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# Media Monitoring Report

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## Link

- Commentary: Dubious money financing Sudanese politics  
By: *Dr. Justin Ambago Ramba*  
<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article33867>

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# Highlights

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## **24 southern Sudanese killed after fresh tribal violence in Jonglei**

**Sudan Tribune website** 22/1/10 — About 24 people have been killed in tribal clashes in the troubled southern Sudanese state of Jonglei between armed members of Dinka and Nuer ethnic groups following an argument between two people.

The fighting broke out in the New Fangak area of Jonglei last Monday after a dispute between two Nuer each living in a different village populated by the two ethnic groups; the quarrel involved neighbors from both sides where nine people were killed.

However, the fighting erupted again when armed members of the Dinka Rut attacked a settlement of the Nuer Thiang on Thursday killing 15 people and wounded other 16, said SPLA spokesperson Major General Kuol Diem Kuol.

Kuol said that there are five missing people among the Nuer adding, they have no details about the casualties on the Dinka side.

## **SG praises National Elections Commission**

UNSG Ban Ki-moon, in his latest report to the SC, has deplored the upsurge of violence in southern Sudan and called on GoSS to shoulder its responsibilities to protect civilians, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. Mr. Ki-moon also praised the National Elections Commission (NEC) for registering 16.5 million voters despite security challenges in some areas. He said while the NCP and the SPLM have overcome several obstacles, they need to speed up efforts for post-referendum arrangements, the implementation of the PCA ruling and the drawing of North-South border.

**UN News** 22/1/10 quoted the SG report as stating that the parties to the 2005 peace accord that ended Sudan's north-south civil war have made important breakthroughs, but a return to violence is still a very real possibility.

In his latest report to the Security Council on the Sudan, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon cites recent developments, allowing the parties "to move beyond several major obstacles that had long impeded progress."

These include the passing of legislation governing next year's referendum on independence for Southern Sudan, as well as the registration of a reported 16.5 million voters for the national elections slated for this year.

"Nevertheless, a return to conflict remains a very real possibility, with potentially catastrophic humanitarian, political, military and economic consequences throughout the region," warns Mr. Ban. "Preventing such an outcome will require all the support that the international and regional communities can offer."

In particular, the Secretary-General voices concern over the continued violence in southern Sudan, the lack of progress in resolving outstanding issues regarding the disputed, oil-rich border town of Abyei, and the slow pace of progress on border demarcation.

While Mr. Ban welcomes the continued progress made in disarmament, demobilization and

reintegration (DDR), he says he is aware of the risk that demobilized former combatants may eventually reintegrate into an insecure environment, which may further exacerbate the threat of their return to the path of armed violence.

Therefore, he underscores the importance of linking the formal DDR process with effective community initiatives to reduce violence, and appeals to the international community to provide adequate funding for the final and most difficult phase of the programme – reintegration.

The report states that the single most important factor in an eventual success or failure of the peace process is the nature of the relationship between the SPLM and the NCP of President Omar al-Bashir.

Implementing the CPA will require “an enormous exercise of political will by both parties,” states the Secretary-General. “The current atmosphere of pervasive mistrust, in which any gain by one party is viewed as a loss by the other, dramatically undermines that political will, effectively disrupts international efforts to assist, and sets the stage for renewed conflict.”

Mr. Ban also highlights the worsening humanitarian situation in southern Sudan in the report, stating that at least 40 per cent of the area’s population at serious risk owing to inter-tribal conflict and violence related to the Ugandan rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), a massive food gap, and an earlier “fiscal shock” to the Government of Southern Sudan.

According to ***Sudan Tribune website*** 22/1/10, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon urged the Sudanese parties of the CPA to address the post-referendum arrangements to shun war.

"Now that the Referendum Act is in place, I urge the parties to waste no time in negotiating the post-referendum agreements. The United Nations stands ready to assist in this Endeavour," Ban Ki-Moon worded in his report to the Security Council released on Friday.

Ki-Moon mentioned the slow pace of progress in the implementation of Abyei Arbitration rule and the demarcation of north–south border demarcation; he detailed troop’s redeployment.

The UN chief told the Council that the implementation of Abyei arbitration is hindered by the opposition of some Messeriya elements as "misinterpretations and false rumors regarding the decision have increased tensions throughout the area".

