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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## **SSRC receives voter registration kits**

*Al-Ahdath* 31/10/10 – The South Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) received yesterday from the UN voter registration books and training materials at a ceremony organized for the purpose which was attended by US envoy Scott Gration and UN top leaders in Khartoum. Head of SSRC Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil has described the delivery of kits as a major step towards conducting the process on time.

DSRSG Jasbir Singh Liddar said UNMIS is committed to support the SSRC to ensure the conduct of a fair and timely referendum, according to *Al-Wifaq* 31/10/10.

*The Citizen* 31/10/10 reports that the SSRC received voter registration articles, voter registration ledgers, ballot boxes and other items from the UN. The items were presented by the UNDP and the International Foundation for Elections Systems (IFES) under financing by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Head of SSRC Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil, described the step as important without which the referendum could not be undertaken. He added that the commission was racing against time and appealed to all the parties to help them in their mission.

US envoy Scott Gration said the step had brought them to a step closer to holding the referendum on time as well as to implement the remaining part of the agreement.

## **Referendum materials reach Jonglei, flooding overshadows voter registration**

*Sudan Tribune website* 30/10/10 - Consignments of referendum materials have arrived Jonglei's state capital, Bor, as training of voter registration staffs has been hampered by flooding officials say.

"In reality, this is rainy season and there are floods everywhere. No cars will be moving during [voter] registration [in Jonglei state]," said Reuben Garang Yuol, the chairperson of Jonglei referendum state high committee (SHC), told the press on Friday in Bor town.

The SSRC's state high committee in Jonglei state has received office furniture, generators, motorcycles and computers, according to officials.

"All the coming days will be full of transportation of materials [from Juba] Bor," Garang said in his first press address since assuming the chairmanship of the state's referendum committee in August, 2010.

The referendum materials are to be hand over to the referendum sub-committees based at headquarters of counties.

United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) is airlifting referendum materials to state capitals in the south including counties that are inaccessible by road.

The flooding that is impeding, and in some instances stopping, land transport to the 11 counties of Jonglei state is also preventing thousands of voter registration staff receiving their salaries.

"Another obstacle is how money [for registration staffs] is going to be paid? We don't know until now," Garang said.

Training for voter registration is due to begin on Saturday in Bor town.

### **GoSS will fund SSRC - Kiir**

*The Citizen* 31/10/10 – the Khartoum Presidency has failed to approve the proposed SDG 372 million budget for Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) and has referred it to a committee for final preparations, FVP Salva Kiir has said.

He thus implied that should the central government hesitate to fund the activities of the commission, the GoSS, with support from donors, would intervene to fill the gap by funding the Commission through the bureau.

“Given our unwavering position as GoSS, it is our responsibility to do everything possible for the conduct of the referendum,” Kiir said in his closing remarks at the 8<sup>th</sup> Governors’ Forum yesterday.

Kiir said the Presidency has also not agreed on how to conduct the vote for the people of Abyei who are scheduled to choose in a vote slated for 9<sup>th</sup> January next year, either to join the South or be part of the North, regardless of the outcome of the referendum in southern Sudan. The Presidency, however, directed that press releases pertaining to the southern Sudan referendum should be harmonized because southerners are purportedly running away from the North and vice versa.

“It is true that southerners are running away from the North and this is due to the statements made by the Minister of Information. It has uprooted even those who did not want to leave the North,” Kiir said in his address.

### **Kiir describes claimed rift with deputy a “desperate attempt” to delay vote**

*Sudan Tribune website* 30/10/10 - The First Vice President of Sudan and President of the semi-autonomous Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, has refuted suggestions in the Sudanese media that a rift is developing in the leadership of south Sudan’s ruling party.

*Al-Sudani* newspaper and some other Arabic language media outlets have reported statements attributed to President Kiir Mayardit, alleging that he talked of divisions between him and his deputy, Riek Machar Teny, during an interview in the national capital, Khartoum.

President Kiir described the reports of division with Vice President Machar as a “desperate attempt by a group of people who have run out of ideas and strategies to undermine the timely conduct of the referendum.”

Addressing the closing session of the six-day Governors Forum in Juba on Saturday, Kiir told the governors, ministers, members of parliament and international development partners present at

the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly that the statements attributed to him were not true.

