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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Post-Referendum Monitor

## **Southern Kordofan elections would not be cause for return to war - SPLM**

*Al-Sahafa S. Kordofan, 13/04/11* – The SPLM in Southern Kordofan has assured it would not return to war as a result of the elections in the state. Tabitha Butrous, a prominent member of the SPLM politburo, told a rally at a town in Southern Kordofan yesterday that the SPLM, should it win the elections, would seek a 50-50 share of oil revenue from the oil fields in the state between Southern Kordofan and the central government through the popular consultations mechanism. Southern Kordofan's share of such revenue would be used to improve infrastructure and for development projects, she said.

Tabitha threatened to sue some newspapers that she says seek to bring about a racial divide within the ranks of the SPLM. She said that she stands firmly behind Abdulaziz Al-Hilu (the SPLM gubernatorial candidate) until "Southern Kordofan is liberated through the polls and from there we would seek to change the centre of authority in government through the popular consultations mechanism," she said.

## **GoSS sends delegation to talk with Telefon Kuku**

*Akhir Lahza et al Cairo, 13/04/11* – Amid fears the SPLM may lose the Southern Kordofan gubernatorial position to independent candidate Telefon Kuku, GoSS President (also leader of the SPLM) Salva Kiir Mayardit has dispatched a delegation to talk with Kuku ahead of the polls.

Omar Mansour, a key campaigner for the independent candidate, said that Kuku's detention would not affect their campaigns. He said the SPLM may offer Kuku some position in exchange for stepping down from the campaign trail in favour of the SPLM official candidate Abdulaziz Al-Hilu.

## **Joint political committee to meet in Khartoum today**

*Al-Akhbar Khartoum, 13/04/11* – The joint NCP-SPLM political committee would convene in Khartoum later today to discuss outstanding issues including the Kadugli Agreement on the redeployment of forces from Abyei. They are also set to discuss the proposals on Abyei tabled by AUHIPs Thabo Mbeki.

Hassaballah Omar, a member of the NCP side at the political committee, says the two sides would discuss the implementation of the Kadugli Agreement, progress in the border demarcation exercise. He pointed out that the north-south technical border demarcation committee had noted in its report last week some obstacles to the completion of the progress. Some members, he said, have demanded international technical experts.

Hassaballah said that the joint committee would also discuss issues pertaining to citizenship.

## **NCP accuses SPLM of obstructing solutions to Abyei problem**

*Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 13/04/11* – The NCP has accused the SPLM of "laying obstacles and hurdles" on the path of all possible solutions to the deadlock on Abyei by showing inflexibility in its position.

NCP's Eissa Bushra (also Federal Minister of Science and Technology) said yesterday that the issue of Abyei requires a lot of patience in order for the parties to come up with results that would benefit the Misseriya and Dinka and help them co-exist in peace. He called for urgent

solutions to the problems to avoid future complications.

In a related development, the minister said that an impending visit to the Southern Kordofan region by Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha has nothing to do with the Abyei issue, according to *Al-Rai Al-Aam* daily.

### **South Sudan official to Khartoum: Pull back from Abyei**

*AP Addis Ababa, 12/04/11* - GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar said leaders in Khartoum are moving troops into the region just north of Abyei. Machar said all Southern Sudanese forces have pulled back from there and are now stationed south of Abyei.

Machar said the south is committed to finding a political solution to the border conflict. "We want to avoid war and continue discussions even if they are protracted," he said.

Many outstanding issues remain to be settled between. President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan and Southern Sudanese President Salva Kiir have held several talks in Khartoum and Juba under the auspices of Thabo Mbeki, chairman of the African Union's high-level panel on Sudan.

The parties discussed economic issues in Ethiopia last weekend. Yohanes Musa Pouk, an aide to Machar, said talks will continue but no new meeting has been scheduled.

Machar said a security deal agreed on by the north and south last week calls for all parties to withdraw defence forces except local police and joint north-south units mandated by the terms of the 2005 peace deal.

The U.S. special envoy to Sudan, Princeton Lyman, has expressed concern about a military build up in Abyei by forces from both Juba and Khartoum. A confrontation, he said, could lead to war.

In a related development, *Al-Khartoum* daily quotes Southern Kordofan governor Ahmed Haroun as saying that solutions to the Abyei issue must incorporate the "historic rights of the Misseriya". The governor was addressing a mass rally in Mairam, Southern Kordofan.

### **Southern Sudan constitution review committee concludes work**

*Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 13/04/11* – The committee formed by the Government of Southern Sudan to review the constitution of the state-in-making has concluded its duties, says GoSS Information Minister Barnaba Benjamin. The minister also revealed that GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit may call for an important meeting with representatives of southern Sudanese political parties in the next few days to table the draft for their perusal before the draft heads to cabinet for approval.

Barnaba also said that the GoSS has dispatched emissaries to various states to invite their officials to the independence celebration for the new state of south Sudan.

### **Sudan prepares to hold talks over foreign debt**

*VoA.com Khartoum, 12/04/11* - A prominent member of the National Congress Party (NCP) says a delegation representing President Omar al-Bashir's government will soon hold talks in Washington with officials of international financial institutions. Rabie Abdelati Obeid says at issue is how to handle Sudan's foreign debt after the country splits into two.

