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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-Elections Monitor

- Chad's Deby invited to attend Al-Bashir swearing-in ceremony (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Southern Kordofan legislative polls kick off after rainy season – NEC (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- SPLM forms committee for Southern Kordofan census and polls (*Al-Ayyam*)
- No reversing on Islam – Nafi (*local dailies*)
- Sudan's Lakes state Governor bans alcoholic drinks in Rumbek (*Sudantribune.com*)

Pre-Referenda Monitor

- North-South border demarcation by November (*MirayaFM.org*)
- UN must verify north-south clashes - SPLM (*Reuters*)
- Sudanese youths' union launches a "unity support initiative" (*Akhir Lahza*)
- NCP says unity is a strategic objective (*Sudan Vision*)
- SPLM calls for new alliance to support southern Sudan referendum (*Sudantribune.com*)

Other Highlights

- Consultative meeting concludes in Addis Ababa (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Sudan to appoint new envoy to the United Nations (*Sudantribune.com; Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Renegade Southern Sudan general says talks off after attack (*Reuters*)
- Misseriya blame government for clashes with the Rizeigat (*Rai Al-Shaab*)
- Thirty killed, tens injured in renewed Misseriya-Rizeigat clashes (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Fact-finding team on peacekeeping in Sudan leaves Japan (*Kyodo*)
- Armed men ambush Darfur peacekeepers, two killed (*Reuters; Al-Ayyam*)
- UNAMID's Ibrahim Gambari calls attack on peacekeepers "a cowardly act" (*MirayaFM.org*)
- Tripartite mechanism to discuss UNAMID deployment in Addis (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Egyptian FM and spy chief start visit to Sudan on Sunday (*Sudantribune.com; MENA*)

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Highlights

Post-Elections:

Chad's Deby invited to attend Al-Bashir swearing-in ceremony

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 08/05/10 - The Sudanese government today handed Chadian president Idriss Deby an invitation to attend the swearing-in ceremony of his counterpart Omar Hassan Al-Bashir who won last month's elections.

State media reported that the Sudanese defense minister Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Hussein paid a surprise visit to Ndjamena today accompanied by intelligence chief Mohamed Atta to review the border-security protocols and the status of the joint Chad-Sudan force to be deployed.

Southern Kordofan legislative polls kick off after rainy season – NEC

Mohamed Abdullah Al-Hardallu, the head of the National Elections Security Committee at the NEC, said yesterday that the legislative polls for Southern Kordofan State would take place after the rainy season, reports **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. He revealed that it would be a lengthy process as the NEC would have to conduct a population census for the state, delineate the geographical constituencies, and revise the electoral register thus necessitating a deferment until after the rains.

The Elections Law stipulates that areas where polling has defaulted from the general schedule would have to conduct the polls no more than 60 days after the polls close.

SPLM forms committee for Southern Kordofan census and polls

The SPLM's Southern Kordofan Chapter has resolved to establish a committee in Khartoum to coordinate support for the forthcoming census and polls in Southern Kordofan, reports **Al-Ayyam**. Formed by decree from the Chairman of SPLM - Southern Kordofan Chapter, Abdulaziz Al-Hilu, the committee shall have the duties of "coordinating efforts to support the census and elections in Southern Kordofan State, campaign for the participation of the people of Southern Kordofan in the exercises and keep local and international public opinion informed of the processes."

No reversing on Islam – Nafi

Local dailies quote NCP stalwart Nafi Ali Nafi as saying that those who peg the country's unity on its retracting on the implementation of Islamic laws are in for a big surprise. "Those who want us to retract on Islam are disillusioned as the banner of Islam will remain high in this country," said the Assistant to the President of the Republic.

Addressing an NCP victory celebration in River Nile State, he accused parties he declined to name as being behind a smear campaign against the elected government and behind attempts to turn the international community against the government.

