

2 November 2009

[www.unmis.org](http://www.unmis.org)



# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Headlines

- Low turnout on the first day of voter registration (**Dailies**)
- NCP deplores Kiir's statement (**Dailies**)
- President Al-Bashir to visit Cairo next week (**Akhbar Al-Youm**)
- US envoy Gration arrives in Khartoum (**Akhbar Al-Youm**)
- SPLM continues the boycott (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- 'Our goal was to find a way out for Al-Bashir – Mbeki (**ST**)
- Sudan accuses ICC being behind AU hybrid court proposal (**ST**)
- Sudan and Chad to resume very soon talks on bilateral relations (**ST**)
- Luka Biong to take over as SPLM representative to US (**Al-Wifaq**)
- US and GoSS Renew \$230 Million Partnership Deal (**Gurton**)

**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

---

## Low turnout on the first day of voter registration

**Local dailies** report the voter registration exercise kicked off yesterday across the country. According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam** the turnout was low but it was picking up steadily.

However, **Khartoum Monitor** reports that the exercise in Malakal was stalled yesterday by violence when eleven people were killed in Nagdyar in the Upper Nile by gunmen from the Dinka Paliet tribe. The attackers used heavy arms killing 3 policemen, 2 from Shuluk tribe and injuring two others while 6 attackers were killed.

## NCP deplors Kiir's statement

**Local dailies** report the NCP has deplored the statement attributed to FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit who has reportedly urged southern Sudanese to vote for separation. According to **Al-Sahafa**, NCP official Mohamed Mandour Al-Mahdi described Kiir's statement as running counter to the CPA which calls for unity and also represents the height of failure in administering the South's affairs. Mandour said the statement was unbecoming of a presidential official. Another NCP official, Dr. Ibrahim Ghandour said his party would discuss the statement at the level of the joint committee and the Presidency. Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din reacted by saying that Kiir's statement is a genuine reflection of the SPLM position.

**Sudan Tribune website** 1/11/09 reported the London based **Al-Hayat** newspaper as saying that the Kiir's statements sparked "concern" among Arab diplomats in Khartoum and Cairo.

In Cairo, the Sudanese presidential adviser Mustafa Ismail expressed doubt over the accuracy of statements attributed to Kiir saying that "it is necessary to look at the time and place and where it was made".

Ismail noted that Kiir asserted the work for unity two weeks ago in a speech at the Blue Nile state.

In Paris the head of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur called on Kiir "to differentiate between the NCP and the Sudanese people".

"It is the policies of the NCP and feet-dragging on implementing the CPA that is forcing the SPLM to move towards secession" Al-Nur said.

He disclosed that he will meet with Kiir to discuss the matter but gave no details. Al-Nur also called on other political powers to work together with him and talk on things that can be done "to preserve the unity of Sudan".

The Darfur Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) issued a statement saying it "understands and appreciates" the reasons behind Kiir's remarks saying it is a result of the NCP's "delaying tactics" regarding the CPA.

JEM reiterated its support for the people of South Sudan in their right for self determination but stressed that its choice lies with the unity of Sudan "on a new basis".

## President Al-Bashir to visit Cairo next week

Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail who conveyed a message from President Al-Bashir to his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak told reporters that President A-Bashir would visit Cairo next week in response to an invitation to take part in Sino-African forum in Sharam el Sheikh, **Akhbar Al-Youm** reports. Ismail said the forum represents an opportunity for President Al-Bashir to conduct consultations with President Mubarak.

## US envoy Gration arrives in Khartoum

**Akhbar Al-Youm** reports US envoy Scott Gration, who arrived in Khartoum yesterday from Juba, expressed hope that the NCP and the SPLM would be able to overcome their differences over the elections and the referendum bill. According to **Al-Sahafa**, the SPLM yesterday handed over to Gration a package of proposals for resolving the pending issues.

## SPLM continues the boycott

The SPLM and the southern political parties in the GoNU continue boycotting parliamentary sessions. Meanwhile, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports the Council of Ministers yesterday approved the 2010 budget in the absence of the SPLM federal ministers who decided to boycott the session.

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 1/11/09, the two partners to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement are on the verge of political crisis following the Saturday's decision by the SPLM ministers to join their assembly members by boycotting participation in the cabinet meetings in Khartoum.

The party members in the National Assembly for the last two weeks have boycotted parliamentary sessions.

The SPLM demands that draft bills for the conduct of referenda in the South and Abyei, popular consultations for Nuba Mountains and Southern Blue Nile as well as bills such as that of national security needed for democratic transformation and conduct of free and fair elections should appear in the schedule of parliamentary sessions in order to participate in the deliberations.

The National Congress Party (NCP) has also angrily reacted to the Saturday's statement in Juba by the SPLM's Chairperson, First Vice President of Sudan and President of the semi-autonomous Southern Sudan, General Salva Kiir Mayardit, which stated that voting for unity of Sudan by Southern Sudanese would be like voting for second class citizenship in the country.

NCP officials say such a statement will have to be discussed at the joint committee level as well as at the level of the Presidency.

The SPLM's Deputy Chairperson and Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar Teny was dispatched to Khartoum on Saturday to try to calm the situation.

The two parties are expected to discuss the issues that led to the SPLM boycotting both the parliamentary sessions as well as cabinet meetings.

It is not clear whether or not Salva Kiir's statement will be on the agenda for discussion.