He further said armed obstruction of the work of the demarcation team have effectively blocked efforts to demarcate the border of the longtime disputed area.

The north and south border demarcation represents also a key concern, with implications for both the elections and the referendums, he stressed.

"I call upon the parties to commit the necessary political will to accelerate this process and prevent it from becoming a major impediment to implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement," he said.

However, speaking about the troop redeployment, the report said the Sudan Armed Forces have no presence in the south while SPLA has now reached "redemption from Northern Sudan of 33.7 per cent out of the stated strength of 59,168, up from 27.6 per cent as at the date of my previous report."

The UN Secretary further stressed that these figures do not, however, reflect "the redeployment

on the ground claimed by SPLA, much of which has occurred outside the scope of the (CPA) monitoring and verification instruments"

A political agreement will be necessary to resolve these redeployments, including 9,599 "voluntarily demobilized" SPLA troops in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile and 32,814 otherwise unaccounted for SPLA troops, he said.

### **We are aware of opposition plan to block Al-Bashir from winning– official**

The NCP announced that it is aware of a plan by the opposition parties to nominate as many presidential candidates as possible to prevent Al-Bashir from winning upcoming elections, **Al-Wifaq** reports. "We are aware of the opposition plan. Al-Bashir will win the elections," NCP official Ibrahim Ghandour told journalists yesterday.

### **Sudan ex-rebels said to boycott vote in oil state**

**Reuters** 23/1/10) - Sudan's former southern rebels said on Saturday they would boycott elections in a key oil-producing state over concerns about fraud, ratcheting up the pressure less than three months ahead of voting.

The former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) planned to boycott "all elections" in the central state of Southern Kordofan, the party's candidate for state governor Abdel Al Aziz Adam Al Hilu told reporters in Khartoum.

Southern Kordofan -- the site of oilfields and important civil war battlegrounds on the undefined north-south border - is set to be one of the most closely watched constituencies.

The former rebels said there had been widespread fraud during November's registration exercise, and that a census used to draw up constituency boundaries had missed out large areas occupied by SPLM supporters.

"This means the elections will not be fair ... We will not take part in these elections unless they repeat the census or redraw the geographical constituencies," Hilu said.

The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) has denied the fraud allegations and also dismissed the boycott announcement.

"This is more about the problems the SPLM is having in gathering support and their internal problems in Southern Kordofan," Ibrahim Ghandour, a senior NCP official, told Reuters, declining to go into further detail.

### **Abyei Chief Administrator demands elections committee in the Area**

Abyei Chief Administrator Deng Arop Kuol has affirmed the significance of presence and deployment of UNMIS troops in the northern part of Abyei to facilitate the mission of the Abyei Boundary Demarcation Committee that has stalled due to threats from the Misseriya, **Al-Wifaq** reports. The Chief Administrator also called for the formation of a higher elections committee in Abyei to ensure credible democratic elections in the area.

### **SPLM, Opposition-Juba Conference agree to coordinate on elections**

The SPLM and the Opposition Parties (Juba Conference) yesterday agreed to coordinate during all levels of upcoming elections, **Al-Sahafa** reports. Reportedly, a delegation met with the SPLM yesterday and the latter agreed in principle to coordinate with the coalition on elections.

Meanwhile, a delegation from the coalition also met with the visiting Mbeki Panel for discussion on possible threats to the upcoming elections process. The delegation presented to the Panel a host of requirements needed to be in place to ensure free and fair elections including freezing of the restrictive laws. Reportedly, the Panel objected to a proposal by the coalition to delay or boycott the elections.

### **SPLM senior official declares independent candidacy for governorship**

**Sudan Tribune website** 24/1/10 – Another senior official of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) has declared her independent candidacy to contest in the upcoming April elections for the position of governor in the oil rich Unity state.

The state Minister of Energy and Mining in the Government of National Unity and member of the SPLM National Liberation Council, Angelina Jany Teny, on Saturday declared her intention to contest as an independent candidate for the position of governor in the state.

Angelina Teny made the announcement in the state's capital, Bentiu, just two days after another senior party official and advisor to the Southern Sudan President, Alfred Ladu Gore, declared his independent candidacy for governorship in Central Equatoria state on Thursday.

