

07 January, 2010

www.unmis.unmissions.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Headlines

- Opposition plan march in protest over alleged irregularities in voter registry (*local dailies*)
- VP Taha, AEC head Plumbly hold talks (*local dailies*)
- UK pledges Sudan aid ahead of crucial elections (*Reuters*)
- GoSS vows to end tribal conflict, official says (*Miraya FM*)
- No amendment yet to the Sudan National Elections Law: NCP official (*Sudantribune.com; Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Opposition want EU and AU in international elections monitoring team (*Miraya FM*)
- NCP concludes nomination of representatives for southern Sudan positions (*Al-Raid*)
- SPLM defers meeting of its political bureau (*Al-Ahdath*)
- SPLM wants referendum to achieve secession – NCP official (*Sudan Vision*)
- E. Equatoria State Wins UN Praise on Political Space Record (*Gurtong.net*)
- Incumbent governor chosen to stand as candidate in Western Equatoria (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Preparations for CPA anniversary celebrations progressing well in Yambio (*Miraya FM*)
- Military priso in Lakes to be closed as SPLA unit comes under criticism (*Miraya FM*)
- Tribesmen kill 139 in south Sudan raid (*Reuters*)
- Aid groups warn of Sudan war risk (*BBC News*)
- Five civilians dead in Darfur during aerial bombing - rebels (*Sudantribune.com*)
- South Darfur government under criticism over security (*Akhir Lahza*)
- Chad calls on JEM to reach peace with Khartoum (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Foreign Ministry summons Kenyan Cd'A (*local dailies*)
- Wolves instil fear in the capital (*Al-Ayyam*)

Commentary

- We must focus on Sudan before it's too late (*By Mary Riddel on The Telegraph*)

Links

- **Drought and Conflict in Southern Sudan** (by Helen Mould, the Media Coordinator for Islamic Relief in southern Sudan. <http://english.aljazeera.net/focus/2009/12/2009121862817311870.html?>)
- **Miraya FM talks to SRSG Ashraf Qazi** <http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php/special-reports/1399-miraya-fm-talks-to-ashraf-ghazi>
- **How the world's campaign to stop a genocide created a quagmire** (by Ben Wallace-Wells on *Rolling Stone*) <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/story/31343773/darfuristan>

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

Opposition plan march in protest over alleged irregularities in voter registry

Opposition parties represented in the "Juba Conference parties" have announced they intend to stage a peaceful procession to the Presidency to demand amendments to restrictive laws and to protest "irregularities" in the Voter Registry, *local dailies* report.

"Our political record has to be cleansed from such issues ... and we stand ready to defend our position on these issues (and to pay the price) be it through imprisonment or death," Communist Party leader Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud told a press conference hosted by his party yesterday.

"The Voter Registry is not fit for the conduct of the forthcoming elections," said opposition alliance spokesperson Farouq Abu-Eissa. He pointed out that the opposition is yet to receive a response from the National Elections Commission (NEC) over their concerns on the Voter Registry and the census results. He also called on members of the NEC to step down because the opposition has "lost confidence" in them.

Informed sources meanwhile intimated to *Al-Sahafa* that the NEC may postpone the polls to November this year in response to the demands of disgruntled political parties.

VP Taha, AEC head Plumbly hold talks

VP Ali Osman Mohamed Taha held talks yesterday with the head of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC), Sir Derek Plumbly, *local dailies* report. Quoting Sir Derek, the dailies said that talks between the two focused on progress in the implementation of the CPA and the recent achievements made such as the Referendum Bill for Southern Sudan, the Abyei Referendum Bill and the Popular Consultation Bill.

Sir Derek also said that he handed VP Taha a copy of the AEC's Annual Report on the implementation of the CPA and the steps ahead.

UK pledges Sudan aid ahead of crucial elections

Reuters London, 06/01/10 - Britain announced a 54 million pound (\$86.38 million) aid package for Sudan on Wednesday and said the African country faced a "crucial and critical time" ahead of elections important for the whole region's stability.

Failure to deliver credible elections could see a return to conflict, with implications not only for Sudan and its oil production, but for the whole region, minister for Africa Glenys Kinnock said.

"We understand these are crucial and critical times for Sudan," she said.

