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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Highlights

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## **Presidency to set up committee to demarcate Abyei boundary**

**Local dailies** report the Presidency, at a meeting yesterday, endorsed the PCA ruling on Abyei. According to **Al-Sahafa**, the Presidency meeting, chaired by President Omar Al-Bashir and attended by FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit and VP Ali Osman Taha, agreed to set up a six-member technical committee from the NCP and the SPLM to demarcate the Abyei boundary in line with the PCA ruling. The Presidency also confirmed the Abyei Administration to run the area as a state and instructed the Finance Ministry to expedite funding.

State Minister at the Presidency Idriss Abdul Gadir said the Presidency would soon issue a decree on the formation of the committee, its mandate and the time-frame needed for its work, saying it would comprise three members each. However, he ruled out that the committee would include foreigners in its membership. He said the Abyei Legislative Assembly had also been confirmed, adding the Presidency asked the North-South Border Demarcation Committee to draw the line on paper before the end of the rainy season to be followed by demarcation on the ground after the rainy season.

Meanwhile, GoSS Presidency Affairs Minister Luka Biong said SPLM had submitted proposals to the FVP Kiir containing its vision on how the PCA ruling should be implemented. The proposals include formation of Abyei referendum commission, eligibility and standards for defining an Abyei resident, formation of a political committee from the two partners to supervise the work of the Abyei boundary demarcation committee, formation of a peace and reconciliation council from the Dinka and their neighbours under the patronage of the Presidency, expeditious release of funding for the area and settlement of oil revenues arrears since 2005.

## **NCP, SPLM trade charges over tribal arming**

The NCP and the SPLM have exchanged charges over issues relating to the South, Darfur and elections, **Al-Ayyam** reports. While the SPLM leading figure and FM Deng Alor has accused the NCP of creating tensions, arming militias and barring the SPLM from contributing efforts to address Darfur, the NCP official Mohamed Mandour Al-Mahdi has accused groups within SPLM of providing arms to tribes selectively. Alor said the NCP is creating tensions to send a message that the south can not rule itself. He added that the NCP is excluding the SPLM from efforts to resolve the Darfur crisis, stressing the need to engage regional countries in addressing the crisis. But Al-Mahdi reacted by stating that the SPLM is complicating the Darfur issue rather than facilitating a solution.

Speaking to the **Saudi Al-Watan** newspaper, Alor described some NCP members as carrying "Taliban ideas". "They carry anti-CPA ideas and are seeking to create problems to warrant their continuation. They are hindering the CPA implementation and distorting the image of the country," he said.

## **NEC Chief to visit Juba to verify SPLM stand on census**

**Al-Sahafa** reports the National Elections Commission (NEC) Chairman Abel Alyier is to visit Juba today to find out GoSS final position with regard to the census as a basis for distribution of geographical constituencies.

NEC Deputy Chairman Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah told reporters yesterday that the NEC received yesterday a letter from GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit being GoSS' response with

regard to the distribution of geographical constituencies, adding the NEC head will travel to Juba today for further discussion on Kiir's letter.

### **Committee may refer draft referendum Bill to CPC**

The sub-committee charged with drafting the referendum Bill may refer their differences over the bill to the CPC, reports **Ray Al-Shaab**. Reportedly, the members of the sub-committee could not reach an agreement on voter eligibility, the areas to be covered by the referendum and the composition of the Referendum Commission.

### **Sudan may spare US diplomat killers the death penalty – report**

**Sudan Tribune website** 9/8/09 - Four men sentenced to death for assassinating a USAID employee and his driver last year might be able to escape the death penalty, a pro-government newspaper reported today.

The **Akhir-Lahza** newspaper said that the family of the Sudanese driver have opted to pardon the convicts "for the sake of god" in line with the Islamic Shari'a law which affords other alternatives to capital punishment which includes them in that option or they can request blood money as compensation.

Last June five men with Islamic extremist views were found guilty by the judge of killing John Granville and his Sudanese driver Abdel Rahman Abbas on 2008 New Years Eve after opening fire on them from a car.

Abbas's family insisted before the court that the death sentence be carried out. It is not clear what prompted their change of heart.

The newspaper said that the appeals court sent the case back to the original trial judge to get the opinion of Granville's family on whether they want the death penalty carried out or if they pick monetary compensation or grant them amnesty.

