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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## **GoSS accuses southern political parties of supporting dissidents**

*Sudan Vision*, Juba, 26/04/11 – The Government of South Sudan (GoSS) has acknowledged the seriousness of the challenges to security situation due to the war being led by breakaway militias.

Meanwhile, GoSS has closed the door before Southern political parties' participation in the forthcoming government and accused these very political forces of providing support to the militia and threatened to prosecute their leaders.

The Sudanese Media Centre (SMC) has learnt that the committee formed by GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit under his chairmanship for discussing the ways and means of confronting Southern Sudanese militia and political parties has recommended that intelligence assistance from friendly countries should be sought for confronting dissidents. The committee has recommended that leaders of Southern political parties be enticed for arresting and prosecuting them on the ground that they are traitors and agents of north Sudan and work against the interest of Southern Sudanese.

According to *Al-Khartoum* 26/4/11, the committee also recommended that no southern group should be integrated into the SPLA for fear of further divisions

## **South Sudan clashes kill 165 in a week - army**

*Reuters* 25/4/11 - At least 165 people have been killed in the past week in fighting between south Sudan's army and militia, the army said on Monday, part of a wave of violence in the territory ahead of its independence in July.

Forces loyal to two renegade army commanders fought the southern army (SPLA) in Jonglei and Unity states, killing soldiers, rebels, northern tribesman and civilians, SPLA spokesman Malaak Ayuen said.

Ayuen said an offensive in Unity state by renegade SPLA officer Peter Gadet since Tuesday has killed 101 people.

“In the fighting in Unity state, we have lost 26 SPLA soldiers and at least 70 rebels have been killed, probably more,” he said, adding that the figures did not include a clash on Sunday when the SPLA pursued the rebels towards the border with the north.

Three women and two children were killed after being caught in the crossfire, while the other dead were fighters, he said.

Gadet's rebels say they are fighting to overthrow the southern government, which they say is corrupt and neglects tribal minorities and rural communities.

“We are still on the offensive; we are defeating the SPLA in Unity state. We have captured 19 SPLA soldiers and killed many. We don't know how many exactly but it a very big number is,”

Gadet's spokesman Bol Gatkouth told Reuters on Monday.

Oil production in the state was disrupted by the violence, according to state officials, who said they first expelled then re-admitted northern Sudanese workers to oil areas, underscoring the threat insecurity poses to the economy.

In Jonglei, the SPLA clashed on Saturday with forces loyal to renegade Commander Gabriel Tang, killing 64, Ayuen said.

"The SPLA lost seven soldiers and 57 rebels were killed," Ayuen said, adding Tang had now surrendered along with at least 1,300 fighters. It was not clear whether Tang would be granted an amnesty the president has offered previously to all rebels.

Ayuen said civilian casualties were low in Jonglei because the fighting had not been in residential areas, but officials in nearby Malakal reported dozens of wounded civilians.

"Gabriel Tang and around 1,300 of his men surrendered peacefully on Sunday," said Malaak Ayuen, spokesman for the south's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), according to *AFP* 25/4/11. "They have been received in a friendly way and are being treated with respect."

On Saturday, 57 gunmen led by Tang in northern Jonglei state were killed in a shoot-out with SPLA troops, before fleeing into the surrounding bush, Ayuen said.

Seven SPLA soldiers were also killed in the battle, he added, while over 70 wounded soldiers and civilians were reported to be receiving treatment in hospital.

Saturday's fighting broke out after arguments over the militia's formal integration, with troops reluctant to relocate to the southern capital Juba, Ayuen said.

"Tensions were very high, but no one intended to fight," said Ayuen, who said the surrendered forces would still join the army. "It has been regretted by all, because the forces were actually joining the SPLA."

"There were three significant clashes with heavy fighting but the rebels have now retreated," Ayuen said.

However, rebels have said they are preparing fresh attacks in the region, close to the still disputed north-south border.