Gore whose nomination was turned down in favor of the incumbent governor, Clement Wani Konga, criticized the selection by the SPLM Political Bureau describing the decision as "unpopular" among the people. He added that his decision would also save the SPLM from losing popularity in the state.

Angelina said her decision came as a response to the continuous calls by the people of Unity state who yearn for better leadership.

She said in the next few days she would make public her envisioned program for the betterment of the state.

The Energy and Mining minister will contest against the incumbent governor Taban Deng Gai who is the official party's selected candidate for the position as well as against the National Congress Party's candidate, Paul Lily.

Governor Taban Deng was nominated by the Political Bureau last week, giving him the chance to defeat his state political rival, Southern Sudan minister of Health Dr. Joseph Minytil Wijang.

Dr. Wijang defeated governor Taban during the SPLM grassroots elections in 2008 in the state and became the party's state chairman.

Angelina is the wife of the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar Teny and she originally hails from the same constituency with Governor Taban Deng Gai.

SPLM Political Bureau nominated its candidates for various constituencies last week. However, discontented voices say most of the process did not put into consideration the choices of the people in the constituencies concerned.

Tut Samuel, a member of Angelina's campaign team who organized a press conference she addressed today in Bentiu, said, "Madam Teny made a wonderful and truth touching statement prompting rural poor majority inhabiting the town of Bentiu to endorse her candidacy without

question."

"Her address outlining proposals of her future government to all unity state citizens made a unique candidate with a clear interest to develop Unity State," he further said.

### **PCP says may withdraw candidate from elections race**

The Popular Congress Party (PCP) does not rule out possibility of withdrawing its candidates from the elections should the alliance of opposition parties (Juba coalition) reaches a joint decision to boycott the polls, *Al-Ahdath* reports. PCP Deputy Secretary-General Abdalla Hassan Ahmed said the party will continue to assess the political situation.

Speaking to *Al-Shurooq* following a meeting of the party in Atbara recently, Ahmed pointed out that the party wanted to guarantee participation in the polls by filing its candidates but would be happy to withdraw its nominees and enter a unified list of candidates within the context of the opposition parties if they reach a deal on the issue.

### **Darfur's Minnawi to run for parliamentary seat in North Darfur**

*Sudan Tribune website* 23/1/10 – The Sudanese senior presidential assistant who also head an ex-rebel group from Darfur will run for the North Darfur seat in the national assembly in the upcoming elections, a Sudanese newspaper reported today.

*Al-Sudani* newspaper quoted sources as saying that Minni Arcua Minnawi head of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM-Minnawi) that signed a peace agreement with Khartoum, will run in Umbro in North Darfur.

The report further ruled out that Minnawi will step down from his federal position similar to president Omer Al-Bashir resignation from the army in compliance with elections law which prohibits military personnel from running as candidates.

"That is not a condition for nomination, Bashir is a candidate but did not resign," a source said.

Minnawi's faction was the major Darfur rebel group that signed the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) in 2006. However, he has frequently accused Khartoum of reneging on the terms of the accord and in 2008 year he abandoned his presence in the Sudanese capital for over four months fueling speculations that he defected.

The sources expressed doubts that elections can be held in the war ravaged region of Darfur citing mass displacement and concerns over fairness and integrity of the process in the region.

### **DUP Al-Mirghani to run for president**

A prominent Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) member who spoke on condition of anonymity has said that the party has decided to nominate its leader Mohamed Osman Al-Mirghani to run for president, *Al-Wifaq* reports. He said that the decision was made as a result of a demand from party supporters within and outside Sudan. The DUP member also ruled out possibility for a DUP alliance with the NCP and the Umma Party.

### **VP Taha, SPLM Amum to head committee on S. Kordofan census dispute**

The NCP and the SPLM have decided to form a joint committee headed by VP Ali Osman Taha and SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum to resolve the disputes over the census results in Southern Kordofan State, *The Citizen* reports.

Addressing a press conference yesterday, SPLM (Southern Kordofan) Chairperson Abdul-Aziz Al-Hilu said that he referred this matter to a meeting of the SPLM Political Bureau in Juba because they felt that the distribution of geographical constituencies for the area were not fair. He pointed out that the SPLM will not participate in the elections in Southern Kordofan State if these errors and the irregularities over voter registration in the state are not corrected.