"The risk of a return to further conflict is a real one. We understand and accept that. We know what has to be done, and we just have to get on and do it."

Kinnock said Britain and the international community must pursue "strong and determined engagement" with Sudan, if long-term peace and security was to be secured.

Kinnock said she recognised contentious issues remained, including sustainable development, sharing oil revenues, and economic diversification, and called for greater rights for peaceful protest and freedom of speech. She played down talk of postponing the elections, saying it was neither desirable nor feasible.

If the oil-rich south voted for separation a "lot of bargaining" would be needed on oil and other issues, she said, with a "great deal of thought" required.

GoSS vows to end tribal conflict, official says

Miraya FM - Southern Sudan Minister of Presidential Affairs, Luka Biong, said that his government is exerting all means to end tribal conflicts in the region. Speaking to **Miraya FM**, Biong said that violence is mainly triggered by conflict on resources. Earlier this month, more than 50 people were killed and 45 wounded in clashes between the Dinka Luac communities of Tonj East County of Warrap and armed groups from Unity State.

Minister Biong welcomed the appointment of the new head of the Abyei Administration, Deng Arop and said that the Abyei Administration will be reshuffled soon.

No amendment yet to the Sudan National Elections Law: NCP official

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 06/01/10 – NCP Political Secretary Ibrahim Ghandour has been quoted by **SUNA** has denied reports of his party reaching any agreement with the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) on amending the National Elections Law.

Ghandour said that an SPLM proposal for an increase in SPLM parliamentary slots requires review and dialogue with the SPLM and other political powers. He revealed that discussions are still ongoing at this point but stressed that no agreement has been reached.

He pointed out that the Elections Law may be amended if the parties reach agreement to increase SPLM parliamentary slots but underscored that the issue is subject to discussions with the SPLM and the other political forces, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports.

Opposition want EU and AU in international elections monitoring team

Miraya FM - The alliance of the opposition parties has demanded the inclusion of the European Union and the African Union in the international monitoring team for the upcoming general elections. A leading member in the alliance, Mariam Al Sadiq Al Mahdi, said during a press conference held in Khartoum Wednesday that the heads of the alliance will determine in the coming days their final stance on the 2010 elections.

Mariam added that the Alliance will work towards a unified decision; whether to participate or not in the upcoming elections, she assured that the Alliance's decision will be unanimous.

The Alliance of the Opposition Parties includes the Umma party, Communist party, Popular Congress party, in addition to others.

NCP concludes nomination of representatives in southern Sudan

The NCP's High Elections Committee for the Southern States concluded a meeting yesterday in which it made nominations for NCP candidates for the elections at southern Sudan levels, **Al-Raid** reports. Recommendations of the meeting that was chaired by NCP Vice Chairman for Party Affairs, Nafei Ali Nafei, are on the way to endorsement by the party's High Committee.

The party is yet to finalise its nominees at northern Sudan levels.

SPLM of its political bureau

The SPLM has deferred deliberations of its political bureau over its flag bearers for elections at all levels of government in southern Sudanese states to mid this month, **Al-Ahdath** reports. Speaking to **Miraya FM**. SPLM Vice Chairman and head of its Electoral Committee, James Wani Igga, said that the political office will finalise the list of SPLM candidates for southern Sudan on the 14th of this month. He explained that the SPLM has a 25-member electoral college for each state that looks into applications for nominations and then forwards the list to the SPLM National Committee for scrutiny and from there to the Political Bureau for endorsement.

SPLM wants referendum to achieve secession – NCP official

NCP Political Campaigns Secretary Haj Majid Suwar has noted that the SPLM wants to use the Referendum as a tool to achieve secession through a simple majority vote, **Sudan Vision** reports. Speaking at the **Akhbar Al-Youm** regular forum, he pointed out that a large section of SPLM figures and representatives of other southern Sudanese political forces support unity.

Eastern Equatoria State Wins UN Praise on Political Space Record

Gurtong.net Torit, 06/01/10 – A recent report by the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) revealed that Eastern Equatoria is the only southern Sudan state where all political parties have coordinated and hosted a series of public roundtables.

“In the process, the state has earned a reputation where political men and women know how to sit together in an open and frank dialogue”, reads the report by the UNMIS Civil Affairs State Coordinator in Torit Paulin Regnard.

