

12 May 2011

www.unmissions.unmis.org



# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Post-Referendum Headlines

- Foreign Ministry condemns attack on UNMIS peacekeepers in Abyei (*Sudan Radio*)
- Joint Committee to visit Abyei – Obi (*Al-Ahdath*)
- Report: UNMIS troops, victims of dispute over Abyei (*Al-Ahdath*)
- Two vehicles struck in Sudan's Bentiu by landmines (*ST*)
- Flow of goods to the South stopped due to insecurity – NCP (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Southern rebels advancing toward Aweil, to proceed to Juba (*Al-Ahram Al-Youm*)
- VP Taha and FVP Kiir agree not to include Abyei in constitutions (*Al-Ayyam*)
- SPLM detain hundreds of southerners returning from the North (*Akhir Lahza*)

## Southern Kordofan Elections Focus

- No way to amend elections results in southern Kordofan – NEC (*Sudan Radio*)

## Other Headlines

- Police arrest attackers of mosque in Khartoum (*Al-Sudani*)
- Unidentified men hurl 19 hand grenades in Gedaref, 8 people wounded (*Al-Sudani*)
- Gosh obtained weapons, aircraft and became a threat to regime – Turabi (*Al-Intibaha*)
- Water shortage leads to street protests in Sudan's capital (*ST*)

**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

---

## **Foreign Ministry condemns attack on UNMIS peacekeepers in Abyei**

*Sudan Radio* 12/5/11 – Sudan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the attack on UNMIS patrol in Abyei. Ministry spokesperson Khaled Musa told reporters that the Government is concerned with safety of UNMIS peacekeepers, adding the ministry would wait for the outcome of investigation in the incident.

## **Joint Committee to visit Abyei – Obi**

*Al-Ahdath* 12/5/11 – UNMIS FC Maj. Gen. Moses Obi said the joint technical committee would visit Abyei to oversee the implementation of agreement with regard to JIU status. Obi told *Miraya FM* that SAF and SPLA are cooperating in the implementation of agreements, adding the incident of firing by unidentified gunmen on UNMIS patrol in the Goli area would have no impact on performance of the UN troops because it was an isolated incident.

## **UNMIS troops, victims of dispute over Abyei**

Summary of a report by Ms Abeer Abdullah

*Al-Ahdath* 12/5/11 – For the first time UNMIS peacekeepers were fired at in Abyei, a territory disputed by the North and South. UNMIS statement condemned the incident. Since Abyei is the stumbling block for the two parties’ talks, the attack on UNMIS troops may be an indication of serious political and security developments in the area particularly that the attack comes just a day after the NCP and the SPLM agreed to pull out unauthorized troops to defuse tension.

UNMIS spokesperson Kouider Zerrouk said the incident “is a bad indication of the security situation in the area”. Misseriya leader Mohamed Omer Al-Ansari shared Kouider’s concern by saying that Abyei area is presently like an operation zone. Al-Ansari disclosed new information regarding the attack on UNMIS peacekeepers, saying they are victims of an exchange of fire between SPLA and SAF, no other quarter targeted them. He said two UN peacekeepers were wounded not four as claimed by UNMIS.

Abyei Chief Administrator Deng Arop Kuol, speaking to the newspaper yesterday, said was surprised by UNMIS statement that its patrol came under unidentified fire although it knows very well that the source of the fire was the Misseriya in Goli. He said UNMIS does not want to disclose the identity of the attackers for fear of NCP reaction, adding the latter wanted to send a message to UNMIS to keep away from the Area.

However, Al-Ansari said it was more likely the SPLA was the source of the firing on the patrol, adding “his tribe does not carry out its military operations from behind a curtain”. “When we launch attack we claim responsibility of that attack. We do not stab on the back” he said.

Arop has accused the NCP of seeking to create trouble to complicate things for the UNSC visit to the Area. But Al-Ansari criticized UNMIS interference in all facets of disagreements between the two parties. “It is a monitoring Mission. Why should it involve itself in a semi-operation zone” he wondered. But Kouider Zerrouk expressed astonishment over such statement. “Our presence is normal to provide assistance to the population of the area” he reacted. “We want the

attackers arrested to know the reasons for the attack”.

Hamad Hawi, a political analyst, commenting on the incident said charges that the Mission is not neutral and is biased will make it a legitimate target of the Misseriya and Ngok Dinka. Al-Ansari is also of the view that UNMIS troops are biased and they are playing a role similar to the activity of SPLA intelligence.