The two parties are also expected to discuss and try to resolve on the remaining outstanding bills so that they can be presented to the cabinet and assembly for approval before the lawmakers go on final recess.

The National Assembly has only one month left before it finally closes and dissolves until an elected parliament comes in after April 2010 elections.

### **‘Our goal was to find a way out for Al-Bashir – Mbeki**

**Sudan Tribune website** 1/11/09 – The AU high level panel on Darfur wanted to find a way out for Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir from the ICC indictment, one of the commission members said today in an interview.

“Incriminating the president is out of question and fundamentally unacceptable” the former Egyptian foreign minister said in an interview with the Egypt based Al-Masry Al-Youm newspaper.

“Our [Mbeki panel] goal was to find a way out [to Bashir] from the dilemma of the ICC that sparked a great deal of controversy,” Maher said.

The AUPD member, who served as Egypt’s Foreign Minister from 2001 until 2004, said that the ICC case against Bashir was “political” in nature and “biased” against the Sudanese head of state “with exaggeration in depicting the situation”.

“Demanding the prosecution of an African head of state before an international tribunal is totally unacceptable” the former Egyptian top diplomat said.

Maher said that achieving justice in Darfur “will be through Sudanese prosecution with African members selected by Sudan and agreed upon by the AU”.

“We are not prosecutors. We observe the situation and make sure that perpetrators are brought to justice and this is the task of the Sudanese judiciary. Whoever is involved should be prosecuted,” he said.

Maher noted that the panel found that dispute over resources between different ethnic groups as one of the “incorrect” situations during their work requiring a ceasefire, repatriation and providing compensation to the displaced.

The remarks made by Maher will likely cause a huge embarrassment to the AU and the panel chief, Mbeki who sought to quell accusations on seeking to protect the Sudanese president.

In Paris, the head of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur reiterated his rejection of the hybrid court saying his movement only accepts the ICC intervention in the Darfur crimes.

Al-Nur stressed that the war in Darfur “is not tribal” adding that the government arming of militias triggered the conflict and the humanitarian situation.

### **Sudan accuses ICC being behind AU hybrid court proposal**

**Sudan Tribune website** 1/11/09 – The Sudanese Government today stepped up its criticism of the AU panel headed by former South African president Thabo Mbeki for recommending a hybrid court to try Darfur war crimes suspects.

Yesterday Sudanese presidential adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail reiterated this position saying that “the sovereignty of Sudan and the independence of its judiciary must be respected”.

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) quoted a senior National Congress Party (NCP) as saying that his party has full confidence in the ability of the local judiciary to achieve justice in Darfur.

The political bureau officer at the NCP Mandoor Al-Mahdi also accused ICC Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo of standing behind the hybrid court proposal.

"After Ocampo failed in furthering his agenda through the ICC he now wants to find another entry though the so-called hybrid court" Al-Mahdi said.

### **Sudan and Chad to resume very soon talks on bilateral relations**

**Sudan Tribune website** 1/11/09 — A high level Chadian delegation would visit Sudan very soon to resume talks which the two sides had engaged last month over the political dossiers between the two neighboring countries.

Sudanese presidential adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Deen Attabanti met the Chadian President Idriss Deby on Saturday October 10 expressing Khartoum willingness to improve ties and end the current tensions between the two countries.

During a visit to Paris Deby said Sudanese President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir had committed himself to remove the Chadian rebels and to confine them far from the border. He also said he agreed to allow Sudan to verify the presence of Darfur rebels in his country.

Sudanese state minister at the foreign ministry, El Wasila Al Samani, reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthen bilateral ties with Chad for the sake of the interests of both countries.

He said Sudan expected a visit from a Chadian delegation "very soon" to finalize discussions that the two countries had began in a practical, objective and realistic way.

El Wasila said Sudanese Government was confident that the Chadian Government shares the same feeling in the exploitation of the border for the benefit of the people rather than become carriers of the weapon and making the situation worse.

He also stressed that the regional situation of Sudan and Chad make them more willing to play a role that contribute in bringing comprehensive peace in the region.

### **Luka Biong to take over as SPLM representative to US**

*Al-Wifaq, Al-Intibaha Akhir Lahza* and *Al-Raed* newspapers report that the SPLM is in the process of appointing Dr. Luka Biong as GoSS representative to US to replace Ezekiel Jatkoth who will be appointed as minister in the Upper Nile State. Taban Deng (governor of Unity State) will take over as GoSS Presidency minister and "Kong Donuer" will be appointed as governor of the Unity State. The papers claimed that the transfer of Ezekiel from Washington to the South is opposed by Pagan Amum, Yassir Arman and Mansour Khaled because Ezekiel has been receiving millions of dollars from the US Administration and Chevron Company for deposit in an account that belongs to the said three SPLM officials without Kiir's knowledge. According to ***Al-Intibaha***, Ezekiel has been receiving \$207 millions annually.

### **US and GoSS Renew \$230 Million Partnership Deal**

JUBA, 26 October 2009 (Gurtong) – Speaking during the ceremony early this week, the Minister of Cabinet Affairs Dr Luka Tombekana Manoja hailed the U.S Government for its continued support to South Sudan and called for continued partnership.

“The people of South Sudan are aware and appreciate the sacrifices the Government of United States is giving for peace and stability in South Sudan. The Government of Southern Sudan is looking forward to your continuous support towards our sustainable development”, Dr Manoja said.

<http://www.gurtong.net/ECM/Editorial/tabid/124/ID/2161/Default.aspx>