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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Highlights

## **President Al-Bashir appoints advisors**

*Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 03/08/10* – President Al-Bashir has issued a decree yesterday appointing Dr. Mansour Khalid, Mohamed AbdulMajid, Dr. Haroun Lual and Andrew Makur as Advisors to the President of the Republic. This brings to 18 the number of Presidential Advisors in the current government.

## **PCP prisoners stage hunger strike**

*Khartoum Monitor Khartoum, 03/08/10* – Family and relatives of Popular Congress Party (PCP) members serving a prison term since 2004 have expressed concern over the health of their sons following reports that the detainees currently in Kober Prison are on a hunger strike since last Thursday. The prisoners are striking in protest over harsh conditions in the prison and the denial of visits from their relatives.

## **Parties to Doha talks agree to a referendum on Darfur in ten years**

*Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 03/08/10* – The Sudan Government and the Liberation and Justice Movement delegations to the Doha talks agree yesterday that a referendum be conducted in Darfur after ten years in order to determine the administrative status of the region. They agreed that elections should precede such a referendum.

The two sides resumed talks in Doha yesterday on the issues of power, wealth, security arrangements, justice and reconciliation.

## **NCP, SLM-MM agree to restructuring of the TDRA**

*Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 03/08/10* – The NCP and the SLM (Minnawi) say they have struck a “Strategic Political Partnership” deal and have agreed to overhaul of the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority (TDRA) in order to harmonise the organisation as to be able to strengthen security and stability in the region. A joint statement issued by the two parties yesterday revealed that they also resolved to shore up the Darfur Peace Agreement and to harmonise their views in the political arena and strengthen efforts for peace in Darfur and in all parts of the country.

## **Sudan relations with UNAMID reach low point**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 02/08/10* - The United Nations spokesperson said today that restrictions recently announced by the Sudanese government on the movement of personnel from the African Union-United Nations mission in Darfur (UNAMID) violates previous accords signed between both sides.

Last week, a senior Sudanese official told Reuters that UNAMID travel would be monitored going forward and that their bags will be searched. They will have to inform the government before moving on roads even within South Darfur’s capital Nyala, he said.

But the UN Spokesperson Martin Nesirky said that the measures if implemented would amount to a breach of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) signed between Khartoum and the world body in February 2008.

"We're working with the local authorities in South Darfur to ensure that the conditions are in place for the implementation of UNAMID's mandate" Nesirky said at the daily briefing on Monday.

Today (02/08/10), Sudanese Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah-el-Din said that Khartoum stands with the demand made by the South Darfur State to UNAMID for it to hand over those accused of attacking the Kalma IDP camp. Salah-el-Din said that the government's support to the demand was based on its constitutional duty to protect its citizens and the resolution that established UNAMID which stipulated the right of the government to practice its jurisdiction on all the country's territories in accordance with the rules of the international law

He further said that the trial of the accused in these incidents affirm the principles of combating impunity which is incorporated in all the resolutions on Darfur and revealed that the topic will be discussed with the UNAMID which was already been officially notified on the request.

### **Darfur peacekeepers in crisis talks over violence**

*Reuters 03/08/10* - The volatile Kalma camp, where some inhabitants carry guns, is a stronghold of Darfur rebel support. Anger over the latest round of Darfur peace talks caused last week's clashes there.

The peace talks in Qatar are the latest attempt to end the Darfur conflict, which the United Nations says has cost the lives of 300,000 people in the remote western region. Khartoum puts the death toll at 10,000.

A Darfur rebel leader, Abdulwahid Mohamed el-Nur of the Sudan Liberation Army, warned the peacekeeping force not to hand the six over to the government.

"If they had them over we will consider UNAMID is helping the government in its genocide against our people," he told Reuters from his Paris base.

"How can the government, who raped and killed and drove them from their homes, be trusted to bring them to justice?" he said.

### **Nigeria threatens to withdraw peacekeepers from U.N. missions**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 02/08/10* - Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan has threatened on Monday to withdraw his country's troops taking part in the United Nations peacekeeping missions worldwide.

"I have clearly informed the Chief of Defence Staff, that as Nigeria's President, I wouldn't want to lose any soldier carelessly in peace operations," Jonathan said in a speech at the International Seminar on Peace Support Operations organised by the Nigerian Ministry of Defence according to the Lagos based *Vanguard* newspaper

"A situation where militia groups would ambush Nigerian troops on official UN peace support operations out of bravado or gallantry and kill our soldiers will no longer be accepted by me," he added.

The Nigerian leader called on the United Nations to change the rules of engagement in order for his country to continue contributing to peacekeeping missions but did not elaborate. He however reiterated Nigeria's commitment to international peacekeeping.

## **45 dead or injured in South Darfur tribal clash**

*Al-Sahafa Nyala, 03/08/10* – Nineteen people were killed and 26 others injured in inter-tribal fighting within the Al-Gumur tribe of South Darfur. The violence was sparked by cattle rustling and conflict over agricultural land. Sources report that two rival clans clashed near Kalkuk last Saturday and the violence that ensued was interspersed with looting, cattle rustling and the burning of villages. The two sides are said to still be engaged in violent clashes with reports of population displacement.

