegations made by Khartoum, and instead accused the latter of aiding militia groups destabilising the south.

“First all I want to make it very clear that the SPLA is an army of a democratic country. We operate within the legal parameters of the constitution which is clear on foreign relations. Our mandate as defined in the Transitional of the republic of South Sudan is very clear,” said Gen. James Hoth Mai.

He further stressed that the army's role was to uphold the constitution, defend the sovereignty of the country, protect its citizens and assist government in managing emergency situations.

"We have nothing to do with what is happening in Sudan. We do not provide any support whatsoever. What they are say is simply a cover up for their support to the rebel they wants to use to fight their proxy wars and to divert attention of the Sudanese people from holding them to account for their own failure", said the senior army official.

The Sudanese leader, Omer Hassan Al Bashir, on Saturday, ordered oil minister Awad al-Jaz to block the pipeline carrying South Sudan's crude all the way to Red Sea coastal city of Port Sudan.

Bashir, who was speaking in Khartoum state, said this decision was in response to Juba's continued support to the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) rebels fighting Khartoum on multiple fronts.

But Gen. Mai told Sudan Tribune that the wars in Sudan's conflict regions were "purely internal matters, which should not be blamed on any foreign government".

"What they are saying about the [alleged] support we provide to their rebels are simply makeup allegations. It is actually the government of Sudan, which provides all type of military supports to the militia groups they use as mercenaries to fight proxy war for them so as to destabilise this country," he said.

The senior official also claimed South Sudan had documentary evidences, which showed Sudan was aiding militia groups opposed to the southern establishment.

"They are not just claims," he stressed, adding that three militia groups, who recently surrendered their weapons to the SPLA, confessed that Khartoum supported their activities against the south.

SUDAN INVADES UPPER NILE

Meanwhile, the south has accused the north of invading Kuek; an area located about 10km North West of Renk county in its Upper Nile state.

Philip Aguer, the SPLA spokesperson said Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) crossed into the area on Saturday, forcing the army on the ground to retreat.

Aguer said the actions of the SAF represented a clear violation of the cooperation agreement signed between the two countries.

"The Sudan Armed Forces violated the security arrangement and crossed into Kuek. They have remained there. They are still in the area until this moment. They are in control", Aguer told reporters in the capital, Juba Sunday.

Aguer did not, however, elaborate on the number of casualties involved.

Upper Nile state's information minister, Phillip Jaden, also confirmed the attack on Kuek in a separate interview, saying many people have fled the area.

We Are Not Supporting Rebels: South Sudan

Gurtong.net – June 9, 2013 (JUBA) South Sudan government on Saturday said threats by Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir to close oil flow from South Sudan due to allegations that it is supporting rebels is unacceptable, calling it an irresponsible move.

South Sudanese government Spokesperson Dr Barnaba Marial told Gurtong in an interview that the closure of the South Sudan oil flow cannot only be decided by President Bashir alone, saying it is an issue that is being owned not only by Sudan and South Sudan but also the international community.

"The accusation that we are supporting the rebels is not true. They have got their own internal difficulties and they want to use South Sudan as scapegoat", he said.

"For President Bashir to say he is closing the oil flow is not a responsible decision. It is both a regional and international agreement that involves the African Union and the UN Security Council", Dr Marial said. "This is the decision that contravenes the spirit of the cooperation agreement," he added.

"We are completely surprised but as we know there are so many agreements dishonoured. We thought that Khartoum have learnt from the past that it is not the way to do things, that there are other ways of doing things and that South Sudan is now a sovereign nation", he said.

Dr Marial affirmed that South Sudan is committed to the full implementation of the Cooperation Agreement with its northern neighbour.

By the time of going to press, President Bashir ordered the closure of Sudan's oil pipeline transporting South Sudan oil with effect from Sunday over political differences with South Sudan.

Civil society groups petition Kiir to ensure timely elections

Sudantribune.com – June 10, 2013 (JUBA) – The alliance of the civil society organizations in South Sudan has urged president Salva Kiir to ensure timely conduct of the 2015 general elections as well as respect for human rights in the country.

The leadership of the South Sudan Civil Society Alliance (SSCSA), chaired by Deng Athuai, met with the president on Saturday in his office and explained to him their concerns in the exercise of democracy and respect for human rights in the new state.

Currently there are wide spread concerns that the 2015 general elections may be postponed or conducted in unfair and not free environment given the bumpy road the ruling SPLM is travelling on in its attempt to transform and prepare for the next elections.