Sudan's Lakes state Governor bans alcoholic drinks in Rumbek

Sudantribune.com Rumbek, 08/05/10 - Lakes State Governor Telar Deng has issued a provisional order prohibiting consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages in Rumbek during work hours. On the non-working days of Saturdays and Sundays the sale of liquor shall be allowed only after 11:00am, according to the decree.

Last week, Lakes state has been marred by high levels of drinking of alcoholic drinks that led to violent incidents which spread fear among civilians as armed SPLA soldiers patrolled the local market in Rumbek.

The governor immediately circulated the document to all (8) eight County Commissioners of Lakes State to impose the provisional order in their respective counties.

Citizens of Lakes State gave mixed reactions to the decision with some welcoming the order while the majority of the people objected describing it as an Islamic Sharia'a law being imposed by the Governor.

Pre-Referenda Monitor:

North-South border demarcation by November

MirayaFM.org Khartoum, 08/05/10 – Head of the Technical Committee for the North-South Border Demarcation, Abdulla Al-Sadiq, has said that the committee would complete its work by November 2010. Sadiq stated that by then, borders would be demarcated from the Central African Republic to Ethiopia.

Al-Sadiq added that the committee's work has not been disrupted.

He told **Radio Miraya** that the final report of the Technical Committee will be tabled before the Presidency of the Republic for endorsement in November ahead of the 2011 referendum.

UN must verify north-south clashes - SPLM

Reuters Khartoum, 08/05/10 - United Nations peacekeepers should be more active in monitoring violence in Sudan's south ahead of the 2011 referendum, says SPLM's Yassir Arman.

Arman, a senior SPLM official, said his part had evidence President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir's National Congress Party (NCP) was trying to destabilise the south by arming proxy militias in the semi-autonomous region.

"The UN should verify and should be present in all the places where there are violations of the security arrangements," Arman told reporters.

"This is the mandate of the UN force here -- they should take this mandate... seriously."

The UN mission said it was committed to its mission. "We are discharging our duties according to our mandate," UN Spokesperson Ashraf Eissa said.

The NCP was not available to comment.

Arman urged the NCP to reinvigorate a joint defence body to calm any north-south clashes and to allow the United Nations access to tense border areas.

"The United Nations, in particular the Security Council, should put an eye on Sudan and make sure that the security arrangements do not collapse," Arman said.

Sudanese youths' union launches a "unity support initiative"

Balla Yousuf, the head of the Sudan National Youths' Union, has revealed that the union would back efforts to make unity an attractive option. **Akhir Lahza** daily quotes him as saying that it is important they do so because the world is moving towards unification through the efforts of youth.

NCP says unity is a strategic objective

The NCP has put to rest speculation over its position on the unity versus secession debate and reiterated that the option it favours is to maintain a united Sudan and making unity the favoured option for all Sudanese, reports **Sudan Vision** daily. NCP Spokesperson Fathi Sheila pointed

out that his party's unflinching position is for unity. The party, he said, has been consistent in its position on the issue as was outlined at the NCP General Convention last October and as stated in the party's elections manifesto.

He pointed out that the SPLM is aware of this NCP position which takes into account the cultural, religious and ethnic diversity of the country and seeks to achieve equitable development with war and conflict-areas granted top priority.

SPLM calls for new alliance to support southern Sudan referendum

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 08/05/10 - The SPLM today called for the formation of a new political alliance to establish the New Sudan and to support southern Sudan's right to self-determination.

The SPLM leadership held recently a series of meetings in Juba to assess the post-elections situation and to define the party's political line ahead of the referendum.

The SPLM accused its peace partner, NCP of deliberately delaying the formation of the referendum commission and warned that the elected southern parliament may hold it without the participation of the northern Sudan ruling party.

SPLM Deputy Secretary General for northern Sudan, Yassir Arman called Saturday on the "New Sudan and Democratic forces" in northern Sudan to form a broad alliance with his party to establish the New Sudan.