### **SPLA buildup south of Blue Nile State**

Sources revealed that 40 heavily armed SPLA trucks have camped out Al-Samri area south of Kurmuk Locality in Blue Nile State to reinforce presence of 8,000 SPLA troops around the area, **Akhir Lahza** reports. Reportedly, SPLA is in high alert in those areas and is preparing for a military campaign to annex Blue Nile State to southern Sudan should it fail in the forthcoming elections. Sources have also reported SPLA build-ups in Khor Al-Boudi, Wad-Daka, Al-Diem and Yabous areas in Blue Nile State.

### **Sudan revokes licenses of 26 aid groups in Darfur, warns dozen others**

**Sudan Tribune website** 21/1/10 –The Sudanese Government announced today that it has revoked the licenses of 26 relief groups operating in Darfur while warning 13 others that they must conform to the country's laws within 30 days or face the same fate.

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) carried a decree by the Government's registrar for the of Voluntary and Charitable Organizations Ahmed Mohamed Adam saying that the decision was taken in line with the laws governing the work of aid groups in addition to agreements between the Government of Sudan and these organizations.

The determination also came upon a review of the reports submitted by the assessment teams of the specialized technical departments of the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), the decree said.

The following groups have their licenses cancelled according to the decree; 1- Prospect Sudan 2- Counterpart International 3- Feed the Children 4- Food for the Hungry 5- Safe Harbor 6- The Halo Trust 7- Right to Play 8- Air Serve 9- Mercy International 10- Global Peace Mission 11- Population Media Centre 12- Sudanese International Development and Relief Association (SIDRA) 13- Royal Dutch Aid 14- Canadian Association for African Development 15- SPEG-Holland 16- Norwegian League for Disabled 17- African Association for Development 18- Health Assistance for Children (HAFC) 19- Nabata Charitable Foundation 20- Impact 21- Cins- Italy 22- Ulfa Aid 23- Joint Projects Organization 24- Arabic Centre for Immigrant Labors 25- Tomp/Germany 26- Human Relief and Peace.

According to Adam, the abovementioned groups "have not carried out any activities" and failed to renew their annual permits or submit required reports.

The second set of organizations received an unspecified warning to adjust status in accordance with the law but no details were furnished. They include Stromme Foundation 2. Veterinaries Sans Frontiers- Germany 3. Planned Parenthood 4. (International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Area (ICARDA 5. Deniz Feneri 6. International Blue Crescent Relief 7. Handicap International 8. (Education Action International (Former was University Services Org 9. Movimondo 10. Sudanese Mothers for Peace 11. Panos Sudan 12. Eritrean Islamic Relief 13. One Earth.

### **80 percent of Darfur conflict deaths due to disease**

**Reuters** 22/1/10 - Nearly 80 percent of the 300,000 conflict-related deaths in Darfur were due to

diseases like diarrhea, not violence, Belgian scientists said on Friday.

An analysis of deaths dating from 2003, when rebels took up arms against the Government of Sudan, showed that after an initial peak of violent deaths in the still-ongoing conflict, diseases associated with diarrhea became the major killers.

The researchers said their results showed that any reduction in humanitarian aid can cause deaths rates to increase sharply, raising "serious concerns" about the consequences of last year's expulsion of aid workers from Sudan by the country's president.

"We should fear the worst," they wrote in a study in *The Lancet* medical journal.

"More than 80 percent of excess deaths were not a result of the violence," said Olivier Degomme and Debarati Guha-Sapir of the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of disasters in Brussels.

They said a violent peak in early 2004 was followed by "protracted phase of increased disease-related" deaths caused by people living in conditions of unsanitary conditions with little or no healthcare infrastructure.

Diarrhea kills some 1.5 million children each year around the world - more than AIDS, malaria and measles combined.

There are three main forms - acute, bloody and persistent - all of which are potentially life-threatening.

"Adequate humanitarian assistance to prevent and treat these potentially fatal diseases is essential," Degomme and Guha-Sapir wrote. "The full effect of the expulsion of non-governmental organizations from Darfur is still not known, but the increased mortality rate during a period of reduced humanitarian deployment in 2006 suggests that we should fear the worst."