### **Southern leaders deny report of Gabriel Tanginya's surrender**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm*, Malakal, 26/04/11 – Top officers loyal to Gabriel Tanginya have denied recent media reports quoting GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar as having said that the differences with Gabriel Tanginya are no more and that the leader of the dissident group is headed to Juba to surrender to the SPLA. The officers said Tanginya is still in Fanjak in Upper Nile where his troops are stationed. They also revealed that Tanginya has allied with George Athor's troops and both are now coordinating activities with Peter Gadet to fight against the SPLA.

Yesterday, *Sudan Tribune website* reported authorities in South Sudan as saying that Gabriel Tanginya has reported himself to the South Sudan army at his location on Sunday evening and will be brought to Upper Nile state capital, Malakal, then to Juba. The official source say Tanginya voluntarily gave up himself to the SPLA forces, saying he wanted to continue with the reintegration process of his forces in the South Sudan army, which was interrupted by the “unexpected” clashes on Saturday at Kaldak assembly area. Tanginya’s forces on Saturday clashed with the SPLA forces under the command of Brig. Gen. Gatwech Gai, in the fight both sides said they did not plan, as the two sides already reached agreement and were reintegrating forces.

### **UN humanitarian chief condemns attacks on aid workers in southern Sudan**

*UN News Centre* 25/4/11 - The top United Nations humanitarian official today condemned attacks on aid workers in Southern Sudan, including the killing of a UN staff member over the weekend, and urged the authorities there to ensure the safety of humanitarian personnel.

“These incidents demonstrate complete disregard for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and I condemn them in the strongest possible terms,” said Valerie Amos, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Santino Pigga Alex Wani, a Senior Programme Assistant working with the UN World Food Programme (WFP) was killed during an attack by armed assailants in Jonglei state on Saturday, according to Ms. Amos, who expressed her deepest condolences to his family.

She also voiced grave concern for the safety of two missing staff of the International Organization for Migration and called for their safe return. They went missing after being forced to drive into an area of active conflict on 19 April.

Ms. Amos called on the Government of Southern Sudan and armed groups to take all measures possible to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian workers and to facilitate access of relief organisations to people in need of emergency assistance.

### **Draft constitution of the Republic of South Sudan released**

*Sudan Tribune website* 24/4/11 - The draft South Sudan transitional constitution says the president of the republic will serve for four years starting from 9 July 2011.

President Kiir will study the transitional constitution before it is forwarded to Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) for approval.

According to part two of the transitional constitution and article 100, “The tenure of the office of the President of the Republic of South Sudan shall be four years, commencing from July, 2011.”

The transitional constitution also defines the parliament of Juba after inauguration of the Republic of South Sudan in July this year as being composed of the current members of SSLA and members of parliament currently representing southern Sudanese in Khartoum. Cabinet ministers in Khartoum will be members of South Sudan parliament without a voting power, the proposed constitution noted.

It states that although “All indigenous languages of South Sudan are national languages” English will be the “official working language of the Republic of South Sudan”. For many people in South Sudan Arabic is currently their lingua franca. There is an emphasis in the document upon the “decentralized system of government” which will afford greater power at the state level. It also described the establishment of independent Relief and Rehabilitation; National Anti-Corruption; Demobilisation, Disarmament and Re-integration; HIV/Aids; and Human Rights inter alia commissions.

The Bank of South Sudan will be responsible for the production of a new currency which will “reflect the historical and cultural diversity of the country” On the controversial subject of Local Justice, subject of a recent report produced by the Rift Valley Institute and the US Institute for Peace, “Legislation of the states shall provide for the role of Traditional Authority as an institution at local government level on matter affecting local communities.”

The document states that the National Legislature will be made up of the National Legislative Assembly and the Council of State.

Significantly, the constitution defines the territory of the Republic of South Sudan and emphasize that "the territory of the nine Ngok Dinka chiefdoms transferred from Bahr el Ghazal Province to Kordofan Province in 1905 as defined by the Abyei Arbitration Tribunal Award of July 2009".

### **PopCon to be conducted in four centres**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam* 26/4/11 – Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Popular Consultations (PopCon) in the Blue Nile Area, Siraj Al-Din Hamad told the newspaper yesterday that measures have been finalized to conduct PopCon in 4 of 8 centres where the process was not held as per the timeline for various reasons.