Arman further called upon all the "national forces" to develop Juba Alliance and define a common vision connecting the struggle for democratization, self-determination, popular consultation and a just solution to the Darfur conflict as one package for a genuine democratic transition and for the full implementation of the CPA.

Other Highlights:

Consultative meeting concludes in Addis Ababa

An international consultative meeting on Sudan culminated yesterday in a Final Communiqué in which participants underlined the importance of the NCP-SPLM partnership to lead Sudan through the challenges ahead, reports **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. Participants at the meeting held in Addis Ababa also expressed confidence in the ability of the parties to the CPA to see the CPA successful completion through a spirit of mutual trust. According to the communiqué, participants also pledged support to the CPA partners to help them achieve that goal.

The meeting also saw participants commend Sudan on the conduct of the polls that saw officials elected to office and voiced their support for the AU and UN to hold a consultative meeting with UNAMID, the joint Mediation Committee and the Sudan Government over the peace process for Darfur against the background of the recent developments brought about by the elections.

The communiqué further noted that participants underlined the need to reach a political settlement to the Darfur problem ahead of the 2011 referendum on southern Sudan self-determination.

Speaking by phone from Addis, Mohy-el-deen Salim, Sudan's Permanent Representative to the AU, said that the meeting also resolved the formation of a joint UN-AU consultative and monitoring mechanism for Darfur to be headed by Thabo Mbeki.

Akoi Malwal, Sudan's Ambassador to Addis, said that the meeting underlined the need to give impetus to the Doha track and to unify regional and international discourse on Darfur in order to realise a comprehensive peace for the region.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the UN, regional organizations, permanent

members of the UN Security Council, some neighbouring countries, mediators and other parties concerned with the affairs in Sudan.

Sudan to appoint new envoy to the United Nations

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 08/05/10 - The Sudanese government has relocated its ambassador to the United Nations (UN) Abdel-Mahmood Abdel-Haleem in a surprise move after his tenure was extended on an exceptional basis last March by President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir.

The pro-government **Al-Rai Al-Aam** newspaper said that Abdel-Haleem was summoned to Khartoum last Thursday and that he will likely be replaced by Ambassador Dafalla Al-Haj Ali Osman of Sudanese foreign ministry.

The newspaper hailed the achievements of the outgoing envoy saying he managed to frustrate efforts by countries hostile to Sudan in the world body and those by the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo.

Renegade Southern Sudan general says talks off after attack

Reuters Khartoum, 07/05/10 - A renegade SPLA commander said on Friday government troops had clashed with soldiers loyal to him, leaving 53 dead and ending hopes of a negotiated end to his mini revolt.

General George Athor and a small contingent of troops rebelled in protest at the outcome of elections in April in which Athor stood. He was defeated by a candidate belonging to the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) of South Sudan President Salva Kiir.

Athor said he had been talking with Kiir directly over the voting issue and an incident when some of his troops were involved in a fire fight at an army base on April 30 which killed eight soldiers.

"I don't think that we can talk to him again," Athor said. "We have decided there is no negotiation anymore."

"The forces of Salva Kiir came and attacked us in Colliet yesterday," Athor told **Reuters** from Jonglei State.

The SPLA said Athor had sent out a reconnaissance unit which had run into government troops.

"Only one soldier was injured from the SPLA," said spokesman Malaak Ayuen Ajok. "The SPLA were not given any orders to attack Athor."

He said some troops had pursued Athor's soldiers and had not yet reported back.

The SPLA puts Athor's troop numbers at about 100 men. Athor has not said how many soldiers support him.

Misseriya blame government for clashes with the Rizeigat

Idries Ibrahim Ahmed, spokesperson for the Misseriya tribe in Khartoum, says the federal government and Defence Minister Abdulraheem Mohamed Ahmed are to blame for the clashes between Misseriya and Rizeigat tribesmen in Darfur, **Rai Al-Shaab** reports. He pointed out that the defence minister had vowed at a meeting with representatives of the two tribes in Nyala that authorities would carry out a disarmament campaign but did not follow up on that promise. This has caused renewed clashes between the two tribes as they still had firearms in their possession.