"You may be aware that certain media houses in Khartoum are deliberately spreading cheap propaganda alleging divisions within the Government of Southern Sudan and the SPLM. They have even gone further by manufacturing differences between me and my Vice President by attributing certain comments on me against Dr Riek Machar and even our great hero Dr John Garang," Kiir told the forum.

He said that some figures were desperate to postpone the conduct of the referendum, an idea that until now the SPLM has dismissed, despite the delays.

"I simply see all these [stories of division] as a desperate attempt by a group of people who have run out of ideas and strategies to undermine the timely conduct of the referendum," he said.

He also assured the forum that south Sudan will remain united whatever the circumstances.

"No amount of propaganda can break the will of the people of Southern Sudan to remain united to confront the challenges associated with the referendum and beyond. We will not permit anyone to divide the leadership of the government and people of South Sudan," he said.

"We must continue to cement unity among the people of Southern Sudan, and guard against attempts by those who plan day and night to divide us," he continued.

The Southern Sudan President also accused Khartoum-based media houses of intentionally spreading, what he termed "cheap propaganda" to divide political leaders and people of the region before referendum takes place.

He further said that the people of Southern Sudan are committed to determine their political destiny in a free, fair and transparent referendum on 9th January, 2011.

"I call upon the people of the Sudan and all political forces in the country to respect and abide by the will and choice of the people of South Sudan in 2011," he said.

President Kiir who did not officially open the gathering because he had to attend to other duties in his role as Sudan's 1st Vice President commended his deputy and organizers for making the 8th Governors Forum a success.

"In conclusion, I would like to commend the Vice President Dr Riek Machar Teny, and all the organizers of this 8th Governors' Forum for ensuring its successful conclusion."

"I also wish to extend my appreciation to the Governors, Ministers, Legislatures, Development Partners and all invited guests for their effective participation and contribution. I thank UNDP for its continuous support to the Governors' Forum," he added.

Kiir's comments follow a press conference on Friday called by Marial Benjamin Bill, a minister of information and broadcasting services in the government of south Sudan, specifically to dismiss the claims.

“There is no division among political leaders in South Sudan in General let alone allegations that there is division in the government and people of Southern Sudan. Political leaders, both in and outside the government are united and moving together towards the referendum with one purpose: self-determination,” Marial said.

### **Sudan urged to protect citizenship if south secedes**

**Reuters** 30/10/1- Sudan's leaders must make clear they will safeguard the rights of southerners in the north and northerners in the south, whatever the outcome of a vote on southern independence, the Carter Center said on Saturday. The U.S.-based Center, the first observer mission to begin work on the plebiscite, said both sides must stop inflammatory rhetoric that has spread fear that millions of people could end up stateless if the south votes to secede.

"As Sudanese citizens, irrespective of the outcome of the referendum, they deserve the protection of the state, assurances of their citizenship, and unequivocal commitments that they will not be expelled in the wake of the referendum," it said in a statement released late on Friday.

"A lack of adequate accurate information in the public sphere could result in the spread of rumours and misinformation, creating anxiety or even endangering the process," it said.

The statement also said donors must quickly provide cash so that the commission planning the vote could keep to its ambitious timetable. Delays from donors and the Sudanese government in releasing cash had already disrupted the process.

"Any further delays in funding will severely impact the hiring, training, and deployment of key staff and equipment. Any such setbacks could jeopardize a timely, credible referendum."

It urged the commission to urgently clarify vague eligibility rules for voters and what documentation they will need to vote to avoid disenfranchisement.

### **No divisions in South Sudan government - minister**

**Sudan Tribune website** 31/10/10 - Marial Benjamin Bill, a minister of information and broadcasting services in the government of south Sudan on Friday dismissed claims that leaders of the regional government are divided and that they have started forming tribal establishments, months into referendum vote.

The minister, who called for press conference to respond to the publication made by Khartoum-based *Al Sudani* newspaper, said there are no divisions among political leaders and in the government of southern Sudan.

According to *Al-Sudani*, Salva Kiir Sudan's First Vice President and President of southern Sudan government, in a long interview with him conducted during his presence in capital, accused Riek Machar of working to strengthen his weight inside the government of the semi-autonomous region.

"There are no divisions among political leaders in South Sudan in general let alone allegations that there is division in the government and people of Southern Sudan. Political leaders, both in and outside the government are united and moving together towards the referendum with one purpose: self-determination," said Marial.

