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Media Monitoring Report

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Referendum Monitor

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Highlights

Government to hold referendum on time despite call for secession - FM

Sudan Tribune website 9/10/10 - Sudan's foreign minister told the visiting U.N. Security Council delegation that his government is committed to holding the referendum on southern Sudan self-determination on time despite calls for secession.

The UN delegation met today with the Southern Sudan referendum Commission, foreign minister Ali Ahmed Karti and Vice President Ali Osman Taha. Khartoum meetings come after a series of meetings in Juba with southern Sudan government officials and in El-Fasher with North Darfur government and UNAMID.

Karti told the 15 Ambassadors and representatives that his government is committed to hold the referenda in spite of the clear breaches of the 2005 peace agreement by some parties who call for secession, even before the referendum, he said alluding to Salva Kiir statements in favor of southern Sudan independence.

"We want southern Sudanese to exercise their right in the upcoming referendum in a free and transparent atmosphere," Karti said, adding "We will abide by the outcome of the referendum if it was run in a transparent manner, and this is our condition for the recognition of its result".

The minister went to say that "the peace agreement needs more than ever a peaceful environment and cannot be implemented in an atmosphere of excitement and incitement".

He further added "We do not want the return of atmosphere of war again and we hope the support of the Security Council members".

Khartoum and Juba are committed to the conduct of a free referendum

Al-Sahafa 10/10/10 – UK Permanent Representative to the UN, Mark Grant, said that the visiting United Nations Security Council delegation has a sense that the federal and regional governments in Khartoum and Juba are serious and committed to the conduct of timely referenda in southern Sudan and the Abyei area and to respect the outcome of the exercises.

Speaking at a media stakeout at the Salam Rotana Hotel in Khartoum yesterday, Ambassador Grant said the Council was concerned over the situation in Darfur and feels there is an urgent need for a successful peace process. He urged holdout armed groups in Darfur to join the Doha peace process, cease hostilities and cooperate with UNAMID. He said that the UN is closely monitoring the situation.

He pointed out that during their talks in Juba, El-Fasher and Khartoum, the visiting delegation focused on the issues of referenda and Darfur. He said that the United Nations Security Council remains concerned with conflicts in the country because they constitute a threat to international peace.

Ambassador Grant also noted that time was running out for the referenda and there still remain a number of issues such as citizenship, border demarcation, Abyei and sharing oil revenues that

need strong political will to be addressed. He said that the international community is prepared to assist them.

Ambassador Susan Rice, the US Permanent Representative to the UN who also co-chaired the stakeout, said on her part that the Abyei issue is a political issue that needs to urgently be resolved. She said that the two sides are currently in intensive talks on Abyei. Ms. Rice reiterated her country's commitment to continue support for the two sides to help overcome the obstacles to solutions for the problems of the area.

Status of southerners in the army will be settled – Defence Minister

Al-Sudani 10/10/10 – Defence Minister Gen. Abdul Rahim Mohamed Hussein has warned against a hasty referendum without resolution of pending issues particularly the North-South border demarcation, citizenship and Abyei, saying conducting the referendum before resolving these issues would be a grave mistake.

In an interview to the Newspaper, Gen. Hussein said SAF is keen that the referendum is conducted in a manner that would lead to peace not war therefore the pending issues should be resolved first even if the cost of that would be a delay of the process for sometime. He said the armed forces have been prepared for all scenarios and Khartoum would be secure during the conduct of the process.

Asked about the fate of southerners in SAF after secession, he said if the South opts for secession their status in army would be settled in an acceptable manner.

Government rejects deployment of international troops at the border

Local dailies 10/10/10 – The Sudanese Government has formally objected to a proposal by GoSS President for deployment of international troops at the North-South border ahead of the upcoming referendum.

Foreign Minister Ali Karti said Kiir's request is unacceptable, saying the UNSC delegation told Kiir that the step might be a violation of the CPA.

According to *Reuters* 9/10/10 - South Sudan's president asked U.N. Security Council envoys to deploy peacekeepers along the country's north-south border ahead of a referendum on southern independence, diplomats said on Saturday.

News of the request from southern president Salva Kiir came amid growing tensions along the ill-defined border. Both northern and southern leaders have accused each other of building up troops there.

It was likely to anger northern leaders who want to keep Africa's largest country united and have accused Western governments of covertly backing southern separation.