The ruling party conducts its national convention every five years to confirm or elect a new leadership. The last convention was conducted in 2008 during which the incumbent chairman and president, Salva Kiir, was confirmed. Kiir took over from late John Garang upon his mysterious death in a helicopter crash in 2005.

The next convention was to be conducted in May this year, to confirm and elect a new leadership.

Basic documents, including the party constitution, manifesto, code of conduct and rules and regulations were supposed to be passed by the political bureau, national liberation council and in an extraordinary convention. This should be before the ordinary convention is convened to elect a new leadership. None of all these steps has succeeded as the party top brass are stuck on what constituted a viable transformation as the test on the chartered road indicates uneasiness.

Chairman Salva Kiir was alleged to be a failure by his most senior aides including the deputy chairman, Riek Machar, and secretary, Pagan Amum, asking him to step down, criticizing him for failing to navigate the party as the ship's captain. They want his replacement and leave the

transition to another person to correct the party's weaknesses of "losing the direction and vision" as well as prepare for 2015 presidential elections.

Kiir has resisted and declared his intention to go for the third term as the party chairman and flag bearer for the 2015 elections.

Currently there is no political party registered by the new Republic of South Sudan. All the more than 22 political parties, including the ruling SPLM, operate using the certificate previously provided to them by Khartoum before the split of the former Sudan in 2011.

Upon the completion of the transformation process and in the passing of its basic documents, the SPLM, and the rest, would now apply for registration as legal political parties in South Sudan.

Similarly, the commission for constitutional review is behind the schedule due to lack of finance.

Human rights abuses are another concern the civil society organization petitioned president Kiir for in order to address it. Deng Athuai himself was a victim of such abuse. He was kidnapped last year by unknown gunmen from near his house in the national capital, Juba, and was tortured and left half conscious, warned to stop criticizing the government.

A political commentator, Isaiah Abraham Chan Awuol, was also assassinated right in front of his house on 5 December 2012. The investigations were being carried out, but it is not clear how they have ended up.

After their Saturday meeting with president Kiir, the secretary general of the SSCSA, Boutros Biel, said they were delivering the message to the president on such concerns.

SOUTH SUDAN JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS HEAD TO GENEVA

A high level delegation composed of the minister of Justice, John Luk Jok, and the Chairperson of the South Sudan Human Rights Commission, Lawrence Korbandy, is heading to Geneva, to brief the United Nations on the current human rights situation in South Sudan.

Korbandy in a televised statement on the state-owned SSTV announced that they would leave on Sunday to brief the UN on the country's position on human rights.

The human rights chief who said he met with the country's Vice-president, Riek Machar, on Thursday, also appealed to the leadership to release some of the South Sudanese detainees that were not covered in the presidential amnesty which was meant for all those who took up arms against the government.

Currently, the former national minister and chairman of United Democratic Front (UDF) party, Peter Abdel Rahaman Sule and Maj. General Gabriel Tang-Ginye and his colleagues, are still in detention in Juba because they did not benefit from the general amnesty declared last month by the country's president, Salva Kiir.

Rights group challenges government to come clean over assassination of Isaiah Abraham

Sudantribune.com June 8, 2013 (JUBA) – A South Sudan's leading human rights advocacy group has challenged the government to publicly come clean over the assassination of the late opinion writer, Isaiah Diing Abraham Chan Awuol, warning that such a deliberate silence may lead the public to hold the government directly responsible for his murder.

Known by his pen-name as Isaiah Abraham, the famous writer was assassinated by unknown assailants in front of his house on 5th December 2012 in the national capital, Juba.

The opinion writer was known for his consistent constructive criticisms of the government particularly its top leadership.

Two weeks before his assassination, Isaiah Abraham, in widely circulated article called on the incumbent president Salva Kiir Mayardit to resign, criticizing him for mismanaging the affairs of the country.

A report on a preliminary investigation by the government on the cause of his death, which was also presented to the Council of Ministers in December last year and announced to the public by the minister of information, clearly suggested that 75% pointed to an act of assassination while 25% looked at other possible causes such as revenge killing.

Information minister, Barnaba Marial Benjamin, announced to the public a month later that some culprits were arrested in connection to Isaiah's demise, but fell short of revealing their identities, or the motives behind their action. It was not also established whether they acted alone or under an authority or group and the extent to which justice had been done.

Despite the immediate visible uproar by the government at the time, promising to thoroughly investigate the killing through the assistance of the US Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and to bring the culprit(s) to swift justice, the matter has comfortably become silent for the last five months.