"I would like to inform you ladies and gentlemen of the press that the president was quoted out of context on a number of issues following an interview with journalists in Khartoum recently," said the minister.

Marial, however, confirmed that the interview did take place but said he wanted to set the record straight on a number of issues on which the President was misquoted.

*Al Sudani* alleged that there is disunity within ranks and files of the government of south Sudan leadership, especially between president Kiir and his vice President Riek Machar Teny. *Al-Sudani* claimed to have heard about this division from "the streets". Which streets and why pick on reports from the streets instead of coming to the relevant authorities for verification and clarifications, asked the minister.

He asserted that government of south Sudan with the people are currently more united than any than time in the past and that the Vice-President is unequivocal in his support of the government and the President.. He explained that vice president Machar has been working together with the other leaders to cement this unity as exemplified by his leadership role during the recent South-South dialogue. "We are united and are moving together as one body," said Marial.

The minister further added that the same *Al Sudani* alleged that President Kiir declared that South Sudan would establish diplomatic relations with Israel if it becomes an independent state after the referendum.

According to the daily newspaper *Kiir* said Israel is the enemy of Palestinians and not Southerners, so when the southern Sudan proclaims its independence it would establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

"This is not correct. This is not the president has said. What the president said was that South Sudan has no enemies and will be free to form mutually-beneficial relations with any nation in the interest of its people. The president did not mention anything to do with Israel. He never uttered name "Israel" while being interviewed, clarified minister Marial.

The statements allegedly attributed to Salva Kiir were extensively echoed by the Arab media outlets which denounced the pro-Israeli position of the southern Sudanese leader.

Denying another report by *Al-Rai Al-Aam* daily claiming that Israeli intelligence (Mossad) is training the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the minister wondered how a foreign intelligence agency can train what he termed as "national army" in reference to the SPLA.

He said that these reports seem to be aimed at portraying Southern Sudan as a possible hostile state which will give Israel a pedestal from which to infiltrate the Arab world.

He, however, explained that South Sudan will be free to establish diplomatic relations with any country in the world if it secedes from the rest of the Sudan in the upcoming vote on self-determination for people of the region.

If South Sudan becomes independence state, Juba "will be free to establish diplomatic relations

as it deems fit," said minister Marial, wondering why some people seem concerned with the possibility of a new state having diplomatic relations with Israel yet several other countries in the region and even in the Arab world.

Arab world countries like Jordan, Egypt, and Morocco just to name a few, have established strong ties and relations with Israel. "What is special about South Sudan if it decides to establish diplomatic relations with her if the relationship would be in the interest of the people of south Sudan," he asked.

Urging media to uphold the tenets of professional journalism, he said his government will not take any punitive actions against *Al-Sudani* because it guarantees freedom of expression.

The minister who also urged journalists, both local and international, to follow the right procedures and respect protocols when seeking audience with leaders, explained that the said interview should have been conducted by the Editor-in-Chief and not a junior reporter as it was in the case of *Al-Sudani* journalist.

### **Arman accuses Machar of spying in favour of the NCP**

*Al-Intibaha* 31/10/10 – SPLM leading figure Yassir Arman has accused GoSS VP Riek Machar of spying in favour of the NCP.

On 30 Oct 2010, Arman sent a letter to Salva Kiir complaining that Machar is making a mischief among the comrades within the movements.

Meanwhile, SPLM leader James Wani Igga also sent a letter to Kiir reporting accusations against Pagan Amum that he cancelled the agenda of the SPLM Liberation Council without consulting anybody. Igga said in his letter that the greater threat is not from the NCP but from those (SPLM northern members) who believe that South Sudan's independence will ruin their interests.

Similarly, on 10 Oct 2010, Pagan Amum sent a letter to Kiir accusing GoSS VP Riek Machar of engaging in contacts with "Darfuris" without prior consultation.

### **Salva Kiir's Interview (Part III)**

*Al-Sudani* 31/10/10 – In his interview to the newspaper (Part III), FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has downplayed talk that his deputy Riek Machar would rule the South, saying the South is not ruled by inheritance. "A legend can not make a leader," he said, adding that the people of the South would decide who should rule them. "If he (Machar) is voted by the people then he is the people's choice," he said. Kiir added that Machar does not constitute a "government within a government" but pointed out that Machar sometimes act unilaterally.

Kiir has ruled out that Machar would divide the movement because he would not be able to convince the people about the utility of such a move.

