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Links

- Sudan's National Elections: a crisis of credibility (*The Globalist*)
By Dalia Haj-Omar | Monday, March 01, 2010
<http://www.theglobalist.com/printStoryId.aspx?StoryId=8151>
- Op-Ed Genocide in Darfur: How Sudan covers it up (*The Christian Science Monitor*)
<http://www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2010/0301/Genocide-in-Darfur-How-Sudan-covers-it-up>

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Highlights

Elections Special:

NCP, SPLM resolved pending issues – Al-Bashir

NCP presidential candidate Omer Al-Bashir launched yesterday his elections campaign in Torit, saying all pending issues were resolved and efforts are continuing to address the border demarcation issue *local dailies* report. He said his Government would focus on development in the South and reiterated his party's keenness to preserve unity of the country but also confirmed its respect to the southern Sudanese's choice in 2011 referendum.

Meanwhile, *Sudan Tribune website* 1/3/10 reported that Al-Bashir told Southern Sudanese that they would reap more benefits from unity of the country than secession. The President who was addressing a public rally in Juba said Sudan is expected to record a larger than projected economic growth in the forthcoming years but cautioned that political forces must encourage political stability and take measures aimed at eradicating things that divide the country.

"To experience real growth and success in the war against poverty, we must get our act together on two fronts," Bashir said adding that "our politics must promote political stability and public confidence in the future of our country".

"We must take policy initiatives that will reduce and maintain low interest rates" he said stressing Sudan's economic growth has sharply been slowed down by the civil wars and strife that have tarnished its political image in the world.

In Torit he told a rally that there are no outstanding issues with the SPLM after the census hurdle has been overcome by allocating 40 more seats to the SPLM in the national assembly.

He accused parties he didn't name of seeking to sabotage the CPA similar to the 1972 Addis Ababa agreement saying he will prevent them from doing so. Bashir's adviser Bona Mulwal implored on the people of Equatoria to pick Bashir as their next President.

Independents candidates complain of harassment

Al-Ahdath reports that independent candidates in Khartoum state have complained of being harassed by the security services in a manner that impede their electoral campaigns and also demanded an equal access to official media for campaigning. Badreldine Taha, an independent candidate for Khartoum state governor post, speaking to journalists yesterday, accused unnamed quarters of removing campaigning posters.

Arab League to monitor Sudan's elections

Arab League's Representative to the Sudan Ambassador Salah Haleema, following a meeting with Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie yesterday, said the League would dispatch a team during the forthcoming days to participate in monitoring Sudan's general elections, *Al-Ahdath* reports.

China donates one million Dollars for Sudan's elections

SUNA 1/3/10 - China has extended one million dollars as the first batch of a \$10 million donation in support for Sudan's elections. This was revealed by the visiting Chinese envoy to

Sudan, Liu Guijin, when he was received Monday by NEC Deputy Chairman Abdalla Ahmed Abdalla who also said that China promised to send a team of 10 people to participate in monitoring election.

Lam Akol launches his campaign for presidency

The Daily Nation 2/3/10 -The SPLM-DC Chairman Lam Akol has launched his election campaign for the Presidency of Southern Sudan. Akol, addressing a mass rally in Malakal at the weekend, affirmed his party's concern over the democratic change and the peaceful handling of power in South Sudan, indicating that the coming stage necessitates carrying out reformation programmes by all the Sudanese political parties.

Akol pointed out that the current political transformation prevailing in the country was a result of the sincere efforts being exerted by the people of Sudan. He pledged that if he won the presidency of Southern Sudan, he would continue the implementation of the development projects.

He singled combating of the political and administrative corruption, economic reformation, exploitation of the available resources and the implementation of the CPA as his main goals.

NCP member accuses SPLM of fraud in southern voter registration

NCP Spokesperson Fathi Shilla has accused the SPLM of fraudulent practices on the southern Sudan voter registry, **Al-Ahdath** reports. He said that the number of southern Sudanese eligible voters shot up from 2 to over 4.7 million voters. Shilla, who made the remarks at the launch of his elections campaign for an Omdurman constituency yesterday, reiterated the NCP's position advocating the implementation of the Islamic laws. "We will not accept anything short of 80% poll victory for President Al-Bashir," he said.