### **250 people in SPLA detention cell in Rumbek**

Human rights reports revealed a secret detention cell in the area of "B.D.U" in Rumbek where 250 SPLA soldiers, police and two intelligence members were languishing in detention, according to **Al-Intibaha**. The cell, where all forms of torture and violations take place, is run by an SPLA officer, Maj. Gen. Bol Akut. Two northern trades are reportedly among the detainees.

### **Presidential adviser Ghazi and JEM leader Khalil to meet in Libya**

Presidential adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din told reporters that his visit to Libya is part of ongoing consultations between the two countries on Sudan-Chad relations and Darfur crisis, **al-Wifaq** reports.

Meanwhile, JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim arrived yesterday in Libya. Reportedly, Khalil, accompanied by 50 JEM leaders and commanders, is in Libya to meet with Ghazi as part of efforts by Libya to push Darfur talks forward.

### **14 people killed in conflict in Warrap state**

**Khartoum Monitor** reports at least fourteen people were reported dead two days ago after fighting broke out between two communities of Tonj East and Tonj North Counties in Warrap State. The fighting was still continuing until yesterday evening. Commissioner of Tonj North County said that the fighting stopped the following day but resumed yesterday.

## **SPLA denies media reports on losing confidential documents**

**Miraya FM** 9/8/09 - The SPLM denied yesterday media reports that SPLA had lost highly confidential documents, assuring that these reports are baseless.

A statement by the SPLM said that there was no loss of documents or CDs in any of the SPLA Units nor did the SPLA military intelligence arrest any officer in this regard.

The statements also acknowledged that Khartoum based newspapers were threatened by the national Intelligence and Security Services not to publish the correction sent by the SPLA office.

## **Senior banker murdered in Khartoum**

**Local dailies** report a senior banker was murdered yesterday in Khartoum. According to **Al-Sahafa**, Osman Abdeen, 59, a senior official of the Bank of Sudan was killed yesterday evening in his residence in Burri. Authorities began investigating the incident and some suspects have been apprehended. Reportedly, neighbours heard gunshots but medical sources said stabs in the body were the cause of the death.

## **Referendum should follow elections - Lam Akol**

SPLM-DC leader Lam Akol has described as "illusions" the statements by some unnamed parties about the possibility of holding the referendum on scheduled even if the elections are postponed again, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. Speaking in Khartoum yesterday at a forum on the Impact of Unity or Secession on Northern and Southern Sudan, Dr. Lam Akol pointed out that the Referendum could only take place under an elected government. He called on Sudanese to push for elections to take place next April. "Unity and secession without peace means that we have not achieved anything," Dr. Akol pointed out. **Al-Wifaq** also quotes Dr. Akol as saying that the NCP and the SPLM are not serious about discussing the elections and referendum.

## **Opposition parties to protest violations of political space**

Opposition parties intend to form a committee to meet with the NEC to bring to its notice the continued restriction of political activity in the country, says Kamal Omar, Political Secretary for the Popular Congress Party (PCP), **Al-Sudani** reports.

## **House awaiting request to lift Arman immunity- Deputy Speaker**

National Assembly Deputy Speaker Mohamed Al-Hassan Al-Amin said the House was yet to receive a request to lift SPLM parliamentary bloc leader Yassir Arman of his immunity, **Al-Ayyam** reports. "Should the Attorney-General be convinced that such a measure was necessary, he would then request the Speaker who will then decide whether to strip Arman of his immunity or not," he said.

## **Commentaries/Editorials**

### **Goo-goo court boosts Darfur butchers**

**New York Post**, [Op-Ed], John Bolton, 6/8/09

SUPPORT for the International Criminal Court is an article of near-religious faith on the political left, a central component of its "global governance" vision. In actuality, however, the ICC has been marginally effective, poorly administered, and its priorities diffuse -- much like its feckless, irrelevant sister, the International Court of Justice, and many other international bodies.

The ICC has avoided irrelevance in one key case -- Sudan. But it has actually made that desperate humanitarian crisis harder to resolve.

Specifically, the ICC indictments in July 2008 for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and other regime figures accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity have clearly had the opposite of the intended effect: Rather than pressure Bashir to stop the killing, they've strengthened his domestic position and hardened his already intractable line on "concessions" to inhabitants of Darfur.