Kiir also revealed that he is a "unionist but people do not understand him" but said his deputy Riek Machar is a separatist.



## **Amum denies reports on dissolution of SPLM's Liberation Council**

*Sudan Tribune website* 29/10/10 - The SPLM's secretary-general Pagan Amum has categorically denied the veracity of reports published on Friday by pro-government newspapers in north Sudan about the dissolution of the SPLM's National Liberation Council (NLC), saying the reports were "false".

Speaking over the phone to Sudan Tribune yesterday, Amum said that the NLC had not been dissolved and that media reports suggesting otherwise were "false and not true."

Amum, whose party rules south Sudan, explained that the NLC is the highest authority in the SPLM and that a decision to dissolve it can only be taken by the SPLM's general-convention next scheduled for 2013.

Some pro-government newspapers in north Sudan reported on Friday that the SPLM, had decided to dissolve its Liberation Council and supplant it with a 100-member council that includes only four northerners.

Asked about the position of the SPLM on the issue of unity verses secession, Amum answered that the SPLM's politburo concluded that the parties to the CPA did not agree on a national program to render unity attractive. However, he later added that this does not necessarily mean that the SPLM's official position is in favor of secession.

Pagan Amum further expressed confidence that the great majority of southerners are favoring secession.

## **US envoy denies proposal to delay south Sudan referendum**

*Xinhua* 30/10/10 - U.S Special Envoy to Sudan Scott Gration on Saturday denied that there was an American proposal to delay south Sudan referendum, slated for January 9, 2011.

"We have no proposal to delay the referendum. In fact we would like to see the referendum that happens on time that is peaceful and allows the people of southern Sudan to express their will," Gration told reporters in Khartoum.

"That is what we are pushing for, so we are looking for 9 January having people fill out the voting cards to be able to express their will. That is what we are pushing for and there is absolutely no talk about a delay," he added.

Earlier reports in the day said that the leadership of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) were studying a U.S. proposal to delay south Sudan referendum due to shortness of the remaining time.

To this end, a number of Khartoum's daily newspapers on Saturday reported that "the Sudan government partners, the National Congress Party (NCP) and the SPLM" would make use of the five-month delay to overcome their outstanding issues including the nationality, citizenship, and border demarcation, and to educate the southern Sudanese people with the self-determination referendum options "unity or separation."



## **Mbeki agrees to work closely with US over referendum - White House**

*Sudan Tribune website* 29/10/10 - " Former South Africa's President and head of African Union panel on Sudan has agreed to coordinate efforts with US administration to settle divergences over Abyei referendum and post referendum outstanding issues.

President Barack Obama in a telephone call with Thabo Mbeki on Friday stressed on the need to expedite the ongoing efforts to settle differences between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Mbeki, who this week announced the adjournment sine die of the discussions over Abyei and other issues, is supposed to co-chair the next round of talks with the special US President special envoy to Sudan Scott Gration.

The White House, in a press statement released today, said that Obama discussed with Mbeki "the importance of moving ahead aggressively to support the negotiations and resisting any entreaties to delay".

"President Mbeki described his most recent efforts, and they agreed to continue closely coordinating AU and U.S. efforts to ensure on time referenda."

## **Botched Sudan referendum could reignite war -report**

*Reuters* 29/10/10 - A disputed outcome in a referendum on self-determination for southern Sudan could reignite one of Africa's longest and bloodiest wars, an advocacy group warned on Friday.

"In the event of a vote against unity, a southern referendum with serious technical flaws would damage the legitimacy of secession," the report entitled "Race Against Time" said.

"A disputed result would hold serious risks in terms of a potential return to north-south military confrontation."

The 65-page report said time pressure made it "increasingly unlikely that the (referendum) will be conducted without procedural deficiencies". Lack of clarity in the voting process or the disenfranchisement of large numbers of voters could lead to questions about the result's validity.

The report said the referendum commission had to exert a "Herculean" effort to ensure the referendum vote was perceived as fairer than presidential and parliamentary elections held in April this year, which were criticised by opposition groups.

## **Unity state authorities receive over 6,000 returnees from Khartoum ahead of referendum**

*Sudan Tribune website* 30/10/10 - Unity state authorities say they have received 6,000 returnees from Khartoum as part of attempts to repatriate southern Sudanese to the region ahead of January's self-determination referendum.