NCP mulls possibilities of poll delay for JEM participation

The NCP is reportedly mulling possibilities for the delay in the legislative and state level polls, with the consent of other political forces, to allow for JEM participation at the forthcoming elections, **Al-Intibaha** reports.

Citing informed sources, the paper reports that the NCP held a series of high level meetings to discuss the possibilities for the establishment of a national government headed by Omar Al-Bashir and a Vice-Presidency position for the JEM. The sources also revealed that VP Ali Osman Taha might take over as Speaker of the National Assembly.

12 people killed in fight over cattle in Lakes state

Sudan Tribune website 1/3/10 – Pastoralists from the counties of Yirol East and Yirol West resumed deadly cattle raiding from Friday 26 until Sunday 28 February resulting in 12 people dying in the clashes and 24 people confirmed seriously wounded, according to a Yirol West County hospital official.

An unconfirmed report from Yirol East County indicated that an additional 10 people were killed and 3 wounded.

Fighting began on February 26 at Ahan cattle camp when Yirol West County youth organized an attack against rivals of Yirol East County; the reason behind the attack was cattle raiding which had been ongoing between the counties' youth since the signing of the CPA in 2005.

Intensive fighting continued for three day at places including Pagaru, Pankar and Ahan cattle camp.

Lakes state Deputy Governor and Minister for Local Government and Law Enforcement Agency Lt-Col David Nok Marial was present at a confrontation between pastoralists to impose calm on the civilian population, but his intervention yielded no calm. Police forces were brought to the battlefield but youth overran them. GoSS is reported to have sent in reinforcement troops to control the town.

President Al-Bashir appoints three Abyei Administration chiefs

Al-Akhbar reports that President Al-Bashir has issued a republican decree appointing three out of five Abyei Administration officers: Kon Manet Mattok for Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Mario Kuol for Agriculture and Natural Resources and Acuil Akol Meyang for Finance and Economic Development.

Oil revenue in Sudan slashed by 60% in 2009 - GoSS

Sudan Tribune website 1/3/10 – The proceeds from oil exports in Sudan has declined by a staggering 60% in 2009 with revenues measuring approximately \$2.5 billion compared to \$6.5 billion a year ago, according to a report compiled by the GoSS.

The report said that oil prices reached an all time high of \$132 in mid-2008 before dropping to \$35 in the first quarter of 2009.

Last year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that Sudan's foreign exchange reserves were sunk across the years from \$2 billion in mid-2008 to \$300 million in March 2009.

The IMF said this was caused by the fall in oil prices, which is Sudan's main export, among other things.

The world financial body criticized Sudan's 2009 budget saying that its underlying assumptions proved wrong with forecasted oil price of \$65 per barrel compared to updated projected figures of \$36.8 for 2009 and \$44.7 in 2010.

GoSS said that the Federal Government's share of oil production in 2009 was 83.7 million barrels, while the share of partners was around 77.1 million barrels. Total revenue from oil amounted about \$1.5 billion while oil used in domestic refineries totaled \$ 1.06.

The share of the federal government was approximately \$1.4 billion while GoSS share was \$1.06 billion.

In Abyei, the report said that oil revenues there reached about \$215.3 million with \$64.6 million going to the Federal Government, \$67.2 million to GoSS, \$4.1 million each to the states of South Kordofan, Warrap, the Dinka Ngok and the Misseriya and \$66.8 million to Abyei Fund.

3,200,000 people are hungry in the South

GoSS report reveals that about 3,200,000 people in the South are in bad need of food, saying the GoSS gave the Islamic Relief Agency the green light to feed the hungry people, **local dailies** report. GoSS Coordinator for voluntary returns in the North Kormaj Chol told SMC that the GoSS had carried out a food survey in the South and the findings were that seven states are suffering from an acute food shortage, adding that 40% of the population is hungry. He said the report was presented to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to seek the intervention of the Islamic Relief Agency, NGOs and donors to address the gap.