This sad turn of events has provided virtually clinical proof of warnings by ICC critics that the court's "independence" was a defect, not a virtue -- leaving it disconnected from the legitimacy of representative government, and also from the global reality of power and conflict.

Yet it is impossible to act responsibly in Sudan without an understanding of power and conflict. Although recent attention has focused on Darfur, in the country's west, the ethnic and religious north-south conflict that preceded Darfur's suffering is also a candidate for the "genocide" label and remains unresolved. A 2005 agreement halted it, but postponed resolving the underlying issue of independence for the south.

Add in the separatist tendencies in the eastern region of Sudan (exacerbated by the Eritrean-Ethiopian conflict), and the country as a whole is a slow-motion disaster, with three potential breakaway regions.

Darfur's day-to-day level of violence may be lower than at the height of the slaughter by Khartoum-backed militias, but millions are still in displaced-persons camps -- their villages and livelihoods ruined; their security still uncertain.

Peacekeepers and outside political efforts, first from the African Union, then in a hybrid with the UN, have been ineffective, with "settlements" collapsing in the swirling, increasingly international conflict. The Security Council's recent one-year extension of the UN peacekeeping mandate didn't change these fundamental operational and diplomatic realities.

The Obama administration entered office seemingly determined to resolve the Sudan problem, but has instead suffered from public displays of internal disagreement.

Last week, Special Envoy Scott Gration suggested to Congress that Sudan be taken off the US terrorism list, thus laying the basis to lift heavy sanctions previously imposed on Khartoum. Gration's outspokenness (which produced mass confusion at the State Department's daily press briefing on Friday) revived his earlier disagreement with UN Ambassador Susan Rice on whether "genocide" in Darfur is ongoing or receding.

But these disagreements only mask a larger problem for both humanitarian and political efforts in Sudan -- a problem centered on the ICC indictments.

Pressed by Europeans, the Bush administration was essentially cornered into supporting the investigation leading to the indictments. In fact, the ICC process simply provided a fig leaf for the Europeans, who wanted to avoid any serious action about Khartoum, while pointing to the ICC as "doing something."

Tragically, however, by taking the focus off the hard, unpalatable choices that could have made a difference in the real world, the ICC indictments have backfired, making it harder to pry loose concessions that once seemed within reach. Moreover, the ICC's approach generated support for the regime among Third World countries (particularly the African Union) that saw indictments and UN peacekeepers as "Western imperialism."

Khartoum thus turned what Westerners thought would be their bargaining chip to leverage concessions from Sudan into a Sudanese precondition barring further progress until ICC investigations and indictments are quashed.

This political jujitsu has unnerved ICC supporters, but even their "bargaining chip" idea was far from the original robust arguments for the ICC. Indeed, it is (in Sudan and elsewhere) completely backward.

Since the ICC strategy itself was effectively a charade to hide the West's continuing distaste for effective action (military or clandestine) against Khartoum, fears of imperialism were a fantasy. The indictments, a Western display of feel-good moralism, are now more than unneeded complications: They are insuperable barriers to real progress, political or humanitarian.

A real political resolution for Sudan requires a new regime prepared to hold al-Bashir and his cronies accountable, and to negotiate peacefully with the country's separatist regions. But regime change won't come without outside help, decidedly unlikely during the Obama presidency, which views such policy with undisguised distaste. As for the Europeans, rhetoric is too often the sharpest tool in their national-security arsenal.

Abetted by the ICC's unfortunate intervention, the prospects for Sudan remain decidedly unhappy. We will now have to see whether President Obama can square his devotion to international law and "open hand" diplomacy with the reality of a ruthless regime accused of genocide.

*John Bolton, a former US ambassador to the UN, is author of "Surrender Is Not an Option: Defending America at the United Nations and Abroad."*

### **Measure of Probity**

**Editorial: Khaleej Times**, 7/8/09 - This is not a comment on the yardstick of probity and public conduct in a nation. However, every now and then, incidents force nations into review. The public outcry in Sudan over former UN worker Lubna Hussein being dragged to court, where she faces the painful prospect of 40 lashes if found guilty of being indecently dressed, is one such incident.

