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# Media Monitoring Report

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- **Radio BCC: LRA 'will never have a peace talk'** - [http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid\\_9398000/9398949.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid_9398000/9398949.stm)
- **Radio Miraya: SPLM condemns armed attacks on civilians** - [http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5146:splm-condemns-armed-attacks-on-civilians-in-southern-sudan&catid=85&Itemid=278](http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5146:splm-condemns-armed-attacks-on-civilians-in-southern-sudan&catid=85&Itemid=278)

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# Post-Referendum Monitor

## **No national or coalition government to be formed – Al-Bashir tells army**

*Local dailies Khartoum, 17/02/11* – President Al-Bashir has ruled out opposition demands for a national or coalition government and warned them of serious consequences should they take to the streets seeking to topple the government. He said however that political parties wishing to participate in government could do so only in compliance to the programs of the NCP. Addressing members of SAF yesterday, Al-Bashir pointed out that his regime draws its legitimacy from the last elections and would hand back government to the people in the next elections. “Those who would want to contribute to our programme through their views are welcome,” he said.

On Darfur, he said that there would be no further talks with the rebel movements whether or not they sign a peace agreement. Al-Bashir said that this would give the government time to implement development projects for Darfur and conduct the Darfur-Darfur conference that would bring together all the people of Darfur in dialogue. “We would pressure the holdout armed groups of Darfur through securing our borders with the neighbouring states and through use of the regular forces on the ground,” he said.

## **Al-Bashir threatens reciprocity if SPLM does not leave Darfur alone**

*Akhir Lahza Khartoum, 17/02/11* – Addressing the youths and students’ bodies of the NCP yesterday, President Al-Bashir said that the country is headed towards a strong economic revival post southern Sudanese secession. He said plans are in place to increase production, cut down on government expenditure and support the poorer sectors of society. He also unveiled plans to create an anti-corruption commission.

The next stage would witness the launch of the new Sudanese state after the “burden of southern Sudan” is no more once the south is officially declared a separate state.

Al-Bashir also said that Sudan would not allow an extension of the UNMIS mandate but is engaged in talks with the SPLM leadership over measures to monitor the north-south border and the creation of a demilitarised zone between the two sides without the need for an international monitoring force.

He outlined his government’s plans for peace in Darfur and warned to deal with the SPLM in kind should it not leave Darfur alone.

On relations with the US, the Sudanese president downplayed US pledges for better relations pointing out that there is within the US Congress a “Zionist alliance that does not want any good for Sudan.”

## **South Sudan political parties to discuss flag and currency today**

*Sudantribune.com; Radio Miraya Juba, 16/02/11* - Leaders of political parties at a meeting in Juba have unanimously agreed that the new state to be created in the region will be called the Republic of South Sudan (RoSS).

All the political parties in the semi-autonomous region converged in Juba on Wednesday to discuss the process of transition in the emerging independent state after the overwhelming vote for secession from North Sudan in the January’s referendum.

During the opening of the political parties leadership forum chaired by GoSS President and SPLM Chairman, Salva Kiir Mayardit, the leaders of the parties endorsed a report presented by the chairman of the Southern Sudan 2011 Taskforce, GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar, that outlined the role being played by the body that serves as the government's think-tank on the referendum, post-referendum issues and the future governance of the soon-to-be-independent South Sudan.

In a press statement issued after the meeting, Machar said representatives of political parties, civil society organizations and faith-based groups would be included in the membership of the taskforce and contribute to resolutions of challenges ahead.

He announced that the Wednesday meeting endorsed the name of the new country and added that the political parties will on Thursday discuss the type of flag and name of the currency for the independent state.

The vice president also added that the issue of including the political parties in the technical committee on constitutional review will also be discussed, among other issues in the process of transition.

In a separate press conference on Wednesday, the minister of Peace and CPA Implementation, Pagan Amum, who also serves as the SPLM's secretary general, said that the emerging independent state will be formed on inclusivity of all the political parties in order to achieve a smooth transition.

