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# Media Monitoring Report

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## Highlights:

- Irrigation Minister renews Sudan rejection to Nile waters framework deal (*Al-Sahafa*)
- 21 in south Sudan cattle raids – army (*Reuters*)
- Lakes state insecurity is politically motivated by NCP – official (*Sudantribune.com*)
- EC earmarks €40m to tackle food crisis in Sahel and Sudan (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Self-determination emerging as an option for Darfur: JEM (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Sudan's nuclear energy project endorsed by the Atomic Energy Commission (*Al-Rai Al-Aam et al*)
- Sudan sentences 19 men for wearing women's clothes (*Reuters*)

## Referendum Monitor:

- CPA partners resolve to complete all outstanding issues ahead of referendum (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- NCP warns against pegging unity to development (*Al-Ahdath*)
- FVP Kiir expects 7 million southern Sudanese to register in the north (*Ajras Al-Hurriya*)
- Speaker of the National Assembly calls for UN support for the referendum (*Al-Ayyam et al*)
- Atem Garang says unity vote requires guarantees to be put in place (*Al-Khartoum*)
- Carter Center to monitor 2011 referendum (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Abyei Administration blasts CPA partners over border demarcation (*Al-Ahdath*)
- SPLM warns against fraud in Southern Kordofan census results (*Ajras Al-Hurriya*)
- PCP's Turabi turns down invitation to participate at referendum meet (*Akhir Lahza*)

## Editorial:

- Development and the Realisation of Unity (*Al-Ayyam*)

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# Highlights

## **Irrigation Minister renews Sudan rejection to Nile waters framework deal**

*Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 04/08/10* – Irrigation and Water Resources minister Kamal Ali Mohammed has called on the Sudan government to expedite use of Sudan's share in the Nile waters, pointing out that plans are in the pipeline for the construction of four hydro-electric dams on the Bahr-el-Jebel River. Speaking at a symposium organised by parliament yesterday on "Future Perspectives of the Framework Agreement on Cooperation on the Nile Waters", the Minister revealed that Sudan and Egypt renew their rejection of the framework agreement. He pointed out that the main point of divergence between Sudan and Egypt on the one hand and the other Nile Basin countries on the other could be resolved through dialogue or referred to the leaderships of the concerned states for arbitration.

He stressed however that Sudan does not want an escalation of the issue on the media but stands by its position against any framework agreement that does not enjoy the unanimous support of the concerned states.

## **21 die in south Sudan cattle raids - army**

*Reuters Juba, 04/08/10* - A cattle raid in south Sudan left 21 people dead, an army spokesman said on Wednesday, amid fears that continuing violence could affect next year's referendum on independence for the semi-autonomous region.

"On Aug. 2, raiders from Yirol West raided a cattle camp in Yirol East. One youth from the East was killed and 20 of the attackers were killed because there was a fight back," said south Sudan's army (SPLA) spokesman Kuol Diem Kuol.

Kuol played down any tribal issue in Monday's clash in Lakes State, saying it was simple theft not a mark of deeper tensions.

Aid groups say at least 2,500 people have been killed in tribal violence in south Sudan since the beginning of last year and many analysts believe the fighting could affect the referendum by making with large areas of the south inaccessible.

## **Lakes state insecurity is politically motivated by NCP - official**

*Sudantribune.com Rumbek, 03/08/10* - The Commissioner of Rumbek North (Maper) County, Isaac Mayek Noah, said the insecurity across the various counties of Lakes State is politically motivated by National Congress party (NCP). He accused the NCP of supplying weapons and ammunition to cattle raiders.

"This insecurity in Lakes State may be politically motivated, with the aim to interrupt the upcoming referendum registration in Lakes State across eight counties, hindering the registration process," he said.

Noah told the *Catholic Radio* that some of the arms in the hands of civilians originate from northern Sudan, affirming that there is an effort to destabilize the South in what he described as "cultivating crisis in our society" to interfere with the process of registration of southerners for the referendum.

He said this practice of arming Southerners has affected the disarmament process in some parts

of the states of Southern Sudan. Mayek also accused northern traders of cooperating with Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to supply ammunitions under the cover of biscuits into southern Sudan territory. He cited as an example the uncovering of rounds of bullets packed as biscuits in a businessman's truck.

### **EC earmarks €40m to tackle food crisis in Sahel and Sudan**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 03/08/10* - The European Commission (EC), the executive body of the European Union, has allocated an additional fund of €40 million to tackle what it described as "the worsening food crisis" affecting Sudan and the Sahel region" a statement released by the organization says.

According to Kristalina Georgieva, the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, the proposed fund is expected to be drawn from the EU budget of Emergency Aid Reserve.

A statement released yesterday revealed that €30 million would be additional funding for the Sahel, which brings the total amount of funding allocated by the Commission to fighting malnutrition in the Sahel to €38 million.

