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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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- Over 5000 troops deployed to secure CPA celebrations in Yambio (**Al-Sudani**)
- Dog attacks on the rise in Khartoum and Northern States (**Miraya FM**)

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# Highlights

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## **UN seeks answers to questions about elections**

**Local dailies** report that NCP Political Secretary Ibrahim Ghandour and SRSG Ashraf Qazi yesterday discussed ongoing preparations for elections. According to **Al-Ahdath**, Ghandour answered the SRSG's questions with regard to guarantees for a fair and free exercise and the possibility of holding the elections in southern Sudan and Darfur under the current developments in the Sudan. Ghandour told journalists that the meeting focused primarily on the possibility of holding the elections, securing it and completion of pending CPA benchmarks including Abyei Protocol.

## **13 candidates to run for presidency, 350 for Parliament**

NEC source revealed that 13 candidates have filed applications for contesting presidential elections, six to run independently, **local dailies** report. According to **Akhir Lahza**, NCP's Omer Al-Bashir is the only candidate who has so far completed procedures needed for running. Eleven candidates have also filed applications to contest gubernatorial elections besides 153 contestants for the National Assembly. The NEC announced that 14,000 polling stations would be set up in the North and six in the South.

## **SPLM boycott elections in Southern Kordofan**

**Al-Sahafa** reports SPLM SG Pagan Amum as saying that the movement has decided to boycott elections in southern Kordofan, citing unfair distribution of geographical constituencies and registration irregularities. Amum has also urged local population to boycott the elections, saying in the past Kadugli used to have six constituencies but now it has only one constituency, adding the registered voters were less than one-fourth of the state population.

## **Opposition parties (Juba conference) fail to decide on elections**

**Akhir Lahza** reports that the opposition political parties (Juba Conference) at a meeting yesterday failed to decide on whether to run for or to boycott elections but the Baathist party announced that it would boycott on the ground of questionable electoral roll. The political parties issued statement calling for election delay until February.

However, **Ajras Al-Hurriah** and many other newspapers report that the political parties (Juba coalition) at a meeting yesterday in Khartoum decided to contest all levels of elections with conditions including freezing of the security law and lifting of state of emergency in Darfur.

## **Group calls for NCP defeat in elections**

A group calling themselves *Qirifna* (fed up) released a statement yesterday calling on the leaders of the political parties to coordinate their stances at all levels to defeat the NCP in elections and to support any move that will lead to its fall, **Al-Ayyam** reports.

## **White House set up task force to prepare south for referendum result**

**Al-Sahafa** reports GoSS Presidential Affairs Minister Luka Biong as saying that the US Administration has set up a three-member task force within the White House tasked with building the southern Sudan's capacity to prepare it for referendum result. Biong described the task force as a demonstration of the US' commitment toward the South.

## **EU welcomes Government's call for elections monitoring**

**Al-Wifaq** reports the EU has welcomed Sudan Government's call to the Union to participate in monitoring its elections at all levels. Head of the EU Mission in Khartoum met yesterday with Undersecretary Mutrif Siddiq for discussion on ongoing preparations for elections and cooperation between Sudan Government and the Mission.

## **Salva Kiir retired from his military rank since 2005 – GoSS**

**Miraya FM** 17/1/10 reported that GoSS criticized the letter sent by the NEC stating that military personnel cannot be nominated by political parties to contest in the upcoming elections. GoSS Minister of Cabinet Affairs in GoSS Luka Biong said that Salva Kiir retired from the military as First Lieutenant in the SPLA in 2005. Biong added that the Commission's statements are premature; the SPLM has not yet submitted the necessary documents for Kiir's nomination for Presidency.

## **“Sudan needs to handle four dossiers” – Adviser**

Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail at symposium in Cairo two days ago said Sudan needed to handle what he described as “four crucial dossiers” - holding of free and fair elections, resolution of Darfur conflict, safeguarding unity of Sudan and improvement of Sudan's relations with the international community, **Ajras Al-Hurriah** reports.

## **Over 5000 troops deployed to secure CPA celebrations in Yambio**

GoSS embarked on the deployment of a joint force of over 5000 personnel from the SPLA, police and security to secure CPA Anniversary celebrations in Yambio (WE state), **Al-Sudani** reports. WE state Police DG Maj. Gen. Saeed Chaol told **Miraya FM** that the state's border with DRC and CAR has also been secured.

## **Dog attacks on the rise in Khartoum and Northern States**

**Radio Miraya** 17/1/10 reported that Director of Wildlife Protection Police, General Mohamed Suraj El Din, warned of a growing stray dog population in the outskirts of Khartoum. The increased numbers has caused a rise in canine attacks reported in the Northern States and Khartoum. Suraj said that the dog species which is on the rise in Khartoum is a hybrid breed common among strays.

Meanwhile, **local dailies** report Khartoum State police stepped up patrols to eliminate the dogs which spread panic in the city. Reportedly, 759 stray dogs have so far been shot dead.