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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Referendum Monitor

## **Al-Bashir Declares Government readiness to give up oil revenues for unity**

*The Citizen Khartoum, 13/10/10* - President Al-Bashir announced government readiness to give up its share in oil revenues in support of southern Sudan development projects and economic growth.

President Al-Bashir reiterated in his address before the legislative Assembly yesterday, pledges to achieve national unity through the forthcoming referendum.

“Despite our commitment to the CPA, we will not accept an alternative to unity, which is the most likely outcome if the people of Southern Sudan are given freedom of choice in a fair, free referendum they will vote for unity,” Al-Bashir is quoted as saying.

Al-Bashir vowed to support and develop the Sudan people’s Liberation Army (SPLA) to achieve security in the South and considered it a principal component of the national army and a defender of the country’s national security. “We are fully ready to review all security arrangements with our partners in the south and with SPLA which is considered a principal component of the Sudanese Army,” he stressed.

Al-Bashir said 80% of the border demarcation exercise has been completed and is just awaiting execution. While reiterating commitment to the conduct of a fair referendum, he added that demarcation of the disputed points on the north-south border was a “decisive factor in conducting a fair and free election,” in clear reference to the differences over the boundaries of the Abyei area. He expressed hopes that the current negotiations in Addis Ababa would help resolve the problem of Abyei.

## **Al-Bashir seeks to lure Southerners into voting for unity**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 12/10/10* - The Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir appeared to be making a last-ditch attempt to avert the likely breakaway of the South at the referendum due to take place in less than 100 days.

Bashir outlined several incentives he is prepared to offer southerners should they vote for unity in the referendum set for January 9, 2011 as provided for in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the National Congress Party (NCP) and Sudan people Liberation Movement (SPLM) more than five years ago.

"With regards to security arrangements, we are fully prepared to conduct a joint review that complements what has been achieved, and enable the government institutions in the south to handle security responsibilities in the entire region. We will work on developing what was outlined in the [CPA] agreement on the responsibilities of the SPLA [a body] which is an integral component of the national army, in order to enhance mutual cooperation, and to enable the optimal distribution of the tasks to defend the homeland and protecting the national security," the Sudanese leader said before the parliament at the commencement of its second legislative session.

"As for the wealth sharing, we are ready to embrace the development of programs and projects adopted by the Unity Support Fund, in the areas of education, health, electricity, infrastructure, agricultural projects and manufacturing, until it reaches a level comparable to services provided in other states of Sudan," Bashir added.

The Sudanese president said that the government will seek funding for these projects from the national budget, grants or loans "even if it exceeded 100% of the oil revenue".

Bashir's speech also promised to seek a new formula for power sharing "on a national level...in order to expand participation of citizens, and people of the South in particular to build the big nation".

Tensions in Sudan has reached its peak this month after South Sudan president and chairman of the SPLM Salva Kiir declared that he will not vote for Sudan's unity since the north has failed to make unity attractive during the last five years. The Sudanese president slammed these remarks saying it violates the CPA which said that both northern and southern leaders should try to make unity "attractive" to southerners.

Today, the Sudanese president stressed that his government is not willing to accept anything short of unity in the referendum\*.

"I reiterate that we, granted our unequivocal commitment to the referendum, do not acquiesce an alternative to the unity of Sudan and we do not see anything other [than unity] as protector to preserve our land from fragmentation and loss," Bashir emphasized, without specifying his reaction in case of a "yes" vote in the south's referendum.

"The pure blood of our martyrs did not flow on the soil of our beloved south, to water the tree of unity, nor were we patient in tough dialogue and negotiations, a number of years, for the final scene to be splitting of the land and say goodbye to our brothers. Everyone knows that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, it approved the referendum, only because it is a guaranteed right, and a usual methodology, but every word in the chapters of the agreement was carrying the promises of unity, starting with the cessation of bloodshed, and then commitment to the rights, and sharing of the fruits of power and wealth, and normalization of the citizens' relations as they move between the two halves of a single home without hindrance or fear," he added.

Bashir underscored that Southerners are likely to pick unity if the referendum is conducted in "fair and free manner".

"Sound logic leads the south to unity," the president said.

However, he warned that the stalled demarcation of the North-South borders is a "decisive factor" in conducting a fair and transparent referendum.