Sources said the task of the Parliamentary Commission comes to an end as soon as it submits its report on PopCon to the Legislative Assembly.

### **3,000 returnees arrive in Upper Nile state - SSRRC**

*Radio Miraya* 25/04/11 – Around 3,000 returnees have arrived in Malakal town of Upper Nile State on Sunday after a three-day journey by land from Khartoum, South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission's (SSRRC) Director in Upper Nile State, Peter Pal, said. Pal added that the returnees would be given three months' food rations in addition to essential non-food items. The return was organized by the SSRRC, the International Organization for Migration, the World Food Program and UNICEF.

### **Sudan president Al-Bashir intervenes to end dispute between his aides**

*Sudan Tribune website* 25/4/11 - President Al-Bashir has personally intervened to defuse an unfolding crisis between two of his close aides as officials from his ruling National Congress Party (NCP) raced to downplay the discord as caused merely by conflict of mandates.

Presidential adviser Salah Gosh, who currently chairs the Presidential Security Advisory (PSA), publicly criticized Presidential Assistant and NCP's Vice President Nafi Ali Nafi after the latter said in a radio interview with Sudan Radio on Friday that the dialogue led by Gosh's PSA with certain political parties was not sanctioned by the NCP's leadership.

Nafi went on to stress that his party would not engage in a dialogue whose end result would be to weaken his party's grip on power.

But Gosh said in a press conference a day later on Saturday that Nafi's statement represents only him, and that his dialogue enjoys approval by President Al-Bashir and Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha.

Gosh went on to stress that no one had the right to interfere in his job as long as he is mandated by President Al-Bashir, and that the PSA dialogue would only stop at the behest of Al-Bashir.

"It is [Nafi's statement] detrimental to the dialogue and will make opposition parties run away from it," Gosh said.

The Gosh-Nafi crisis, as it has become to be known, comes at a time when the NCP is officially engaged in dialogue with mainstream opposition parties, namely the National Umma Party (NUP) and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), as tension continues to dominate the domestic political arena amid worsening economic conditions and a sense of loss following the secession of South Sudan in a referendum held in January.

According to a report published on Monday by the privately-owned Sudanese daily newspaper Al-Tayyar, Al-Bashir convened a meeting on Sunday evening between Nafi and Gosh.

However, the paper reported that its sources could not confirm the outcome of the meeting.

Meanwhile, other NCP officials were quick to dismiss the Nafi-Gosh crisis as a natural matter, citing conflict of mandates as its reason.

"Human genius stipulates that levels of authorities must be separated so each authority can function within the mandate given to it, this may look to others as a disagreement," NCP's senior member and media minister Kamal Obayd said on Monday. "This is the kind of disagreement that leads to goodness, not to misery," he added.

The NCP's leading female member Samia Mohamed Ahmad told reports on Monday that although her party had an independent mechanism for dialogue with opposition parties, the president also had the right to task advisory bodies with the same duty.

However, she suggested that the name PSA does not befit the role it is playing. "It would better to re-name it a political advisory rather than security advisory" Samia said.

It is to be noted that Salah Gosh said in previous statements that one of the major obstacles facing the PSA's operation was the wrong understanding of its mandate and the perception that it stealthily represents the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), over which he presided until he was relieved from his position in August 2009.

## **Authorities to begin arresting anyone found with guns in southern Sudan capital**

*Sudan Radio Service* (BBC Monitoring) 25/04/11 - Authorities in Central Equatoria State say they will soon start arresting anyone found carrying guns in a bid to reduce insecurity. The



newly appointed Mayor for Juba City Council, Mr. Muhammad al-Haj Baballah said one way of reducing insecurity is to relocate the army outside the town.

He disclosed that authorities will soon register all foreigners living in Juba before the celebration of the independence of South Sudan to ensure that they have legal documents that justify their presence in the town. Mr. Baballah said security organs have been reporting that foreigners living in Juba are involved in crimes such as money laundry and forgery of documents.