He said the SPLM's political bureau, the highest political body of the party, also approved the name of the Republic of South Sudan for the new state on Monday.

Amum also added that the party preferred the SPLM flag, which has already been serving as an interim flag for the Government of Southern Sudan, to remain as the national flag of the new independent state. It will however be subjected to endorsement by all the political parties and after which the political decision will be presented to the parliament for further deliberations and final endorsement.

### **Security Advisory body to coordinate national dialogue**

*Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 17/02/11* – The National Security Advisory body says it is organising national dialogue spanning three months starting this March. The dialogue that could bring together the different political forces and other bodies in the country would aim at seeking agreement on a political and legal climate framework for a post-separation Sudan. A secretariat has been formed for the purpose with membership drawn from representatives of political forces, universities, local think-tanks and important personalities. Recommendations drawn from such an exercise would be tabled before the Presidency of the Republic to make use of in the restructuring of the state in Sudan.

National Security Advisor, Salah Gosh, told a meeting with chief editors and leading media persons yesterday that the proposed dialogue would cover a wide range of issues that would include the constitution, federal governance, the Presidency, rights and freedoms, the economy, society, culture and foreign policy. He said that the state needs to present itself in a new manner after the south secedes.

### **NCP is ready to review all legislature – Information Minister**

*Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 17/02/11* – A member of the NCP's Leadership Office told party members in Alhasa-heisa yesterday that his party is the only party in the country that is committed to

dialogue with the opposition. Kamal Obeid who is also the Federal Minister of Information pointed out that the party had presented a draft constitution to the opposition requesting their inputs but the opposition “added nothing to the draft because they were not ready for this.”

The NCP, he maintained, is ready to review legislature that the opposition believe curbs freedoms and is ready to listen to their views over such legislature.

He described the SPLM as a “trailer with a punctured tyre” during the course of the country’s history but, with the south separating, he promised a better economy and better living conditions in the north.

### **Sudan army denies claim it armed southern rebels**

*AP Juba, 16/02/11* - A spokesman for the Sudanese army says accusations it armed southern rebels in an attempt to destabilize the oil-rich region before it secedes are "totally baseless and unfounded."

Al-Sawarmy Khalid said in an official *Sudan News Agency* report Wednesday that the Sudanese "army provides no support to any rebels in neighbouring countries, be they the south or any others."

SPLM’s Pagan Amum accused Khartoum of supplying a southern warlord with arms on the last day of the south's Jan. 9-15 independence referendum, a vote that passed overwhelmingly and set Southern Sudan on course to split from the north in July.

Warlord Gabriel Tanginye was in Khartoum Jan. 15 and returned to the south with guns, including trucks mounted with machine guns, Amum said. Tanginye was backed by Khartoum during the 1983-2005 north-south civil war, rejoined the southern army late last year and has now realigned with the north, Amum said.

"Can you imagine these cars and these forces armed with uniforms, moved from Khartoum crossing the country on the official roads? This tells you what is happening," Amum said.

In response, Al-Sawarmy accused Southern Sudan's ruling party of arming rebels elsewhere in the country, and said its accusations sought to create a distraction from this.

### **SPLM unveils new strategy for dealing with militia**

*Al-Akhbar Khartoum, 17/2/11* – GoSS Minister of Peace, Pagan Amum, revealed at a press conference in Juba yesterday that military measures would be taken against rebel militias in the south, saying they continue to commit crimes against the people.

“The GoSS will strive to contain groups and militias through security and military measures,” he said, according to *Al-Ahdath*, but did not elaborate.

### **UN troops will stay in the south past July 9 – GoSS Minister Deng Alor**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya Washington, 17/02/11* – The GoSS Regional Cooperation Minister says his government has requested UNMIS to keep her troops in southern Sudan beyond is July 2011 end of mandate.

