

11 May 2010

www.unmis.unmissions.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Post-Elections Monitor

- Sudan's elections results dubious – US monitors (*AFP*)
- South Sudan opposition urges release of elections results (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Peaceful protests to be organised during Al-Bashir's swearing in (*Al-Sahafa*)
- SPLM-North will not participate in the next government – NCP (*Al-Ayyam*)
- SPLA zeroes in on Gen. Athor's (*Al-Ayyam*)

Pre-Referenda Monitor

- Control the SPLA, NCP tells SPLM (*Al-Sudani*)
- Those who say NCP backs southern militias have lost credibility – NCP (*Al-Ahdath*)
- NCP should pay Sudan's debts – Amum (*Khartoum Monitor*)

Other Highlights

- SPLA forcefully enters Paulino Matip's resident (*Al-Intibaha*)
- Tripartite mechanism forms technical committee to resolve obstacles to deployment (*Al-Ahdath*)
- Sudan asks Interpol to arrest rebel chief--report (*Reuters*)
- Sudan formally rejects the Nile Basin Pact (*Sudantribune.com*)

NOTE: *Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

Highlights

Post-Elections:

Sudan's elections results dubious – US monitors

AFP Khartoum, 10/05/10 - The count in last month's Sudanese elections was marred by irregularities, "raising serious questions about the accuracy of election results," the US-based Carter Centre that monitored the polls said yesterday.

Counting in the landmark April 11-15 legislative, local and presidential polls was "highly disorganised, non-transparent and vulnerable to electoral fraud," said the centre, headed by former US president Jimmy Carter.

The elections, the first multi-party polls in the war-ravaged country since 1986, were replete with technical problems, fraud charges and opposition boycotts. Sudanese authorities said yesterday that a video posted by the US-based Enough Project on YouTube showing alleged ballot stuffing was real and not a fabrication as it had claimed last month.

"We've investigated and we can now confirm that there was an error (on our part)," Mukhtar al-Asam, a senior official at the National Election Commission (NEC), said.

Charges had been brought against the people suspected of committing fraud, Asam said, adding only that the NEC had forwarded the case to the judiciary.

EU observers and the Carter Centre both concluded that the elections failed to live up to international standards, and both said the chaos was worse in semi-autonomous south Sudan, which also elected its own president.

"Carter Centre observers reported that the tabulation process was chaotic and lacked transparency throughout the country, raising serious questions about the accuracy of election results," the centre said in a statement.

"While alterations to results were often an attempt to correct mathematical errors, in some cases numbers were arbitrarily changed without clear explanation," it added. "In at least a quarter of observed states, data entry staff were frequently observed altering Results Forms, increasing or decreasing both the number of invalid votes and also the number of votes won by candidates so as to reconcile the figures," the statement said.

"This raises serious questions about the accuracy of the results and makes it extremely difficult to track how votes were tallied and how discrepancies were resolved at each data centre".

Responding to this development, a source in the NEC told **Al-Rai Al-Aam** local daily yesterday that there is no way a re-sorting of the ballot papers would take place. He described this latest report by the Carter Centre as a "baseless political statement meant to cause ripples".

The source pointed out that the Carter Centre had earlier stated that the process was free and fair. He challenged the Carter Centre to prove these allegations of irregularities.

South Sudan opposition urges release of elections results

Sudantribune.com Wunrok, 10/05/10 - Supporters of various opposition political parties and candidates from southern Sudan, who contested in the recently conducted polls, have urged the NEC to publish results saying that would provide greater transparency and build public confidence.

"We urge the NEC to publish results of individual polling centres as quickly and widely as possible so as to allow for a thorough review of the results, especially those based on manual tabulation,

which lack the safeguards of the electronic tabulation system, said, Mou Kuan Adim, an independent ex-candidate for the Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal parliamentary seat in Juba.

According to Mou, he said he won elections by large margins but was denied his victory. "Results from polling stations which show I was ahead of my rival, have been swapped. My scores have been given out and announced in favour of the SPLM candidate;" he said urging the NEC to consider releasing manual tabulations.

This call has been echoed by a number of other southern Sudanese opposition politicians in different parts of the region.