However, South Sudan Human Rights Society for Advocacy (SSHURSA) said it continues to "remember the painful departure" of Isaiah Abraham and challenged the government to reveal the suspects and bring them to justice.

While commemorating the life of Isaiah Abraham in Juba on 5th June, exactly five months from the date on which he was assassinated, SSHURSA, in a strongly worded two-page press release, dated 5th June 2013, and seen by the Sudan Tribune, said the government was a prime suspect unless it publicly came clean by bringing to justice those responsible.

"Who assassinated the late Isaiah Abraham; where are his assassins; when are they going to be brought to justice; and why is South Sudan government silent over the case?" are the questions asked by the executive of the human rights advocacy body in the press release and wanted the government to answer.

"In the interest of justice and due process of the law, it would be proper to have the government answered them in a clear and frank language, as soon as possible despite its failure to do so over the last five months and kept the family in a state of uncertainty," it said.

The human rights organization however suspected that the government's silence was a clue that it covered up the culprits responsible for the assassination.

"Silence of government confirms SHURSA's argument that the state of South Sudan clearly knows who killed Isaiah Abraham and it bears the ultimate responsibility over the blood of the late, a man who was true to his conscience and killed for challenging evils meted on his fellow citizens", it further reads.

It called on the government to publicly reveal the identities of the so-called arrested suspects and give them a speedy trial or else the government was implicated in the murder and wanted to silently deny justice.

“Government, without delay, should reveal the findings of the investigations of those it alleged it has arrested on the case and start prosecuting the accused persons. Silence means either the information got from those alleged detained has implicated the government and its agents, or the government did not arrest anybody in the first place but made the pronouncement to buy time and appease the public for whom Isaiah Abraham gave up his life.”

South Sudan, which gained its independence in July 2011, is the newest state on earth and became the 193rd member of the United Nations. The country however has a bad record on human rights as reported by various international organisations on human rights including the forums established under the United Nations.

Society's perception of the media in South Sudan

Sudantribune.com – June 8, 2013(JUBA) In a world virtually becoming cognitive of individual rights, fundamental freedoms and rapidly growing pressure on governments and societies to open ways to modernity, insinuation to the emergence or the continuation of some repressive or colonial approaches to growing desires for progress and better life have always met pierce resistances including losing lives and properties.

South Sudan is no exception. It is a new nation founded on the dream with democratic ideals as it was one of the principles for which the wars of liberation struggle were repeatedly waged against successive Khartoum based administrations, from which it finally seceded on July 9th, 2011.

As it struggles to consolidate efforts aimed at building since coming into being as the new nation; one of the worrying challenges is the way the society perceives the media. The ways in which print, electronic media, visual representations and the broadcast media is being widely viewed, conceptualized, and imaginatively represented in this country has always been the source of concerns.

The media, as it is known worldwide, helps play fundamental role in strengthening the society as it is considered as the mirror through which people see their own images in form of reflections. Media shapes the lives of the society through gathering information about current, new affairs and educates the public about latest development, making it one way to trade and market ideas and products without prejudices. The media is hence charged with the responsibility to inform, educate, entertain, publicise, build network and promote connections between individual members of the same or different societies.

The media plays a vital role in the society in so many ways, including education about a lot of things as well as in forming opinions and making judgments regarding various issues. The media keeps people updated and informed about developments from which individuals and governments draw plans and actions.

Despite these key roles in the society, the media in South Sudan is negatively seen not as agent of change and tool which could be used to strengthen and enhancing building public confidence in the institutions by promoting good governance, rule of law, human rights, democratic values, transparency and accountability as well as building peace and reconciliation initiatives. But it is viewed as an entity that promotes hostility, putting media institutions in defensive position to always justify their roles in covering events and activities of the societies and government.

Because of the way individual government officials in key positions see the media negative to their performances; the society has often been kept in the dark and made to believe the rhetoric negative about the media and their dealings. Today, most members of various societies in South Sudan view the media as trouble making institutions, manufacturers of allegations, promoters of hatred and at

the best lump as betrayers, making it difficult for the media to freely interact with ordinary members of the society fraught with fear of misinterpretation of their interactions.

This societal perception is being exploited by individual government officials to engage in repressive activities, targeting members of the media seen as critical of the performance of some government officials in the way they attend to public interest. The repressive behaviours are manifested in the way they handle members of the media and voices critical of the way the country is being run.

