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Media Monitoring Report

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Referendum Monitor

- President Al-Bashir pledges to protect southerners in the North (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- SPLM misleading southerners and pushing them to secession – Nafie (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Wau residents protest President Al-Bashir's preposterous remarks (*The Citizen*)
- Southern families start leaving Khartoum (*The Citizen*)
- UN to assist establishment of provincial referendum bodies in Unity State (*ST*)
- Visit to NY to blame for Kiir's support to separation – NCP (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Ethiopia meeting on Abyei must remove injustices against Misseriya - NCP (*ST*)
- Registration for referendum to begin in November (*AP*)
- The international community should be prepared for any eventuality –Kiir (*Ajras Al-Hurriya*)

Other Headlines

- UNSC delegation visit technical – Foreign Ministry (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Disappearance of Janjaweed leader raises questions in Sudan (*ST*)
- SAF defends border guards in Darfur against claims of criminal activities (*ST*)
- SPLM welcomes the return of Al-Intibaha newspaper (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

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Highlights

President Al-Bashir pledges to protect southerners in the North

Al-Rai Al-Aam (Khartoum) 4/10/10 – President Al-Bashir has called on the GoSS to guarantee to the southerner Sudanese who support unity the freedom to speak their minds and provide them necessary protection. The President also stressed the need for the conduct of a free and transparent referendum, warning that no mistakes or excesses would be accepted in the referendum. “We have condoned the mistakes and excesses that occurred during the last elections with the hope that they could be corrected after five years but we will never tolerate mistakes in the referendum because it’s a final process,” the President said.

According to *Sudan Tribune website* 3/10/10, President Al-Bashir pledged to protect southerners living in northern Sudan if the outcome of South Sudan referendum is in favor of separation.

Al-Bashir remarks brush aside threats by his information minister Kamal Obeid who threatened to expel southerners saying they would not enjoy citizenship rights, jobs and they would not be treated in hospitals.

It comes also two days after comments by his first deputy and head of southern Sudan government Salva Kiir Mayardit declaring his support for separation. He also criticized his northern partners for not making unity attractive.

Kiir slammed remarks made by Obeid, He also expressed concern that southern Sudanese in the north need to be protected and repatriated back to Southern Sudan. "They are saying that nobody will buy the houses of southerners in the north," he said.

Addressing a youth forum on Sunday in Khartoum, Bashir affirmed his direct responsibility for the protection of southerners in the north. He emphasized that any citizen from southern Sudan or his property or his rights will not be affected whatever the outcome of the referendum.

"Their security is a government priority and direct responsibility that we bear entirely," he added.

The Sudanese president also reiterated his commitment to run the referendum on time, saying his government has fulfilled all its commitments to make unity attractive, adding that the Sudanese government has spent more than a billion dollars on development projects.

SPLM misleading southerners and pushing them to secession – Nafie

Al-Rai Al-Aam (Khartoum) 4/10/10 – Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie, addressing a rally in Shendi yesterday, called on the SPLM to desist from what he described as “deceptive policies” that misled the southern Sudanese and push them towards voting for separation. He described the SPLM’s pledge to the southerners in the North that they would enjoy full rights of citizenship after secession as “false”. “We will preserve their rights in the North until their status is settled,” he said.

“SPLM claim that southerners in the North would remain citizens of the North after separation is “misleading” and a “claim that is not supported by any logic and is unachievable”, he said, according to *Al-Sahafa* 4/10/10. . “We will guarantee their rights until the issue of their status is resolved,” he said.

Wau residents protest President’s preposterous remarks

The Citizen 4/10/10 – Ordinary citizens of Western Bahr El Ghazal state town of Wau yesterday protested bitterly over remarks by President Al-Bashir on Sudan TV on Friday that he would not have signed the CPA if he knew that southerners were hunting for their independence.

“If I knew that southerners are intending to disintegrate the country, I would not have signed the agreement and ended it through the barrel of the gun,” the President said.

The President’s remarks confirm that Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail was speaking for the NCP regime when he urged the youth to arm themselves to defend their territory if southern Sudan seceded in the upcoming referendum.

“We are shocked beyond belief at what our President said regarding the people of southern Sudan and that is why we need to express ourselves to the whole world that we do not need unity of resources without unity of the country’s people,” Santino Majak, Wau resident told the newspaper.

Southern families start leaving Khartoum

The Citizen 4/10/10 – Amid rising political and social tensions fuelled by the recent statements by the NCP officials with regard to the status of the citizens in northern states in case of secession of the South, many southern families especially the ones with good financial means have packed up their bags to head out of the north in general and Khartoum in particular.

