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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Highlights

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## Post-elections Watch

### **Al-Bashir continues consultations to form new government**

**Al-Ayyam** 12/5/10 – The NCP yesterday announced that President Al-Bashir was still conducting consultations with his party organs to form the new government. NCP political secretary Ibrahim Ghandour told reporters that “until now no deadline is set for the announcement of the new government because consultations are still ongoing”.

With regard to the agreements concluded between the Government and the movements and political parties, he said “these agreements will remain valid despite the fact that the elections have brought about a new reality but it does not contradict with the implementation of these agreements”.

### **NCP, SPLM to discuss formation of new government**

**Al-Ahdath** 12/5/10 - The CPA partners will conduct intensive meetings next week in a bid to resolve their differences over formation of the new government including the composition of referendum commissions.

In a separate development, SRSG Haile Menkerios yesterday briefed State Minister for Foreign Affairs Muttrif Sidig on the outcome of his recent visit to New York, the outcome of the Consultative Meeting on Sudan held in Addis Ababa earlier this week as well as issues pertaining to the referendum. Muttrif reiterated Sudan government’s commitment to conduct the referendum on schedule and to fully implement the CPA.

### **Features of new GoSS unfold**

**Al-Sahafa** 12/5/10 – The SPLM has affirmed the principle of a broad-based Government in the South that will absorb the entire political rainbow in the region including the independent candidates. Reportedly, the GoSS ministerial portfolios will also be increased to about 30.

Meanwhile, 1500 dignitaries including the SRSG in the Sudan and others from neighbouring countries have reportedly been invited by GoSS to attend the swearing-in ceremony of GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit. Sources said consultations on the new GoSS have been finalized and the new government is expected to be announced within a week from Kiir’s oath of office. According to the sources, GoSS Presidential Affairs Minister Luka Biong and Justice Minister Michael Macwai are likely to take over ministerial portfolios in the centre but SPLA Minister Nhial Deng Nhial will be dropped. SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum and FM Deng Alor will for the first time join GoSS as Presidential Affairs Minister and Regional Cooperation Minister respectively. Warrap state Governor Salva Matuk is likely to take over as SPLA Affairs Minister.

### **Carter Center says concerned about accuracy of Sudan poll results**

**Sudan Tribune website** 10/5/10 - The Carter Center, the major international elections monitoring body, issued a statement today saying that the vote tabulation process in Sudan " was chaotic and lacked transparency" casting further doubts on the credibility of the first multi-party elections held in the country since 1986.

The USA-based organization, which has observed elections in 30 countries said that the vote counting process raises "serious questions about the accuracy of election results" and further suggested that the National Elections Commission (NEC) deliberately changes results in some cases.

"While alterations to results were often an attempt to correct mathematical errors, in some cases numbers were arbitrarily changed without clear explanation," it added.

"In at least a quarter of observed states, data entry staff were frequently observed altering Results Forms, increasing or decreasing both the number of invalid votes and also the number of votes won by candidates so as to reconcile the figures," the statement said.

"This raises serious questions about the accuracy of the results and makes it extremely difficult to track how votes were tallied and how discrepancies were resolved at each data centre.

"According to Carter Centre observers, domestic observers, party agents, and candidates, the elections in Unity State suffered from large-scale intimidation, violence, flaws in administration, and indications of manipulation," the statement said.

Carter Center urged the NEC "to publish the results of individual polling stations as quickly and widely as possible and to thoroughly review the results, especially those based on manual tabulation, which lack the safeguards of the electronic tabulation system, or where other deviations from procedure occurred".

"A swift posting of all polling station results could allow stakeholders to verify the accuracy of the official data, addressing ongoing doubts as to the credibility of the results".

The announcement of the elections results were delayed by almost a week and it was disclosed during the process that the NEC ordered its stations across the country to stop entering the results into the designated software built for that purpose and start transmitting it manually in order to save time.

Election observers, who advise against the move, criticized the new process saying it makes it extremely vulnerable to manipulation and prevents detection of discrepancy.

The Carter Center said that in seven states its observers were stopped from witnessing the counting. It also noted numerous polling stations with 100 percent turnout, or where 100 percent of votes were cast for one candidate or one party, particularly in east and south Sudan.