What they do not know is that governments that try to restrict the media actually risk being destabilised by their acts. Enabling the media to become more open, more effective and more independent actually serves to improve the environment for social political stability. A responsible government works hard to improve the professionalism, accountability and freedom of the media. This is very important because media can also play a crucial role in the society.

Allowing the media to freely operate will actually help the government gain public confidence and improving relations with the members of the international community since in democratic societies, media is deemed as fundamental to political life. It provides facts to allow the members of the public to be better informed about the issues that matter to them.

It provides criticism and debate to ensure that that information is tested and examined from all points of view. It provides investigation and examination to ensure that power is checked and decision-makers are held accountable. This flow of information and ideas will then lead to debate and discussion, crucial in any society if it is to grow and flourish, both socially and economically.

There are examples in this country for which the media is known to have played an active role in promoting issues of concern. In the conduct of the referendum media reporting not only highlighted the issue, but educated the publication and the international community to keenly follow the process and engagements of the two parties until the exercise was successfully completed.

The media is also a driver of economic growth. Investors look to establish themselves in countries where there is a free media so they have unhindered access to reliable and credible sources of information, which in turn allow them to make informed decisions.

This will be absolutely vital if the governing leadership of this country is to establish itself as a regional or even global financial centre. Having strong media is very important because, through the media, the public get to hear directly from people who hold different views from the government. That can be difficult at times. But we believe that the better informed the public are about issues affecting our society the easier it is for the government to come to sensible decisions and to develop robust policies that command the confidence of our people.

The media also has a vital role to play in promoting transparency and accountability. Whether it is scrutiny of the performance of the government, unearthing corruption or reporting crimes, the media has to be able to cover these important issues in an open and balanced way.

Media responsibility

Of course, with this important role comes responsibility. The media must operate in an ethical and responsible way. Media organisations, journalists and individuals must be accountable for their output and it is therefore vital that the boundaries that they operate within are clear and unambiguous.

The code of ethics for journalists must be implemented fairly and consistently. This will be an important test for the media laws, which are being passed into law. I know that we in various media group have been working closely with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Service to support the development of an effective system to deal with public and press complaints, drawing on the experience of other countries.

The media also has a responsibility to provide high-quality output. As I said earlier, we are all impressed by the increased number of news outlets and internet users. However, the figure has little meaning if it does not also represent an increase in quality. We need to ensure that encouraging media development in South Sudan is measured by the quality of coverage and reporting as well as the quantity of outlets. We must encourage the development of the highest professional standards among journalists.

Media rights

The media must be able to operate in an environment free of fear. One in which they can investigate important national issues and express informed opinion without fear of prosecution. In order for the media to function effectively, journalists, opinion writers, media organisations and individuals must be allowed to discuss and debate issues freely and safely within international standards.

Sudan orders South Sudan oil pipeline closed

AP June 8, 2013 (KHARTOUM) — Sudan's official news agency says the country's president has ordered the closure of pipelines exporting South Sudanese oil.

The Sudan news agency SUNA quoted President Omar al-Bashir as telling a public rally in the capital Khartoum on Saturday that the move was in response to South Sudan's funding of rebels fighting his regime.

The Sudan news agency quoted al-Bashir as saying the "decision follows careful study of all its consequences and repercussions."

South Sudan, which became independent of Khartoum in 2011, has denied supporting rebels.

The two sides had just agreed in March to resume crude exports after a shutdown caused by disputes over oil transit fees. South Sudan must export its oil to international markets through pipelines owned by Sudan that run through its territory.

Sudan edges back from oil showdown with South

Reuters June 9, 2013 (KHARTOUM/JUBA) - Sudan edged back from a day-old order to block all oil exports from South Sudan on Sunday, saying it could reverse its decision if its neighbour stopped backing rebels, and bringing the countries back from the brink of confrontation.

The standoff, even if it is eventually resolved, is a stark reminder of the unpredictability of this small but, for China and other Asian buyers and producers, still significant corner of the crude industry.

Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir on Saturday accused South Sudan of arming insurgents in his territory and ordered the closure of pipelines carrying oil from the landlocked South through his country to Port Sudan on the Red Sea - currently the South's only export route.

A day later, Sudan's information minister told reporters Khartoum might not go through with the order and gave the South time to respond.

"We plan to close the oil pipelines within 60 days," Ahmed Belal Osman said. "But if South Sudan is serious ... and stops backing rebels, if we get international guarantees for that, then our door is open and we can reverse the stoppage."

An industry source said cross-border crude flows were continuing normally as the oil operators had not been told by either government to halt any cargoes or turn off wells.