But Deng Arop claims that UNMIS fears the NCP and that is why it attributed the incident to unidentified group although it knows the identity of the criminals”.

According to Hamad Hawi, uncontrolled availability of arms has made the mission of attackers easy. He said both the Misseriya and the Dinka oppose being regarded as part of NCP and SPLM, arguing that they are absolutely independent. Hawi did not rule out that tension in Abyei might prevent the SC’s visit to the territory adding that rising tension might also minimize chances for resolving the dispute over the territory through referendum or political agreement.

### **Two vehicles struck in Sudan’s Bentiu by landmines**

*Sudan Tribune website* 12/5/11 - Two vehicles have been struck by landmines in the capital of Sudan’s Unity state on Thursday morning, Sudan Tribune has learned. The incident occurred at 8 am to the two cars just 7 kilometers from Bentiu.

Col. John Madeng Gatduelm a former Mayom County commissioner told Sudan Tribune by phone that these cars were heading to Tharjath when they stepped into a landmine field.

The presence of landmines is apparently linked to recent clashes between the Sudan People Liberation Army (SPLA) and forces loyal to rebel leader Peter Gatdet...

### **Flow of goods to the South stopped due to insecurity – NCP**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam* 12/5/11 – NCP Information Secretary Ibrahim Ghandour said the two parties would resume dialogue on post-referendum issues within a week, saying AUHIP delegation is due in Khartoum on 15 May. He told reporters yesterday that dialogue between the two parties would continue but indicated the Presidency has not yet set a date for resumption of the talks.

Meanwhile, Ghandour has denied SPLM’s allegations that the North has stopped the flow of goods and commodities to the South, saying history bears witness that SPLA elements had intercepted river barges. “The SPLM and GoSS should look into what is happening in some areas bordering the North before directing charges” he said adding that any businessman looking for profit will be concerned about security and safety. He said the halt of goods to the South was not a desire of the traders; it was because of insecurity in some areas. “That is the reason precluding them from heading southward” he said. “There is no decision taken by government or party or otherwise to prevent traders from taking goods and commodities to the South” he said.

### **Southern rebels advancing toward Aweil, planning to proceed to Juba**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm* 12/5/11 – South Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM) said that the forces of Abdul Bagi Akol, former adviser of Kiir, are moving towards the city of Aweil, the capital of North Bahr el Ghazal state, as part of a plan to expand military operations to capture towns in the Upper Nile and Bahr el Ghazal states.

SSLM spokesperson Brig. Bol Gatkouth told the newspaper yesterday that Abdul Bagi's forces are 170 km away from Aweil and the plan is to overrun key towns and then move to Juba to overthrow the GoSS.

Meanwhile, spokesperson of the "return brigade" Maj. Gen. Ali Al-Buseiri disclosed that Abdul Bagi's forces are also just a few kilometers away from the town of Meiram.

### **Taha and Kiir agree not to include Abyei in constitutions**

*Al-Ayyam* 12/5/11 – AU said VP Ali Osman Taha and FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit have committed not to include Abyei in their constitutions. According to Miraya FM, the AU said in statement that the North and South government committed themselves to that during a meeting last week.

### **SPLM detain hundreds of southerners returning from the North**

*Akhir Lahza* 12/5/11 – SPLA has held hundreds of southerners returning from the North in Mayom area since last Sunday. Sources said the first batch of southerners returning from the North by train were stopped at Mayom and were prevented from proceeding to Aweil. Sources attributed the measure on the part of the SPLA to insecurity in Mayom. According to sources, three other trains were also held in Aweil and the returnees are subjected to thorough search.

## **Southern Kordofan Elections Focus**

### **No way to amend elections results in southern Kordofan – NEC**

*Sudan Radio* 12/5/11 – an NEC delegation headed by deputy chair Prof. Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah will visit Southern Kordofan today in a bid to resolve election crisis. The NEC said there was no way to amend the elections results after they have been signed by parties' agents in presence of observers.

*Al-Rai Al-Aam* 12/5/11 reports sources as saying that the political parties have deplored the SPLM behaviour, adding the security situation in the state remains tense and some commercial business in the state has stopped and residents are worried over possibility of further deterioration of the situation.

*Sudan Vision* 12/5/11 reports the NEC said there would be no room for any amendment or change to the preliminary results of the southern Kordofan elections that have been posted at all polling stations and verified by party agents and candidates in the presence of observers, the NEC announced yesterday.