According to ***Al-Sudani*** newspaper 12/5/10, NEC member Mukhtar Al-Assam has described the Carter Centre's report as "unprofessional".

### **NCP warns opposition against causing unrest**

***Al-Ahdath*** 12/5/10 – NCP leading figure Gandour Al-Mahdi has advised the opposition against organising protests during President Al-Bashir's swearing-in ceremony. The NCP official was reacting to recent threats by the opposition to take to the streets during swearing-in ceremony in a show of rejection of the poll results.

Gandour pointed out that the outcome of the polls has shown that such marches aimed at causing unrest and they do not reflect the will of the people.

## **Juba Alliance to meet today to decide on shape of future opposition**

**Al-Watan** 12/5/10 - The political parties under the umbrella of Juba Alliance will hold a lengthy meeting today to decide on the shape of opposition during the forthcoming stage. Informed sources said the opposition parties would agree on a plan on how to handle the challenges encountering the country.

## **South Sudan renegade commander threatens main town**

**Reuters** 11/5/10 - A renegade south Sudan army commander said on Tuesday he had clashed with the oil-producing region's military for a second time and threatened to attack an important town if the assault continued.

George Athor, who stood as an independent candidate in April elections for governor of Jonglei state and lost to the ruling party, has been on the run since late April, when the SPLA accused him of ordering an attack on a barracks that killed eight soldiers.

"They were the ones attacking our base on Monday at 2:30 p.m. (1130 GMT)," Athor told Reuters by satellite phone from Jonglei, where French oil company Total (TOTF.PA) has a largely unexplored oil concession.

"We destroyed a number of vehicles and captured one mounted with an anti-aircraft gun," he added. "Our losses are three wounded and seven dead. The (SPLA) bodies we found are 36."

There was no independent confirmation of the report and the SPLA were not immediately available to comment.

Analysts fear the heavily armed south, which will vote on independence in eight months time, will secede and clashes over ethnicity, cattle raids and rival politicians could destabilise east Africa.

Athor said he was willing to negotiate but if the attacks continued he would attack Jonglei's state capital Bor, adding he had military supporters all over the south who were joining him.

"We are organising our forces in all areas and we are going to converge in Bor ... attacking Bor," he said.

## **SPLA denies clash with Athor forces**

**Al-Ayyam** 12/5/10 – The SPLA denied that its forces clashed with Gen. George Athor forces. SPLA spokesperson Maj. Gen. Kuol Deim Kuol has confirmed the stability of security situation in the area south of Sobat River, saying Athor has called for talks with SPLA in "Khor Pholus"

## **230 killed in clashes between SPLA and Gen. Athor's forces**

**Al-Intibaha** 12/5/10 - Clashes in Jonglei State between the SPLA and forces of ex-SPLA General George Athor have left over 230 people dead yesterday. According to sources the two sides renewed fighting last Monday and were still engaged in battle until yesterday. Reportedly, the two sides clashed in Ayot yesterday.

# **Pre-referendum Watch:**

## **Government says referendum on schedule**

**Al-Watan** 12/5/10 – State Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ali Ahmed Karti has

reiterated Sudan Government's commitment to hold the referendum on schedule. Karti told reporters following a meeting with the visiting Eritrean delegation that the referendum would be smooth and fair like the elections.

### **The referendum will take place on schedule – AEC chief**

**Al-Ahdath** 12/5/1- Head of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC), Sir Derek Plumbly, has said that international efforts are currently focusing on making the necessary preparations for the southern Sudan referendum so that the exercise takes place on schedule. Following a meeting with Egypt's foreign minister, Plumbly said that there is no intention to delay the referendum.

### **Pagan Amum seeking to make separation attractive – NCP**

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** 12/5/10 – NCP leading figure Haj Magid Suwar has accused SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum of working to make separation attractive. Reportedly, Amum announced that separation would be the “best choice” for the southerners Sudanese in 2011 referendum because unity has not been made an attractive option over a period of five years.

Amum, upon return to Juba from Ethiopia, told reporters that the SPLM believes that talk about an attractive unity is now “too late”, making separation the best option for the southerners. He said the SPLM would seek to establish good relations with the north in case of separation and stressed the importance of referendum on schedule. He warned the NCP against dragging its feet on benchmark, saying there would be no peace in Sudan if referendum does not take place. He said the SPLM would ask the UN to hold the referendum if the NCP continues to drag its feet. “We want speedy formation of the referendum commission and demarcation of the North-South border or else we will resort to the UN and the international community to have it conducted”.