“We want these troops, with a new mandate, to remain in southern Sudan after it is officially declared independent in order to help shore up security in the region,” Deng Alor said. The GoSS minister also revealed that he held talks with a number of US government officials while in Washington and agreed, among other things, to the exchange of ambassadors once the south is officially declared a separate state post 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

## **President Al-Bashir requests land in Juba to build Khartoum's embassy**

*Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 17/2/11* – The NCP and the SPLM have reached an agreement whereby the GoSS would maintain the Sudanese Pound as legal tender while the North would revert to the Sudanese Dinar. Sources, however, indicated that the two parties would continue to circulate a dual currency for some years.

Meanwhile, sources have revealed that President Al-Bashir has requested a plot of land in Juba to build an embassy for the north in southern Sudan. According to the same sources, the EU is engaged in meetings in Juba to appraise the GoSS on membership in the international and regional organizations - particularly the UN and the World Bank - after southern Sudan is declared in July 2011.

## **Misseriya question intention of the joint committee due in the area tomorrow**

*Al-Wifaq Abyei, 17/02/11* – With reports that a joint NCP, SPLM committee is due in Abyei tomorrow to help defuse the situation, the Misseriya have expressed doubts over SPLM's commitment to resolve the issues. They point out that it was Pagan Amum who made the announcement and that he lacks impartiality.

Mohamed Khatir Juma, the Chairman of the Misseriya Association, pointed out that the SPLM would never help resolve the problem but may obstruct solutions. If it wants to resolve the issues, the SPLM should distance itself from Abyei and leave alone the Dinka Ngok and the Misseriya to do the talking, he said.

“The SPLM should understand that Abyei is northern Sudanese territory and could never be part of southern Sudan,” said Juma.

# **Other Highlights**

## **Authorities disperse demonstration by relatives of detained PCP figures**

*Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 17/02/11* – Authorities in Khartoum dispersed yesterday a demonstration staged by relatives of prominent members of the Popular Congress party (PCP) currently in detention. The demonstrations took place near a building housing one of the offices of the National Security and Intelligence Service.

Asma Hassan Al-Turabi said that authorities dispersed their silent and peaceful protest calling for release of the detained party members. Speaking at a press conference at the PCP offices in Khartoum yesterday, she expressed concern over the prolonged detention of the 20 party members. She said that her family is also concerned about the deteriorating situation of Hassan Al-Turabi's health because they do not trust the doctor assigned to him.

In a related development, *Al-Ahdath* reports that authorities released yesterday two detained PCP members. But relatives of PCP leader Dr. Turabi say they would continue staging protests until their father and all other political detainees are released.

## **20,000 displaced and 1,000 missing after Jonglei attacks - officials**

*Sudantribune.com Bor, 16/02/11* - South Sudan officials say they are concerned that there may be more violence in Jonglei state after 202 people were killed in recent clashes between forces of rebel leader George Athor Deng and the Southern army (SPLA).

The attacks in Pangak County have also led to 109 people being seriously injured according to local officials. Members of Parliament (MPs) from Pangak have also reported that over 1,000 people are still missing and an estimated 20,000 people have been displaced by the violence.

Jonglei state MP Majok said the bodies had been buried in two mass graves. Some of the bodies discovered were found in the Zeraf River with gunshot wounds, while others found in the river are believed to have drowned while trying to escape.

The fighting took place on February 9 and 10. But MPs from Pangak suspect that there may be another attack. Majok said the two days of attacks had put the county under siege with transport links being blocked and fear instilled among the civilian populations.

In the 23rd Jonglei parliamentary session that took place on Wednesday, February Majok, who is the MP for the Pangak North constituency number three, raised a motion blaming the both the Jonglei state government and Government of South Sudan (GoSS) for not protecting the "innocent people" of Pangak county.

The motion gained support from the house and the parliament demanded that the governor be summoned to explain why the GoSS and the state government failed to protect the civilians in Pangak. The Jonglei parliament is next due to sit on February 17.