A stoppage would cut off the crude and transit fees that make up both countries' main source of foreign income.

Bashir's order raised fears of new tensions between old foes who came close to a full-blown war when skirmishes broke out along their disputed border in April 2012.

It was also a setback for the African Union, effectively tearing up an agreement it had brokered in March to resolve a dispute between the countries over transit fees that had shut the pipelines for 16 months.

South Sudan has long dismissed accusations of arming rebels bent on toppling Bashir, including the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF), a coalition of insurgents operating in the western region of Darfur and along Sudan's southern border.

South Sudan seceded from Sudan in 2011 under a peace deal that ended decades of civil war fuelled by ethnicity and oil. Many of SRF's fighters sided with the south in that conflict.

CNPC OIL CLEARED

The Chinese state-owned oil firm CNPC last week said it had already sold 1.2 million barrels of South Sudanese oil following the settlement of the earlier dispute. The market for South Sudan's oil is dominated by Chinese, Indian and Malaysian firms.

"We won't confiscate this oil because it does not belong to South Sudan only but also to the (oil) companies, so it will be exported. We'll take our share," Osman said.

Sudan is entitled to export fees from the South, but is also locked in a row with oil firms over extra fees it wants from them, diplomats say.

South Sudan warned Khartoum it risked rupturing the main pipeline from the Palouge oilfield, filled with 700,000 barrels of crude, if it shut down facilities too quickly.

"This can cause the explosion of this pipeline and ... you have 700,000 barrels getting into the environment and straight into the Nile," South Sudanese Information Minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin told reporters.

He said around 6 million barrels of crude had arrived in Sudan's oil facilities since South Sudan restarted pumping with an initial output of less than 200,000 barrels per day. Its production was around 300,000 bpd before its last shutdown in January 2012.

Oil experts warn it would be very costly to close the pipelines again. South Sudan would also have to shut down its entire oil production because it has no storage facilities.

Sudan's top intelligence chief, Mohammed Atta, said Khartoum had repeatedly provided South Sudanese President Salva Kiir with proof of the South's support for rebels operating in Darfur and two border states.

"We asked him to stop this support," Atta said, in a rare public appearance. "They (the rebels) get supplied with weapons, ammunition, petrol, spare parts for cars, food ... They send their wounded to hospitals in the south."

He said South Sudan's army was still occupying six areas along the border in violation of an agreement to set up a buffer zone monitored by U.N. peacekeepers.

In South Sudan's capital Juba, military spokesman Philip Aguer said the Sudanese army had only on Saturday violated the buffer zone and briefly crossed into Kuer in Upper Nile state.

"We are going to protest," he said.

Juba Says Sudan Armed Forces Has Encroached Its Territory

Gurtong.net – 10 June 2013 (JUBA) SPLA army spokesperson Philip Aguer told the press on Sunday that the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) have recently encroached Quek village in Shilluk Kingdom, Upper Nile State.

He said the action is a breach of the Security Border Mechanism between the two neighbouring countries.

"We are formally going to lodge a protest to the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) over this matter. That it is unacceptable and the sooner they withdraw the better", he cautioned.

The encroachment is a violation according to the Cooperation Agreement which enshrined that all forces belonging to either country withdraws from the disputed border between the two countries ten kilometres away.

Aguer has accused Khartoum of not finalising the withdrawal of her forces, saying South Sudan completed withdrawal on 22 March following the immediate implementation of the agreement.

The accusation came barely a day after President Omar Bashir threatened to shut down oil flow from South Sudan to Sudan just after production started a few months back, a move that is likely to generate tension.

Khartoum presses on with escalation: All nine agreements with Juba on hold

Middleeast-online.com 9 June, 2013 (KHARTOUM) – Sudan puts on hold nine security and economic pacts with South Sudan but says Khartoum remains committed to good relations.

Sudan on Sunday put on hold nine security and economic pacts with South Sudan but said Khartoum remained committed to good relations if the South ends support for rebels.

"We will stop all nine agreements, not only oil," Information Minister Ahmed Bilal Osman said at a news conference.

"We are still committed to have good relations with South Sudan and if they are serious about implementing the nine agreements we can return to cooperate with them."

His comments followed an order on Saturday from President Omar al-Bashir to shut the pipeline carrying South Sudanese crude for export.

Bashir's command came after he warned the South over backing rebels, who analysts say humiliated the authorities with recent attacks.

South Sudan's government in Juba denies supporting insurgents in the north, and in turn has accused Khartoum of backing rebels on southern territory.