SPLM accuses Akol of betraying the movement

The SPLA has criticized SPLM-DC leader Lam Akol for claiming lack of discipline and organization within the SPLM, *Al-Ayyam* reports. SPLA spokesperson Kuol Deim Kuol has accused Akol of betraying the Movement.

Demobilized SAF, SPLA elements repositioned

The committee tasked with setting the standards for demobilization, disarmament and reintegration decided to sign tomorrow a Memorandum of Understanding that would include the technical action plan for implementing the programme, *Sudan Vision* reports.

The memo will be signed by representatives of the Sudan Government, UN and donors. The National Council for DDR (NCDDR) Chief Gen. Bakri Hassan Saleh will attend the signing ceremony.

Tomorrow's meeting will identify the new positions of the targeted 90,000 elements of each of SAF and the SPLA.

The Yesterday's meeting repositioned 27,500 and 34,000 elements of SAF and SPLA respectively.

Parliament may be called to convene to pass referenda bills

There is likelihood that the Presidency may call the Parliament back from recess within the current month to endorse the Abyei and Southern Sudan referenda bills, Deputy Speaker Atem Garang said, according to *Al-Rai Al-Aam*.

Kiir tells Muslims in the South to freely spread Islam

Sudan Tribune website 1/3/10– Muslims in Southern Sudan held a conference in Juba with assurance from the top GoSS leadership to allow them to freely spread Islam in the region.

FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit told the conferees to preach and spread Islam freely as long as they separate it from politics.

Thousands of cheering members of Islamic religion, some of whom were invited from Middle Eastern countries, converged at Nyakuron Culture Center in Juba on Monday to discuss the future of Islam in Southern Sudan.

"Don't just operate here in Juba; go to Torit, go to Yei, go to Warrap and other places," Kiir told the conferees who responded with chanting, "Alah Akbhar" meaning God is great.

Kiir, a frequent attendant of Kator Cathedral Church on Sundays in Juba, where he usually enlightens the congregation on political developments in the country, warned Muslims to stick to religion and not mix it with politics when preaching adding that religion has no political party.

He said that his Government would be interested to receive the resolutions of the conference.

GoSS VP Riek Machar told the conference that GoSS finally decided to help the Muslims in organizing themselves and forming the Council of Islamic Affairs under the leadership of Sheikh Tahir Biar, a southerner from Jonglei state.

Some observers however say the body was probably established with the purpose of giving Muslims a focal point that would shoulder the responsibility of their activities in the South instead of letting them loose without a controlling central structure.

Ceasefire includes JEM only – SAF

Al-Raed reports SAF as saying that the ceasefire agreement signed recently would include JEM only. "The agreement obligates us to ceasefire with the JEM only," Lt. Col. Saad Al-Sawarmi, Director of SAF Spokesperson Office said. He said SAF recently repulsed an attempt by SLA-AW to block a road for banditry, adding that it was the SLA-AW which initiated the attack on areas in Jebel Marra.

Human rights activist detained in Darfur

Darfur Lawyers Committee has denounced the detention by the security authorities of Nyala-based Director of the Africa's Centre for Justice Al-Taj Al-Banan and called on the NEC to intervene, **Ajras Al-Hurriah** reports. Al-Sadiq Ali Hassan, the Committee member, said that the premises of the Centre which operates in the field of human rights was raided by the security elements yesterday who had taken away books and publications without giving any reason. The Committee considered the detention a violation of the rights of voters and called on the NEC to intervene.

Chad offers to extend UN mission by two months

AFP 1/3/10 reported that President Idriss Deby Itno gave his accord to propose that the UN Security Council extend the MINURCAT mandate until May 15, Alain Le Roy said after talks with Deby.

MINURCAT is tasked to protect refugees and displaced people in the two countries bordering Sudan's Darfur region, and to help aid workers.

Deby has called the force of some 3,700 troops and police a "failure" in its task of protecting up to 500,000 civilians from Darfur and displaced Chadians and Central Africans who are in camps because of conflict in their own countries.