Madam Catherina Samuel, 43, informed the newspaper by phone from Juba yesterday that she is arranging to have her children leave their current residence in Khartoum’s twin city Omdurman and head for the Ugandan capital Kampala for the duration of the referendum and the few weeks afterwards. Mrs. Samuel herself had already quit her UN job in Khartoum three weeks ago and is now employed in another organization in the southern capital.

The Citizen asked Mrs. Samuel if she knew of any other southern families who left or are planning to leave Khartoum and she said that just from her own clan she knew of 18 households who already left and another 16 planning to do so in the near future.

UN to assist establishment of provincial referendum bodies in Unity State

Sudan Tribune website 2/10/10 - UNMIS has said it would provide technical and logistical assistant to establish provincial committees of Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) in Unity State, particularly in the counties of Payinjiar, Leer, Mayiandit, Koch, Guit, Abiehnom, Mayom and Pariang.

UNMIS’s coordinator in Unity State, Mr. Kwame, told Sudan Tribune two days ago during the state’s Commissioners Forum that their role as a UN mission was to monitor the implementation

of the CPA signed in 2005 between the National Congress Party in northern Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in south Sudan.

Kwame stressed the need for strong support in terms of security and logistics in order to enable the authorities in south Sudan to meet the referendum deadline in January 9, 2011, saying that such pursuit is needed to maintain peaceful co-existence in Sudan.

The UNMIS official explained that the mission would not be observing the referendum because its mandate does not allow double-role.

Visit to NY to blame for Kiir's support to separation – NCP

Al-Rai Al-Aam 4/10/10 – The NCP has described the right of the Misseriya to vote in Abyei referendum as a “red line”, saying that any “equation” that does not consider the right of the Misseriya to vote would end up in instability in the region.

NCP official Mandour Al-Mahdi, in an interview to the newspaper said, “The NCP position is to guarantee the Misseriya their right to vote in the referendum”. “It is a red line that should not be crossed,” he warned.

Commenting on SPLM visit to NY, Al-Mahdi said FVP Salva Kiir's visit to NY was to blame for the movement's adoption of the separation option.

Ethiopia meeting on Abyei must remove injustices against Misseriya-NCP

Sudan Tribune website 3/10/10 - The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) today expressed hope that the meeting currently underway on Abyei would alleviate the injustices inflicted against the Arab Misseriya tribe.

Delegations from the NCP and the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) are meeting in Addis Ababa seeking to break the deadlock on demarcating the borders of the oil-rich region, establishing the referendum commission and determining who would be eligible for voting.

Qutbi Al-Mahdi the secretary for organizations at the NCP was quoted by Sudan state media as saying that the Arab Misseriya tribe was exposed to plenty of injustices and suppression of their rights as a result of the report by the Abyei Boundary Commission (ABC) headed by Donald Patterson and the PCA ruling afterwards.

Al-Mahdi said that what is required of the Ethiopia meeting is finding a mutual understanding and achieving a just peace for the people of the region that would not be at their expense.

Registration for referendum to begin in November

AP Khartoum, 03/10/10 - Registration for a crucial referendum over southern Sudan's independence will begin in mid-November after much delay, the chairman of the southern Sudan's referendum commission said Sunday.

Voter lists were supposed to have already been finalized by this time according to the 2005 peace agreement.

Commission Chairman Mohammed Khalil said the registration process is set to start around mid-November, leaving the commission just six weeks to register voters and finalize the lists.

Khalil said his commission has only now begun recruiting more than 10,000 referendum workers needed to man the 3,600 polling centres. Khalil said that 2,000 of the polling centers will be in the south and 1,600 in the north and abroad.

The commission's budget is still not finalized and only a few international observers are in place for the referendum.

The international community should be prepared for any eventuality -Kiir

Ajras Al-Hurriya 4/10/10 – FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit, in a speech upon return from the USA, called on the international community particularly the Troika, the UN and IGAD to get ready to intervene should any conflict occur during or after the referendum and to be on the standby for any serious political gamble. For full speech of President Kiir visit:

<http://www.gurtong.net/ECM/Editorial/tabid/124/ID/4159/Default.aspx>

Other Highlights

UNSC delegation visit technical

Al-Rai Al-Aam 4/10/10 – Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Muawia Khalid said the UNSC delegation's visit to the Sudan comes within the framework of regular follow up on the implementation of the CPA and developments in the country. "The visit is technical," he told journalists yesterday, adding "it is part of the CPA monitoring mechanism".