"Salva Kiir asked for U.N peacekeepers to be deployed along the border between the north and the south," one diplomat told Reuters, on condition of anonymity, saying the request was made at a meeting in the southern capital Juba on Wednesday.

The diplomat said the request would be considered but the envoys made no promises to the southern president.

Another diplomat with the visiting Security Council delegation confirmed the report but said a deployment was not something explicitly called for in the CPA and would therefore require some "adjustments".

President Al-Bashir deplores SPLM renegeing on CPA

Al-Sahafa 10/10/10 – President Al-Bashir has deplored FVP Salva Kiir’ statement that he supports secession. President Al-Bashir, who was speaking at an extraordinary Arab-African summit yesterday in Libya, warned of a possible renewed conflict between the North and the South if key issues such as the demarcation of the border between the North and the South, citizenship, wealth, debts and water are not addressed.

Reuters 10/10/10 reported that Sudan's president accused former southern rebels of going back on the terms of a peace deal and warned there was a risk that conflict would re-erupt if the sides did not settle a list of disputes before a referendum.

The comments from President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, reported on state media, raised the stakes in a growing war of words between Khartoum and the SPLM.

"He (Bashir) warned that the failure in the settlement of these issues before the referendum would make the process as a project for a new dispute between the north and the south that can be much serious than the dispute which was existing before the signing of the CPA," said Sudan's SUNA, reporting on a speech given in Sirte, Libya on Saturday.

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 9/10/10, Al-Bashir directed criticism at his Vice president Salva Kiir who heads the Sudan people Liberation Movement (SPLM), saying that his public support for the South’s secession is a violation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) quoted Bashir as telling participants at an emergency Arab League summit in Libya that he regrets what he described as "renegeing" by the ex-Southern rebel group on the obligation stipulated in the peace accord by declaring that it is working for the separation option.

Addressing his supporters last weekend in the south Sudan capital Kiir said he will not vote for Sudan’s unity since the north has not made unity attractive ahead of the referendum.

Bashir addressing his Arab peers said that a number of outstanding items should be resolved before conducting the referendum namely the border demarcation, citizenship, wealth, national debt and water. However, Bashir fell short of saying that the exercise will not be held without an agreement on the post-referendum arrangements.

He said that failure to address these issues before the referendum threaten to make the process a venue for recreating the military conflict between the North and South.

The Sudanese leader stressed that the plebiscite must be conducted in fair and credible manner and should be free from foreign interference that have other interests in mind other than those of Sudan and the region. He said that his government has a "moral and political obligation" towards

a voluntary unity through a transparent vote.

Pro-secession and unity supporters clash in Sudanese capital

Sudan Tribune website 9/10/10 - Clashes erupted between pro-unity supporters and pro-southern Sudan independence in Khartoum when a small group of Southerners demonstrated calling for separation during a pro-unity rally.

The group estimated to be composed of 30 to 40 southerners held placards supporting southern Sudan independence and shouted slogans for separation during a government sponsored pro-unity rally in Khartoum on Saturday.

Organized by the National Organization for the Support of Unity and Referendum, the pro-unity rally gathered over 2000 people who shouted slogans supporting Sudan's unity and denounced an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir over genocide and war crimes in Darfur.

The unity rally, meant to show the visiting UN Security Council delegation the popular support for President Bashir and display Sudanese attachment to preserve the unity of the country. Khartoum accuses some Western governments of supporting separation.

Pro-unity supporters asked pro-independence group to leave and shouted them. The riot police intervened, after the clash between the two camps, against the pro-separation group and used batons to disperse them and arrested some.

Yasir Arman SPLM deputy secretary general, commenting on the incident, called to provide an opportunity for the both camps to express their views. He further said the repression of separation supporters is breaching the essence of the right of self-determination.

Arman further told Sudan Tribune that he held a meeting with some SPLM officials in the national government and parliament including Bol Lwal Wang, State Minister at the Ministry of Justice, who asked the attorney general to release the detained protesters.

"This evening all the arrested were released except one," Arman said.

Khartoum Monitor 10/10/2010 reported that the Southern Sudan General Student Union (SSGSU) at press conference said 36 students were injured, three of them were in serious condition. The SSGSU issued a statement denouncing the attitude of the security authorities describing it as inconsistent with the Constitution and the Law. SSGSU general secretary, Riak Beam Top, called on students to be wary of the situation and appealed to the Government of National Unity to perform its duty of protecting southerners.