### **Government delegation arrives in Doha for talks**

***Al-Rai Al-Aam*** reports that Sudan Government's delegation headed by Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din arrived in Doha for talks with Darfur rebels but JEM announced yesterday that it would boycott the inaugural session of the talks.

According to ***Sudan Tribune website*** 23/1/10, The Sudanese Government said it is ready to start negotiations with rebel groups to end the seven years conflict in the Darfur region as delegations arrived to the Qatari capital where talks will begin on Sunday.

The Joint Chief Mediator had invited the two parties for direct peace talks for the second time since February 2009. Last year, only the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) took part in the talks; the other rebel groups rejected Doha as a venue for the process.

However, recently JEM suspended its willingness to participate, citing the ill implementation of a goodwill agreement by the Sudanese government. Also, Libya, Egypt and USA sponsored efforts to reunite the rebel factions who now see Doha as a worthy site.

The Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid Al-Nur holds consultations with the chief mediator but did not yet make a decision on its participation; the security of civilians remains a



major concern to settle before their participation.

JEM, which wants the talks to be limited to the Abuja parties, asked the mediation to exclude the Tripoli and Addis Ababa groups considering they would topple the talks and create chaos.

The Sudanese government is "open to negotiation and is ready for it" said Ghazi Salah Al Deen, Sudanese Presidential Adviser following his arrival to Doha today. He further added that the talks depend on the participation of all the parties to the conflict and not only one party.

The Sudanese official was referring to JEM's rejection of the other rebel groups.

Amin Hassan Omer, the head of government delegation to the talks said JEM is still in the process of developing conditions adding that the government rejects any conditional negotiations.

"If JEM put conditions now they would put new condition at each stage" (of talks).

The Sudanese envoy at Doha however told the official SUNA about ongoing efforts to push JEM rebels to take part at the negotiating table and sit alongside the other groups.

Sudanese Ambassador to Doha however told the official SUNA, about ongoing efforts to push back JEM rebels to take part at the negotiation table and sit alongside the other groups.

Late in the evening the government delegation and the mediator held talks while additionally he is expected to meet the JEM delegation before the opening session.

The mediation had announced it would focus during this round on two issues before carrying the discussions further: a ceasefire and framework agreement on the peace process between the stakeholders.

Amin Hassan Omer said in remarks published in the Sudanese capital that there is no way to involve the people of Darfur in power now through a power-sharing agreement, because the election is coming. The Sudanese officials said in the past also that the Government could change its mind and stop talks with rebels over the resolution of the Darfur conflict.

Such statements, according to JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein Adam, mean that the political process is destined to fail because Amin referred to the government's unwillingness to negotiate on all the contentious issues. The JEM official said this in statements published in Doha where he is now.

**AFP** 24/1/10 reports direct peace talks between the Sudanese Government and Darfur rebel groups did not resume today as expected, with the two sides holding separate consultations with mediators instead.

"Sunday will be devoted to consultations" with Qatari mediators and the chief negotiator for the United Nations and African Union, Djibril Bassole, said Ahmed Hussein Adam, spokesman for the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the main rebel group in Darfur.

"There will be consultations between mediators and the Sudanese Government on the one hand, and mediators and the Justice and Equality Movement on the other, in which other (rebel) groups could be involved," he said.

A source in the Sudanese Government delegation confirmed to AFP that there would be "no direct negotiations on Sunday with rebel groups but only consultations with the mediators."

A source in the UN-AU mediation meanwhile told AFP: "There is no real cancellation. We are working with the government and with the armed movements to get them working together towards an effective dialogue."

"This is still ongoing.... and we will hope to find an appropriate format by which they can make progress," the source said.

### **Chadian military delegation due in Khartoum**

Chad has announced it will continue consultation with the Sudanese Government to implement the recent agreement reached by the two sides, *Akhir Lahza* reports.

Chad's Charge D'Affaires in Khartoum, Hussein Jidda, said that the second meeting of the joint technical security and military team is due to be held in Khartoum next week. He pointed out that a Chadian security delegation is due in Khartoum on the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month to be appraised on the status of deployment of monitoring troops at the border.