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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Post-Referendum Monitor

## **Talk of a confederacy in Sudan is late in coming – NCP**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 28/03/11* – Commenting on recent statements attributed to SPLM's Yassir Arman while in the US, NCP Political Campaigns' Manager Majid Suwar said that Yassir Arman's proposals for a confederacy between the north and the south are late in coming. The people of southern Sudan have already chosen to create their own state and it is up to them to reap the outcomes of what they voted for, he told the press following a meeting yesterday of the NCP's Political Bureau.

## **SPLM's Amum, Arman and Lino travel next Monday to Southern Kordofan**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya Khartoum, 28/03/11* – A high-ranking delegation from the SPLM travels to Southern Kordofan next Monday to participate in the launch of the SPLM elections campaign in the state legislative and executive elections that kick off on Monday.

SPLM Advisor in the state, Gamar Dalman, says the delegation is made up of party Secretary-General Pagan Amum, Secretary-General for the north Yassir Arman, the Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly James Wani Igga and senior SPLM figure Edward Lino.

Dalaman complained of NCP intimidation of his party's nominees but said that the SPLM was confident it would win both the legislative and executive races by a large margin.

## **Supporters to seek UN intervention for release of Telefon Kuku**

*Al-Raed Khartoum, 28/03/11* – A committee of people backing the nomination of Telefon Kuku for the position of Southern Kordofan governor on an independent ticket say they intend to request UNMIS intervention to secure his release.

Speaking to the *Sudan Media Centre (SMC)*, Bashir Tutu Kafi, the head of the committee, accused the SPLM of intimidation and oppression in the state and of trying to block people from supporting Kuku's nomination.

## **Egypt says will recognise new South Sudan state**

*Reuters Khartoum, 28/03/11* - Egypt will recognise South Sudan as an independent state after it voted to secede from Khartoum, Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil Elaraby said on his first visit abroad since an uprising ousted Hosni Mubarak.

The new government also said it would introduce a new proposal to Nile Basin nations to try to overcome a stalemate on sharing the river's waters, as a seven-minister delegation headed by Egypt's prime minister arrived on Sunday in Khartoum.

"Sudan intends to be the first to recognise Juba (capital of South Sudan) and Egypt intends to be the second to recognise the south," Elaraby said in Khartoum. The delegation will visit Juba on Monday.

"We will be offering a new proposal to the Nile Basin states ... and we hope to find a solution which will not harm any nation," Egypt's Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Hussein Ehsan el-Atfi told reporters in Khartoum.

He did not go into details but Egyptian government spokesman Magdy Rady said an unfinished and long-stalled project to create the Jonglei Canal in South Sudan, which would channel swamp

water back into the Nile, would be discussed in Juba.

"This is still a project -- we spent a lot of money on it and there's still a little money left to finish it," he said, "This project -- if we finish it -- it will provide 4 billion extra (litres of water a year)."

"This will be divided between Egypt and south Sudan -- if they are not in urgent need of it, we are in urgent need of it."

The two neighbours also agreed a memorandum to connect their national grids, officials from Sudan and Egypt told *Reuters*.

## Other Highlights

### **Egypt vows to open a "new page" with Sudan**

*Sudantribune.com* Khartoum, 27/03/11 - The visiting Egyptian Prime Minister Essam Sharaf said that his country wants to "open a new page" in its relations with Sudan as he embarked on his first trip abroad since his appointment earlier this month.

Sharaf arrived in Khartoum on Sunday in a high-profile visit and leading a delegation that includes ministers of foreign affairs, irrigation and international cooperation.

He was received at the airport by 2nd Vice President Ali Osman Taha and later met with president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir.

Hundreds of Sudanese and Egyptian expatriates lined up on the Nile street in Khartoum to welcome the visiting delegation holding banners saying "Welcome young leader of the revolution". Sharaf told reporters that he is humbled by the "warmth of the reception" which he jokingly said exceeded the hot weather of the Sudanese capital.

He added that the feelings his delegation encountered will mean that they will not let down the people of the Nile Valley.

"Today we were negotiating [with Sudan] as one delegation and not two delegations," Sharaf said.

The Egyptian delegation told Sudanese officials that they are willing to tackle all issues that have historically impacted the relations between the two countries such as the dispute over the border region of Halayeb.

Bashir told Sharaf that there is nothing that prevents the creation of beneficial partnerships in different areas.

### **NCP accuses political parties of seeking to thwart dialogue with NUP**

*Sudantribune.com* Khartoum, 27/03/11 - The NCP has accused some parties in the opposition coalition of seeking to scuttle its bilateral dialogue with the opposition National Umma Party (NUP) led by Sudan's former Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Informed sources within the National Consensus Forces (opposition alliance) told *Sudantribune.com* that Al-Mahdi's decision to hold dialogue with the NCP gives a strong indication that his alliance with other opposition parties was doomed to end, saying that

opposition parties would call for an urgent meeting to consider a decision to expel the NUP from the opposition alliance.