According to **Akhbar Al-Youm**, Amum told reporters that the South is now close to separation after the two partners have failed to make unity attractive, saying the SPLM would resort to the international community if referendum fails to take place. He pointed out that the referendum would be internationally-monitored particularly after the self-determination has become part of the UN mandate based on the Security Council resolution.

### **“The referendum would not be fair” – Ali Karti**

**Al-Ahdath** 12/5/10 - State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ali Ahmed Karti, has strongly criticized the SPLM and accused its leadership of suppressing the will of the southern Sudanese electorate. Speaking to **Al-Jazeera** in a programme broadcast yesterday, Karti said that the government has evidence to prove that the 2011 referendum would be neither free nor fair because the SPLM “governs the South with an iron fist, firepower and military intelligence.”

### **SPLM-DC threatens to oust Salva Kiir if separation takes place**

**Al-Wifaq** 12/5/10 - Adviser to the SPLM-DC Chairman William “Tubweil” has threatened to overthrow the southern Sudan government if separation takes place. In an interview to the newspaper (to be published later) “Tubweil” warned that if the SPLM separates the South Kiir will never remain in power for even one day. He also warned against the participation of Sadiq Al-Mahdi, Al-Mirghani, Al-Turabi and Nugud in the forthcoming government in the centre.

### **Mbeki meets North-South Demarcation Commission official**

**Al-Sahafa** 12/5/10 – Head of the AU High Level Implementation Committee Thabo Mbeki yesterday met with North-South Border Demarcation Committee chairman Abdullah Abdul Magid to enquire about the progress of the demarcation work. Abdul Magid told Mbeki that the

demarcation process on the eastern part is proceeding in a normal manner and that 25% of the line would be drawn on the ground during the coming weeks and would be completed by November. However, he pointed out that there are some contentious issues which were referred to the Presidency for decision.

## Other Headlines

### **US influenced Sudan's decision to remove its UN envoy - source**

**Sudan Tribune website** 11/5/10 - The surprise decision by Sudan to replace its ambassador to the United Nations Abdel-Mahmood Abdel-Haleem last week was primarily influenced by pressure from the United States special envoy Scott Gration, a UN official told Sudan Tribune today.

The official who asked not to be named in order to speak freely said that Gration who was on a visit to Sudan last week conveyed his dismay over statements attributed to Abdel-Haleem saying they will not help improve ties between the two countries.

Last month, the Sudanese ambassador to the UN said his government asked for clarification from Washington on media reports that quoted the US official as saying in a private meeting with Southerners that he believes that the recent elections held in the country were "rigged" and "flawed" but that they are recognizing it for the sake of a smooth transition into 2011 referendum.

"If we confirm its authenticity then we will take it from there.....based on that response Sudan will determine its position on Gration's remarks," Abdel-Haleem told the independent Al-Sahafa newspaper published in Khartoum.

The UN official pointed out that Abdel-Haleem's statements added to the pressure Gration is feeling in light of a struggle within the US administration to take the Sudan dossier away from him and let the State Department take over it.

Abdel-Haleem has reportedly managed to lobby for extending his mandate with the help of some of Bashir's aides which yielded the decree by the Sudanese president. But the latter later reversed his own decision after Ismail conveyed Gration's message.

"They [Sudanese] do not think is the perfect envoy but at the same time for them he is the best of the worst and they certainly don't want his position weakened to where the hawks, Hillary [Clinton] and Susan Rice would take over" the UN official said.

Domestically, Abdel-Haleem came under fire in recent months even from pro-government writers who asserted that his unconventional diplomatic style hurt the country's image within the world body. Some have went as far as saying that the ambassador's harsh criticism of ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo led to Bashir's indictment by the tribunal.

"Mr. Ocampo, you are not welcome in this place. You abuse the image of the United Nations," Abdel-Haleem told reporters in June 2009 following Ocampo's briefing and described him as a "mercenary".

"Your dreams of publicity and media should come to an end also," he said.

In one instance the Sudanese ambassador called Costa Rica a "banana republic" because of its support to the ICC.