Osman, along with Sudan's intelligence chief Mohammed Atta, confirmed that the oil shutdown had begun.

Despite that, Osman said that some South Sudanese oil had already reached the Port Sudan export terminal and the South is free to sell it -- as long as it pays the fees owed to Khartoum.

After months of intermittent clashes, Sudan and South Sudan agreed in early March to detailed timetables for normalising relations by setting up a border buffer zone and implementing eight other key pacts.

These allowed for a free flow of people and goods across the undemarcated and disputed border, and a resumption of oil flows which South Sudan cut off early last year after accusing Khartoum of theft.

South Sudan separated two years ago with most of the formerly united Sudan's oil production but the export infrastructure remained under northern control.

Last September the two nations agreed to the nine pacts but they did not take effect as Khartoum pushed for guarantees that South Sudan would no longer back the rebels.

In March, Juba and Khartoum finally agreed on detailed timetables to set all the deals in motion. A month later Bashir visited Juba, symbolising the then-easing of tensions.

But Atta told reporters that as recently as last Friday oil tankers destined for the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) insurgents in South Kordofan state had left the South.

He also alleged that rebels have "training camps" in the South, which he said also provides weapons, ammunition, medical care for wounded, and provides travel documents for rebel leaders.

South Sudan, in comments made ahead of the Khartoum news conference, vowed to cooperate with the north despite its moves to close the pipeline.

"We will continue to implement the terms of the co-operation agreement," South Sudanese Information Minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin told reporters.

However, South Sudan also accused Khartoum of sending troops southwards into disputed border zones, and Juba's President Salva Kiir on Sunday held meetings of the country's top security task force.

Juba's army said Sudanese troops had pushed southwards across the demilitarised buffer zone into South Sudan's Upper Nile state, claims impossible to verify independently.

"It is unacceptable, and the sooner they withdraw the better," South Sudan army spokesman Philip Aguer told reporters, adding that Juba would complain to United Nations peacekeepers.

In Khartoum, Osman accused the South's army of failing to pull out of six areas along the border, which is monitored by several dozen observers from both countries and the United Nations.

South Sudan Urges Sudan To Keep Security Pact

Gurtong.net 10 June, 2013 (KAMPALA) – A South Sudanese military official says Sudan's threat to shut down South Sudan's oil exports over its alleged support for rebels in Sudan will not spark a return to armed hostility as long as Sudan respects a security agreement reached earlier this year.

South Sudanese army spokesman Col. Philip Aguer said Monday that any violations of an African Union-mediated pact signed in March "may amount to a declaration of war."

Aguer said Sudan was yet to implement the president's order to close pipelines carrying South Sudan's oil exports.

Sudan's spy chief told reporters Sunday that the country could suspend its security and economic pacts with South Sudan, which denies supporting rebels in Sudan.

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011. Since then relations between the countries have been tense.

175 wounded rebels treated in South Sudanese hospitals, NISS say

Sudantribune.com June 9, 2013 (KHARTOUM) - Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) on Saturday said South Sudan has received recently over 175 wounded Sudanese rebel fighters and continue to provide them with logistical support.

Following the presidential decision to stop the use of the Sudanese pipeline to export the South Sudanese crude to the international market, SMC a semi-official Sudanese media close to the intelligence service released this story, to back Bashir's decision.

Juba during the past few days intensified supply operations to the rebel Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) and provided them with vehicles, fuel, ammunition, spare parts and various amounts of weapons, the SMC reported citing a high ranking security source.

This operations are conducted "under the direct supervision of SPLA intelligence officers", he further stressed.

The report went further to say that over 175 wounded rebel fighters were transported through South Kordofan to hospitals in Bentiu, Wau, and Juba, stressing that Jau and Bentiu served as transit point for the other towns in inside the South Sudan.

During the past months of April and May after the signing of matrix agreement last March, the SMC refrained from releasing reports about Juba's support to the SRF's groups. Recently, the NISS directly provided some newspapers in Khartoum with such reports.

Juba denies usually such reports of support to rebel groups and accuses Khartoum of failing to resolve its own problems. When the Sudanese government demanded to be allowed to pursue rebels insides the South Sudanese territory last May, the South Sudanese government said a joint force tasked with the monitoring of the border with the support of UNISFA peacekeepers is enough.

The cooperation agreements of 27 September 2012 aimed to respond to two urgent needs of the two countries: export South Sudanese oil and stop Sudanese rebels from using South Sudanese territory to launch attacks on the Sudanese army in Darfur, South Kordofan Blue Nile states.

