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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## HIGHLIGHTS:

### Post-Elections:

- Ban defends decision authorizing UN officials to attend Bashir's inauguration (***Sudantribune.com***)
- Chad's Deby, other leaders to attend Al-Bashir inauguration (***SUNA; Al-Ahdath***)
- South Sudan President relieves constitutional executive post holders (***Sudantribune.com***)
- Sudanese Council of States elects new chairman; vows to uphold constitution (***Radio Omdurman***)

### Pre-Referenda Monitor

- Parliament would not be impartial on the referendum – Speaker (***MirayaFM.org; dailies***)
- Sudan may turn into another Yugoslavia – AbdulAziz Al-Hillu (***Al-Sahafa***)
- Popular Consultation is not a monopoly (***Al-Sahafa***)
- North-south border committee seeks to resolve disputed area in Bahr-el-Ghazal (***MirayaFM***)
- Ruling party unveils mobilization program to encourage Sudan's unity (***Sudan Vision website***)

### Other Highlights

- UN Humanitarian Chief to assess food security situation in the south (***Al-Rai Al-Aam***)
- SPLA captures 3 LRA soldiers in Western Equatoria State (***MirayaFM***)
- Continued clashes leave Darfur security situation tense, UN Reports (***AllAfrica.com***)
- Rebel group urges UN chief to facilitate return of leader to Darfur region (***Sudantribune.com***)
- LJM demands postponement of Doha talks (***Al-Sahafa***)
- 650 households flee areas of South Darfur amid possibility of renewed clashes (***Al-Sahafa***)
- NCP says ICC & opposition parties collaborating to destroy Sudan (***Sudantribune.com***)
- Death of first veteran southern politician to lead Sudan (***Sudantribune.com***)

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# Highlights

## Post-Elections:

### **Ban defends decision authorizing UN officials to attend Bashir's inauguration**

**Sudantribune.com** Washington, 24/05/10 – UNSG Ban Ki-Moon today defended the presence of his two top representatives in Sudan at the inauguration of President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir next Thursday saying that people should not misinterpret the move.

Haile Menkerios, the head of UNMIS, and Ibrahim Gambari, joint head of UNAMID, are scheduled to attend the ceremony according to a UN Spokesperson last week.

“These [UNMIS& UNAMID] are very important missions, and for operational purposes, the SRSGs [Special Representatives of the Secretary-General] in UNMIS and UNAMID have been meeting with Sudanese Government officials. This is what they have been doing, and they will have to continue to do. We have a critical mission, for the peace and stability of this, and including the implementation of the CPA, which will have very, very important consequences in the referendum,” Ban told reporters in New York today.

“This is not more than that. What they are doing is not more than that, they are doing exactly within the framework of their mandate” the top U.N. official added.

Human right groups have urged world officials to boycott the ceremony citing Bashir's indictment by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for his alleged role in war crimes committed in Sudan's Western region of Darfur.

“Al-Bashir is a fugitive from justice who should be arrested, not feted,” said Elise Keppler, International Justice Program senior counsel at Human Rights Watch. “Attendance at al-Bashir's inauguration would send a terrible message to victims in Darfur, and globally.”

Khartoum has hailed the participation of Gambari and Menkerios describing the decision as “reasonable and balanced”.

The UN Secretary General himself has minimized any contacts with Bashir since the warrant was issued for him in line with the advice given to him by the legal department in the world body.

### **Chad's Deby, other leaders to attend Al-Bashir inauguration**

**SUNA** [via BBC Monitoring] Khartoum, 24/05/10 - Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail says that representatives of the United Nations, the African Union, the Arab League and the OIC will attend the inauguration of the Omar Al-Bashir as the President of the Republic on Thursday 27/05/10.

Speaking to the press at the National Assembly on Monday, Osman said that invitations have been sent to neighbouring states and regional and international organisations to attend the ceremony.

He also said that Malawi, Senegal and Libya have confirmed high level representation at the ceremony.