Majok blamed the government of South Sudan for granting the Door Boma area, which connects the county with Malakal and Mankuilual (Kolnyang) along the road to Jonglei capital, to Athor for his forces to operate in.

He said that when the ceasefire between the SPLA and Athor's forces was agreed the leadership of Pangak was not informed that the areas had been given to Athor. Majok told reporters after the session that the area Athor operates in is "the most important" in the county.

The speaker of Jonglei Assembly, Chol Wal said Athor has become more powerful since South Sudan's president Salva Kiir announced an amnesty for his and other armed groups in the South ahead of the regions referendum on independence in January.

The speaker also said that Athor Deng had used the ceasefire period to recruit young men from Pigi, Ayod, Wuror and Nyirol counties into his forces.

Wall told reporters at the press conference after the session that he has received a list of persons who are accused by the their county commissioners to have helped Athor forces in recruitment of more young people, but he declined to release the list before investigations are completed.

### **Darfur peacekeepers "too cautious" - mission chief**

*Reuters Khartoum, 16/02/11* - Peacekeepers in Sudan's Darfur region have stepped up patrols and stopped waiting for government clearance to go on trips as part of a new push to protect people caught up in fighting, the mission's head said.

Washington criticized the joint U.N/African Union mission last month, saying it needed to be more "aggressive" in helping hundreds of thousands of people driven from their homes by the festering conflict in Sudan's remote west.

Ibrahim Gambari, the civilian head of UNAMID, agreed the force had been too cautious in the region which has seen a surge in fighting between state troops and rebels.

"There was some kind of a mindset, too cautious ... Even when we were attacked and killed there wasn't much of a response. But all of this has changed," he told reporters in Khartoum on Wednesday.



He said 47 peacekeepers from Nigeria, Rwanda and Egypt had been killed in Darfur since an under-equipped African Union force first arrived in 2004.

Gambari said the mostly African soldiers and police were now going out on 130 patrols a day to camps and remote areas, up from 90 last year and would make a more "robust" response to attacks.

Washington's U.N. envoy Susan Rice last month said she was frustrated by reports UNAMID's movements had been restricted in Darfur and urged the force to stop negotiating for access.

"Under the new approach, UNAMID will continue to notify the government of Sudan of its movement plans for coordination purposes but this will not in any way imply a request for permission to do our duty," said Gambari.

In the past UNAMID staff had sometimes postponed or aborted patrols when the government warned an area was too insecure or said it did not want peacekeepers to go, he said. In the future, UNAMID would listen to advice but make its own decisions.

"We will not simply be taking no for an answer," he told *Reuters*.

Gambari said he planned to call for a ceasefire in the central Jabel Marra region, a focus of recent fighting. Aid groups say large parts have been off limits for a year.

### **Russian envoy questions the worthiness of prosecuting Sudanese president**

*Itar-Tass* Washington, 16/02/11 - The Russian special envoy to Sudan Mikhail Margelov said on Wednesday that his government does not see any use of insisting on prosecuting president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on charges of war crimes and genocide he allegedly orchestrated in Darfur.

Margelov made the remarks to *Itar-Tass* news agency following a meeting he held with ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo in The Hague today.

He further said that the South Sudan referendum that took place last month demonstrated the willingness of Bashir to reach compromises for the sake of normalizing the situation in the country and make it conform to international standards of democracy.

The Russian senator also said that mechanisms for executing the arrest warrant for Bashir remain unclear. However, he fell short of calling for a UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution deferring the indictment as demanded by Sudan and the African Union (AU).

Margelov was quoted by the news agency as saying that he agreed with Ocampo on coordinating their steps on the matter of the warrant.

The Russian envoy will travel to Sudan this week to take part in the meetings of P-5 special envoys along with the European Union for talks on Darfur hosted by UNAMID.

Sudan's foreign ministry has welcomed the envoy's statement. "We believe that Russia's position stems from a good understanding of the facts on the ground," said a spokesperson for Sudan's foreign ministry, according to *Al-Raed*.

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