However, observers say that it is obvious that such option is not functional unless the two parties resolve also their dispute over Abyei, and Khartoum has also to reach a peaceful settlement for its conflict with the SPLM-N which remains close to the ruling party in South Sudan.

However, Sudanese officials accuse Juba of serving as basis to transport logistical support and arms provided by Israel to the rebels.

Information minister Ahmed Bilal Osman who serves as government spokesperson on Friday said that Israel plans to break-up Sudan's unity and destabilise its security and stability

The Wild West in South Sudan

Bostonglobe.com 9 June, 2013 JUBA — Cowboy capitalists rush into world's newest nation, as locals struggle — and politicians take a cut

It's 9 a.m. The sun is already stalking Juba. The breeze off the Nile is as moist and warm as breath. On the patio of the four-star Dembesh Hotel, a Hungarian hunches over a laptop. An Indian in a spotless white shirt glides over, a cigarette elegantly pinched between two fingers.

"What brings you to Juba?" he asks.. "Exactly," says the Indian. His name is Mustafa Rawji. His family has lived in the Democratic Republic of Congo for generations. They run a bank — called Rawbank — that has 1,300 employees and \$500 million in deposits. Mustafa landed in Juba two days ago. He whips out a business card. Rawbank is looking to expand.

Every day, more foreigners arrive here in South Sudan, the world's newest country, seeking their fortune. Since independence two years ago, Juba's population has more than doubled. Some newcomers become millionaires. Others die trying. This is cowboy capitalism in its rawest state, unfettered by well-established rules, taxes, or insurance policies. The high-risk, high-reward atmosphere has brought entrepreneurs from all over the world who don't mind that Juba has no central sewage system, no water filtration plant, no electrical grid. South Sudan is a blank slate. It needs everything. That's precisely why they have come.

There is money to be made in a country that is being built from scratch, especially one with oil, like South Sudan. Some economists predict that this economy could grow 70 percent in one year. If it does, foreigners will pocket a hefty chunk of the profits. Among the largest investors here is the state-owned China National Petroleum Company. Among the largest employers is a South African brewery that bottles "Nile Special" lager. The biggest cellphone company is Vivacell, owned by a Lebanese. Even "the Rhythm of South Sudan," a popular radio station, is owned by a Kenyan. From the poorest person in the streets selling homemade doughnuts from a cart to the wealthiest hotel mogul, nearly everyone hails from somewhere else.

The streets of Juba are teeming with the very thing that Americans believe makes the United States great: the immigrant entrepreneurial spirit, in overdrive. But it comes at a cost. The unregulated underbelly of capitalism flourishes here, too: money laundering, extortion, counterfeiting. And there is resentment that many of the locals, who fought for decades to establish their own country, can't compete. The mayor of Juba, Mohammed El Haj Baballa,

complains that foreigners provide almost all the goods and services here, but don't hire locals. "Even waitresses and janitors are brought from outside," he says. He hints that a crackdown on immigrants — most of whom are here illegally — is in the works.

But replacing these industrious foreigners with locals is no simple matter. South Sudan, once home to Africa's longest civil war, is full of former rebel fighters. Most never got training for anything else, says Mou Mou Athian Kuol, former undersecretary of education. And this is a pastoralist culture, where many believe that tending cows is the only honorable profession. Waiting tables and pushing wheelbarrows is seen as a disgrace. Even traditional farming — hitching an ox to a plow — is seen as offensive to the dignity of the beast.

"People here were very proud of their dignity," Kuol said. "But it's changing."

Another obstacle for the South Sudanese is getting credit to start up a business. There were few banks in South Sudan during the war. Few citizens have ever used one. Now banks are popping up everywhere in Juba. But they won't lend to a person with no history of borrowing. It's a classic chicken-and-egg problem.

Mustafa, of Rawbank, tells me that he faced the same problem in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Rawbank stopped requiring credit checks in order to attract new customers. Instead, it devised other ways to make sure borrowers pay the money back. For instance, if it lends to a grocery store, bank officials might visit the store four times a day to collect money straight from the cash register.

That's the kind of creative solution that could attract thousands of new banking customers in Juba. An idea like that could make someone like Mustafa very, very rich. But it could also make him a target. Idle, armed men would likely watch him collect cash every day, all over the city. Juba can be a dangerous, unpredictable place. For that reason, few Americans have gotten in on the action here. For every story you hear of an immigrant entrepreneur who struck it rich, there is a tale of woe: Barges sunk to the bottom of the Nile, with expensive machinery on it. "Sleeping" South Sudanese business partners who show up out of nowhere to demand a huge cut of the profits. Traveling salesmen who don't make it home alive.