He pointed out that the two sides started fighting since early March this year. Since then, he adds, the fighting has spread to different parts of Darfur and has led to the death of innocent

women, children and elderly.

Thirty killed, tens injured in renewed Misseriya-Rizeigat clashes

Thirty people were reportedly killed and tens of others injured in renewed violent clashes between Misseriya and Rizeigat tribesmen in Mukjar County, West Darfur, **Al-Sahafa** reports. Hundreds of citizens are reportedly displaced as a result of the clashes, sources say. The sources report that the two tribes renewed violent clashes yesterday causing more displacements as people fled to Erida in South Darfur.

Eyewitnesses report that the two sides are regrouping their troops for an offensive. This, they say, has led local authorities in West Darfur to form a committee of local leaders in a bid to defuse the situation.

Fact-finding team on peacekeeping in Sudan leaves Japan

Kyodo Tokyo, 07/05/10 - A fact-finding team formed by the Japanese government left for Sudan on Friday to study the feasibility of sending Ground Self-Defence Force helicopters for UNMIS.

The team, made up of nearly a dozen officials from the foreign and defence ministries as well as the Cabinet Office's Secretariat for the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters, will hold talks with members of the UNMIS and local government leaders on the specific needs to be addressed by a Japanese peacekeeping mission.

A referendum on the right to self-determination for the people of Southern Sudan is planned for next January and GSDF helicopters could be used to help transport ballot boxes under the auspices of the United Nations.

If realized, it would be Japan's first dispatch of helicopters for a UN peacekeeping operation. The GSDF's CH-47 large transport helicopters are being eyed for the possible mission.

Armed men ambush Darfur peacekeepers, two killed

Reuters Khartoum, 07/05/10 - Armed men ambushed UNAMID peacekeepers in Darfur on Friday, killing two soldiers and seriously injuring three, the latest in a wave of attacks on the under-equipped force.

Separately Darfur's main rebel group said on Friday it had clashed twice with government troops in the past three days, warning more attacks would mean "all-out war" and the collapse of a fragile peace process.

"The attackers fled when the convoy returned fire. The attack left two peacekeepers killed in action and three seriously wounded," UNAMID said in a statement.

The peacekeepers were Egyptian, UNAMID said, urging the government to bring the unknown attackers to justice. Some 24 UNAMID soldiers have been killed since the mission was established in January 2008.

Al-Ayyam daily meanwhile reports that the UN Security Council has condemned the attack on the UNAMID convoy and has called on the Sudan government to bring the culprits to book. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has also called upon the Sudan government to institute an immediate investigation into the incident. He expressed condolences to the Egyptian government and to the families of the deceased peacekeepers.

UNAMID's Ibrahim Gambari calls attack on peacekeepers "a cowardly act"

MirayaFM.org reports that UNAMID Joint Special Representative (JSR), Ibrahim Gambari, expressed outrage at the attack, describing it as a cowardly act.

In a press statement, UNAMID called on the Sudanese Government to identify, capture and bring the perpetrators to justice, adding that any attack against peacekeepers constitutes a war crime.

Tripartite mechanism to discuss UNAMID deployment in Addis

The joint Sudan, UN and AU mechanism will hold its eighth regular meeting next Monday in Addis Ababa, reports ***Al-Rai Al-Aam***. Participants are expected to discuss progress of the Darfur hybrid mission.

Egyptian FM and spy chief start visit to Sudan on Sunday

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 08/05/0 - Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul-Gheit and Egypt's intelligence Chief Omer Suleiman will arrive in Sudan tomorrow for talks on a wide range of issues with President Omar Al-Bashir and GoSS President Salva Kiir.

Egypt's official ***Middle East News Agency (MENA)*** quotes Hussam Zaki, Egypt's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, as saying that the visit comes within the framework of emphasis on Egypt's interest in the security, unity and stability of Sudan.

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