The report comes amidst an outcry by other political parties of being oppressed and intimidated by government authorities in other states of South Sudan ahead of the forthcoming general elections and the referendum for self-determination.

In the report, Regnard praises members of the Eastern Equatoria State Legislative Assembly and the State Governor Brigadier General Aloisio Emor Ojetuk for playing a constructive role in creating the right atmosphere for political tolerance.

According to the report, the information about the political situation in the state was gathered from the views of the members of the State Legislative Assembly who come from the different political parties.

Notably mentioned in the report are Honourable Emmanuel Ambrose Ocholimoi, MP for East Torit Constituency, Honourable Patrick Bafura Paul, Honourable Paul Okot Bara and Honourable Julius Ageo Moilinga. Honourables Perina Lawino Okeny and Agnes Florence Odwar are among other Members of Parliament who contributed to the UN political report on Eastern Equatoria State.

Eastern Equatoria State, however, did not score well in other areas of the UN Civil Affairs concern, including conflicts.

The report indicates a gloomy picture of conflicts in the state despite the fact that an active role was played by the Members of the Legislative Assembly in arbitration of rifts among the different ethnic communities in the region.

“We are aware that many MPs have been active in defusing tensions and in settling disputes in their own constituencies but in many counties and payams, conflicts arise over cattle raiding, boundaries and access to resources” the report reads in part.

Incumbent governor chosen to stand as candidate in Western Equatoria

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 06/01/10 - Authorities and residents of Western Equatoria State have overwhelmingly endorsed the candidacy of the incumbent Governor Jemma Nunu Kumba for the election scheduled to take place in April 2010.

A gathering of local people, mostly women, vowed to support the return of Jemma Nunu to power describing her as a development-oriented governor.

Patrick William, who is reported to be one of Kumba’s designated campaign managers in both Ezo and Tambura counties, said in an interview that he decided to support the incumbent

governor based on her merits. "My support to Governor Nunu stems from her role as a development-oriented person and an individual who likes participating in developmental initiatives," he said.

Since her appointment, he added, she embarked on plans specifically related to development beginning with state offices, guest houses, hotels, FM radio, and a modern building under construction intended to accommodate both private and government officials who will attend the fifth CPA celebration scheduled for 19 January 2010 in Yambio.

However, Zacharia Dudu from Maridi dismissed the characterization of the incumbent governor as a development-oriented person. "Development-oriented person, how?" he posed. "Western Equatoria is not Yambio. It has thirteen counties with county headquarters in bad shape. Some of them like Mvolo still are in grass thatched buildings with a single secondary school in the area, no primary health care unit, no good road connecting this county to other areas and yet individuals around this lady [Governor Nunu] do not see the need for change," he explained.

He went on, "She is just filling the position. Other than this, I do not see what she is doing".

Earlier, in December, Col. Joseph Basoro of the SPLM Southern Sector Secretariat declared his intention to run against the incumbent female governor, drawing support from local leaders including figures like retired Roman Catholic Bishop Gasi Abangite.

Basoro also won the support of Patrick Zamoi, who served as the state's first post-CPA governor. Zamoi told those who would support him to back Basoro instead.

Preparations for CPA anniversary celebrations progressing well in Yambio

Miraya FM - Deputy Governor of Western Equatoria State, Joseph Ngere, said that preparations for the 5th anniversary celebrations of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, CPA, are progressing well. He pointed out that 90% of the work is finished. The celebrations will take place on the nineteenth of this month in Yambio. Speaking to Miraya FM, Ngere said that the work on the presidential villa, VIP houses and the stadium, where the occasion will take place, is being finalized. The Government of Southern Sudan allocated over sixty million Sudanese pounds for this year's event.

Military prison in Lakes to be closed as SPLA unit comes under criticism

Miraya FM Rumbek, 05/01/10 - A security meeting held in Yirol West County with the visiting Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) Minister of Interior has resolved to close a military detention facility in Lakes State. The move follows clashes from 28 December until 1 January which left dead seven armed civilians and 20 soldiers from SPLA's 5th Division.

At a Friday meeting of the state SPLA Liberation Council after the bloodiest of those clashes in Akot Payam, politicians called for the arrest of two SPLA soldiers along with the colonel in charge of the unit, and transfer of the soldiers from the territory to be replaced by friendlier SPLA troops. The SPLA battalion in Akot town was withdrawn following recent eruption of violence.