It is well known that she wore trousers to a Khartoum restaurant: the morality police saw that. Equally, it is well known that protesters congregated outside the courtroom on the trial date in defiant support. They were policing morality in the way it is applied.

Sudan is a country divided between the Muslim north and the Christian south and views on what constitute decent or appropriate are often unclear. "There were 13 of us, and the only thing we had in common was that we were wearing trousers," Hussein said. A Muslim herself, the amplification that 10 in that number were Christian has led to rapid politicization. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement, representative of the south in the coalition government, has called for the law on decency to be changed. Under a 2005 peace deal, Shariah law is not applicable to non-Muslims. "It is not about religion; it is about men treating women badly," she says. "If all women must be flogged for what they wear, I am ready to be flogged 40,000 times." Things have gone further than perhaps intended.

If Hussein is turning into something of an urban legend, it is not because she chose to wear trousers. It is because she chose to question authority in a conservative, insular society. If she is turning into something of a mascot for some Sudanese women, it is because she resisted the easy way out: she neither pleaded mercy nor sought shelter under the immunity that her UN affiliation might have afforded her. Instead, she walked the hard road, which some might

consider foolish, straight into the hearts of those who might have suffered similar fate. Clearly, they are no longer silent, and the ruling dispensation is in a quandary. If she is ultimately flogged, her newfound martyrdom will be complete.

On August 4, nearly 50 women braved teargas shells before being eventually baton-charged. In an allied protest, a woman journalist faces a crippling fine for questioning the government's handling of the case. They are signs that women in Sudan, without questioning the canons of probity, want to question the manner in which local authorities elect to enforce it. Decency of conduct cuts both ways.

The new date for the trial has been set as September 7, the middle of the month of Ramadan, when the nation will be in a mode of abstinence and contemplation. That might be an indication that piety wants to prevail over retribution.

### **Why should the separation of south Sudan still remain a taboo?**

**Commentary:** By Justin Ambago Ramba

9/8/09 - The separation of south Sudan remains in the centre of the Sudanese politics since the Torit uprising in 1955 up till today. Two civil wars have been so far fought and two peace agreements signed. With each agreement to stop the war, the negotiators have in both times ended up signing in the favour of the unity of the Sudan.

However as many south Sudanese have come to realize, these subsequent solutions reached with the ultimate aim of maintaining the status quo of a united Sudan have always ended been abused by the northern politicians who unfortunately insist to be the only ones eligible to lead the nation following every settlement.

No doubt that somewhere the southerners have maintained that the unity of the country can never result in a peaceful Sudan unless the north changes its mind set of looking down on their fellow southerners and only expecting of them to play subordinate roles in the running of the nation.

In an attempt to address the above chronic misconception, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the South and the North in 2005 has stated that the signatories to the agreement must give unity a chance by making it attractive to the southerners during the six year period, while clearly defining the south's right to self determination through an internationally monitored referendum to be held in early 2011.

In this referendum the southerners should be able to vote to either remain in the united Sudan or opt for their independent separate country.

Unfortunately the National Congress Party (NCP/NIF) of President Omer al Bashir and to some extent the unionist within the SPLM parties have always wrongly overused the article in the agreement by imposing the unity of Sudan on the people of the South using exactly the same old tools to which the southerners have already developed resistance.

Mindful of the fact that the separation of the South from the North is one of the options clearly stated in the CPA, while stressing the priority of maintaining unity by the signatories, all other political parties who are not in any way signatories to the agreement should be allowed their full democratic rights to raise the banner of secession as long as it is within a peaceful democratic practice.

At this particular juncture it is totally right to feel that as long as the two options (Separation and

Unity) remain both as an integral part of the CPA and the Interim Constitution of the Sudan, campaigning for the realization of any one of them should in no way be forced into being a clandestine activity as in the old Anya Nya days.

Separation of the South for that matter though not a CPA priority REMAINS a legal and a constitutional option in the Sudanese politics per the agreement. There is no where in the entire agreement that secession of south Sudan should be fought against nor does a call for it constitute any breach of the political party's code which is based on the recognition of the CPA in its entirety including the expressions that suggest that at the end of the six years southern Sudan can secede should it opt so.

In the light of all the above it is in deed both necessary and vital to bring to the attention of all the South Sudanese masses and the international community that by continuing to harass the Secession Mass Movement of South Sudan which is no longer against the Sudanese constitution per the CPA, and their political parties who use peaceful means to propagate for their noble cause (a separate south Sudan) as stipulated therein should not be allowed to pass unchallenged.