## **Southern Kordofan Elections Focus**

### **Opposition alliance forms committee to monitor polls in southern Kordofan**

*Al-Ayyam* Kadugli, 26/04/11 – The National Consensus Forces has formed a joint committee to monitor the polls in southern Kordofan. SPLM's Yassir Arman said following a meeting yesterday that the opposition alliance has resolved to write a memorandum on the elections process and the use of government resources by the NCP to oil its campaigns machine.

Meanwhile, the NCP campaign manager Majid Suwar has strongly denied allegations that the NCP was using state resources for its campaign in southern Kordofan state. He countered with an accusation that the SPLM brought in "foreign experts from South Sudan to bolster its campaign."

### **Kuku campaign managers call for postponement of president Bashir's visit**

*Al-Watan* 26/4/11 – managers of independent candidate for southern Kordofan gubernatorial post Telefon Kuku have stressed the need for President Al-Bashir to postpone his prospective visit to the region until elections are over. The managers argued that the visit would impact the ongoing process.

### **SPLM vows to form national government in South Kordofan State**

*Sudan Tribune website* 23/4/11 - The deputy governor of South Kordofan State, Abdul Aziz Adam Al-Hilu, has announced he would form a coalition government should he win the state's gubernatorial elections for which he is running on the ticket of the North Sudan branch of Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Legislative and gubernatorial elections in Sudan's central state of southern Kordofan are due to be held on May 2 after they were postponed from April 2010 when the country held countrywide elections.

The polls, which were delayed due to disagreements resulting from the 2008 census and delimitation of geographic constituencies, is expected to witness a fierce competition for the state governor office between Al-Hilu and Ahmad Harun.

In a packed public rally in Killik and Korongo areas in the state, Al-Hilu exhorted citizens to vote for him in order to "put an end to the state's woes."

Al-Hilu, who appears to have managed to secure the backing of other opposition parties for his candidacy against Ahmad Harun, declared that he would form a government of national unity if he wins the elections.

Meanwhile, the secretary-general of the SPLM's northern sector, Yasir Arman, who was present at the rally, warned citizens against voting for Harun, asking "how could a man sought for crimes solve the state's problems?"

Arman said that voting for Harun would be considered a "crime" because he would turn the state into a zone of war, citing allegations of a buildup in the state by paramilitary forces loyal to Harun.

## Other Highlights

### **Sudan's opposition leader Al-Turabi to be released soon, paper reports**

*Sudan Tribune website* 24/4/11 - Sudan's Islamist opposition leader, Hassan Al-Turabi, will be released from detention imminently and allowed to travel abroad for medical treatment, a local Sudanese daily has reported, quoting "authorized" government sources.

The privately owned daily newspaper *Al-Akhabr* reported on Sunday, citing anonymous government sources, that the release of Al-Turabi had become a "matter of time" and that he would be allowed to travel abroad for medical treatment as demanded by his family after he was hospitalized earlier this month as a result of injuries he sustained when he accidentally fell to the ground whilst in detention at Kober Prison in Khartoum.

*Al-Akhabr* said that the sources had expressed confidence that Al-Turabi poses no danger or threat to the government, and that he would be given permission to travel abroad to receive medical treatment.

Al-Turabi's arrest this time followed his warnings that the government of President Al-Bashir could face a popular uprising similar to the ones currently seen in some Arab countries if it continues to resist calls for reforms.

Meanwhile, the NCP's vice-president Mandor Al-Mahdi on Saturday held a press conference in which he said that Al-Turabi should either be released or tried despite his conviction that his arrest was a "security issue."

"Our opinion, however, is that anyone who served the legal detention period should be either brought to a trial or released," Mandor said.

But his statement contrast sharply with that of the NCP's vice-president Nafi Ali Nafi who denied, in an interview with Sudan radio on Friday, the existence of any calls within his party for Al-Turabi's release.

"Everyone knows that we don't arrest a person for nothing, the decision to bring Al-Turabi to a trial is up to the competent authorities and prosecution" Nafi said, stoking speculations that the NCP's leadership is exhibiting signs of discord.

