

Sudan Domestic Media, March 15, 2011 (covering March 15 – March 21 , 2011)
By Janis Grychowski

State Media

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 17 Mar 11)

- The Secretary-General of the SPLM announced the suspension of dialogue with the NCP after claims that the NCP is plotting to overthrow the government in south Sudan before 09 July. He announced that the NCP is training and providing militias in the south with weapons to destabilize the south.

The NCP has denied this claim and was seriously discussed in Parliament where the Minister of Defence was summoned to clarify the issue. In a press conference, the Minister of Defence and the Deputy National Intelligence and Security Services stated that the allegations against the government of Khartoum were “false, fabricated, and baseless.”

One year ago, the United Nations was given the same documents provided by the SPLM, commenting that the documents “aimed at erupting war between the north and the south.”

“We believe the old date of the two documents presented by the SPLM Secretary-General weakens its importance and at the same time means that not publishing it on time means that it was not recognized at that time.”

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0900 gmt 17 Mar 11)

- In a press conference on Wednesday, March 16, the Minister of National Defence in Khartoum stated that the military will not hesitate in defending the country and to ensure the safety of its people and territory.

The Deputy Director of Intelligence and Security remarked that the mechanisms of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement are adequate in maintaining security between the north and the south. He reiterated that the documents produced by the SPLM are false and were forged.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 20 Mar 11)

- The north Sudanese government has opened an embassy in Juba in preparations for south Sudanese formal independence on July 9th. This announcement was made by the Minister of Information during the Southern Sudan 2011 Taskforce meeting. Currently the embassy is established as a consulate until which time it will be upgraded to a full embassy with diplomatic representation.

One of the priorities for July in south Sudan is the decision to adopt the international treaties that Sudan has already signed and whether or not to introduce others. The government is also readying itself to join international organizations.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 20 Mar 11)

- The Ministry of Information in South Sudan has stated that the Lord's Resistance Army is not capable of attacking the SPLA. In a visit to Western equatorial, the Minister said that the SPLA will work more effectively in fighting the LRA in the region. The government of Western Equatoria has previously requested military support for stopping LRA attacks against civilians, of which the LRA has been active since January. At least 30 civilians have died and more than 70 have been kidnapped by the LRA since January according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Private News Media

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 17 Mar 11)

- Teachers from Bor, Twic, East and Duk counties must return to work in primary schools after the Jonglei State Governor released an order following an unsuccessful meeting. The teachers were given 48 hours to resume their duties or face termination of their positions. The teachers are striking due to unpaid housing allowances. "We discussed the matter and we conveyed to them the resolution of the Council of Ministers that they deserve this right and will be paid to them in form of arrears but they say that they will remain at home until they receive this allowance at hand. We have ordered them that the schools must open within 48 hours and the report must reach the governor's office earlier by Friday", Legal Affairs Minister Mayen Oka told the press. The teachers have responded that the government is forcing them to open schools before the negotiations have concluded.

The teachers will decide on their course of action in a teachers general meeting. "We will not open schools as he said. What we want is to be assured that we will be paid on this date. We are not soldiers. If it would mean termination, so be it". Malueth John Aluong said. Students have been out of school since February 21st and many can be seen roaming in Bor's Marol Market or collecting and selling empty bottles.

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 17 Mar 11)

- A joint press statement was released by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Stores, and UK Foreign Secretary William Hague regarding their concern about the announced breakdown of talks between the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. They urged the parties to continue dialogue and for President Bashir and First Vice President Kiir to take steps against alleged destabilizing actions.

Currently, the Secretary-General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement suspended all talks with the National Congress Party until they have stopped their policy of destabilization of the people of South Sudan and the government including the accusation that the National Congress Party is plotting to overthrow the government of Southern Sudan. The SPLM believes that the NCP has supported and financed militia groups in southern Sudan and that they are arming the Janjaweed forces in Darfur for attacks in the south.

(Al-Ayyam, Khartoum, in Arabic 17 Mar 11)

- Editorial titled "The error in the assessment of the National Consensus Leadership"

All this contributes to expanding the area of poverty and to rising prices as a regime depends on its repressive tools for its perpetuation, something which results only in more poverty, corruption, and unemployment. This is something that cannot be repaired no matter how slogans are raised about combating unemployment, poverty, and corruption, for such regimes cannot survive without them.

Some parties in the [opposition] National Consensus are mistaken in imagining that it would be possible to reform the regime without ensuring a full democracy that recognizes the right to differ in opinion, abolish all freedom-restricting laws, and debate the people's problem in a free press and media, away from those closed rooms [of ruling circles].