GoSS launches unilateral voter registration

Al-Intibaha 10/10/10 - Informed sources told the newspaper that GoSS yesterday started a unilateral voter registration process in four states.

Meanwhile, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) stated that the step is part of the strife between the CPA partners. The spokesperson of the SSRC said their role is technical and they have to refer unresolved issues to the presidency.

Kiir's statement "unfortunate" – NCP official

Akhir Lahza daily 9/10/10 – The SPLM has announced that it would not conduct the upcoming referendum without the participation of the NCP and denied that it is dragging its feet on the process.

Meanwhile, the NCP has rejected FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit's threats that the SPLM might conduct its own referendum should the process fail to take place on schedule. NCP leading figure and Youth & Sports Minister Haj Magid Siwar has described Kiir's statement as "unfortunate", saying it would widen the gulf of differences between the two partners.

Local dailies 8/10/10 reported that FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has reportedly informed the visiting Security Council delegation that the South might conduct the referendum without coordination with the North if it continues to obstruct the process.

According to **Al-Akhabar** 8/10/10, the NCP has reacted to Kiir's remark, saying it would not recognize the result. NCP leading figure Rabie Abdul-Atti said Kiir's statement is "unacceptable".

AFP 7/10/10 reported a top British diplomat as saying on Thursday that South Sudan could organise its own referendum on independence if a planned January vote under the auspices of the central government suffers a "huge delay,"

Mark Lyall Grant, Britain's permanent representative to the United Nations, was speaking after visiting UN Security Council envoys met south Sudan President Salva Kiir for talks the envoy described as "very frank."

Kiir has repeatedly said the January 9 polling date set up by a 2005 peace agreement that ended Africa's longest-running conflict, a civil war between the north and south, is "sacrosanct."

He has accused President Omar al-Bashir's National Congress Party (NCP) of delaying progress on preparations for the vote.

Lyall Grant said Kiir told delegates that "if there was a huge delay by the NCP, then they reserve the right to hold their own referendum."

"The Security Council is united behind pressing both parties to make necessary preparations to tackle the necessary issues, to allow the referenda to take place on time, be credible and be respected," Lyall Grant told reporters.

The closed door talks lasted for more than two hours, as delegates questioned the south's leaders on issues including the economy, social problems and security.

"Those of us who have seen referenda and elections elsewhere in the world do feel that it was a very ambitious timetable," Lyall Grant said.

"The international community will do everything it can to make everything happen," he added.

"Southern Sudan faces many challenges well beyond that, even if indeed there is separation,"

Lyll Grant said.

The envoys arrived later in El-Fasher, capital of North Darfur state, hours after the military said it had wrested a key sector from rebels in bloody fighting 150 kilometres (93 miles) away in which seven rebels were killed.

The rebels, members of Abdelwahid Nur's Sudan Liberation Army, confirmed the clashes but said they still controlled the Suni district.

A spokesman for the rebels, Ibrahim al-Hillu, demanded that the UN delegation visit areas that have witnessed fighting "and put an end to ethnic cleansing," in reference to reports of 47 deaths in fighting since Sunday.

The delegates were met at the airport by about 300 demonstrators chanting slogans supporting Bashir, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for alleged genocide and war crimes in Darfur.

"With our blood and our souls we sacrifice ourselves for Bashir," chanted women, who were dressed in white.

Sudan Tribune website 7/10/10 reported that Kiir told a visiting delegation of the UN Security Council (UNSC) that the South insists on sticking to the original timetable.

"He [Kiir] set out quite a powerful case for why the referendum had to go ahead on time and the fact that he felt [the] referendum would end up [with] a vote for separation," Britain's UNSC ambassador Mark Lyall Grant was quoted by Reuters, describing what Kiir had told envoys during a meeting in the southern capital Juba on Wednesday.

"He was not going to declare UDI (a unilateral declaration of independence). But if there is a delay, a politically induced delay by the NCP for the referendum, then it might be necessary for the south to hold their own referendum," he added.

Lyll Grant said a new timetable, laying out preparations for the referendum was "very ambitious".

No referendum under SPLA buildup – SAF

Local dailies 8/10/10 – The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) announced that the conduct of the referendum would not be possible if the SPLA continues to breach the security arrangements in the White Nile area.

