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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Referendum Watch

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Highlights

SPLM accuses NCP of deploying 1000 soldiers in Abyei

Ajras Al-Hurriya 21/3/11 – The SPLM has accused the NCP, SAF and Misseriya militias of sending over 1000 soldiers to Abyei area disguised as federal police and members of brigade 31, considering their entry into the area as declaration of war and called for their immediate withdrawal.

The SPLM, in statement it issued, said it had received credible information that these soldiers receive their orders from an influential NCP governor charged with Abyei dossier. The statement added that the said force has advanced 19 km north of Abyei and yesterday proceeded to the area of “Tok Tok” (Al-Nagar) 14 km north of Abyei aboard more than 30 vehicles mounted with guns besides five other vehicles carrying fuel and supplies. The SPLM said the force is trying since two days to enter the town forcibly.

Meanwhile, *Al-Sudani* 21/3/11 reports Misseriya leader Al-Sadiq Babo Nimir has described the situation in Abyei as unbearable due to lack of water for the nomads, saying the Misseriya must have access to Bahr el Arab for water for their cattle.

Sudan Tribune website 20/3/11 reported that the SPLM announced on Sunday its rejection of the deployment of additional northern police in the oil producing region of Abyei, describing the move as “an open invasion” of the area at the center of tension between the North and South.

The statement comes in response to reports that the federal ministry of interior dispatched 1,500 policemen to beef up security in the area along the oil areas at the extreme north of Abyei.

The additional forces are in Lengera village north of Abyei named in Arabic as Goli. Others are in Kej also named Difra in Arabic and at Bongo.

The new troops that are allegedly well-equipped entered the area on Thursday which happens to be the day the presidency meeting took place in Khartoum to discuss the way forward on Abyei and post-referendum arrangements.

Deng Arop Kuol, the Abyei chief Administrator, said this week that the deployment of the additional troops was not agreed by the two parties and that their presence is illegal and tantamount to an "open invasion" of the area.

He accused the National Congress Party (NCP) of intending to forcefully take control of areas where oil is drilled by sending troops to the region.

"The recent move by the ministry of interior in Khartoum to deploy 1,500 policemen, in the area without the knowledge and approval of the SPLM and the Abyei administration shows clear intention of the NCP to take control of the areas where oil is drilled".

"This is unacceptable and the citizens of the Abyei will not tolerate it," said chief administrator,

before adding that the interest of the NCP in the area "is nothing other than pursuit for oil and not the demands of the Misseriya to access water and pastures".

"The National Congress Party is not genuine in its claim to include Misseriya in the referendum vote. They are only using Misseriya as cover up for oil. This is what they are after. They do not care about demands and future of the Misseriya as far as I know. Their interest is only oil but they do not want to say it directly so that SPLM can at least discuss with them when their position is clear", said Kuol.

He further said giving oil to the NCP does not solve demand of the Misseriya to access water and pasture in the south.

"Does giving oil to the national congress party which appears to be the issue solve the whole thing? Does it solve demand of Misseriya to access water and pasture in the south, asked Kuol explaining Misseriya needs water and pasture in the south Abyei".

However, spokesman of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), Colonel Khalid Sa'ad Al-Sawarmi denied that the military sent any troops to Abyei neither in the past or present. This was also echoed by the police spokesperson General Imam Ahmed Tuhami who said that SPLM accusations are "totally unfounded".

A Misseriya leading figure by the name of Mohammad Omar Ansari described the situation as catastrophic accusing the Ngok Dinka of denying his tribe's access to sources of water by force and mobilizing fighters in their path.

Ansari claimed that the SPLA had already killed 11 children from the Misseriya and abducted 7 as well as burning 11 vehicles within the last few days. He stressed that the Arab tribe will defend its wealth and threatened to burn the entire town if the SPLA started the war.

The SPLM spokesperson in Abyei on the other hand accused the United Nations Mission of pursuing the NCP's by seeking other paths to resolve the issue outside the protocols agreed upon between the North and South. He urged former South African president Thabo Mbeki who leads an African Union panel to show his position regarding the NCP plot.

Hunger affecting over 200 families in Jonglei's Pigi County

Sudan Tribune website 20/3/11 - A team of top Jonglei government officials who visited Canal and Khorfulus of Pigi County in northern Jonglei on March 20, have reported that severe hunger and food shortages is affecting over 200 displaced families caused by the rebellion of General Athor Deng.

The team consisted of the governor of Jonglei state Kuol Manyang Juuk, Speaker of Jonglei assembly Peter Chol Wall, law enforcement minister Gabriel Duop Lam, legal affairs minister Mayen Ohka , members of the state's security committee, the commissioner for Pigi County and officials from the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

On his return from Pigi County to Bor Airport, governor Kuol told Sudan Tribune that welfare of over 200 displaced people from the villages formerly occupied by Renegade forces loyal to George Athor Deng was the main reason of his visit. He said women and children are starving

and the lack of medical facilities is an additional problem.