Totalitarian regimes are impotent, no matter how they claim they are the more capable to solve the people's problems and know what they want. What happened in Egypt and Tunisia was a result of faulty assumptions by both the government and the opposition. The way to solve the problems of the people must be through the people themselves in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy and acknowledged rights to form organizations and political parties and choose those who rule.

(Al-Ra'y al-Amm website, Khartoum, in Arabic 17 Mar 11)

- Editorialized report

"The Sudanese people are to an astonishing degree unable to lift themselves up from self-

centred perceptions to far-reaching general views. That is most evidently represented in the elections of South Kurdufan and the serious dangers they carry for Sudan. The campaign going on in South Kurdufan, with the support of northern opposition parties there, is not about the person of Abd-al-Aziz al-Hilw and his rival Ahmad Harun but has to do with a more dangerous and wider issue.

The largest net of evil woven for the North by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] was in introducing the blueprint of what it called the popular consultation. The idea appeared innocent on the face of matters, but it carries deadly poison. The departed John Garang proposed the idea in a manner that appeared logical, objective and humanitarian. Its essence was that there were groups in the North, in South Kurdufan and the Blue Nile, which cooperated with the SPLM, joined its army and fought in its ranks. The SPLM does not want them to feel that they have been subjected to injustice. This is why it believed it appropriate that the agreement should stipulate popular consultation--mere consultation--that includes no self-rule or self-determination and does not cast doubt on the affiliation to the north, but merely to express an opinion over whether this agreement had let them down and does not achieve their aspirations. The generalization and the ambiguity were intentional!

Note that there are many groups that belong to other regions which fell under SPLM control or were seized by the SPLM. There are also parties that cooperated politically

and militarily with the SPLM including soldiers affiliated to the major opposition parties such as the Umma Party, the Unionist Party and the Communist Party "with whose tongue it has fought and still does". What applies to the two provinces applies to all of these parties. Yet, the SPLM showed no concern for them and demonstrated no interest as to whether the agreement that it signed with the government served their interests or harmed them. This is because the SPLM did not care in the first place about consideration for the feelings of anyone but singled those two regions in particular because it was planning for something more far-reaching and more dangerous, something which had nothing to do with the feelings of the inhabitants. The plan was aimed at transforming the consultations over the agreement into demands for self-rule that lead to self-determination and then to independence from the North and to joining the State of the South. This is the same plan intended for Darfur and Abyei.

The plan depends on two of the leaders of the two regions, namely Malik Agar in the Blue Nile and Abd-al-Aziz al-Hilw in South Kurdufan. The two men are not merely pro-SPLM northerners but they are also prominent leaders in the SPLM. The SPLM was able to carry out the first step successfully when it appointed Malik Agar--"along with his militia as some sources affirm"--to be the Governor of the Blue Nile. Now it is working with all its financial, political and media power and with the automatic assistance of the northern opposition to support nomination of Abd-al-Aziz al-Hilw in South Kurdufan. As happened in the Blue Nile, the SPLM in South Kurdufan seeks in addition to the post of governor to win the membership of the Legislative Council in all the districts along with the women's list and the partisan list. The SPLM has announced that it is the first political party to come forward with its candidates for the provincial committee. It said it has devoted its strongest cadres to the coming exceptional phase in the province's history.

The SPLM does not hide its intentions or its claim that it has a national objective but openly urges the masses in South Kurdufan to vote for its candidates who will work to change the province and pull it from what it says is "a dark tunnel from which it has suffered throughout history from oppression, exclusion, ignorance, and wars and marginalization". The meaning is clear in that choosing Abd-al-Aziz al-Hilw means the province will break away from Sudan, which was alluded to as the black tunnel. Still, despite that, the [Northern] opposition parties are helping with this campaign.

When the two SPLM leaders become governors for the two provinces and push them to self-rule--this is no longer far-fetched--the opposition as usual will point the accusing finger against the government and the [ruling] National Congress Party, accusing them of losing the two provinces along with Abyei and Darfur, and demanding a national government and a national council for the constitution.

May Allah's curses fall on the objective if it is coupled to ignorance!"

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in Arabic 18 Mar 11)

- Editorialized report

"The present political escalation between the two partners can lead to grave consequences the least damaging of which is cessation of the talks between them on post-referendum issues while the most serious and most pessimistic consequences will

be the return to war. If the two partners to the peace agreement, the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) fail to surmount their present differences and constant haggling by engaging in dialogue, the alternative scenario will materialize in a devastate manner.

