

16 February 2011

www.unmissions.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Post-Referendum Watch

- No intention to extend UNMIS' mandate – Presidential Advisor (*Sudan Radio*)
- South Sudan rules out oil share, mulls grant to north (*Agencies/ local dailies*)
- NCP, Umma to begin direct talks next week (*Al-Ahram Al-Youm*)
- Government seeks dialogue with the “Face Book Youths” (*Al-Ahram Al-Youm*)
- Opposition alliance, SPLM discuss alliance with the SPLM (*Al-Rai Al-Aam et al*)

Other Headlines

- Renegade militia kills over 200 in southern Sudan-officials (*Reuters*)
- Mob kills three in Sudan's flashpoint Abyei town (*Reuters*)
- France deplores ouster of aid agency from Darfur (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Sudan's options remain open on Halayeb and the Nile Waters – NCP (*Al-Ahram Al-Youm*)
- Washington committed to meeting its pledges on Sudan – Foreign Ministry (*Al-Sudani*)
- Khartoum University students arrested in Sudan security services raid (*Sudantribune.com*)
- China to build \$1.2bln airport in Sudan (*Sudan Vision*)
- Sudanese company suspends oil supply to Ethiopia (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Work on Gulu-Juba road begins (*AllAfrica.com*)

Links

- Returnees in Kajo Keji suffer bad living conditions, official says (*Radio Miraya*) - http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5138:returnees-to-central-equatoria-suffer-from-bad-living-conditions-official-says&catid=85:85&Itemid=278

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

Post-Referendum Monitor

No intention to extend UNMIS' mandate – Presidential Advisor

Sudan Radio Khartoum, 16/02/11 – Sudan says it has no intention to extend UNMIS' mandate beyond the 9th July 2011 date prescribed by the CPA. Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail said that such an extension may only be considered through consent by the parties to the CPA. "The SPLM may consider reaching an agreement on the issue with the United Nations Security Council should it wish that UNMIS continue its activities in southern Sudan," he said.

Osman also ruled out an extension of the Interim Period beyond that date. "9th July 2011 should be a launch-pad for the creation of a new Sudan," he said. The presidential advisor noted that the six years of the Interim Period saw a lot of instability in the government institutions that has impacted negatively especially on the government's foreign policy. He further pointed out that any extension of the Interim Period would only open up channels for foreign intervention in Sudan.

"The outstanding issues could even be resolved after the 9th July 2011 date," he noted.

South Sudan rules out oil share, mulls grant to north

Agencies/ local dailies Juba, 16/02/11 - South Sudan will not share oil revenues with the north after its independence but would pay pipeline fees and could offer grants to help Khartoum make up for lost earnings, a southern official said on Tuesday.

SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum was setting out the region's stance in negotiations over how south and north will divide debts and assets and other burning issues like the position of their shared border after the split, due to become official in July. It was not immediately possible on Tuesday, a public holiday in the north, to contact northern government officials to see whether the arrangement would be acceptable in Khartoum.

"There's going to be an agreement on the south continuing exporting its oil through the pipeline in northern Sudan and to Port Sudan, and the south will be paying pipeline fees for transportation," Amum, told reporters in Juba.

"We may be paying a transit fee because now northern Sudan is going to be a different independent state from the south," he added, without mentioning figures.

Analysts say alternative plans for a pipeline from South Sudan to Kenya could take years to build and be very expensive but *Al-Intibaha* quotes the SPLM Secretary-General as saying that the south does have long-term plans to funnel its oil exports through Kenya and Djibouti.

Amum said the north would need time to diversify its economy to cover the disappearance of revenues originating in the south.

"It is suspected that they will come and ask southern Sudan to grant them some money to be able to meet their needs before they do that (adjust their economy). We are ready to discuss that because we are interested in their stability," he said.

Amum confirmed earlier reports that the south would issue its own currency after the split, and said it would retain the name of the pound. He said it remained unclear how the north would redeem the old Sudanese pounds circulating in the south, given the country's current shortage of hard currency.

"They may have difficulty ... as they are losing dollars also, so it may be a debt ... (We may say) OK, our children will continue to go to your universities and you pay from that, for example."

Amum said the SPLM leadership had decided it wanted the territory to retain its name "South Sudan" after independence, but the south's parliament still needed to rule on the issue.

The SPLM Secretary-General further revealed that the technical committee, tasked with overseeing the north-south border demarcation process is expected to table its actions on Wednesday.

The demarcation process, Amum clarified, will also involve the mapping of the contested areas. *Al-Rai Al-Aam* daily quotes him as saying that a delegation from the National Government and the GoSS would travel to Abyei in a "practical step" to help defuse the tension in the troubled area.

On security-related issues, Amum noted that the status of some 32,000 northern Sudanese combatants enlisted in the ranks of the SPLA have to be resolved once southern Sudan is officially declared a new state.

NCP, Umma to begin direct talks next week

Al-Ahram Al-Youm Khartoum, 16/02/11 – The National Umma Party and the NCP are set to start direct talks next week on a series of issues within the framework of what the opposition party dubbed "The National Agenda". Umma Secretary-General Sidig Ismail says the NCP has showed positive views on the National Agenda. He said that resolutions of the said meeting would be tabled before the leaders of both parties.