"They will discuss how this foreign debt will be distributed and the international community and donors' promise to exempt some of this debt," he says.

The Sudanese official says international donors have yet to honor their pledge of taking over Sudan's foreign debt. Resolving the foreign debt, he says, will help hasten implementation of the remaining issues of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

"That the rest of the debt be distributed between the Southern government and Northern government is one of the issues of the CPA, and one of the outstanding points between the SPLM [Sudan People's Liberation Movement] and the NCP," Obeid says.

Meanwhile, *Al-Wifaq* local daily reports that Finance Minister Ali Mahmoud is in Washington for talks that kick off later today on development in Africa and on the activities of the World Bank and its affiliates in various parts of the world.

The technical working group composed of delegates from the US, China, the World Bank, the ADB, the Paris Club, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Sudan would also meet to mull the possible scenarios for debt relief in Sudan.

### **U.S. says south Sudan state is exempt from economic sanctions**

*AllAfrica.com* Washington, 13/04/11 - The new state in southern Sudan once formed is exempt from the decade-long sanctions imposed on the entire country, the United States said today, according to a US Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) press release issued on Tuesday explaining the sanctions policy with regard to the new state.

"When the new state is formed by Southern Sudan, it will not be included in the territorial boundaries of Sudan nor be governed by the Government of Sudan," OFAC said in its statement.

"Following interagency consultations, OFAC has concluded that the SSR will continue to apply only to Sudan and the Government of Sudan, and that such a new state and its government will not be subject to them".

OFAC said that this exemption is consistent with executive orders issued by the White House in the past which cited the need for sanctions "to deal with the threat that the policies and actions of the Government of Sudan pose to the national security and foreign policy of the United States".

However, certain aspects of the sanctions may still apply if it involves properties or interests related to the government of Sudan.

"For example, the [Sudan Sanctions Regulations] SSR will prohibit a U.S. company, unless authorized by OFAC, from providing services to the petroleum industry in the new state if those services would benefit the Government of Sudan or relate to the petroleum industry in Sudan, or from transporting exports of petroleum or petrochemical products through Sudan."

"Further, should a revenue-sharing arrangement between Sudan and the new state result in a situation where the government of the new state makes payments to the Government of Sudan from the sale of Southern Sudanese petroleum, U.S. persons generally could not engage in transactions involving the oil industry in the new state unless authorized by OFAC".

Washington has insisted that what it labeled as genocide in Darfur prevented it from revoking the embargo.

However, the U.S. administration said that it has initiated the process that may result in removing

Sudan's name from the list of countries that sponsor terrorism as a reward for facilitating the South's referendum and later recognizing its results.

Countries on the list of state sponsors of terrorism cannot receive US aid or buy US weapons and a raft of restrictions on financial and other dealings. The list currently includes Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria. But U.S. officials made it clear that lifting the comprehensive sanctions is contingent upon resolving the crisis in Darfur.

The head of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Mission in the U.S. Ezekiel Gatkuoth suggested in an emailed statement that today's clarification by OFAC is a result of their efforts in lobbying the Treasury department and the Congress.

### **Joint donors warn GoSS over corruption**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 12/04/11* - As preparation for South Sudan's independence declaration in July continues to gather momentum, representatives from the Joint Donor Team (JDT) countries have warned government over mismanagement of future development aid.

"Our mandate as joint donors is to provide technical and financial support to the southern government. However, we strongly feel that development aid allocated for specific purposes should not be wasted in corruption related practices," Michael Elmquist, head of the JDT said on Tuesday.

His remarks came shortly after representatives from the joint donor countries concluded their annual meeting with members from Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom attending the two-day event in Juba, the South Sudan capital.

During the meeting, Elmquist said, senior representatives from the six member countries discussed their individual and joint commitments to support the development of South Sudan.

The donors, according to the JDT head, openly lauded efforts by the southern government to prepare the South Sudan Development Plan (SSDP) as a basis for development cooperation over the next three years.

"The meeting of the senior representatives confirmed that they want to see better coordination among all the donors under the leadership of the Government of South Sudan," the JDT head further noted.

At the two-day meeting, these senior representatives, who function as supervisors for the JDT in Juba reportedly used the occasion to review the structure of the team and agree on the recruitment of new staff.

# Other Highlights

## **Authorities to review military, foreign officials in Port Sudan following raid**

*Local dailies Parliament, 13/04/11* – Sudan has put in place a pre-emptive plan that would also witness a comprehensive review of the country's defence procedures as well as a review of the organisations operating in the country, Defence Minister Abdulraheem Ahmed Hussein has revealed. He acknowledged there were some flaws in the country's air defence systems.

The minister says authorities would launch a campaign to review foreign organisations and the resident status of foreign national present around the Red Sea area.

Addressing parliament yesterday, the minister said that good use of the topography and terrain and complicity by some elements from within were "... among the reasons for the precision of the Israeli raid on the Port Sudan vehicle," he said.

"Some 17 countries, including Israel and the US, have aircraft carriers and military transport vessels from about 12 nautical miles off the Sudanese coastline with the capability to fire missiles deep into Sudanese territory," the minister said.