Meanwhile, *Ajras Al-Hurriya* 4/10/10, quoting the London-based *Al-Sharaq Al-Awsat*, reports that Khartoum has given the UNSC the green light for its delegation to visit the country on Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Ali Karti, commenting on the visit said it is part of a routine follow up on the CPA implementation, citing two previous meetings of the SC in Nairobi and Juba on the CPA implementation. He said the Sudanese Government is aware about all the meetings and issues the delegation intends to raise, adding that the SC has no other agenda and there would be no surprises.

Disappearance of Janjaweed leader raises questions in Sudan

Sudan Tribune website 3/10/10 - The Sudanese government denied reports on the defection of a Janjaweed leader as his whereabouts remain unknown since last May despite being elected to the parliament in the elections that took place more than five months ago.

Musa Hilal, leader of the Darfuri Arab Mahameed clan, is widely believed to be the head of the notorious Janjaweed militias blamed for devastating violence against African tribes in Sudan's Western region.

Rabie Abdulatti, a senior official at the National Congress party (NCP) told the Saudi based *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* that Hilal remains an adviser for the ministry of federal government since his appointment by president Omer Al-Bashir in January 2008.

Unidentified sources told the newspaper that Hilal was frustrated with the government which

barred him from leaving to Jordan to seek medical treatment citing security reasons. Others rumors in Khartoum say that he has traveled outside the country.

The head of the legislative bloc for North Darfur Hussein Abdullah Gibreel told Al-Sharq Al-Awsat that Hilal has not sworn the oath to be admitted to the parliament for 'personal reasons' .

He added that the Darfur figure is currently in Mastraeaha town in North Darfur and will take the oath next week as the second legislative session commences.

Hilal has been named by numerous eyewitnesses in Darfur as leading terror campaign against the African tribes during the war that erupted in 2003.

However, the tribal leader denied any wrongdoings and told Human Rights Watch (HRW) in a videotaped interview in 2005, that he only recruited militias on behalf of Sudan's central government.

The 43 years old was jailed by the Sudanese authorities in 1998 for leading armed robbery of the central bank in the city of Nyala in Darfur. However the First Vice president Ali Osman Taha secured his release in 2002 and asked him to help mobilize Arab tribes against Darfur rebels who took arms against the central government.

Hilal was named in the filings made by the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor in February 2007 as making a speech alongside with one of the two suspects Ahmed Haroun in July 2003, which was characterized as "racist". However he was not named as a war crime suspect.

"Hilal was enthusiastic about unifying to fight the enemy and characterized the conflict as a holy war" the ICC prosecutor said in the document he submitted to the judges.

The UN Security Council imposed travel and financial sanctions on Hilal and three other individuals in April 2006.

SAF defends border guards in Darfur against claims of criminal activities

Sudan Tribune website 3/10/10 - The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) has denied the veracity of recent reports accusing the paramilitary Border-Control Guards of being implicated in recent criminal activities in Darfur region.

Speaking at a forum organized on Sunday by Sudan's official news agency SUNA in Khartoum, SAF's official spokesman Major Al-Sawarmi Khalid Saad said that the border-control guards were "fully affiliated" to SAF and thus subject to civil and military law.

According to Al-Sawarmi, the recent accusations against the border-control guards were part of the "systematic" campaign to target Darfur and stir up "tribal discord."

The official spokesman claimed that a fact-finding committee formed by the army had investigated the situation and concluded that such accusations were of no basis in reality.

Al-Sawarmi further discredited recent media reports which accused border-control guards of being responsible for the recent robbery of Al-Tadamon Islamic bank in Nyala town, the provincial capital of south Darfur state.

However, the official spokesman's statements conflict with what other state and military officials recently said.

Yesterday, the deputy governor of south Darfur state, Abd-al-Karim Musa Abd-al-Karim, hinted to the UN-sponsored Miraya FM radio that some evidence had indicated the involvement of border-control guards and popular defense forces in the robbery of Al-Tadamon bank in Nyala.

SPLM welcomes the return of Al-Intibaha newspaper

Al-Rai Al-Aam (Khartoum) 4/10/10 – The SPLM has welcomed the decision to end nearly 3-month ban on Al-Intibaha newspaper and stressed the need to guarantee freedom for all media institutions.

GoSS VP Riek Machar told Radio Miraya that despite his party's political differences with Al-Intibaha, his party is of the view that separatists and unionists in the north and south alike should be free to express their views in a climate of freedom and transparency.

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