Government seeks dialogue with the "Face Book Youths"

Al-Ahram Al-Youm Khartoum, 16/02/11 – The Deputy Head of the NCP's Youth League, Zuheir Hamid, said yesterday that NCP youths have started dialogue with the so-called "Face Book Youths". He said that party members met a group of these youths in Khartoum and discussed a number of issues of concern to youths such as joblessness, opportunities for youth employment and for their participation in government. NCP youths have established a Face Book address to receive youths-related grievances and concerns from within or outside the country.

But the Youths for Change and another youth's group on Face Book have denied having received invitations for talks with NCP youths.

Opposition alliance, SPLM discuss alliance with the SPLM

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 16/02/11 – The opposition alliance, the National Consensus Forces, has underlined the need for dual citizenship post-separation and says it would push for these measures and may even use it as a "pressure card" in talks with the NCP.

Informed sources meanwhile report that representatives of the opposition alliance held talks in Juba recently with GoSS President Salva Kiir and some senior SPLM representatives including Yassir Arman and Abdul-Aziz Al-Hilu. The talks are said to have focused on the post-referendum situation and the opposition voiced their solidarity with the SPLM in the north and south of the country on the grounds that the southern party is a party that has the potential to reunite the country in future on a new basis.

The sources reveal also that Kiir assured the representatives of the opposition forces that they are strategic allies whose support is required in the south.

Meanwhile, *Al-Akhbar* reports that leaders of the opposition alliance are set to hold a meeting “soon” to discuss possibilities for talks with the government. Alliance spokesperson Farouq Abu-Eissa said that the agenda for the talks are still before the NCP for study.

Abu-Eissa further pointed out that a meeting of party figures that takes place later today would look into setting a date for the opposition meeting.

Other Highlights

Renegade militia kills over 200 in southern Sudan-officials

Reuters Juba, 15/02/11 – The SPLA says forces loyal to George Athor, a former army officer who launched a revolt after losing in last year's elections, carried out attacks in Jonglei last week killing at least 211 people.

Army and government officials told *Reuters* on Tuesday the scale of the carnage emerged after searches found bodies of women, children and other civilians still lying in remote areas.

"It was a massacre of our people and it is really very painful," he told reporters. "We are a society that is traumatised ... Guns are in a lot of hands.

"Today armed groups are being financed, being armed, being sent into southern Sudan from the north. You know that George Athor who just caused the massacre in Fangak, his guns are coming from Khartoum," said SPLM Sudantribune.com Pagan Amum.

Rabie Abdelati, a senior member of the National Congress Party (NCP), denied the accusation.

"Athor's is a southern group and there is no connection between the NCP and Athor," he told *Reuters*. Athor did not return calls but earlier said the southern army attacked him.

GoSS Minister for Humanitarian Affairs James Kok, who had just returned from Jonglei, told *Reuters* 211 people died in the fighting or later in hospital. His figures did not include casualties among the militias.

The southern army said that more than 30 of Athor's men died, which would push the death count above 240.

"Some (of the dead) were trying to flee the fighting and drowned in the river. Some were returnees from the north who were living under trees and were caught unawares," said SPLA Spokesperson Philip Aguer.

Mob kills three in Sudan's flashpoint Abyei town

Reuters Khartoum, 14/02/11 - An angry mob killed three traders in Sudan's flashpoint town of Abyei, officials said, underlining growing tensions in the area claimed by both the country's north and the south, which is about to secede.

The crowd gathered after a soldier tried to walk into Abyei's main market with a gun on Saturday, and fired into the air after police turned him away, the region's chief administrator Deng Arop Kuol told *Reuters*.

Young people from the area's Dinka Ngok tribe, linked to the south, turned on northern traders, he added. Two traders were beaten and one shot, Kuol said.

"There was a commotion. When people heard gunfire everybody felt that something dangerous

was happening. An angry mob attacked the traders. It is something that came out of the general anger of the situation," he added.

Soldiers from both sides have clashed in Abyei since the peace deal. Many analysts say it is one of the most likely places for conflict to reignite.

More than 300 civilians, many of them traders from the Misseriya, or north Sudan's Darfur region, took shelter in a United Nations compound in Abyei town over the weekend, said U.N. spokesman Kouider Zerrouk.

Kuol said most had left the compound by Monday and set up their stalls again in the market.

France deplores ouster of aid agency from Darfur

A spokesperson for the French Foreign Ministry says his country was informed of the ouster of the French NGO Médecins du Monde (MDM) the day before yesterday. He said the ouster would have negative effects on the local population, according to *Al-Ayyam*, quoting "agencies". The spokesperson expressed his country's concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Darfur region.

The *Sudantribune.com* meanwhile reported on 14/02/11 that authorities in South Darfur expelled Monday a French aid group accusing them of supporting rebels from the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) led by Abel Wahid Al-Nur.

Médecins du Monde (MDM), which has worked in Jebel Marra since 2008, announced in a press statement last week the evacuation of its staff members from Kidingir and Leiba on 11 February, citing heavy fighting in the areas between the Sudanese army and SLM rebels.