Locals are calling on authorities to intervene to stop the violence.

## **Pre-Referendum Monitor:**

### **Time factor is the major challenge – head of Referendum Commission**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 03/08/10* – The Chairman of the South Sudan Referendum Commission, Professor Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil, says members of the Commission will move to the Commission's offices next week. He says establishment of their head and sub offices are complete and revealed that the Commission's Secretary-General will be appointed next week. He cited the time factor as the major challenge facing their work.

### **CPA partners study Egyptian paper on the Referendum**

*Al-Sahafa Cairo, 03/08/10* – Representatives of the NCP and the SPLM are in Egypt to discuss a paper presented by Egyptian Intelligence over the referendum in Sudan. The two sides entered closed-door meetings yesterday amidst a media clampdown but sources privy to the talks intimate that the issues covered in the discussions include post-referendum relations between north and south, amongst other issues.

### **GoSS stands responsible to ensure a transparent referendum – Luka Biong**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 03/08/10* – Cabinet Affairs Minister Luka Biong says Sudan is headed towards a crucial and difficult time in its history that would require the media to play an active role reflective of the freedom and transparency and clearly delineate the options available for the referendum. He pointed out that there are strong advocates on unity in the north and similarly strong advocates for secession in the south and warned that the lack of a patriotic spirit may cause misunderstanding within the southern Sudanese voters.

The federal minister, who was speaking at a joint press conference with GoSS Information Minister Benjamin Marial, said that the federal government and the GoSS have the responsibility to create a climate that would enable the southern Sudanese citizen to make the right decision.

On his part, GoSS Information Minister Benjamin Marial has vowed to guarantee a conducive media environment to enable the voice of the southern Sudanese voter to be heard throughout Sudan. He pointed out that southern Sudanese fought for about 50 years for the sake of unity and called on the media to talk about the virtues of unity throughout the states of southern Sudan, reports *Al-Ahram* daily. He also lamented what he described as the inaccurate portrayal of some media outlets of the violence and killings in some southern Sudanese states. He said that these media outlets only seek the negative and do not report about the development and progress made in the region during the last five years.

## **We fought fifty years for unity – GoSS Information Minister**

*Al-Ahram Khartoum, 03/08/10* – Representatives of the NCP and the SPLM are in Egypt to discuss a paper presented by Egyptian Intelligence over the referendum in Sudan. The two sides entered closed-door meetings yesterday amidst a media clampdown but sources privy to the talks intimate that the issues covered in the discussions include post-referendum relations between north and south, amongst other issues

## **North-south border demarcation committee refers differences to Presidency**

*The Citizen Khartoum, 03/08/10* – The technical committee entrusted with the demarcation of the north-south borders has resolved to refer border disputes to the Presidency of the Republic for arbitration. Chairman of the Committee, Abdullah Al-Sadig, said that two major conflicting views emerged that they could not resolve at the committee levels. According to him, 80% of their work has been resolved but the parties differ on whether or not to invite neutral parties to participate in the outstanding points.

## **Ngok Dinka may resort to UN Security Council over Abyei boundaries**

*Khartoum Monitor Khartoum, 28/07/10* – The Ngok Dinka community of Abyei have declared they will resort to the United Nations Security Council if the Abyei boundary is not demarcated, says Abyei Chief Administrator Arop Deng Arop. “It means that the SPLM and the people of Abyei can seek other means of implementing the PCA ruling on the boundaries, they can ask the international community and in this regard the United Nations Security Council specifically to implement the demarcation exercise,” said Arop who was speaking at a press conference in Khartoum last Sunday.

## **Domestic group taunts NEC, calls for early referendum arrangements**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 02/08/10* - Sudan’s general elections fell below internationally agreed standards largely due to lack of transparency and proper coordination within the National Elections Commission (NEC), Sudan Domestic Election Monitoring and Observation Programme (SuDEMOP) said in its latest report.

In its final April 2010 general elections report, the domestic observer group largely blames the Khartoum-based electoral body for failure to properly contain its evident logistical and administrative shortcomings.

Cited specifically were issues like insufficient distribution of polling materials to polling stations, printing and distribution of incorrect voter registers, giving incorrect information on constituency boundaries in some areas, deliberate omission or exchange of candidates’ on ballot papers, among others.

However, apart from the named upheavals that reportedly characterized NEC, SuDEMOP also cited the widely disputed Southern Sudan census results, weather factors and problems associated with printing and delivery of materials as notable shortcomings that marred the elections.

Meanwhile, the local observer group appealed to the recently-initiated Referendum Commission, the Referendum Bureau and other bodies formed for purposes of the referendum, to collaborate and coordinate with NGOs, civil society organizations, media and local artists to conduct early massive civic education campaigns across the country.

“The administrators of the referendum tasked with overseeing this process should ensure that a

voter registration exercise is conducted and adequate exhibition period given. This will enable voters to verify their names on the register, while those with queries can have their issues resolved amicably,” Lorna Merekaje, SuDEMOP’s Secretary General told Sudan Tribune during the report launch.

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