In recent years, a spate of Ugandans and Eritreans have been shot dead by motorcycle bandits. One Ugandan trader was castrated for sleeping with a local girl. Even oil company executives fall victim to the erratic business environment. Last year, South Sudanese government officials accused foreign oil companies of colluding with their enemies in the north to steal their crude. The president of a top Chinese oil consortium was promptly expelled from the country.

I didn't come to Juba to write about cowboy capitalism. I came to write about Mou Riiny, a Sudanese "lost boy" who was brought to Winchester to live with a foster family. He went on to study engineering at the University of San Diego. Today, he is an example of the good that entrepreneurs can do in Africa. He returned to his village in South Sudan to install solar electricity in schools with the support of a Massachusetts-based nonprofit, Village Help for South Sudan. Mou plans to form his own company, SunGate Solar, that will rent batteries charged by the sun to villagers to run their cellphones and radios. If enough villagers are willing to pay the small monthly fee to cover the cost of the batteries, life in these remote communities would change forever. Mou could take his model global. His company could become a household name.

I went to meet Mou to talk to him about this dream. That's why I came all the way to Juba. But South Sudan has a way of defying the best-laid plans. My flight to the town where Mou lives was abruptly canceled. Planes were grounded all week. At the airline office, the woman behind

the counter gave no explanation. Kush Air, called “The Spirit of the South,” was having technical difficulties.

So I was stuck in Juba. I spent my time interviewing businessmen who have come here with a little capital and a lot of guts.

Many talked about the tiny cadre of South Sudanese who are getting rich: higher-ups in the Sudan People’s Liberation Army, the former rebel group that is now running the country. There were stories of lavish houses, with fully stocked bars, and drivers who keep Land Rovers running all day so they are air-conditioned whenever the boss wants to go for a ride.

A former child soldier who is now an analyst with a Western organization said SPLA officials in Juba talk openly about “a payback period” during which top generals felt justified to take state resources for their personal gain. “They say, ‘I fought for my country for 21 years. Now I need houses, cars, education for my children,’ ” the analyst told me.

The theft is such an open secret that South Sudan’s president, Salva Kiir, wrote to 75 ministers last year, asking them to return \$4 billion. The allegations of corruption are particularly bitter in Unity State, where oil fields provide a huge chunk of South Sudan’s government revenue. Residents complain that the SPLA pledged to give Unity State 5 percent of the oil revenue after independence, but they have yet to make good on that promise.

The failure to share the oil resources has renewed tensions in this battled-scarred land. The civil war against the north was fought, in part, because Khartoum tried to take the oil of the south without compensating the locals for it. Now officials in Juba seem to be doing the same thing. “We rebelled against the government in Khartoum because of fairness, equality, and justice,” said the analyst, who comes from Unity State. “But now we are surprised to see our executives behaving the same way the north was behaving. Our intelligence services behaving the same way. Our army behaving the same way.”

That’s disheartening, given all that the United States has invested in helping South Sudan survive the war and get its independence. There was a time when the only regular food deliveries here came from the UN planes.

Now foreign aid organizations hold conferences about harnessing the private sector. The message is clear: South Sudan, which turns 2 on July 9, needs to stand on its own. But the economic dreams of the new nation remain stillborn for the vast majority of its citizens.

Some argue that the government should cut citizens a check from the oil wealth, like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Indeed, the \$4 billion missing from state coffers is enough to give every man, woman, and child in South Sudan about \$360 each. That’s three months’ salary for an average person in one of the world’s poorest countries. But the oil could run out in a decade. South Sudan needs to find another way to make money.

On my last day in Juba, I attended a debate about the future of Sudan’s oil, sponsored by USAID and the International Republican Institute. Opposition leader Onyoti Adigo said the oil money should have been used to build roads and infrastructure for the future. Instead, he says, it is spent on sending the children of top officials to expensive private schools abroad. “Everyone knows this,” he said.

SPLA secretary Bol Makueng stared morosely at the ceiling. “Mistakes might have occurred,” he admitted.

But then he explained that this is a new day, in a new country. People can't rely on aid anymore. And they shouldn't just look to the government. They must catch the entrepreneurial spirit, just like the foreigners.

"The Ethiopians came without money," he said. "They get up at 4 a.m. They are doing business . . . Most of them have more money than any of us in this room today."

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