The group that provides maternal and child primary health care to the local population expressed fears that the increasing violence in the mountainous region since last December would force more civilians to flee the region. It also said it was concerned by the difficulty they faced in attempting to access civilians affected by the attacks.

Speaking in a press conference held at the premises of South Darfur government in Nyala, Governor Abdel Hamid Moussa Kasha accused the MDM of sharing intelligence with the rebels saying they had given indications of the movements of the Sudanese army to the SLM-AW rebels.

Kasha further said MDM releases false written and electronic reports about rape in the region, and provides the rebels with satellite telephones and medication. He accused also the French group of transporting four tons of expired medicines to Eastern Jebel Marra through the joint African Union - United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) in coordination with UNICEF.

Sudan's options remain open on Halayeb and the Nile Waters – NCP

Al-Ahram Al-Youm Khartoum, 16/02/11 – The NCP says it maintains its position on the contested Halayeb Triangle area but says it is willing to revisit the issue with whatever government comes to power in Egypt. NCP figure Qutbi Al-Mahdi said that Sudan's options on Halayeb and the Nile waters remain open to new understandings with the next Egyptian regime on condition that there should be no external pressures on Sudan on these issues.

Qutbi described the Egyptian regime under the ousted President Hosni Mubarak as a threat to Sudan's national security because it "adopted the US-Israeli hostile policy against Sudan". He expressed hope that the Islamists would form a new government in Egypt that would be capable of preserving the security of both countries.

Washington committed to meeting its pledges on Sudan – Foreign Ministry

Al-Sudani Khartoum, 16/02/11 – The US Embassy in Khartoum has reiterated the US' commitment to meet the pledges it made to the Sudan government and to implement all the understanding reached between the two sides. In a letter to the Sudan Foreign Ministry yesterday, the US Embassy denied recent reports that the US Consul in Juba held talks in Juba with SPLM figures and pro-SPLM northern Sudanese leaders on a strategy to change the structures of the Sudanese state.

A Spokesperson from Sudan's Foreign Ministry said that the US Embassy, in its letter to the Ministry, noted that the US remain committed to supporting peace and stability between the north and south of the Sudan and to helping seek solutions to the outstanding issues between them.

Khartoum University students arrested in Sudan security services raid

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 15/02/11 - Sudanese security authorities used force to disperse and arrest students protesting at Khartoum University against the dismissal of their colleagues for failure to pay tuition fees.

Security agents supported by students affiliated with the NCP on Tuesday afternoon raided the School of Veterinary Sciences in Khartoum University and forcibly dispersed nearly 300 students participating in a sit-in to protest the university administration's decision to prevent five students from sitting for exams because they could not pay tuition fees.

Five students were arrested after security authorities drove into the campus with their vehicles and started beating protestors.

Two of the arrested students are affiliated to the northern sector of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), which released a statement on Tuesday condemning their arrest and threatening retaliation.

China to build \$1.2bln airport in Sudan

Sudan Vision Beijing, 16/02/11 – A Chinese company has won a 900 million Euro contract to build a new international airport in Khartoum, underscoring the close links between China and sanctions-hit Sudan. A subsidiary of the China Communications Company will build a runway long enough to handle the giant Airbus A380, a passenger terminal, hanger, control tower and other facilities, China state-owned Companies' Administrator said in a statement on its website.

Sudanese company suspends oil supply to Ethiopia

Sudantribune.com Addis Ababa, 14/02/11 - Sudan Petroleum Company has temporarily suspended the agreement signed on fuel supplies to Ethiopia, after the Sudanese oil firm closed its refinery earlier this month, *Sudantribune.com* has learnt.

The agreement between Ethiopia and Sudan Petroleum Company (SPC) was to import 80 percent of its total oil demand from neighboring Sudan. The three-month suspension is likely to cause a hike in oil prices due to Ethiopia's lack of oil reserves.

According to sources, the Horn of Africa country spends an average annual 20 billion birr (USD 1.2 billion) to import fuel. Ethiopia is expected to import 2,176,188 tonnes of oil this year.

The country says that it saves millions of dollars, mainly from transportation, costs by using Sudan as a fuel source instead of shipping fuel from the Arab Gulf.

Work on Gulu-Juba road begins

AllAfrica.com Kampala, 16/02/11 - Tarmacking of the 192km road from Gulu to Juba through Nimule has commenced. The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the GoSS.

The Louis Berger Group Inc, through its three sub-contractors, Eyat Roads and Bridges, Gulsan Insaat and ANT Insaat, under the Sudan Infrastructure Services Project (SISP), are implementing the project on behalf of the GoSS' Ministry of Transport and Roads.

The construction will be conducted in two phases, with the initial phase beginning with the construction of seven bridges at multiple locations on the route. On completion, the Juba-Nimule road will be the first such facility to be constructed in southern Sudan since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005.

More than 20 buses use this road every day between Kampala and Juba.

Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) Executive Director, Eng. Peter Ssebanakitta, said the construction of the Gulu-Atiak-Nimule section in Uganda was on schedule to commence in August 2011.

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