According *Al-Rai Al-Aam* 8/10/10, SAF Spokesperson Lt. Col. Al-Sawarmi Khalid has said that SPLA movements have been monitored along the border between the Upper Nile state and the White Nile state. He said SAF is closely monitoring these movements, adding that security arrangements would only be complete if all forces are at their assembly points, warning that such violations on the part of the SPLA might not at all assist in the conduct of the referendum.

Abyei issue to be referred to Sudan's Constitutional Court

Al-Ahram Al-Youm 10/10/10 – Informed sources revealed ongoing arrangements to refer the

dispute over Abyei to Sudan's Constitutional Court for decision after the talks in Addis Ababa reached a deadlock. The sources stated that the Court's decision would be final and binding and would not be subject to an appeal.

South Sudan trains over 5000 police officers for referendum

Sudan Tribune website 8/10/10 - The regional government of South Sudan on Friday confirmed that 5,450 police officers have been trained specifically dedicated to the protection the conduct of the upcoming referendum.

Speaking to reporters at Rejaf training center on Thursday, Gen. Gier Chuang Aluong, minister for Internal Affairs stated that the police officers currently undergoing intensive training will provide security to the civil population in the region during the conduct of upcoming referendum and beyond.

Describing police as the face and shape of good governance in any country, he said the region had no well trained police forces. He blamed insecurity in the region on groups he termed 'enemies of peace'.

"There have been people working hard day and night supplying arms and ammunitions to civilians and militias with intention to make the government of southern Sudan fail the government and deny people of Southern Sudan an opportunity to enjoy the dividends of peace brought about by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)," said minister Chuang in the presence of the visiting United Nations delegation.

General Acuil Tito, the Inspector General of Police, also said that the police force in Southern Sudan is facing enormous transition challenges due to lack of equipment to facilitate their operations. Tito added that the Southern Sudan police force needs over US \$50 million to equip the police.

He appealed to the international community to assist police in Southern Sudan to enable it to deliver its mandate of providing security and protection to the civil population now and beyond the referendum.

"We recruited over 6,000 recruits but due to some difficulties, the forces went down to 4,000 personnel yet the initial plan of the government was to train 15,000 police personnel in Southern Sudan to cover the vast region", said Tito.

General Gordon Micah Kur, Deputy Inspector of Police said that the target to train 15,000 new police men and women was not achieved due to lack of equipment.

Southerners in the North start selling their houses

Al-Intibaha 9/10/10 - Real estate agents in Haj Yousif and other parts of Khartoum with southern Sudanese concentration revealed that southerners who have been living in these areas offered their houses for sale in preparation to leave the north. *Al-Intibaha* also noticed that some southerners have transported their families and property to the south. Southerners leaving the north sated that they were heading towards the south to live as "first class citizens there".

Other Highlights

Salva Kiir and Akol of SPLM-DC hold rare meeting

Al-Ahdath 10/10/10 – FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit and SPLM-DC leader Lam Akol held a rare meeting yesterday in Juba that continued until late in the night. The newspaper has learned that the meeting focused on the deep-rooted differences between the two sides and the south-south conference called by the SPLM for debate on the upcoming referendum. Akol is expected to hold a press conference today on the outcomes of his meeting with Kiir.

According to *Sudan Tribune website* 9/10/10, the meeting between Kiir and Akol was arranged by Sudanese presidential adviser Bona Malwal, a senior SPLM official told Sudan Tribune today.

Malwal who is also the head of South Sudan Democratic Forum (SSDF) was also present at the meeting, the source added.

Both Akol and Malwal are considered close to the National Congress Party (NCP) headed by president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir.

Sudan official news agency (SUNA), which did not mention Malwal's presence, said that the meeting discussed preparations for the South-South dialogue that is scheduled to take place in Juba next week.

The agency further said that the January 2011 referendum and arrangements underway were also tackled.

The SPLM official who spoke on condition of anonymity declined to give further details on the talks between Kiir and Akol and whether they pave the way for a possible reconciliation between the two sides.

Journalist Union calls on UNMIS to apologize

Al-Ahdath 10/10/10 – Sudan's Journalists Union yesterday handed over a petition of protest to SRSG and Head of UNMIS Haile Menkerios protesting harassment of a group of Sudanese journalists in Juba. The petition demanded UNMIS immediate apology for the ill-treatment of the Sudanese journalist as well as investigation into the incident. The petition said the Sudanese journalists were thrown out of the aircraft in an inappropriate manner, adding it was an unfortunate behaviour particularly that the incident took place in the presence of the SRSG and the UNSC delegation members.