Peaceful protests to be organised during Al-Bashir's swearing in

The Juba Alliance forces are in preparations to carry out a peaceful protest nationwide to coincide with President-elect Omar Al-Bashir's swearing-in ceremony, reports **Al-Sahafa**. Opposition parties hope to express their rejection of Sudan polls during the march. Sources say that the opposition would meet next Wednesday to lay down final plans on how to face the "crises" in the country.

SPLM-North will not participate in the next government – NCP

Prominent NCP member Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir has described SPLM-Northern Sector as a "Scion of the Communist Party" and says they will not be included in the next government, reports **Al-Ayyam**. The former Speaker of the National Assembly accused SPLM-North of causing instability.

Speaking at a press conference in Al-Damer, northern Sudan, Al-Tahir lashed out at advocates for southern Sudanese secession describing them as groups that seek to draw the south away from its real interests.

In a related development, the head of the NCP's elections unit Haj Majid Suwar has revealed that talks with other political parties towards the formation of the new government are progressing well. He said that his party has offered southern Sudan (SPLM and the other southern political parties) a 30% stake in the next government while the NCP will share the remaining 70% with the other northern political parties.

Suwar assured that all those armed movements of Darfur and eastern Sudan that signed peace deals with the government will be included in the next government. He intimated that the new government will also include some independents.

The NCP official said however that those parties that boycotted the recent polls would not be allowed to participate in government.

SPLA zeroes in on Gen. Athor's forces

The SPLA siege on the forces of Gen. George Athor in the Khorflous area in Jonglei State is meant to minimise civilian casualties, said Acting SPLA Spokesperson Malak Ayuen. **Al-Ahdath** quotes the SPLA official as saying that informal talks are underway with Athor to defuse the situation. He also revealed that the SPLA is awaiting instructions from its headquarters in Juba on how to handle Athor.

In another development, Malak denied reports of an SPLA build up in the Tumsaha area of South Darfur. He said that the SPLA had abandoned Bulbula earlier but was surprised by the arrival later on of 6 tanks and wondered where the Rizeigat could get such tanks. He pointed out that the SPLA seeks to guarantee the implementation of the CPA and has no intention to go to war. The SPLA, he added, is however aware of attempts by some parties to draw it into conflict.

Blue Nile swearing in row

The swearing in ceremony of new lawmakers for the Blue Nile State legislature was held halfway as a lawmaker inquired why he, as a non-Muslim, should swear on the Holy Koran. **Al-Ayyam** reports that Silas Musa Kingi, a new lawmaker for the state legislature, offered to bring his own Bible for his swearing in.

Pre-Referenda Monitor:

Control the SPLA, NCP tells SPLM

The NCP's Southern Sector has called on the GoSS to put urgent measures in place to preserve security in the ten states of the region, reports **Al-Sudani**.

The NCP's Ali Tamim Fartak said that the GoSS is not doing enough to help the people participate at the 2011 referendum. He also called on the SPLM to reign in the SPLA and make of them a non-partisan force ahead of the referendum and not to use the methods of intimidation used during the polls.

Those who say NCP backs southern militias have lost credibility - NCP

NCP Political Officer Ibrahim Gandour says SPLM officials who accuse the NCP of backing southern Sudanese militias have lost credibility, reports **Al-Ahdath**. He pointed out that some SPLM officials seek to push a wedge in relations between the two parties.

He called on such people to table evidence to back their allegations before the bilateral committees formed by the two parties for such purposes or even before the regional and international bodies charged with monitoring the peace process.

Gandour assured that the two parties are on track to form the new government that will see the CPA to a successful completion.

NCP should pay Sudan's debts – Amum

SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum said recently that payment for Sudan's debts estimated at about \$34 billion rests squarely on the shoulders of the NCP, reports **Khartoum Monitor**.

"The NCP should be held accountable for the amount of money that it mercilessly used to kill southerners during the war," Amum told **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat**.

Amum also pushed back on the view from the Central Bank of Sudan that the Sudanese Pound remains in circulation in southern Sudan even if the south opts out in the 2011 referendum. "If the south secedes, it may be compelled to abandon the Sudanese currency and use hard currency instead," said the SPLM Secretary-General.