Ibrahim Gandoor, the NCP's political secretary, on Sunday told the *Sudanese Media Center (SMC)* that his party would not heed the voices trying to "torpedo" its dialogue with the NUP, adding that those voices were actuated by "personal agendas" known to his party and the Umma Party.

Gandoor further said that those calling for an end to the NUP-NCP dialogue were "deliberately turning a blind eye to the reality of his party's dialogue-oriented approach towards all political forces."

Meanwhile, the NCP's political sector was briefed on Sunday about the progress of dialogue with political forces, especially the NUP and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

The party's leading member Haj Magid Siwar said that his party was willing to conduct a dialogue with its splinter group the Popular Congress Party (PCP), whose leader Hassan Al-Turabi remains in detention over his calls for a revolt against the government, if the latter accepted the deal.

### **Opposition parties say NCP activities should be suspended**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam et al Khartoum, 28/03/11* – Opposition parties have censured the NCP over recent statements by its officials saying that the party has formed a "strategic company" of fighters to wipe out the opposition, claiming that this is "tantamount to a declaration of war" on the opposition. The opposition alliance has tabled a memorandum before the Political Parties Affairs' Council calling for the suspension of NCP activities on charges of violating the constitution by creating a militia group, says Mariam Al-Sadig Al-Mahdi, a senior member of the Umma Party and the National Consensus Forces.

### **We have not ordered our supporters to crack down on the opposition – NCP**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm Khartoum, 28/03/11* – NCP Political Campaigns Secretary Al-Haj Majid Suwar says the NCP has no militias and would never order its supporters to confront the opposition parties in the streets or otherwise. He noted that it is the responsibility of some organs of the government to do that but not his party.

### **Lawyers' Association complains of UNMIS, UNAMID failure to uphold rights**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya Khartoum, 28/03/11* – The Association of Democratic Lawyers complained to the Independent Expert on Human Rights in Sudan, Justice Mohamed Chande, that UNMIS and UNAMID are failing in their human rights activities. Amin Mekki Medeni, a senior member of the Association, told a press conference yesterday that the fraternity had handed Justice Chande during his last visit here a memorandum in which they noted the "weak performance" of both missions on rights issues and a perceived bias to the government on human rights issues.

He also revealed that the Association has formed a committee to monitor the rights situation in the country. The committee is resolved to participate at the annual meeting of the UN Human Rights Council to present "a parallel report on the rights situation in Sudan".

### **Defection of General Peter Gadet is a "rumour" - South Sudan army**

*Sudantribune.com Wau, 27/03/11 - March 27, 2011 (WAU)* – The SPLA was not able to confirm on Sunday reports suggesting that Major General Peter Gadet Yak, had broke away to form a rebellion against the southern government.

SPLA Spokesperson Colonel Philip Aguer in an interview with *Sudan Tribune* from Juba on

Sunday said reports that Gadet had started a new rebellion were only rumours.

"Yes, we have heard of these allegations. We are told he is in Khartoum but we do not know what he is doing there. We cannot confirm anything now. They remain rumors."

The military spokesman said Gadet had received official permission to visit Nairobi but had instead travelled to Sudan's capital. He said they do not know what caused his change of itinerary and believe he is still in Khartoum.

Attempts to reach him by phone after the rumours emerged had failed, Aguer said on Sunday.

### **Western Equatoria refutes allegations of unwillingness to end tribal clashes**

*Sudantribune.com* Kampala, 27/03/11 - Western Equatoria on Sunday denied charges by the government of Lakes state that it had reneged on a peaceful solution to the tribal clashes between the people of Mvolo County and Yirol East County in Lakes state.

Yirol County Commission, Makur Kulang, in statements to *Sudantribune.com* last week, claimed that his counterpart of Mvolo in Western Equatoria state refused to talk with him over the telephone on the recent clashes between pastoralists of Mapuordit payam and those in Mvolo county in Western Equatoria state.

However WES government has strongly refuted the claims made by Lakes State Security Advisor as published on *Sudan Tribune* on Friday March 25.

"The position of the Lakes State Security Advisor was based on distorted information to smear the policies of Western Equatoria State on ethnic minority people in Mvolo," said Western Equatoria state government spokesman Gibson Bullen Wande.

"Why would we need to do this? Western Equatoria would receive absolutely no benefit from harboring tribal clashes," said Wande.

"All the areas mentioned: Kokori, Doli and Barigirindi are all the payams and bomas of Western Equatoria, the distance between those areas and Lakes is 20 miles away."

### **Misseriya and Nuba form committee to "reclaim western Kordofan State**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm* Khartoum, 28/03/11 – Leaders of the Misseriya and Nuba tribes meeting last Saturday at the Khartoum residence of Misseriya tribal leader Mahdi Babo Nimir have underlined the need to reclaim a state for western Kordofan.

Misseriya Association leader Mohamed Khatir says delegates at the meeting recommended the creation of a committee to study the economic, political and social viability for such a state. The committee is expected to report their findings to the delegates as soon as possible.