The additional funds, notes the European Commission, will be used to boost humanitarian aid operations carried out by the EC's humanitarian aid partners, as well as to help provide food assistance to over 500,000 extra beneficiaries during the next critical months until the harvest season in October.

### **Self-determination emerging as an option for Darfur: JEM**

*Sudantribune.com Washington, 03/08/10* - The people of Darfur will soon be left with no option but to demand the right of self-determination in a manner similar to Southern Sudan, a senior Darfur rebel official said today.

"Our people need hope; they have the right to live under state of citizenship, freedom, democracy, equality and rule of law. We cannot accept this indefinite state of status-quo," said Ahmed Hussein who is the official spokesperson of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

"There is an ongoing genocide in Darfur which is entering a new phase. The [Khartoum] regime is working towards having a forcible return by dismantling the IDPs camps, using food as weapon, expelling and intimidating aid groups through abduction, assassinating IDP leaders, assaulting peacekeepers," Hussein added.

The JEM official emphasized that the Sudanese government is deploying these tactics "to liquidate the cause of our people" adding that the shift of international focus from Darfur to South Sudan encouraged Khartoum to execute this plan.

"Under these circumstances, JEM will be left with no other choice than to call for self-determination for Darfur as well as Kordofan. We must remember that Darfur was an independent Sultanate until 1916, exercising sovereignty and conducting its own foreign relations," Hussein said.

This is the first time JEM makes such a call for self-determination. The Sudanese government has flatly rejected this demand saying this not even a topic for negotiations.

Hussein referred to the recent advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

on Kosovo saying that it sets a legal precedent in other parts of the world including Darfur.

"People around the world are now allowed to decide on their destiny and future to preserve their dignity and humanity," he said.

The JEM spokesperson chided the UN Security Council UNSC for staying mute on the events that took place in IDP camps.

"The world is silent even as the government attacks the IDP camps. In Kalma they are passing weapons from the eastern side of the camp through the security and intelligence agents. This is a war crime and the UNSC must take up its responsibility and intervene to stop this and further support the International Criminal Court to investigate the events that occurred last week," he added.

### **Sudan's nuclear energy project endorsed by the Atomic Energy Commission**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam et al Khartoum, 04/08/10* – The International Atomic Energy Commission has endorsed Sudan's plans to establish two nuclear energy plants for the production of electricity and for scientific research, Science and Technology Minister Eissa Bushra revealed at a press conference yesterday. Bushra who had led a Sudanese delegation to a session of the Arab Atomic Energy Council in Tunisia said that Sudan's nuclear energy ambitions would bolster development and the optimum use of the available resources.

### **Sudan sentences 19 men for wearing women's clothes**

*Reuters Khartoum, 04/08/10* - A Sudanese court on Wednesday sentenced 19 young Muslim men to 30 lashes and a fine for breaking moral codes by wearing women's clothes and makeup, a case exposing Sudanese sensitivity toward homosexuality.

Many of the defendants tried to hide their faces from the around 200 people who watched as they were lashed straight after their sentencing. The men had no lawyers present and said nothing in their own defense.

The trial judge said police had raided a party thrown by the 19 men and found them dancing "in a womanly fashion," wearing women's clothes and makeup. He said there was a video of the party and that one woman who was present had fled the scene.

The defendants were charged with violating Sudan's public morality codes.

Local newspapers reported that the party was held to celebrate a same-sex wedding, propelling it into a talking point all over Khartoum's conservative Muslim society. The court on Wednesday made no mention of a marriage ceremony.

One lawyer present, who declined to be named, said legal advocates would have been afraid to take on such a defense.

"These people did not get a chance for justice," he said. "Public opinion and the media prejudged them and lawyers were too scared to come and defend them."

# Referendum Monitor:

## **CPA partners resolve to complete all outstanding issues ahead of referendum**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 04/08/10* – The NCP and the SPLM have resolved to address all outstanding issues in the implementation of the CPA ahead of the 2011 referendum and to respect the choice of the people of southern Sudan at the self-determination vote. The two sides agreed at the conclusion of a workshop in Cairo on the referendum to conduct the exercise on schedule. A joint statement issued at the wake of the meeting also revealed that they also underlined the need to develop appropriate channels of cooperation between the north and south of the country and to preserve the historic ties between the people in the border areas between the two sides. They also agreed to conclude the border demarcation exercise before 2011.

The two sides also resolved to exert sincere efforts to overcome the obstacles to the implementation of the Abyei Protocol and to conduct Popular Consultations for the Blue Nile Area and Southern Kordofan as prescribed by the CPA.

## **NCP warns against pegging unity to development**

*Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 04/08/10* – As parties to the CPA gear up to resume talks on post-referendum arrangements next Saturday, Cabinet Affairs Minister and prominent SPLM figure, Luka Biong, has underlined the need to allow the other political forces in the country to participate in discussions over unity. Biong who was addressing a symposium at the Council of Ministers yesterday on referendum-related issues pointed out that the referendum is a legal and political obligation of the people of southern Sudan while the issue of development is linked to national unity on a new basis.