Tribesmen kill 139 in south Sudan raid

Reuters Juba, 07/01/10 - Armed Nuer tribesmen killed at least 139 members of a rival tribe in an attack in a remote area of southern Sudan, an official said on Thursday.

The Nuer tribesmen attacked Dinka cattle herders in Tonj, one of the most remote parts of oil-producing south Sudan, on Saturday and seized about 5,000 animals, the deputy governor of Warrap state, Sabino Makana, told Reuters.

"They killed 139 people and wounded 54. Nobody knows how many attackers were killed. But it may be many as a lot of people came to fight."

A surge of tribal violence in 2009 killed about 2,500 people and forced 350,000 to flee their homes in the south, said a report issued by ten aid groups including Oxfam, Save the Children and TearFund on Thursday.

There was now a risk the violence could escalate, undermining a fragile 2005 peace deal that ended more than two decades of north-south civil war, said the report. "A lethal cocktail of rising violence, chronic poverty and political tensions has left the peace deal on the brink of collapse," it said.

The United Nations told **Reuters** it was sending a team to the Tonj area to check on the reports, saying other sources had confirmed there were a large number of deaths. The head of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the south Lise Grande said fighting had also been reported in three other areas.

Aid groups warn of Sudan war risk

Ten international aid groups say a 2005 peace deal in Sudan is on the verge of collapse and that the world must act now to prevent renewed conflict, **BBC News** reports.

The agencies blamed a "lethal cocktail" of rising violence, chronic poverty and political tensions. Sudan is due to hold a referendum on independence for the oil-rich south in January 2011.

Britain has pledged £54m (\$87m) in aid to help rebuild southern Sudan and prepare for general elections in April (*copy and past this link to your browser for the full story:* <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8444843.stm>)

Five civilians dead in Darfur during aerial bombing - rebels

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 06/01/10 – The Sudan Armed Forces has resumed daily bombardments in Darfur since the beginning of the New Year killing some five civilians in the region, a rebel group said today.

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said Wednesday Sudanese military Antonov aircrafts bombed on a daily basis civilian and rebel targets in West Darfur State since Sunday 3 January.

Speaking via satellite telephone Al Tigani Kurshaom, a JEM commander in the area, told **Sudantribune.com** that three children and two women were killed during the Antonov attacks as well as hundreds of camels belonging to the nomads in the areas.

The bombing included the areas of Al-Tamor, Abu Remail, Aljabat and Um Daraba in West Darfur state. Also the bombardment targeted some locations at the east of El-Genaina, the capital of the state.

"We regret that these indiscriminate attacks target mainly civilians and their livestock, said the deputy head of JEM nomad division who belongs to Darfur Arab tribes.

The rebel official further urged international protection of Darfur nomads saying Khartoum is targeting them now after their rejection to implement Khartoum plans in the region.

"Khartoum government is targeting the Arabs after they decided to join their hands with the rest of Darfur tribes. We are against the marginalization and the genocide of Darfuri because we are part and parcel of this region."

"The army now is attacking our people and the international community has to stop this new genocide particularly, the UNAMID which has to protect the civilians," he stressed.

South Darfur government under criticism over security

SLM-Minnawi Spokesperson Dhul-Noon Suleiman says the South Darfur Government has failed to realize security and stability in Sheiriya and to reconcile the warring tribes in the region,

reports **Akhir Lahza**. He pointed out that the said government is dragging its feet in resolving the problem of militias and armed groups in the area and keeps accusing the SLM-MM to escape its responsibilities.

Dhul-Noon assured that SLM-MM had no hand in the violence in Sheiriya and is ready to play a coordination role to improve the situation there.

Chad calls on JEM to reach peace with Khartoum

Chad has called upon the JEM to reach a peace deal with the Khartoum government so as not to embarrass Sudan's neighbour should the two sides normalize relations, reports **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. The call comes as the Sudan-Chad joint military committee heads for a meeting in Ndjamenia later today to discuss the deployment of a joint border monitoring ahead of the meeting of the Sudan-Chad joint military committee scheduled to start in the Chadian capital later today to discuss border security between the two countries.