The repatriation program is being organized by the South Sudan Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management in cooperation with South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation

Commission, International Organization for Migration and the UN's Refugee Agency UNHCR.

The state Minister of Information and Communications, Gideon Gatpan Thaor, told Sudan Tribune that on Saturday Unity state received 61 buses and 25 truck loads of items for those returned from the north.

The southern government, UN agencies and NGO's are working to ensure southern Sudanese who wish to return to Unity state and other parts of the south are able to do so.

Unity state's Deputy Governor, William Dawuot Riak, said he appreciated the efforts underway to return Southerners before the referendum on January 9.

### **NCP reveals proposals on Abyei**

*Al-Khartoum* 31/10/10 – NCP official who is in charge of Abyei dossier Al-Diriri Mohamed Ahmed has revealed that a package of proposals would be put on the table during the upcoming Addis Ababa talks between the NCP and the SPLM on the dispute over the territory. Al-Dirdiri, however, said referendum would be the last choice for settling the dispute.

He said the NCP has proposed special status for Abyei by converting it into an integration area between the North and the South in addition to another proposal to maintain the current status of the territory.

### **NCP committed to vote on time, no need for buffer zone - FM**

*Al-Akhabar* 31/10/10 – Foreign Minister Ali Karti has reiterated Sudan Government's commitment to conduct the vote on time, revealing that referendum delay is proposed by non-Sudanese parties. Karti, who was speaking at a joint press conference in Cairo with his Egyptian counterpart yesterday, said creation of a buffer zone was a "mere idea" and there was no need for deployment of troops between the North and the South.

*Sudan Tribune website* 30/10/10 reported Karti reiterated the government's rejection of the deployment of UN troops along north-south tentative borders despite growing tension over a critical vote on the secession of south Sudan from the north in January 2011.

He said that the government sees no need to deploy such troops as they are likely to stoke tension.

According to Sudan's official news agency SUNA, Karti told reporters that their government's past experience demonstrated that the deployment of such troops is not in the interest of peace. For his part, the Egyptian minister was quoted by SUNA as saying that Egypt insists that such deployment should only be made with the full consent of the Sudanese government.

### **GoSS to deploy 60,000 soldiers for referendum security**

*Al-Ahram* Al-Youm (Juba) 31/10/10 – GoSS Interior Minister Gier Chang said that the regional government is prepared to guarantee security for the 2011 referendum and would be deploying police and security personnel throughout southern Sudan for that purpose. He said that some 60,000 personnel drawn from all police unity, including Prisons, Wildlife and the Fire Brigade would be deployed to provide security.

## **Misseriya could accept Abyei to go south for the sake of unity**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm/* Agencies Khartoum, 31/10/10 – The head of the Abyei Legislative Assembly, Charles Abyei, said they recently had talks with Thabo Mbeki who heads the AU Panel on Sudan to inform him of the views of the Dinka Ngok on the Abyei issue. He said that Mbeki made no proposal. Charles Abyei further noted that he told Mbeki at the meeting yesterday that the Dinka Ngok have accepted the proposal to annex Abyei region to the South through a presidential order but pointed out that such an order should be in line with the PCA ruling on the region's borders.

Meanwhile a prominent member of the Misseriya tribe, Abdulrasool Al-Nour, reportedly said that the Misseriya would allow Abyei to be annexed to the South only in exchange for unity.

## **NCP calls for intervention for the release of Telefon Kuku**

*Al-Ayyam* Khartoum, 31/10/10 – Affaf Tawur Kafi, a prominent member of the NCP and head of the Parliamentary Committee on Housing and Health, has called on the UN and the federal government to intensify efforts for the release of SPLA field commander Telefon Kuku from detention in southern Sudan. She also called on the people of the Nuba Mountains to exert pressure on the SPLM for the release of the field commander, noting that an amnesty is currently in place for southern Sudanese renegade commanders. She added that there have been no signs of goodwill from the SPLM leadership towards Kuku's release.

## **Other Highlights**

### **Justice Ministry set up three courts in Darfur**

*Al-Ahdath* 31/10/10 – Justice Minister and Attorney General Mohamed Bishara Dousa said President Al-Bashir has agreed to the establishment of three courts in El Fasher, Geneina and Nyala in implementation of the Darfur peace strategy.

Dousa told a meeting with Darfur parliamentary group yesterday that the step was not taken due to any foreign pressure, adding Sudan is not a member of the ICC.

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