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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## **Parties close to resolving standoff – Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman**

Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail has announced that the NCP and SPLM are close to resolving the outstanding issues, **local dailies** report.

Addressing a press conference in Cairo with Arab League Secretary-General Amru Musa, Ismail said that the two sides managed to open up channels of dialogue that have contributed to defusing recent tensions between them. He said that it is only a matter of hours before the partners reach an agreement over the issues that sparked the tensions.

## **Sudan held hostage by many peace deals - Communist Party leader**

Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud, the Political Officer at the Communist Party of Sudan, says that the whole of Sudan is being bogged down and held hostage by a number of unimplemented agreements, reports **Al-Ahdath**. Speaking at a campus rally in Khartoum, he said that it would be very difficult for the country to come out of the quagmire it is in.

Of the current unity versus secession debate, Nugud expressed optimism that there still remains enough time to make unity attractive.

## **National Assembly endorses draft budget bill in second reading**

The National Assembly unanimously endorsed the draft national fiscal budget following heated criticism of finance policies blamed for causing the collapse of the industrial sector, reports **Al-Ayyam** daily.

Addressing the session, Finance Minister Awad Al-Jazz said that the ministry suffers lots of difficulties in implementing development projects in southern Sudan, **Al-Sahafa** reports. He also said that the ministry has difficulties in collecting customs and other national revenue from the region.

## **SPLM calls for logistical support to Abyei border team**

**Sudantribune.com** Juba, 10/11/09 —The SPLM has called for more logistical support to the Abyei border demarcation technical team saying that lack of logistics has delayed the ongoing demarcation process.

"The border demarcation process is going on well but it is encountering a number of hurdles which include logistics. As I am told one of the helicopters provided by United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) developed technical problem requiring time to fix it," said Dr. Luka Biang Deng, GoSS' Minister of Presidential Affairs and a leading SPLM member.

He pointed out that the team has not reported any serious impediment to their work since resuming activities in late October.

The members of the joint team have started demarcating Abyei boundaries in the east after which they will go further north, he said adding that recent security concerns in the extreme north of Abyei town are being addressed by the Joint Integrated Unit (JIU) forces in collaboration with UNMIS force. Security of the team is no longer a concern impeding daily activities; they are being looked after by the JIU and are housed in Abyei town from where they go to field every day, he said.

Minister Biang also called on the team to closely work with local administration on issues that affects them on daily basis. He went further calling on local chiefs to extend them similar support particularly during demarcation process.

## **NCP requests extension of registration hours**

NCP Information Officer, Fathi Shella, has revealed that the NCP will formally request the NEC to extend voter registration hours, to increase the number of voter registration centres and to grant electoral officers more powers to enable them assess the processes and address setbacks that may occur, reports **Al-Sahafa**. The NCP would also request the NCP to put more efforts to educate voters on the importance of the registration process.

On allegations of NCP-sponsored irregularities, he said that the NCP is buoyed by a large popular base and has no need for fraud but will bring to book any of its members proved to be party to fraudulent practices.

## **South Sudan public holiday only for constitutional post holders -minister**

**Sudantribune.com Juba, 10/11/09** – GoSS Cabinet Affairs Minister Luka Monoja on Tuesday said the seven-day public holiday ordered by GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit targets only constitutional post holders in the region.

In a broadcasted statement on both Southern Sudan TV and Radio, Dr. Monoja apologized for the error in the text of the President's order which by mistake included civil servants.

The office of the President on Saturday issued an order declaring a seven-day public holiday beginning from Wednesday, 11th November running through 17th November. The text which was availed to the press and broadcasted on both TV and radio included the civil servants in the seven days long holiday.

Dr. Monoja said civil servants would only have their one day public holiday on Wednesday 11th November and resume work on Thursday, 12th November. He further explained that all constitutional post holders will continue with the holiday until 17th November.

## **SPLM nudges for inclusion of more Sudanese abroad in voter registration**

**Sudantribune.com Juba, 10/11/09** - Leading SPLM members are pushing for the inclusion of more countries with populations of southern Sudanese in the voter registration process.

The move comes after the publication by the National Election Commission (NEC) of a list of countries that include Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain, the UK, Belgium (for all Western Europe) and Washington, New York, Los Angeles for the USA. Their argument was based on the premise that most Sudanese in the Arab Gulf countries cited in the NEC list are from northern Sudan.

Suzan Jambo, SPLM Secretary for external relations, in the southern sector, says voter registration for Diasporas should not be limited to countries in the NEC list. "It has to be extended to other countries hosting number of Sudanese abroad," she said reiterating inclusion of more countries to the list.