One month after he started in New York, Abdel-Haleem sent a letter to warn UN member states not to pledge peacekeepers to Darfur in response to a UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1706 adopted in August 2006 20,000-strong force with a tough mandate.

Sudan later distanced itself from the letter in response to strong reaction from UNSC members particularly Western nations which regarded it as a "direct challenge" to its authority.

It is not clear if Abdel-Haleem would be offered a new position upon his return to Khartoum next month. The UN official said the Sudanese ambassador appeared "heavily disappointed" over his replacement particularly in light of his "zealous" defense of Bashir.

"I am sure he feels like he has been stabbed in the back after all what he has done at least verbally and before the media but at the same time there were many, many people at the UN and within his own mission and back who wanted him gone," he said.

The pro-government Al-Rayaam newspaper, which fiercely criticized the decision to replace the envoy, said that the candidate for his replacement is Dafalla Al-Haj Ali Osman who is an ambassador in the Sudanese foreign ministry who previously worked at the mission as well as posts in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

### **Sudan asks Interpol to arrest rebel chief -report**

**Reuters** 10/5/10 - Sudan's justice minister has asked Interpol to arrest the leader of Darfur's most powerful rebel group, state media said on Monday, a step likely to dash hopes of progress in a faltering peace process.

The Sudanese Media Centre quoted Abdel Basit Sabderat as saying that JEM leader, Khalil Ibrahim, should stand trial for an unprecedented May 2008 attack on the capital Khartoum, which killed around 200 people.

"The relevant authorities of Interpol have been requested to arrest him wherever he is so that he may face trial ... and be handed over to the Sudanese authorities," SMC quoted Sabderat as saying.

He urged "all concerned states not to shelter him and to extradite him to face trial", SMC added. Sabderat was not immediately available to confirm the report.

Ibrahim has left Qatar-based peace talks and is visiting Cairo, an ally of Khartoum. JEM officials declined to comment.

SMC said Ibrahim was accused of some 14 charges including murder and waging war against the state.

Khartoum's move against Ibrahim is likely to end progress in the peace talks, prompted by a rapprochement between Sudan and neighbouring Chad, who had hosted Darfur's rebels.

"This means the peace process is over," said an international source familiar with the Darfur file who declined to be named.

Separately, the state news agency SUNA said Sudanese police had arrested two men suspected of killing two Egyptian members of UNAMID in an ambush on Friday in Darfur.

The attack on the UNAMID peacekeepers marked a further deterioration of security in the west, as JEM reported government shelling of their positions near the Chad border.

Police told SUNA they had arrested the two men in the South Darfur area of Edd al Fursan and were now hunting down the rest of a seven-man bandit gang blamed for Friday's attack.

JEM on Sunday accused Sudan's army of bombing and shelling positions in the remote Jabel Moun area of West Darfur state, saying it was the latest in a series of attacks in the region. The army said it could not confirm the report of fighting.

### **JEM Darfur rebels threaten to resume Sudan war**

**BBC** 11/5/10 - One of the main rebel groups in Sudan's Darfur region has threatened "all-out war" if its leader is arrested.

Sudanese officials have asked Interpol to arrest JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim for planning an attack in Omdurman in 2008.

JEM signed a ceasefire with the government in February but left peace talks earlier this month, claiming the government had launched new raids.

Mr Khalil is currently thought to be in Egypt, which is an ally of Khartoum. Eltahir Adam Elfaki, chairman of JEM's Legislative Council, told the BBC that "if any attempt is made to arrest Dr Khalil then it is an all-out war."

"Even as we speak, the Sudanese government is bombarding areas of North Darfur and West Darfur," he said.

### **Peacekeepers warn of Darfur rebel, Sudan army build-up**

**Reuters** 12/5/10 - Peacekeepers have warned of a build-up of Sudanese army and rebel troops near a strategic town in Darfur, where the security situation has deteriorated after peace talks between the government and rebels stalled.

Separately, long running tribal rivalries in the remote western region had led to clashes, killing 107 people since March, they said.

"The security situation in North Darfur is tense following reports of an increase in the presence of government troops and JEM forces in the Shangil Tobay region," UNAMID said in a statement published late on Tuesday.

Two international sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there were signs JEM was moving southeast through Darfur towards the neighbouring oil-producing region of Southern Kordofan, where JEM has claimed support in the past.