In a related development, **Al-Ahdath** reports that the Heads of State of Chad, Eritrea, Djibouti, Mauritania and the CAR have also confirmed they would attend the ceremony while China, Russia and Turkey say they would be sending high-level delegations to the event.

## **South Sudan President relieves constitutional executive post holders**

**Sudantribune.com** Juba, 24/05/10 – GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has issued a presidential decree relieving all caretaker governors, ministers and commissioners of all ten states of Southern Sudan ahead of the formation of the new government.

The executive constitutional post holders, including in the state governments, were previously appointed by a presidential decree of the Government of Southern Sudan which also equally requires that the same body relieves them. However, the formation of the next state governments shall now be the prerogative of the state governors without necessarily having to consult with the president or himself/herself having to issue decrees for appointments. President Kiir is also expected to announce his new cabinet in Juba which is expected to be a broadened and inclusive government.

It is expected to put into consideration, among others, 25% of affirmative action for women as well as members from the other Southern Sudan political parties.

The federal government is also headed for dissolution in the next few days pending the inauguration of Omar Al-Bashir as President.

Both Bashir and Kiir will consult to form the next cabinet in Khartoum.

## **Sudanese Council of States elects new chairman, vows to uphold constitution**

**Radio Omdurman** 24/05/10 - The Council of States today held its preliminary session under the chairmanship of the oldest member in terms of age Shariff al-Tuhami. Members of the council were also sworn in during the session that culminated in the unanimous election of Adam Hamid Musa as the new Speaker of the Council of States.

Addressing the session, Adam Hamid said that the Council would establish a strong bond with the state and play a huge role at the national legislative level by ratifying laws which will preserve Sudan's sovereignty and unity.

## **Pre-Referenda Monitor:**

### **Parliament would not be impartial on the referendum - Speaker**

**MirayaFM.org** 24/05/10 – The newly-elected National Assembly, in its first session on Monday, elected Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir as Speaker. Speaking after his election by secret voting, Al-Tahir cited the 2011 referendum and the outstanding benchmarks of the CPA as among the critical issues the country is facing.

**Al-Ahdath** daily quoted the Speaker as saying that the National Assembly would focus on inviting southern Sudanese to preserve the country's unity. He pointed out that the National Constitution encourages unity and does not allow the national legislative body to be impartial when it comes to the referendum on southern Sudanese unity or separation.

Al-Tahir said that resolution of the conflict in Darfur is also among the priorities of the National Assembly.

The newly elected National Assembly has 450 members, with 312 from the National Congress Party (NCP) and 99 from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

In another development, the Council of States will hold a similar session to elect its Speaker. The Legislature comprising of both councils, will convene on Thursday, when President Al Bashir takes his presidential oath

## **Sudan may turn into another Yugoslavia – AbdulAziz Al-Hillu**

Deputy Governor of Southern Kordofan, AbdulAziz Al-Hillu, has warned that northern Sudan may “turn into another Yugoslavia” should southern Sudan secede, reports **Al-Sahafa**. He called on the federal government to embark on legal and constitutional reform to encourage southern Sudanese to vote for unity.

Al-Hillu who is also a member of the SPLM Political Office also warned that Southern Kordofan State that borders four southern Sudanese states is among potential hotspots that may explode should the situation deteriorate.

## **Popular Consultation is not a monopoly**

“Popular Consultation is a political and democratic activity to be practiced by all citizens of Blue Nile State and is not the prerogative of a particular political party,” says Farah Agar, the head of the NCP’s Blue Nile Sector. Agar told a workshop on Popular Consultation in Al-Damazin recently that Popular Consultation would be carried out in the state within a legal framework and would be conducted by the elected legislative assembly, **Al-Sahafa** reports. He underlined the need for more consultations, meetings and workshops to help the people reach a common understanding on the issue.