Neighboring countries like Uganda, Kenya Tanzania, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Congo just to name a few still has a number of southern Sudanese residents with refugee or legal immigrant status.

## **UNMIS hosts IOM press briefing**

**Local dailies** make an extensive coverage of the press briefing held yesterday at UNMIS headquarters featuring IOM Representative to Sudan, Jill Helke. Ms. Helke reportedly gave an overview of IOM operations in Sudan and answered questions from representatives of media outlets who were present at the press briefing. Issues covered by the local dailies included the brief on IOM operations in Sudan focusing on its campaign to eradicate irregular migration in eastern Sudan, its support for returns in southern Sudan and Darfur and other operations in the country.

## **China defends decision not to veto Darfur ICC referral**

**Sudantribune.com** Khartoum, 10/11/09 - The Chinese government has defended its decision not to block a UN Security Council resolution in 2005 referring the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Beijing, despite being a strong ally of Khartoum, abstained from voting on the resolution outraging Sudanese officials who accused China of failing to “protect its friends”.

Chinese prime minister Wen Jiabao was asked by reporters following the opening ceremony of the China-Africa Forum last Sunday in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, why his government “sometimes declines to give full support to Africa” citing the ICC referral case.

“The blame you [reporter] laid on China over the issue of the Sudan is unfounded. Besides, I wish to emphasize that China’s position on the UN Security Council reform is consistent and clear-cut. The Security Council should increase the say and representation of developing countries, particularly African countries. We have done a lot to achieve this goal,” Jiabao said.

The Sudanese second Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha told Sudan’s cabinet he had Chinese assurances that resolution 1593 would not be passed, a source close to the presidency told Reuters on December 17 2005.

“He was confident it would not get through and told them not to worry,” he said. Their abstention rather than a veto embarrassed Taha within the government, the presidency source said.

## **Sudan to close down Darfur IDP camps in early 2010: official**

**Sudantribune.com** Khartoum, 10/11/09 - Speaking to **Radio Miraya FM**, HAC Commissioner Hasabu Abdel-Rahman said that the Sudanese government has plans to close down displaced camps in the greater Darfur region by early 2010.

The independent **Al-Sahafa** newspaper quoted Abdel-Rahman as saying that his ministry is implementing a policy of “converting the aid money to a service program to rehabilitate villages through gradual transformation to construction stages”.

The Sudanese official disclosed that the government is building 20,000 housing units for the IDP’s in the capital towns of El-Fasher, El-Geneina and Nyala.

He added that the IDP’s will be given the choice of either to move to their villages or to the new housing complexes but did not specify what consequences those who reject these options will face.

Darfur rebel groups today reacted angrily to the government’s announcement.

“The government wants to send our people back to the same places they fled from so that they can get killed again under the whole world eyes,” SLM’s Abdul-Wahid Al-Nur said.

“I want to remind the government that international conventions prohibit forcing IDP’s to repatriate” he added.

The Darfur Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) spokesperson Ahmed Hussein said the move is a “cover-up for a new crime the government intends to commit similar to the one in Kalma camp [August 2008 killings of IDP’s by government troops]. It is classic of them to do so”.

“This is clearly and unequivocally a war crime what they are trying to do. They are taking advantage of the world easing pressure on them and Hasabu himself is a security officer not a humanitarian one worst than Haroun” Hussein added.

The JEM official urged the international community to intervene and press Khartoum to reverse its decision.

### **Ethiopia supplies UNAMID with five choppers**

The Ethiopian defence ministry has announced it has completed preparations to deploy an air force unit comprised of 200 soldiers and 5 helicopters to join its UNAMID contingent, reports ***Al-Ahdath***. General Yohannes Bebre-Meskel, a high ranking Ethiopian defence ministry official, said that Ethiopia currently has a 1,600-strong infantry contingent.

### **Student kills colleague in Khartoum University campus**

The School of Health Sciences at the University of Khartoum was the scene of a gruesome murder where a female student succumbed to knife wound inflicted by a male colleague. ***Local dailies*** report that the victim's engagement angered the culprit who tracked her, overcame colleagues who tried to stop him and gave her at least five stabbings from a knife he carried into campus, to the horror of colleagues and university staff. He has been taken into custody.

### **Price of sugar rises to unprecedented levels**

Sugar prices have soared from SDG150 per bag to SDG170 in the last few days, ***local dailies*** report. Traders attribute this unprecedented hitch in the price of sugar to the hoarding of sugar and other consumer commodities by major traders.

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