Al-Turabi's wife Wisal Al-Mahdi said in a phone interview with Sudan Tribune earlier this month that Nafi, who is considered one of the NCP's hardliners, was behind the continuation of her husband's ordeal in detention.



"[Sudanese President Omer Hassan] Al-Bashir was going to let him go because of the law but Nafie [Ali Nafie the presidential assistant] convinced him not to because this may cause people to take to the streets and overthrow the government in light of political changes in the region," Wisal said.

Wisal said that the authorities were keeping her husband under arrest because they fear his ability to incite a popular uprising.

### **SLM supporters protest in Sudan's Sennar state**

*Sudan Tribune website* 25/4/11 - Supporters of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) led by Abdel Wahid Al-Nur in Sennar state, staged a protest on Monday, the last in a series of demonstrations against the government.

The rebel movement organized last week a number of protests in different states throughout the country calling to overthrow the regime of president Omer Al-Bashir who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.

The demonstrators in Sinja, capital of Sennar state, today chanted anti government slogans and held banners with the picture of Al-Nur, said Mustafa Tambour, the spokesperson of SLM president office. The police and security service arrested 50 of the protesters, he added.

Tambour estimated the number of protesters between 1500 to 2000 protesters, no independent source to confirm this figure to the Sudan Tribune.

"The demonstrator chanted anti-regime and freedom slogans demanding to release all the political detainees," the official said.

Nur's supporters demonstrated last week in Wad Mandani, Port Sudan, Zalingei, Nyala, Dilinng, and some other towns. The demonstrators shouted slogans against president Omer Al-Bashir, against the rising prices of basic commodities.

In a statement released last week, Al-Nur who is not part of Doha peace talks, called on the Sudanese people and political parties to join his movement in the peaceful protests to overthrow the government of president Bashir.

He proposed to form an interim government led by his movement to prepare a secular and federal state in the country.

### **Sudan's elections commission to conduct Darfur status referendum in July**

*Xinhua* 26/04/2011 - Sudan's National Elections Commission (NEC) on Monday said it completed its arrangements to conduct a referendum on the administrative status of Darfur region on July 1, 2011. "The referendum tends to know the opinions of the citizens of the three Darfur states regarding the permanent administrative status of the region, whether it should remain on its current status, or one region of three states should be established", said NEC in a statement.

The Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) have earlier rejected conducting the referendum and described it as "a violation of the framework agreement and undermining of the efforts of Qatar and the international community to resolve the Darfur issue."

### **Preparations underway to lift state of emergency in Darfur**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm* Milleit, 26/04/11 – The NCP has revealed that plans are underway to lift the state of emergency in Darfur ahead of the referendum on the region's administrative status. Addressing an NCP campaign in Al-Fashir ahead of the referendum, the NCP official in charge of Darfur, Azhari AL-Tijani, called on the international community to support and monitor the said referendum.

### **Justice forms committee to safeguard public funds**

*Sudan Vision* 26/4/11 -Minister of Justice Mohammad Bushara Doussa issued a ministerial decision to form a committee to coordinate efforts to safeguard against the misuse of public funds and to bring perpetrators to justice.

The Committee will be chaired by the Justice Minister and the Advisors will be the Auditor-General. Members will include; Minister of State at the Finance Ministry, General Director of Police Force and the Director of Economical Security Directorate.

The committee will also be responsible for reviewing financial violations reported by Auditor-General alongside with activating set of laws and mechanisms on encroachment of public money.

Further, the committee will be responsible for submitting its final reports to the President of the Republic.

According to the decision, the committee is entitled to call on any person to provide it with documents necessary for its work in addition to opting for assistance from any person it indicates.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister issued a decision necessitating submission of financial disclosures from people who were previously asked to submit financial disclosures in accordance with code of illicit enrichment.

According to the decision, concerned people should submit their financial disclosures within one month in accordance with article No (11) illicit enrichment of 1989, otherwise they will be subject to legal interrogation.

Minister of Justice pointed out that the law forbids those who occupy constitutional and executive offices to practice any type of commercial, industrial or financial activities while they are in service, adding that they are also forbidden to engage in jobs far from their responsibilities at state and federal levels...

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