Local dailies 8/10/10 reported that an altercation took place between the UNSC delegation security and a group of Sudanese journalists inside a UN aircraft in Juba after the journalists protested an order to get off the aircraft because of overload.

Eye witness revealed to *Al-Sahafa* 8/10/10 that the Sudanese journalists were officially invited by UNMIS to cover the activity of the UNSC delegation visit in Juba and Al-Bashir.

Reportedly, the SC delegation close protection members threw the journalists' personal effects

off the aircraft in a provocative manner and under the very eyes of the SC delegation members who did not intervene to end the brawl.

According to *SUNA* 7/10/10, the Sudanese Journalists' Union has categorically rejected subjecting a number of media correspondents to mistreatment and violation of their rights by security elements belonging to United Nations at Juba Airport.

The Union said in a press statement that forcing the correspondent of Reuters, Mohammed Nour-Eddine, to get out of the plane leaving for Darfur, accompanying the Security Council delegation, together with the other correspondents of XINHUA and the BBC, and throwing his equipment and preventing him from traveling was a rejected conduct and considered an aggression and violation that was committed in front of the Head of UN Mission in Sudan and members of Security Council, while they were preparing to leave for Darfur.

The Sudanese Journalists Union called on the Information Minister in the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) to hold accountable those violators who prevented the correspondents from covering the visit of the UN Security Council's delegation to Darfur states.

Sudan Tribune website 7/10/10 reported that the security staff accompanying a UN Security Council (UNSC) delegation visiting Sudan ordered a journalist off the plane prompting some of his colleagues to board off in solidarity, sources tell *Sudan Tribune*.

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) said that the Reuters photographer Mohamed Nur Al-Deen had his camera confiscated in Juba's airport by UN security staff. Later he was told to get off the plane for unknown reasons.

SUNA said that the BBC reporter Al-Tayeb Sideeg, Xinhua reporter Fayez Al-Zaki and his photographer Mohamed Yousif refused to continue the flight after the incident. All the four journalists are Sudanese.

According to the state agency, the information minister Kamal Obeid called his Southern counterpart Barnaba Benjamin to follow up on their status. The journalists are heading to Khartoum on Friday, it added.

SPLA imposes state of emergency in Joda

Al-Intibaha 10/10/10 - SPLA reportedly surrounded Joda area in the White Nile State from the north, south and east, deployed more troops in the area and imposed curfew from 10 p.m. till morning. Residents of Joda Alfakhar told the newspaper that SPLA units are establishing camps in three locations. The residents have called for urgent intervention to resolve the problem, warning that the tension might affect the upcoming referendum.

George Athor set five conditions to negotiate with GoSS

Al-Intibaha 10/10/10- Renegade Gen. Athor revealed that the GoSS has sent a special envoy to express its willingness to negotiate with him. In a telephone call with newspaper, Athor said that he was not against talks with GoSS if five conditions are met namely UN mediation, negotiations to be conducted abroad, participation of all southern Sudanese political parties and that all SPLM leaders involved in corruption and those responsible for insecurity should be brought to justice.

Al-Intibaha 9/10/10 reported that rebel leaders in the South declare rejection of Kiir amnesty and reveal coordination to launch joint military operations to capture a number of towns in Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglai states. Brigadier Galwak accused the SPLA of redeploying officers from Nuer tribe into marginalized regular force departments such as the prisons, fire brigade and border guards although they had been in the front lines during the war with the North. He further accused the SPLA of chucking out Misseriya tribe members from the SPLA.

In a satellite telephone call with *Al-Intibaha*, Galwak ridiculed the amnesty granted by President Kiir and state that Salva Kiir dream that we would come back to get rid of us. Brigadier Galwak affirmed that they would never return to the SPLA under Kiir as they are targeting the Nuer tribe and its animal wealth. On other hand, Lieutenant General George Athor, leader of a rebel faction, stated that the SPLM is littered with corrupts and criminals who are involved in crimes for the benefit of influential SPLM leaders and called for bringing said criminals to justice. Athor declared that Southern Sudan issues can only be solved through talks between the different tribal components of the South.

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