Recently a secessionist politician, the head of the United Democratic Front party (UDF), Peter Abdel Rahman Sule, has been reported to have strongly criticized the SPLM for not supporting his party for registration by the Political Parties Affairs Council.

The Council rejected the UDF registration due to the party's demands for south Sudan separation in its constitution. Sule described Council's stance as contradictive with the laws and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Mr. Sule of the UDF who is an ally of the SPLM within the forum of the southern Sudanese political parties has repeatedly said that his party is in a deal with the SPLM meant for mutual support on issues pertaining to the interest of the South.

Further more there is a vital point raised by one of the compatriots in the media that UDF is amongst the parties that can freely campaign for the independence of the south, something the SPLM always finds embarrassing to do in the open as it is bound by the CPA to give a priority for the unity of the Sudan.

With the CPA as the central point of reference, sound minded southerners should understand that what those South Sudanese political parties who make secession of the South from the North their main agenda should not be viewed as mere power hungry people. They may be hungry people, but they are hungry for the freedom of south Sudan.

Many fellow countrymen whose commentaries I have come across in the media seem to be terribly confused on the issue of multi partisan politics. It might rightly reflect their mental age and lack of relating to the realities of this country's history, yet such people badly need political guidance from their political parties in the first place then the public. The sooner these kinds of programs are offered to those in need the better or otherwise we will end up breeding a whole generation of totalitarian terrorists who hardly have a room for tolerating the other.

If someone keeps repeating the question that why do people want to create many political parties, then this person is completely unaware of what politics is all about. But here is a simple answer to the above question: People tend to create many political parties because people have many different ideas and even different interpretations to the same problems and how to find solutions for them.



And when the existing political parties fail to provide the appropriate environments and fora where sound debates can be held and each and every member's idea counts, the next thing would obviously be the search for the creation of the missing forum

Why don't all the people join the SPLM or NCP? The answer is that why should all the people join the SPLM and the NCP in the first place? Secondly if the SPLM or the NCP were offering what the people need then obviously there wouldn't have been this discussion. So why is it that the SPLM or the NCP are not appealing to all the people is a problem to be solved by the two parties themselves.

Why are people struggling for leadership when the main problems have not been solved? Well you see leadership is a natural instinct in the human being. All of us are meant to lead our lives the way it pleases us. Therefore any one who leads her/his life is already a leader in life.

But as to why people do not want certain leaders is because these leaders in question are simply incompetent. Therefore it is no surprise to see concerned citizens trying to lead and it's only sensible to lead when there is a need e.g. a problem that needs to be tackled etc. otherwise what is the point of wanting to lead others when they can lead their lives alone.

Multi party system is not the problem of the Sudanese politics but rather the solution .It is the single party totalitarian systems that should be blamed for all the mess they have created. If you are not listening to those who differ with in opinion then you can only realize your failures when you have already undone all the goods things you initially started with, and that will be at a time when apologies would no longer heal the rifts nor sort out the damages.

UDF must be registered as it is a party that works for the realization of the CPA articles. It is stated that by the year 2011 southern Sudanese shall practice their right of self determination in an internationally supervised referendum to choose either to remain a part of the united Sudan or opt to secede to form its independent nation.

In another development, the NCP and its allies in Khartoum have already come out openly declaring their intentions to make the separation of south Sudan an impossible task through the creation of certain laws, one of which has already been used to the effect of barring the registration of the UDF, others more are expected to come up.

Though the general trend of events are not reassuring and some observers think that the country may end up not going for elections given the current developments concerning the disputed census results, but yet for the sake of the record the SPLM shouldn't have abandoned its southern ally the UDF.

However the journey is still long and tomorrow the UDF will have learnt its lessons when it comes to working with the southern unionist who when times are tough, prefer to stand on the fence and on which side they end up really makes no much difference for them as long as they remain in power sharing exploiting the poor peoples name..

This fact can not be ignored and that the oppression of one South Sudanese Nationalist group anywhere is the oppression of all South Sudanese Nationalists groups worldwide. Today is the UDF, tomorrow it may be another yet our vow is to permanently change the map of the Sudan come 2011.

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