*\* A transcript of the speech, as printed by Al-Rai Al-Aam daily shows that his actual words could be more accurately translated as, "We would do everything we can for unity and would not come to terms with ourselves if the referendum results in anything other than unity."*

## **Clooney asks Obama for commitments on Sudan**

**AP** Washington, 12/10/10 - President Barack Obama met with activist-actor George Clooney at the White House on Tuesday to discuss U.S. involvement in Sudan ahead of a critical election early next year in Africa's largest nation.

Clooney recently returned from Sudan, and is asking the U.S. and world community to use international pressure and robust diplomacy to prevent violence ahead of the Jan. 9 election. The election is an independence referendum on south Sudan that is likely to split the country in two, and there are fears that the vote could lead to a new outbreak of north-south civil war.

"At a time that is one of the most politicized times ever, this is something that everyone agrees on: If there's some way to get ahead of this and stop it before it happens, we better," Clooney said following his meeting with the president.

Obama and Clooney were joined in their talks by activist John Prendergast, cofounder of the Enough Project, an initiative to end genocide. Prendergast said U.S. involvement in containing

violence before the election could be a "game-changer" for the Sudanese people.

"It gives a chance to diplomacy," Prendergast said. "It gives a chance to peacemaking that didn't exist three months ago."

## **Luka Biong lauds recent speech by President Al-Bashir**

*Al-Akhbar Khartoum*, 13/10/10 – Cabinet Affairs Minister Luka Biong has lauded President Al-Bashir on his speech before parliament yesterday saying that the speech had more than was expected, pointing out that development projects for southern Sudan have to be guaranteed whatever the outcome of the referendum. Speaking to the media in the wake of the president's speech, the minister described the speech as "balanced and looking beyond the referendum."

Biong pointed out that the President's speech gives the indication that Sudan faces a better future whatever the outcome of the referendum.

Meanwhile, opposition forces have welcomed Al-Bashir's speech, especially his calls on political leaders to bolster the efforts for unity, *Al-Khartoum* daily reports. Lawmakers and politicians interviewed by paper agreed that the speech was objective, characterised by frankness and gave indications of a better future for Sudan.

*Khartoum Monitor* reports however that the speech did not go down well with the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Popular Congress Party (PCP). "We (the SPLM) are only interested in the referendum and are not interested in power and wealth sharing," the paper quotes Thomas Wani, a prominent member of the SPLM, as saying with reference to the speech.

Meanwhile PCP member Ismail Hussein Fadul lashed out on the government's new Darfur strategy saying it was a strategy for war and not for peace. He also blasted Al-Bashir's speech with regards to "adopting a re-negotiation of the CPA".

## **FVP Kiir, VP Taha agree to deployment of joint force on north-south border**

*Al-Sahafa Juba*, 13/10/10 – First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit and Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha have agreed to stop the "media wars" in order to de-escalate the situation. The two also instructed the Joint Defence Board and the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee to intensify efforts to avert possibilities for a military confrontation. The two leaders further agreed that the Presidency hold a meeting in Khartoum next week to help address the outstanding issues.

In a press statement following the meeting, Kiir said that the meeting discussed outstanding issues in the CPA implementation besides media reports on military movements by both the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) along the north-south border.

Control of military movements and availing a conducive political climate, according to Taha, were affirmed during the meeting. The JDB and CJMC are to protect the CPA, Taha said. CPA partners affirmed there would be no return to war and that all outstanding issues are to be resolved through dialogue and political agreement.

The NCP has meanwhile accepted an invitation by the SPLM to attend the inaugural session of the All-Southern Sudanese Political Parties' Conference due to take place in Juba from 13 – 15 October.

## **Student protests overshadow VP Taha's visit to Juba**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 12/10/10* - Anti-riot police had to intervene on Monday as hundreds of university students marched through the streets of Juba, the autonomous state capital protesting what they described as violations of fundamental human rights by the Khartoum government.

The peaceful demonstration, which paralyzed business and public transport, was apparently sparked by last the arrests of students and youth, who held a pro-separation rally in Khartoum on Saturday, 9 October, advocating for southern Sudan's independence in the next year's referendum.

Those arrested, according to local media reports, had drafted a position paper addressed to members of the international community, which they intended to deliver to the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) headquarters in Khartoum.

## **Talks on Sudan's Abyei reach no agreement**

*Reuters Addis Ababa, 12/10/10* - The latest round of talks between north and south Sudan on the future of Abyei region, has failed to reach agreement, the parties said on Tuesday.