## **North-south border committee seeks to resolve disputed area in Bahr-El-Ghazal**

**MirayaFM 24/05/10** - A representative of the GoSS in the technical committee of the north-south border demarcation committee says that the committee is seeking common grounds on a disputed area in Bahr-el-Ghazal State near the borders with the CAR. A final report will be submitted to the Presidency of the Republic once an agreement is reached, he said.

## **Ruling party unveils mobilization program to encourage Sudan's unity**

**Sudan Vision website Khartoum, 24/05/10** - The NCP has unveiled a political mobilization programme to encourage unity. All the political forces will participate in the said programme, the party’s Political Campaigns Secretary, Haj Majid Sowar, said.

Sowar reiterated the NCP’s commitment to a comprehensive peace and the unity of the country affirming that his party, unlike the SPLM, has always been keen on the unity of Sudan since the signing of the CPA. He pointed out that the SPLM has not brought any services worthy of mention in southern Sudan and that its leaders had been engaged only in making speeches that encourage southerners to opt for secession.

Sowar said all they want is that SPLM allow advocates for unity to freely articulate their views to southern Sudanese.

The NCP official further underscored that all the political forces should genuinely campaign for unity because the unity of the country is a matter of deep concern to all the political forces in the country.

## **Other Highlights:**

### **UN Humanitarian Chief to assess food security situation in the south**

The UN humanitarian office has revealed that UN humanitarian chief John Holmes is expected in the country where he would be assessing the humanitarian situation in Darfur and assessing the humanitarian needs of a number of IDP camps in the region, reports **Al-Rai Al-Aam**.

Holmes would also be touring Bahr-el-Ghazal, Warrap and a number of other states in southern Sudan to assess the food security situation and the increase in tribal violence. While in southern Sudan, the humanitarian chief is expected to hold talks with regional government and local

officials as well as representatives of voluntary agencies in the area.

## **SPLA captures 3 LRA soldiers in Western Equatoria State**

**MirayaFM** 24/05/10 - The SPLA has captured three LRA combatants in Ezo, Western Equatoria State. Speaking to **Radio Miraya**, SPLA Spokesperson Kuol Diem Kuol said that SPLA had launched an attack on different LRA areas that led to the killing of one SPLA soldier.

Kuol said that two of the three captured are from the Mundu tribe of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the third is from the Zande tribe of Western Equatoria State

The SPLA spokesperson appealed to citizens to heed security advice, saying that the car carrying the Director of Education that was ambushed near Tombura was initially advised by the SPLA to wait for an escort as the road was insecure. According to Kuol, the Director of Education refused to wait and insisted on travelling. He was subsequently killed in an ambush.

## **Continued clashes leave Darfur security situation tense, UN Reports**

**AllAfrica.com** [quoting **UN News**] 24/05/10 - The security situation in the war-ravaged Sudanese region of Darfur remains tense and unpredictable due to ongoing clashes between Government forces and rebels, the joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping mission there said today.

The mission, known as UNAMID, confirmed that fighting is continuing between the Sudanese forces and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) near Um Sauna, a village in South Darfur.

The fighting, which started on 19 May, has claimed several lives and casualties on both sides, and the Government and JEM have reportedly reached an agreement to allow an international humanitarian group to assist the injured.

UNAMID Joint Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari has repeatedly called on the parties to engage in dialogue rather than resort to violence.

"The peace process, which I have been proactively supporting under the leadership of the Joint Mediation team, has progressed but a deep sense of mistrust remains and some parties are not engaging in the process," he told the Security Council last week, referring to UN-AU-sponsored talks in Doha, Qatar, between the Government and various rebel groups.

Renewed fighting has also been reported between the Government and another group, the Abdul Wahid faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), as well as between tribes in South Darfur.

"These clashes have caused substantial civilian casualties, the displacement of communities, and hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance," Mr. Gambari said at last week's Council meeting, calling on all parties to facilitate access for UNAMID and the humanitarian community to the sites of recent fighting.