On his part, Federal Minister of Information, Kamal Obeid, warned that unity should not be pegged to the development issue. He said that doing so would only mislead the people [*Please see also the related editorial article below*].

## **FVP Kiir expects 7 million southern Sudanese to register in the north**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya Khartoum, 04/08/10* – First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit has revealed that registration of southern Sudanese for the referendum has started in the northern states. He pointed out that the registration has so far listed over 2 million southern Sudanese in the north and the number may go up to 7 million. The FVP did not however reveal which party is conducting such registration.

The GoSS President who was addressing Martyrs' Day Celebration in Juba blamed the NCP of failure of the two sides to reach agreement over the border areas between north and south.

## **Speaker of the National Assembly calls for UN support for the referendum**

*Al-Ayyam et at Khartoum, 04/08/10* – Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir has called on the UN to play a positive role in supporting preparations for the conduct of the 2011 referendum. In discussions yesterday with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) to Sudan, Haile Menkerios, over the challenges ahead, the Speaker said that the CPA obligates the two partners to work towards making unity an attractive option.

On his part Haile Menkerios said that the UN is committed to the implementation of the CPA. He called for continued efforts to make unity an attractive option, reports *Al-Rai Al-Aam*.

## **Atem Garang says unity vote requires guarantees to be put in place**

*Al-Khartoum Khartoum, 04/08/10* – Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Atem Garang says southern Sudanese would not vote for unity on a new basis at the 2011 referendum unless guarantees are put in place. He pointed out that among those guarantees are that there would be no military takeover of government that would derail the unity they sought. He also cited democracy, justice, respect for diversity and citizenship and freedom as among the guarantees required for a unity vote.

On the border demarcation, Atem told *Al-Khartoum* that there is nothing to prevent the border demarcation exercise to conclude even after the referendum. “The referendum would not be delayed even by a single day because it is a right of the people of southern Sudan and not the prerogative of either the NCP or the SPLM,” said the Deputy Speaker.

He further pointed out that failure to preserve the country’s unity would require that the grounds be set for future prospects for unity and this, he said, requires a trouble-free border demarcation exercise.

## **Carter Center to monitor 2011 referendum**

*Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 04/08/10* – The Carter Center is mulling sending a delegation to monitor the 2011 referendum on southern Sudanese self-determination. The schedule for deployment of the referendum monitors would be sorted out in coordination with the relevant authorities in Sudan, sources say.

## **Abyei Administration blasts CPA partners over border demarcation**

*Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 04/08/10* – The Abyei administration is calling on the partners to the CPA and the DDR commissions to disarm, demobilise and reintegrate militia elements causing unrest in the area. The area’s Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, Abdulkarim Chol, also called on the JIUs and UN forces to take stringent measures against such militia elements. He pointed out that these elements only carry out their criminal acts because they lack other means of livelihood.

## **SPLM warns against fraud in Southern Kordofan census results**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya Khartoum, 04/08/10* – The SPLM has expressed surprise over the delay in the announcement of results of the Southern Kordofan census re-run and has warned against fraud in the results. A prominent SPLM figure who chose anonymity revealed that the Central Bureau of Statistics had earlier promised the Governor and Deputy Governor of Southern Kordofan that the results would be out by the 30<sup>th</sup> of July but is yet to announce the results. He also pointed out that the SPLM is committed to the conduct of the Popular Consultations for Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile areas.

## **PCP’s Turabi turns down invitation to participate at referendum meet**

*Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 04/08/10* – The leader of the Popular Congress Party (PCP), Dr. Hassan Turabi, has turned down an invitation from the NCP to participate at a meeting of political parties on the referendum. NCP Political Liaisons Officer Ibrahim Gandour said yesterday that his party is keen to have all political parties on board the referendum talks proposed by President Al-Bashir but then the PCP leader has turned down the invitation.

# EDITORIAL:

## Development and the Realisation of Unity

The *Al-Ayyam* editorial piece commends the Council of Ministers for organising yesterday a symposium on the “Development Aspects of the Unity Option”. The paper notes that development is a key pillar for peace and stability in the country and is a requisite not only for unity between north and south Sudan but also for national unity in Sudan as a whole. It also notes that the problems of the country mainly stem from inequitable development between the centre and the peripheries of the country. As a result, the concept of equitable development featured prominently in the CPA and requires long-term strategic planning beyond those development projects planned for the few months that remain of the CPA. The paper goes on to note that despite the importance of those projects funding by the Unity Support Fund, the issue of development requires longer term planning regardless of the possible outcome of the forthcoming referendum.

The editorial welcomes discussions on the development aspects of the unity option and expresses hopes that such discussions would continue and would provide a forum for free, transparent and objective discourse through wide participation from the north and south of the country. Development, it adds, should be considered the major issue to address in Sudan’s modern history.

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