"Despite serious efforts and many productive discussions, (the delegations) did not succeed in reaching agreement on the eligibility criteria for voters in the Abyei Area referendum," the north's National Congress Party (NCP) and the south's Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) said in a joint statement.

"They will meet again in Ethiopia toward the end of October to continue their discussions. The parties continue to commit themselves to their mutual goal of avoiding a return to conflict," the statement said.

Pagan Amum, the head of the southern delegation, however, warned Sudan could return to war without agreement, calling the nine days of talks a failure, a position rejected by his northern counterpart.

"If the parties fail to sort out these issues this could lead to an end of the peace process itself. And the peace may unravel in Sudan," he told reporters in the Ethiopian capital, where the talks were held.

Salah Gosh, chief NCP negotiator and special security adviser to President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, said he was still hopeful of a deal despite the setback.

"We believe the two parties now agree not to go back to war and we as the Congress Party will not go back to war," he said.

"We say to the Sudanese people, and especially to the people of Abyei, to be calm and to save the situation because we still hope to tackle the issue and by end of this month I believe we will reach a conclusion."

## **SPLM warns of possible chaos after collapse of Abyei talks**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 12/10/10* - The failure of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the National Congress Party (NCP) to agree on matters concerning the Abyei referendum during the Addis Ababa talks could create avenues for possible future chaos, a senior SPLM official has warned.

Pagan Amum, the SPLM secretary general returned to Juba on Tuesday from what he termed as

"nine days of difficult negotiations" in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

He said that the NCP is not only determined to sabotage the successful conduct of a referendum in the oil-rich region, but further derail the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

"The formation of the Abyei Referendum Commission was supposed to begin mid this month in addition to the delayed border demarcation. Unfortunately, our partners in the NCP came up with a position that was contrary to the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration," Amum, also Minister for Peace and CPA implementation in the southern government said.

The NCP, he added, openly declared that Abyei belonged to the Misseriya and not Dinka Ngok and their nine chiefdoms.

"The NCP position totally contravenes article 2 of the Abyei protocol and this is a total violation of the decision made by the Permanent Court of Arbitration," he observed.

Asked about the way forward, the SPLM secretary general said his party will now embark on a global comprehensive approach to the Abyei issue, while negotiations continue with the NCP and the international community.

He accused the Khartoum-based regime of using the Misseriya tribe to disorganize preparations for the referendum, which he said totally violates provisions within the CPA.

"The SPLM strongly believes in moving this country forward and not backwards as some people would want it to happen. We are determined and committed to the full implementation of the CPA," he said, as party members' present chanted SPLM slogans.

January's referendum, Amum emphasized, should be viewed as a golden opportunity for Sudanese to forget the historical trends of war and conflict.

He said that the Dinka Ngok should be granted that opportunity through a referendum to freely decide whether they want to remain in the north or become part of southern Sudan.

"In any situation, war can be avoided if the referendum is timely held, north-south borders properly demarcated and issues like popular consultation of our people in the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile are properly handled," he said.

### **Government starts practical steps to list southern Sudanese employees**

*Al-Intibaha Khartoum, 13/10/10* – The Sudan Government has started to list the names of southern Sudanese employees in state institutions in preparation for their dismissal should the 2011 referendum result in separation of southern Sudan, according to sources in the Ministry of Labour.

Adam Hamad, the Undersecretary at the Ministry of Labour, said at a celebration of the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) in Khartoum yesterday that his ministry has taken all the necessary precautions in the event of separation and is prepared to "lead the wave of change" should any eventuality occur.

Meanwhile the PDF has announced full preparedness for any eventuality and says it has some 3 million *mujahideen* in readiness.

### **Northern traders in south seek protection during and after referendum**

*Sudantribune.com Bentiu, 12/10/10* – An Advisor on economic affairs for Unity State, Michael Mayar Madieng, says a bill has been tabled before the state's parliament to protect northern traders, suppliers and businessmen during and after south Sudan's referendum on independence

expected to happen in January.

Madieng told *Sudan Tribune* that it was important to provide protection for traders who come from the north to carry out their business despite the possibility that the south may chose to secede.

During a meeting the Unity State cabinet held on Monday Madieng urged the local traders to cooperate with the state authorities in order to facilitate the peaceful process of the referendum.