UNAMID said it was monitoring the situation and called on both sides to avoid "further acts of violence".

Shangil Tobay is a settlement 70km (43 miles) south of the capital of North Darfur El Fasher, a government stronghold and hub for aid workers and peacekeepers. The area sits between JEM's current stronghold in West Darfur and Southern Kordofan.

No one was immediately available from Sudan's army or JEM to confirm the reports of the build-up.



## **Death of South Sudan High Elections Committee boss**

**Sudan Tribune website** 11/5/10 - Mr. Caesar Arkangelo Suliman, who was hitherto the Chairman of Southern Sudan High Elections Committee (SSHC), the body tasked with supervision role in the just-concluded general elections has died.

Mr. Arkangelo, 75 reportedly succumbed to kidney failure on Sunday, after undergoing treatment from Khartoum hospital.

SSHC Deputy Chairman, Mr. Anthony Arika Lowly told Sudan Tribune yesterday the Committee highly regrets the untimely death of its boss, describing his departure as a major setback to the South-based electoral body.

## **Urgent cash needed for demining**

**IRIN** 11/05/10 - The removal of landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) in Sudan will grind to a halt next month unless money is found to keep operations going, especially around Malakal in Upper Nile State and Kassala in the east, says an official.

"The plan was that we clear areas where there is a high threat before handing over to the national authorities in June 2011," said Evans Omari, senior programme officer for the UN Mine Action Office in Sudan (UNMAO). "We will not be able to continue from July to December if we do not get additional money."

The agency urgently requires US\$12 million. Lack of funds, it said, would deter the return of internally displaced persons, hinder economic and social activities, and give room for more landmine-related accidents.

"In Malakal, there is a constant flow of returnees, and many are coming back to live or farm in minefields," Omari told IRIN on 10 May. "Last month, four people died and others got serious injuries. In Kassala, there is a lot of movement between Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan because it is one of the main transitional areas."

A recent landmine impact survey identified 320 more suspected hazardous areas. "These are areas where somebody's cow has been blown up or some incident has been reported," he added. "We need to verify the threat in all these areas."

More than 20 years of conflict left 19 out of the 25 states affected by mines or ERW. These include unexploded ordnance, such as bombs, mortars, grenades, missiles and cluster munitions, and "abandoned ordnance" or weapons left behind by armed forces when they leave an area.

In March, for example, five children died when a hand grenade they had picked up exploded in Kodok township, Fashoda County in Upper Nile State. The two girls and three boys were aged four to 11, the county deputy commissioner Joseph William Kwol, told the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

"There are some areas in Kodok where landmines are just lying on the surface," Kwol told UNMIS. "It would be easy for kids to pick them up and play with them." The township experienced a significant amount of fighting during the civil war, and has abandoned grenades in two fields to the south.

According to Sudanese officials, major routes have been cleared but there are still areas where the devices threaten civilians and affect aid or development efforts, especially in Central Equatoria State, South Kordofan and Kassala. Margaret Mathew Mathiang, deputy chair of the South Sudan De-mining Authority, told IRIN in February that the situation had also hampered the return of refugees.

The true extent of Sudan's mine and ERW problem is unknown, according to UNMAO. Together with its partners, such as Norwegian People's Aid, it has opened up more than 39,819km of road, cleared more than 59,799,476 sqm of land, and destroyed 25,220 mines and 876,552 pieces of unexploded ordnance.

With the UN Children's Fund, it has offered mine-risk education to about 3.2 million people.

### **HAC Commissioner in Juba for discussion on food situation**

**Al-Ayyam** 12/3/5/10 – HAC Commissioner who is also the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs is due in Juba today to discuss the worsening humanitarian situation in five southern states. GoSS Voluntary Return Coordinator K. Chol said the food gap is estimated at 220,000 tons, adding the situation should be addressed before the onset of the rainy season in June.

### **Influential personality involved in the Humanitarian affairs issue**

**Al-Intibaha** 12/5/10 – In a dramatic development with regard to the issue of embezzlement of donor funds by the Humanitarian Affairs Ministry, informed sources revealed that an influential figure is involved in the publication of the information which was described as false. The newspaper has learned that the court will hear a defamation case filed by the former HAC Commissioner Hassabo Mohamed Abdul Rahman who has demanded compensation for the damage he sustained as a result of the publication of false information.