Before the strike, Israel distorted Sudanese radar signals for about 40 minutes, the minister told parliament. He said that the relevant authorities at his ministry would review the defences along the 750km coastline but pointed out that the equipment required to monitor such a large tract of land is expensive. He requested parliament to approve the procurement of such equipment and to coordinate with parliaments of friendly states to "condemn and put an end to such Israeli aggression."

"It is clear from investigations that the attacks were being guided by cell phone in the possession of one of the victims," he said.

Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir has suggested that Sudan reciprocate in kind, vowing that the incident would "not go unanswered."

Meanwhile opposition figures say the recent air raid on the Port Sudan vehicle is the "final result of state policies that focus on clinging longer to power at the expense of national security and sovereignty." Yusuf Hussein, a spokesperson for the Communist Party of Sudan, said the raid was a culmination of two decades of such policies.

## **Minister challenges "whoever is man enough" to take to the streets**

*Akhir Lahza Dongola, 13/04/11* – Human Resources Development Minister Kamal Abdulateef warned that the state may not be able to accommodate all graduates in public or private sector positions. "We expect the number of jobless graduates to top 1 million in the course of the next three years," he said.

The minister further pointed out that whatever the state does to accommodate these graduates is not out of fear of demonstrations but is part of a plan laid down by the state since 1998. "We are not afraid of anyone and whoever is man enough could take to the streets in protest," he said.

The minister who was addressing the launch of the Family Doctor project of the School of Medicine, Dongola University, called upon graduates of the school to contribute to the success of the project.

## **WFP changes strategies for the provision of aid in Darfur**

*Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 13/04/11* – The head of the WFP's information unit, Amore Almagro is quoting as having said that the WFP has changed its policies for the provision of aid in Darfur. She told *Al-Ayyam* daily that a survey the organisation carried out on the food security situation in Darfur has revealed that the situation has greatly improved. The organisation, she added, has changed its strategies to seek lasting solutions to the problems of hunger, disease and malnutrition in the region and consulted with the IDPs on the best way to support them.

But Hussein Abu-Shartai, a representative of the IDP community, has criticised the WFP of implementing Sudan government policies to pressure the IDPs to return to their homes that, he said, lacked basic services such as water. He criticised the idea of replacing the food cards with a token card which the IDPs could use to buy food. This step would cause a food crisis in Darfur, he said.

## **Washington offers \$1 billion to complete Sudan peace processes**

*Al-Sahafa Parliament, 13/04/11* – US Senior Advisor on Darfur Ambassador Dane Smith has revealed that the US is committed to paying the Sudan government \$1 billion in exchange for its commitment to complete the peace processes in the country, Darfur included.

Smith held talks here yesterday with the Darfur Parliamentary Caucus at the National Assembly. Delegates from the Popular Congress Party (PCP) and independent representatives from Darfur did not attend but sources report that arrangements are underway for separate meetings of these representatives with the US official. The official was briefed of the views of the representatives over the government's strategy on Darfur, among other relevant issues, reveals Hassabu Abdulrahman who heads the Darfur parliamentary caucus.

He said that the Darfur representatives had suggested that 60% of the \$1 billion the US has pledged go towards the development and rehabilitation of the region. Hassabu also said that the representatives called on the US to pressure the holdout armed groups of Darfur to put down their arms and seek a peaceful settlement. He also said they called on the US to demand that southern Sudan stop harbouring Darfur rebel elements.

## **Paris expels SLM leader Abdulwahid**

*Akhir Lahza Kampala, 13/04/11* – Authorities in the French capital have reportedly expelled SLM leader Abdulwahid Mohamed Nour after having been detained at the airport in Paris for two days on return from Kampala before he was sent back to the Ugandan capital.

## **Fighting reported between army, rebels in Darfur**

*Reuters Khartoum, 12/04/11* - Fighting has erupted between government forces and rebel groups in Sudan's Darfur region, rebels and U.N. peacekeepers said on Tuesday, days after peace talks stalled over a planned referendum.

People from both sides were killed when the clashes broke out over the weekend, the rebel groups said. Sudan's army was not immediately available to comment.

UNAMID said its peacekeepers witnessed fighting near the Umm Baru area in Darfur on Tuesday, where they had earlier observed armed rebels and a buildup of government forces.

A spokesman for the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the most powerful Darfur rebel group, said government-backed militia forces attacked its soldiers at the weekend with vehicles

and followed that up with air strikes in the coming days.

JEM last week said it suspended talks with the government in Doha, accusing Khartoum of making a unilateral decision to hold the referendum on Darfur.

A JEM soldier was killed in fighting on Saturday, spokesman Gibreel Adam said. He said the group had been working in an alliance with other rebel groups in the area -- the Sudan Liberation Movement factions loyal to Minni Arcua Minnawi and Abdel Wahed Mohamed al-Nur.

Nur's spokesman Ibrahim al-Helwu confirmed the fighting and said the rebel groups had seized government vehicles and soldiers during the clashes.

"There is heavy fighting in the northern areas," al-Helwu said. "There were many casualties."

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