“There are 200 families displaced from Koryai and other places and the number is still increasing. Even those who were not displaced had lost their food stuffs as they were looted by renegade forces. This population lacks food and medical facilities”, he said.

Manyang said his request for food and medical assistance to Canal and Khorfulus of Pigi County from World Food Program (WFP) and UNMIS has been accepted, adding WFP is ready to deliver food on Monday March 21.

“We appeal to UNMIS and WFP to deliver food and medical assistance to the needy people in Canal and Khorfulus. They have responded positively and tomorrow they will deliver food”, Manyang said.

Manyang told Sudan Tribune that Athor’s forces have been swept out of the area by South Sudan army (SPLA) saying the area is now under SPLA control. The governor asserted that he has called up on the renegade soldiers who are still in hiding to surrender their arms and go back to their families as the government of South Sudan has no intention to charge them of anything.

“We have told the people in Canal and Khorfulus to inform the soldiers who are still hiding to come and surrender their arms and uniforms. Nobody will charge them. Athor who misled them will carry the charges”.

Manyang said over 50 soldiers who were with George Athor have handed their guns to SPLA and are living In Ayod County.

The whereabouts of George Athor Deng, since he left his base in Khorfulus in late April last year before his forces attacked Dohlep near Upper Nile territory, is unclear.

Khartoum wants 50% of South oil for seven years, Juba refuses

Al-Wifaq 21/3/11 – Informed sources revealed that the NCP proposed to the SPLM to continue exporting oil via the North for seven years in return for a share of 50% but the SPLM turned down the offer.

The SPLM is determined to circulate a new currency as from early July known as South Sudan pound bearing picture of the late SPLM leader John Garang.

According to the London-based *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, the NCP and the SPLM have failed to overcome dispute over the oil issue but they are expected to resume their dialogue in Addis Ababa by the end of this month and the same negotiations would be continued in Khartoum early next month.

SAF redeploys south of 1956 border

Al-Sahafa 21/3/11 – SAF forces in the JIU have begun redeploying north of 1956 border in implementation of the JDB’s decision.

High-ranking military sources told the newspaper that SAF actually began redeploying north since last Friday as a force of 3000 soldiers accompanied by 400 family members left Wau and

reached the town of Aweil yesterday aboard trains.

The source said the redeploying force was seen off by West Bahr el Ghazal governor who thanked SAF for the period of their service as part the JIU.

UNSC meeting inconsistent with spirit of Al Bashir-Kiir agreement –Ministry Al-Rai Al-Aam 21/3/11 –the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has downplayed the UNSC meeting scheduled for today on Abyei. Foreign Office spokesperson Khaled Musa said the meeting is informal, adding that President Al-Bashir and his deputy Salva Kiir met recently and agreed to resolve all issues so such a meeting by the SC is unwarranted and inconsistent with the spirit of the agreement between Al-Bashir and Kiir. He said the escalation indicates the failure of some circles in the South to resolve their political problems, adding that Sudan Ambassador to UN would react to the allegations in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Sudan Ambassador to UN Daffallah Al-Haj said the UNSC meeting for discussion on the SPLM's allegations is informal and would not come up with any official measure. "The SPLM allegations are unacceptable, illogical and incorrect and will not convince the international community," he said. "SPLM is not a member of the UN so it can not ask for any formal measure against the government of the North," he said, according to *Al-Sahafa* 21/3/11.

SPLM threatens to take to streets if Southern Kordofan elections are rigged *Al-Sudani* 21/03/11 – The SPLM in the north says it has called on its members around the country to prepare for a peaceful demonstration on the 10th of May in the event the Southern Kordofan elections are rigged.

In a statement issued by the party's leadership yesterday, the SPLM said the elections in Southern Kordofan and the Popular Consultations for the two areas as of utmost importance to the SPLM in northern Sudan and that the party would use these major events to restructure northern Sudan and help address the grievances of the marginalised, the poor and women. "We would seek to win the elections in Southern Kordofan at all levels," the SPLM said, adding that the party would seek to reunify Sudan along a new basis.

Lack of trust mars SPLM relations with parties – Carter Centre *Al-Sudani* 21/03/11 – The Carter Centre says the lack of trust between the southern Sudanese parties negatively affects southern Sudanese unity. In a recent statement, the Centre has called on the SPLM and the political parties in southern Sudan to cooperate on the constitutional review process for the new state-to-be in southern Sudan. The Centre lauded the SPLM decision to involve other southern Sudanese parties in the constitutional review process, describing it as a step towards national unity.



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