"In this context, it is with grave concern that I must report that UN and humanitarian personnel continue to be a target of attacks and criminal acts," he added, citing attacks against UNAMID peacekeepers, abductions and carjacking.

"To thwart future recurrences of such incidents I have given firm instructions to our troops and police contingents to respond more robustly to attacks. I have also made it clear in all my engagements that such attacks constitute war crimes."

## **Rebel group urges UN chief to facilitate return of leader to Darfur region**

**Sudantribune.com** Khartoum, 24/05/10 – The JEM has urged the UN Chief and Joint Chief Mediator to facilitate the return of its leader to Darfur, saying current situation would impede efforts for peace.

"We are urging the UN Secretary-General and the Joint Chief Mediator to ensure the return of Khalil Ibrahim to our bases in Darfur because his presence outside the country would complicate the peace process," said JEM Spokesperson Ahmad Hussein Adam.

"We believe that Khartoum fears his presence on the ground; but this should not deny us from our right to return to Darfur. The mediator also has the duty to guarantee this right," he added.

The rebel movement says Khartoum seeks to weaken its military capabilities and to pass a peace agreement with another rebel group established last February from different factions.

## **LJM demands postponement of Doha talks**

The Liberation and Justice Movement headed by Al-Tijani Al-Sissi is requesting an adjournment of the Darfur peace talks in Doha scheduled to restart next Friday to enable the movements unify, **Al-Sahafa** reports. Mahjoub Hussein, the Movement's Director for Information, pointed out that the LJM is prepared to resume talks with the government but requests an adjournment to allow other groups to join in to guarantee a conclusive peace.

## **650 households flee areas of South Darfur amid possibility of renewed clashes**

An estimated 650 Misseriya households have fled from Kailak and its environs in Kass Locality, South Darfur State, in fear of the possibility of renewed fighting between the Misseriya and Rizeigat tribes, reports **Al-Sahafa**. Eyewitnesses report that the villagers are heading for the Martoka and Musa Bakri areas due to insecurity as well as rampant robbery they have suffered at the hands of armed bandits going around on Land-Cruiser vehicles.

## **NCP says ICC & opposition parties collaborating to destroy Sudan**

**Sudantribune.com** Khartoum, 24/05/10 – The NCP has blasted opposition parties saying they are attempting to use the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its allies to sabotage the country.

Qutbi Al-Mahdi, a senior NCP official, told the government sponsored Sudanese Media Centre (SMC) that opposition parties "lost their political legitimacy and popular support and are now seeking support from enemies of the state, and from Zionists and colonialists".

He further said that this is not surprising because these parties because they previously worked with regional and foreign intelligence and cooperated with them militarily "to destroy Sudan".

Al-Mahdi's remarks come in the wake of participation by some opposition parties in the Review Conference of the Rome Statute which is the founding document of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

## **Death of first veteran Southerner politician to lead Sudan**

**Sudantribune.com** Juba, 24/05/10 - A veteran politician, and the first Southern Sudanese official to head the Republic of Sudan, has died.

Luigi Adwok Bong Gicomeho died on Friday, 21st May in the national capital, Khartoum, after a long illness and was buried on Sunday in his native village in Upper Nile state.

Born in 1929, he had been President of Sudan for the first time in December 1964, when Sudan went through a period of collective leadership under a Committee of Sovereignty. The head of that Committee of Sovereignty was elected on rotational basis to lead the country. Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain visited Sudan during the time Adwok was the acting President of

Sudan.

President Omer Al-Bashir on Saturday issued a statement expressing sincere condolences of the Sudanese presidency to Luigi's family.

Paying his condolences on behalf of the Southern Sudan President, Salva Kiir Mayardit and on behalf of the government, Vice President-designate, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, who flew to the state capital, Malakal, on Sunday to attend the burial ceremony, said Adwok was "a great leader...our father and leader for the whole South and the whole Sudan."

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