### **Kasha calls on UNICEF to back its position against "suspect aid agencies"**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm* Nyala, 28/03/11 – The Government in South Darfur has signed a deal with the UNICEF seeking the agency's support in health, water, education, water and sanitation and the friendly communities' initiative. The governor said following the signing ceremony in Nyala yesterday that his government has allowed UNICEF to conduct its activities unhindered in all parts of the state as a result of the good relations between the two sides. He stressed the need for coordination in the political and humanitarian domains between UN agencies and his government.

The governor warned however that his government would show no leniency should it be proven that a certain organisation is carrying out spy activities. "We call upon UNICEF to stand by our side in the event the government decides to take measures against suspect organisations," he said.

### **Darfur rebels say Khartoum has to show seriousness in Doha**

*Sudantribune.com Doha, 27/03/11* - The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has called upon the Sudanese government to resume seriously talks to end the eight year conflict in Darfur instead of launching unfounded accusations.

The head of government delegation to the Doha peace process, Amin Hassan Omer condemned the recent coordination agreement signed by JEM rebels with the Liberation and Equality Movement (LJM) saying it meant to hamper efforts to reach a peace agreement with the latter.

Amin further casted doubt on JEM seriousness saying by its presence in Doha the rebel group intends to give the impression they want to reach peaceful settlement to the conflict while their real intention is to wait the outcome of the ongoing revolution in Libya.

Speaking from Doha, JEM spokesperson Gibreel Adam Bilal deplored Khartoum's criticism to the rapprochement between the two rebel groups participating in the Doha peace process.

"Khartoum in the past blamed the disunity of the armed movements saying divisions among the rebels obstruct efforts to reach peace. And now when we engaged dialogue towards unity and decided to work together for peace they cry once again and accuse us of hampering peace," said Gibreel.

The rebel spokesperson said that the government top negotiator will be more accurate if he stops playing on contradictions and returns to Doha to negotiate with them instead of a delegation composed mainly of security officers to discuss matters related to human rights and freedoms.

### **JEM receives arms, logistics support from SPLA**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm Juba, 28/03/11* – The SPLA has started to deliver to the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) support in the form of weaponry and logistics assistance in preparation for military attacks in the north ahead of the rainy season, informed military sources report from Juba.

According to the sources, JEM forces currently in Newsite have received truck-loads of arms and munitions that include Katusha rockets and SAM missiles.

### **Aid agency may be forced to shut Darfur programme**

*Reuters Khartoum, 27/03/11* - Catholic Relief Services fears it will have to shut its West Darfur food programme at the end of the month unless Khartoum lifts a ban on its operations, depriving 400,000 people of food rations, an aid official said.

Sudan suspended the group's activities in late January and accused it of distributing Bibles in the Muslim region, in the latest in a series of restrictions on foreign aid groups operating in conflict-ridden Darfur.

The agency has denied distributing Bibles or Christian materials. The group's country director, Darren Hercyk, said it was initially asked to leave the area in January due to security concerns. Since then, it has moved foreign staff to Khartoum and kept its more than 300 local staff in Darfur on standby.

"We've always felt we were another week away from being able to restart," Hercyk told *Reuters*.

"It's at the point where if we're not going to be able to do that, we're going to have to shut the program."

"There's the implication that some of this could lead to malnutrition and food insecurity," said Hercyk. "And there's the question of trying to replace CRS in the area."

The group still hopes the government will allow it to resume operations before it shuts down in the next four days, he said. It says it will have to shut down other programs on agriculture, water and education, among others, if it is not given permission to return.

### **Sudan refuses to grant Ugandan peacekeepers visas for Darfur mission**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 27/03/11* - The Sudanese government has refused to give Ugandan peacekeepers their visas to serve in the war-ravaged region of Darfur as part of UNAMID force, Kampala-based newspaper said in its Monday edition.

'*The Monitor*' said that Uganda has been seeking to rotate 108 police officers serving in Darfur but due to the visa issue asked for the United Nations's permission to extend the tenure of the existing peacekeepers.

The Ugandan Ministry of Internal Affairs Permanent Secretary, Stephen Kagoda, reportedly said in his letter that the extension was necessary to avoid a "replacement vacuum" since the current Ugandan contingent's tour of duty was due to expire on March 25.

According to the report, in a February 21 diplomatic note, Sudan's Foreign Affairs Ministry informed UNAMID that requests for visas for new police peacekeepers "are NOT approved", because "efforts should be directed towards increasing Arabic-speaking police as agreed".

The United Nations Police Adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Ann-Marie Orlor, wrote back to UNAMID Police Commissioner James Oppong-Boanuh on March 15, authorizing that services of the Ugandan group be extended by four months up to July 25, 2011.

However, other Ugandan officials gave conflicting statements saying that the contingent serving in Darfur will be replaced as planned and that securing the visas is the responsibility of the United Nations.

If the report is true it would reflect the strained relations between the two countries since last year particularly as Kampala publicly supported South Sudan independence which materialized in the referendum that took place last January. It will become official in July.

Uganda is now also hosting two Darfur rebel leaders including Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and Minni Minnawi who leads a faction of the same movement.

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