Despite the two partners' avowals that they would not return to war, their political conduct, which can at least be described as irresponsible, can easily lead to re-ignition of the struggle and the return to the war square. The sporadic military tensions currently taking place in the South, whether in Abyei or other regions like Jonglei and Bahr Al - Ghazal State, are only a prelude or a rehearsal for the coming war scenario. These military tensions and confrontations between former Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) generals and the Government of the South have caused the death and displacement of many citizens while the ongoing confrontations between the Misseriah and Dinka have turn offset a lot of casualties as the toll of victims on both sides posted frightening figures.

The return to war will be costly to both parties in terms of material and human resources as foreign organizations previously released reports indicating that renewal of war between the North and the South would incur billions of dollars. That high cost of the potential war scenario would be better exploited in establishment of infrastructures in the South and development of human resources and the building and rehabilitation of agricultural projects in the North. The return to war as a possible scenario in view of development of the political situation between the two partners will envelope Sudan and neighbouring countries in catastrophic mayhem that will sweep the whole region.”

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 18 Mar 11)

- Senior UN officials have voiced their concern over the growing tensions in Abyei region following recent fighting between the Misseriya Arab and Dinka-Ngok groups. These tensions have left more than 100 people dead. In New York, the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Francis Deng, and the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, Edward Luck, warned that the northern and Southern armies could potentially be drawn into these tensions. They urged the two parties “to refrain from any actions that could put the lives of civilians in danger and at risk of a return to full-scale hostilities.”

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 18 Mar 11)

- The office of the president of South Sudan issued instructions for the full implementation of the Kaduqli agreement on Abyei and integration of the joint forces. It instructed for a full investigation of all the documents raised by the SPLM regarding allegations of attempts to overthrow the government in South Sudan and stated that a resolution to these issues is set for March 20th.

A joint committee of NCP and SPLM members was formed to look into the accusations and will submit their conclusions to the president. The SPLM suspended negotiations on March 12 following a rebel attack in Upper Nile State that led to allegations of a northern plot to overthrow the government. President Al-Bashir has denied the allegations and said that the tensions are a result of internal divisions.

(Al-Ra'y al-Amm website, Khartoum, in Arabic 18 Mar 11)

- Editorialized report

"Prince Al-Nadhir Jibril al-Quni started the seminar by a historical review asserting that Al-Missiriyah have documents proving their entitlement to Abyei since they were present in it since 1765 whereas the Denka came as guests in 1905 after Sir Wingate, Sudan's Governor General, incited them to cross north of Bahr al-Arab and said decisively at the time "the Denka are only guests". But Al-Missiriyah was deceived into accepting international arbitration and the court backed the Denka even though they had 17 documents only backing their claim whereas Al-Missiriyah had 270 documents. "Taking our lands on the grounds that we are Nomads is clear injustice. We own every inch in Abyei and if they take one inch we shall regain it by force," he said. He said that the agreements gave Al-Missiriyah the right to travel south but the Southern Government insists they must be unarmed "something which means we shall be easy prey". He urged the Sudanese Army to interfere on the side of Al-Missiriyah because it is facing a war in the South by a regular army. He said Al-Missiriyah would as of next July 9 consider themselves unbound by any signed agreements. "After that date we shall be free: My spear against your spear," he said.

Dr Miriam al-Sadig al-Mahdi, assistant secretary general of the National Umma Party, accused Francis Deng of exploiting his international connections to ensure that a protocol on Abyei was included in the 2005 Naivasha Agreement. She said the Ethiopian expert in the committee which prepared the report on Abyei opposed that report and told her that it was pushed through because American and British officials had the upper say at the expense of the IGAD experts.

Dr Miriam called for heeding the voice of reason and confronting the SPLM's loud voice in international forums (the SPLM is scheduled to hold a seminar on Abyei in Washington next month). She warned that the United States should not bow to lobby pressures, "blame everybody for the sins of the [ruling] National Congress Party and depict the matter as criminal operations by the Arabs and Muslims ... otherwise the entire African continent will go up into flames".

(Al-Watan, Khartoum, in Arabic 18 Mar 11)

- According to sources in Unity State, Southern Sudan, there has been intensive fighting between SPLA and a rebel militia led by Mathew Fol around Mayum town.

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 19 Mar 11)

- At least 59 soldiers and militia were killed in clashes between the south Sudan army and local militia groups. The Minister of Petroleum has said that these clashes have not disrupted oil production

"Civilians were aware of what was happening so they escaped the fighting," army spokesman Philip Aguer said.