Unity State Governor Lieutenant General Taban Deng Gai welcomed the bill discussed during the meeting, which grants tight security to all the businessmen many of whom are Arab traders who own businesses in the state. Gai called upon the security advisor Chieng Jiek Geay to cooperate with the security services in order to allow local businessmen to carry out their works without hindrance.

The request for the security guarantees was submitted by 17 merchants across Unity states nine counties. Most business owners in the state are Darfuri.

Gai added that even though south Sudan may form a new independent state after the referendum the south will still have close bilateral relations with the north, especially economically.

The governor urged the merchants to continue running businesses in the state.

## Other Highlights:

### **SAF denies reports of soldier shooting dead a trader in Abyei**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm Khartoum/ Abyei, 13/10/10* – Te SPLA has accused SAF elements in the Joint Integrated Unit (JIU) detachment in Abyei of randomly opening fire in Abyei killing a trader in the market. The Office of the Spokesperson of the SPLA issued a statement requesting the Abyei Area Administration to redeploy the JIUs outside the town. The SPLA says the presence of the JIU has fuelled tension in the area.

Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) Spokesperson Al-Suwarni Khaled admits there was shooting in the area but denies reports of a loss of life. He pointed out that the JIU soldiers had intervened to contain a “personal act that had nothing to do with any military or political side as claimed by the SPLA,” he said at an exclusive interview.

Meanwhile the Abyei Area’s Director for Information and Protocols, Chol Ngoi, said that the SAF elements in the JIU were trying to drag the SPLA into a military confrontation in the area. *The Citizen* daily reports that the security situation along the north-south border region, especially in the Abyei area, has badly deteriorated after four SAF JIUs soldiers staged a random and indiscriminate shooting at a marketplace in Abyei town on Monday night, military authorities report. SPLA Spokesperson, Kuol Deim Kuol, said yesterday that the members of the SAF at the nearby JIU barracks responded to shooting by firing in the air until yesterday morning when UNMIS and the Area Joint Ceasefire Committee intervened.

“The SPLA officers in the JIUs restrained and controlled their forces and that was what saved the situation, otherwise if SPLA forces were to respond, it would have been difficult to avoid direct fighting in the town,” he said.

### **Large quantity of arms and ammunitions for the SPLA pass through Kurmuk**

*Al-Intibaha Khartoum/Kurmuk, 13/10/10* – Informed sources intimate that two aircraft laden with a cargo of heavy weapons and ammunitions landed at Juba Airport from Kurmuk last Monday.

The source reported that security was beefed up at the airport and “even UNMIS personnel were barred from investigating the facts about the shipment from Kurmuk.”

Investigations from the paper’s reporters showed that the Kurmuk airfield was busy recently with such cargo destined for the SPLA.

## **Top member of Sudan’s ruling NCP resigns joins southern Sudan’s SPLM**

*Sudantribune.com* Juba, 12/01/10 - A senior member of Sudan’s ruling National Congress Party (NCP) has quit over its alleged abuse and misconduct of power towards southern Sudan.

Maj. Gen. Alison Manani Magaya, a former minister in the Government of National Unity, and 60 NCP members announced at a press conference on Tuesday that they had joined the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM).

"Today I announce that I am resigning as a member of NCP. Now I announce I am joining SPLM," Magaya said at the press conference organized at the offices of the SPLM Southern Sector in the regional capital Juba. Magaya had been a member of the NCP, who have ruled Sudan since a coup in 1989, for 21 years.

"We see the abuse of power in the use of the federal institutions to harass, persecute and deny southerners the right to exist," he told *Sudan Tribune*.

Some in the south see Magaya’s defection as a big blow to the NCP.

Speaking at the press conference Magaya said, “I was in the NCP for the mission and that mission was to do with the southern problem to work for peace and the political settlement of the southern conflict and this is what we did until the CPA in 2005.”

“Time has come when one has realized that there is a change of attitude in the leadership of NCP towards the south. This is not going to help the process of implementing the CPA and will also not help to maintain southern members of the NCP.”

## **Stability returns to areas east of the Jebel Mara**

*Al-Khartoum Nyala*, 13/01/10 – The Government of South Darfur State has revealed that stability has prevailed in East Jebel Mara County. County Commissioner Mohamed Al-Kheir Mekki says the SAF has flushed out all armed movements in the Sonny area and the other administrative units in the vicinity and is now fully in control following last week’s battles with the SLA (Abdulwahid faction).

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