Other Highlights:

SPLA forcefully enters Paulino Matip's residence

SPLA elements reportedly raided the residence of SPLA Deputy Commander Paulino Matip in Mayom County, Unity State, reports **Al-Intibaha**. The soldiers are said to have forcefully entered the house and ordered the occupants out. They were allowed to return shortly after with no explanation as to what the issue was all about.

Tripartite mechanism forms committee to resolve obstacles to deployment

The tripartite mechanism of the Sudan government, the UN and the AU have resolved to establish a technical committee that meets at least once a month in Khartoum or Darfur to address the issues faced by the hybrid mission, reports **Al-Ahdath**.

Sudan asks Interpol to arrest rebel chief--report

Reuters Khartoum, 10/-5/10 - Sudan's justice minister has asked Interpol to arrest the leader of Darfur's most powerful rebel group, state media said on Monday, a step likely to dash hopes of progress in a faltering peace process.

The **Sudanese Media Centre (SMC)** quoted Abdel Basit Sabdarat as saying that Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) leader, Khalil Ibrahim, should stand trial for an unprecedented May 2008 attack on the capital Khartoum, which killed around 200 people.

"The relevant authorities of Interpol have been requested to arrest him wherever he is so that he may face trial ... and be handed over to the Sudanese authorities," Sabdarat was quoted as saying.

He urged "all concerned states not to shelter him and to extradite him to face trial", SMC added. Sabdarat was not immediately available to confirm the report.

Ibrahim has left Qatar-based peace talks and is visiting Cairo. JEM officials declined to comment.

Meanwhile in Cairo JEM Spokesperson Ahmed Hussein described the remarks by Sabdarat as "childish".

"They are really showing their disrespect to Egypt by timing this announcement when Dr. Khalil is in Cairo discussing with Egyptian officials the fate of the peace process in Darfur. In any case this is just laughable. It does not mean anything to us but a childish attitude on the part of Khartoum" Hussein told **Sudan Tribune** by phone from the Egyptian capital.

Hussein revealed two meetings between the JEM leader and the Egyptian intelligence chief where they discussed the faltering talks in Doha denying any intention to move the venue to Cairo as some have speculated.

Asked whether the issue of the Interpol notice came up, Hussein said 'No'.

"Egypt told Bashir that it wants to maintain ties with all parties in Sudan like they did with [SPLM leader John] Garang or otherwise they will have no mediation leverage" JEM spokesperson said.

Hussein said that Khartoum is resorting to tactics that aim at deflecting attention from issues the government is facing.

"This is propaganda by Khartoum and an attempt to cover up their military defeats in Darfur and frustration over growing diplomatic engagement of regional and international players with our movements," he added.

"Sabdarat should be more concerned with the Mawasir market (the pyramid scheme) scandal their officials were involved in and with trying to get people their money back or he can advise [president] Al-Bashir to stand before the International Criminal Court rather than demand the arrest of Dr. Khalil" Hussein said.

Sudan formally rejects the Nile Basin Pact

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 10/05/10 - Sudan has announced today that it will not sign the framework agreement aimed at reallocating shares from the River Nile, a longstanding demand by several up-stream countries.

Egypt joined by Sudan has refused any alteration to the pre-existing accords of 1929 & 1959 which gave it veto power over upstream projects.

Some of the Nile Basin countries, which include Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo, say past treaties are unfair and they want an equitable water-sharing agreement that would allow for more irrigation and power projects.

The Sudanese Legal Counsel to the initiative of the Nile Basin countries Ahmed Al-Mufti said in a press conference today that "the official position of the Sudanese government is not to sign during the period of the year set by the seven countries of the basin from the 14th of May unless all nine basin states reach solutions to the disputed issues.

Al-Mufti said that Sudan believes that the Nile Basin countries should issue a presidential statement announcing the establishment of the Office of the Nile River Basin while continuing to negotiate in order to arrive at a comprehensive agreement on the remaining points of disagreement.

He further said that the expiration of the signature period for the Convention does not mean that it has automatically entered into force because it has to be followed by a lengthy and complex process, stressing that this "does not increase or decrease the rights of the Sudan in the Nile basin or the Nile Waters Agreement."

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[Http://unmis.unmissions.org](http://unmis.unmissions.org)

United Nations Mission In Sudan - Public Information Office

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN

Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200