George Athor, who left the SPLA saying the south's dominant party had rigged the April 2010 elections, said all the militia leaders were under his command. "We are all coordinating," he said in a telephone call from the field.

(Al-Ahram al-Yawm, Khartoum, in Arabic, in Arabic 19 Mar 11)

- The armed forces are currently working on arrangements to demobilize 20,000 Southern Sudanese officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers and will be finished by May 2012.

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 19 Mar 11)

- Political parties are denying allegations made by the SPLM of receiving political and military support from northern Sudan to cause tension and conflict. The chairman of the United Democratic Front said that the accusations against the parties demonstrates an "internal struggle within the SPLM over positions." Political parties in South Sudan have refuted allegations made by the secretary-general of Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], Pagan Amum, against them of receiving political and military support from the north to cause tension and conflict in a number of states in the south stressing that they are baseless.

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 21 Mar 11)

- "JUBA - The leader of the official opposition in parliament Hon Onyoti Adigo has claimed that the Minister for Peace and Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) Implementation in the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), Mr Pagan Amum is very busy dividing the people of southern Sudan because he is interested in the leadership of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). Onyoti alleged that Amum does not like leadership of President Salva Kiir Mayardit but the Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC) official wondered how Amum can fulfil his ambitions his own people rallying behind him. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC) official was reacting to highly publicized news earlier in the week whereby Amum presented documents to the media to prove that Dr. Lam Akol was indeed behind the attack that rocked Malakal in the previous weekend.

On Thursday members of Southern Sudan opposition parties led by Abd-al-Rahman Sule of United Democratic Front (UDF) dismissed the accusations linking Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC) with attacks on Malakal. Onyoti further said that Amum harbors personal hatred to Lam Akol and argued that the Secretary General was jittery when the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM - DC) leader met President Salva Kiir and showed up for the South-South Dialogue towards in October 2010. A fire spitting Onyoti said the Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC) is to file a court case against the Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) for the negative publicity he has given to the opposition party. The opposition party also took exception with Amum that together with other forces, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC) is planning to overthrow the government southern Sudan.

Similarly Sule disassociated Lam Akol from both the attacks and Bursham Aywok Ogad, the "Mujahidin" fighter, whom Amum said is supplying Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC) with arms. "We do not know Bursham Aywok Ogad that the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Secretary General is talking about," he said. Onyoti said that it was not the first time some elements in the

Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) especially the Secretary General are alleging that Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC) has militias in the Collo Kingdom. We would like to make it clear to southern Sudanese and the international community that Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC) is purely a political party and has neither an armed wing nor does it intend to form a militia group, he added.

We want to make it clear that Olony whom Pagan Amum referred in his statement as having connection with Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC) was an Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldier waiting for reintegration until he clashed with some Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) units who attacked his residence on 6 March 2011, said Onyoti. He further said that it is the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) which accepted Olony to live in Dur, close to Division 7 HQs. This arrangement arose from an agreement signed in Fashoda on 27 August 2010 between the government and the Collo armed groups under the Leadership of Gwang Robert Nyiker who is now reintegrated as major general in Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Onyoti further said that the Collo fighters alleged by Amum to be Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC) militias are a creation of some Dinka Padang politicians who are bent on grabbing the land of Collo. "This has nothing to do with Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC); all are Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) fighting them," he said.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC) politician added that in the South-South dialogue it was agreed that Salva Kiir would remain the president of South Sudan during the transitional period. It therefore makes no sense, he said, for any southern political party to harbor ambitions to overthrow the government of South Sudan. "It is the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) which does not want their leader to raise the flag on 9 July 2011," he said.

Onyoti added that the government of Southern Sudan can neither be overthrown in Oweci nor in Malakal. "This is a very irresponsible statement from an irresponsible person," he said. He added that the walking out from the Constitutional Review Committee by nine southern political parties has nothing to do with an attack on Malakal or overthrowing the government of Southern Sudan," said a furious Onyoti. The action at the review committee arose because the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) refused a power sharing arrangement as the ruling party opted for a 5 years transitional period, he said. Onyoti accused the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) of wanting to monopolize power with little regard that the 9th July will be a new dawn. He said that all institutions will change from legislative to executive at all levels. This is the position that led to the walkout by political parties. He gave the names of 13 government officials in Upper Nile who have been arrested by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) for being associated with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC).

Onyoti further said that there are some undisclosed 20 young men being held by the military at Dolieb Hill. He called upon the government of Upper Nile State to immediately release those government officials who were arrested because of being Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM - DC) members.