The NEC said, in a statement yesterday that the sorting and counting of votes and the announcement of preliminary results have been published in all polling stations of approximately 666 committees in 555 the centers, pointing out that the results were sent to the High Elections Commission, at the state's headquarters for collection.

The statement stressed that the process of counting and sorting of votes is a technical process where no complaints or appeals relating to the previous stages of the electoral process, explaining that the law guarantees the right to resort to the courts in case of any appeal or complaints about the operations of sorting, counting and announcement of results.

The statement explained that the collection and results process were announced at the headquarters of state by the High Elections Commission, in the presence of candidates and agents, observers, representatives of the political parties and the media, stressing that the said votes are the valid votes obtained by the candidate.

In its statement, the Commission called on all parties involved in South Kordofan elections to proceed with the electoral process in same spirit they started with.

In statement issued in Kadugli yesterday, the NCP announced its rejection to the restriction of electoral process to the will of one party, adding that this party required reconsidering its organizational structure so as to prepare its cadre for future elections. It called on all political forces to unify their stances against political blackmail conducted by particular parties.

The NCP affirmed its firm commitment to sustainable peace. “That does not mean at any rate messing with people’s willpower,” the party said, adding “There is no room for any bargaining, only to abide by the law, letter and spirit.”

It said it was obvious that the SPLM was unwilling to carry through the process and incapable of facing itself with the results it achieved, can’t see any results that don’t take it to power.

## **Other Highlights**

### **Police arrest attackers of mosque in Khartoum**

*Al-Sudani* 12/5/11 – Khartoum state police managed to control an extremist group which attacked a mosque in Shambat area in Khartoum with the intent to harm the imam of the mosque because of lashing out against Ben Ladin in his prayer sermon last Friday. Reportedly, the imam of the mosque in his sermon praised the US operation that killed Ben Ladin considering it a salvation for Muslims. The police exchanged fire with the group but managed to arrest them.

### **Unidentified men hurl 19 hand grenades in Gedaref, 8 people wounded**

*Al-Sudani* 12/5/11 – unidentified men threw 19 hand grenades yesterday in the heart of the city of Gedaref. One bomb exploded wounding 8 people who were taken to a military hospital for treatment. There was no official statement until late yesterday but investigation was underway.

### **Gosh obtains weapons and aircraft and became a threat – Turabi**

*Al-Intibaha* 12/5/11 – Popular Congress Party (PCP) leader Hassan Al-Turabi, commenting on the dismissal of former National Security Adviser Salah Abdullah Gosh said “Gosh has owned weapons and aircraft and the regime felt he was a threat”, adding that Gosh told many people outside the regime that he controlled Sudan’s destiny.

Al-Turabi said he would visit the South during the forthcoming period to assist his allies to establish an independent state.

On dialogue between the NCP and political parties, he said the dialogue between the NCP and Umma Party is doomed to fail, calling on the NCP to overcome its own internal differences before engaging in any dialogue with any party.

## **Water shortage leads to street protests in Sudan's capital**

*Sudan Tribune website* 11/5/11 - Shortage of water has hit large parts of Sudan's capital, Khartoum, leading to the outbreak of street protests on Wednesday.

Hundreds of citizens in Buri Abu Hashish area in eastern Khartoum on Wednesday took to the street in protest against shortage of water, eye witnesses told Sudan Tribune. The protestors clogged traffic in the area's main street and burned car tires as police forces cordoned the protesters off without attempting to disperse them. Eye witnesses told Sudan Tribune that the protestors chanted "the people want water" and some of them canted anti-government slogans.

Some protestors attempted to march towards senior state officials living in the area but police forces prevented them, eye witnesses said.

Meanwhile, the director of Khartoum Water authority, Khalid Hassan Ibrahim, has accused "organized political quarters" of standing behind the water shortage crisis.

Speaking to the subtly pro-government daily newspaper Al-Ray al-Amm following Buri protests, Ibrahim added that these quarters blocked pipes in the water network. "Some sinister hands are exacerbating the problem to exploit it politically," he told the paper. "We brought water to Buri citizens but they refused to take it" he said, adding that local officials in the area had informed him that most protestors are not even residents of the area.

Meanwhile, the secretary-general of the opposition Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), Yasir Arman, demanded in a press release on Wednesday that the government solves the water problem in Khartoum state...

-----

### ***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