Foreign Ministry summons Kenyan Cd'A

Local dailies report that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has summoned the Chargé d'Affaires of the Kenyan Embassy in Khartoum over reports that a Danish company is shooting a film at Sudanese refugee settlements in Kenya with the aim of giving more credence to allegations of genocide in Sudan.

Ministry Spokesperson Moawia Osman Khalid said that the Ministry expressed its reservation over the production of such a film with "racial undertone" that may cause "a deep rift in the social fabric in Darfur and serious complications to the crisis that is nearing its end in Darfur".

The Kenyan diplomat pledged to convey Sudan's reservations to the authorities in Government of Kenya.

Wolves instil fear in the capital

The "beasts" reportedly sighted by some Khartoum North residents are in fact wolves, sources in the Wildlife Authority say. The animals have reportedly raided livestock camps in Khartoum North. **Al-Ayyam** quotes authorities as saying that they are making preparations to track down the animals that have instilled fear in those parts of the capital.

COMMENTARY

We must focus on Sudan before it's too late

(By Mary Riddel on **The Telegraph**) 7 Jan - There's a scene in Sacha Baron Cohen's last film in which the comic actor, playing Bruno the Austrian fashionista, debates with two publicists which modish mission he should plug. Darfur, they agree, is so over. "What's Darfive?" Baron Cohen asks.

That cameo exposes a harsh reality. Not long ago Darfur, the graveyard of an estimated 400,000 people lost to genocide, was nearly as over-run with celebrity causers as Rodeo Drive. Political leaders such as Gordon Brown declared it top of their agenda. Yet for months now, the carnage and the region have been barely spoken of.

Emergencies drift quickly from the public gaze. But both the past focus and the current silence mask an uncomfortable truth. Darfur, dreadful as it was and is, may have deflected the international gaze from another, potentially more devastating catastrophe. A silent crisis is brewing in Sudan. And Western politicians and celebrities have paid it almost no heed at all.

Today ten aid agencies warn that Southern Sudan is in imminent danger of returning to a war that was once the bloodiest and longest in Africa, claiming two million lives and forcing four million to flee. The comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) that ended 22 years of conflict has its fifth anniversary on Saturday, and there is little to celebrate.

A joint agency report, published today, warns that 2,500 were killed and 350,000 displaced last year. A referendum in which the south is expected to vote for secession from the north is exactly a year away, elections are due this year and, with the CPA expiry date 12 months away, agencies warn that war could once again engulf Sudan.

The launch this weekend of the global campaign, Sudan365, is designed to place the plight of some of the poorest people on earth on to the radar of the West. On Monday the Sudanese archbishop, Daniel Deng, and Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, will meet Gordon Brown, who will call next week for a renewed international focus. Glenys Kinnock, the Africa minister, who has long campaigned for the women and children of Sudan, is about to visit the country.

That start will be welcomed by campaigners. But the truth is that a Government ensnared in recession and mired in its own version of civil war has allowed Sudan's tragedy to slide down its agenda. The Franco-British "trail-blazing" that encouraged NGOs has lapsed, partly because of domestic worries and partly because the problems of Sudan seem so intractable.

Nor have other institutions covered themselves with glory. The UN Security Council has not ensured that UNMIS, the United Nations Protection force, has the mandate or the support properly to protect civilians. The International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant on the country's leader, General Bashir, who stands accused to war crimes in Darfur, has neither hampered him nor stopped the suffering. And the muscular style of President Barack Obama's close friend and envoy to Sudan, General Scott J Gration, is said to have estranged former allies.

The prescription to help Darfur is a familiar one, comprising aid, development, protection and diplomacy. As the agencies say in their report, *Rescuing The Peace in Southern Sudan*: "Failing to act is not an option."

At stake is more than the lives of the southern Sudanese, though their plight is grim enough. A region the size of France has little clean water and only 50 kms of tarmac roads. Eight in ten people cannot read or write, and one in seven children die before their fifth birthday.

If Sudan is plunged back into civil conflict, then the international community will have to pick up the bill for an avoidable war that would destabilise swaths of Africa and remind people, far too late, of the genocide that, not so long ago, appalled the world. If Sudan's collapsing peace agreement cannot be repaired, there will be no hope left for hundreds of thousands existing on the margins of survival, including the people of Darfur.

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