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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## **Southern MPs submit petition to Kiir protesting border demarcation report**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam* 5/9/10 – SPLM MPs, Sultans and politicians in the Renk County have handed over a petition to GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit protesting the national border demarcation's report submitted to the Presidency for consideration. MP Deng Chol revealed that they have submitted documents to President Kiir, adding that in 1/1/1956 there was no map. Chol said border contentious issues exceed 40%, adding in the Upper Nile state, for instance, the parties agreed on one point only. However, Chol pointed out that the disagreements would not affect the conduct of the referendum. "If separation takes place and disagreement over the border emerges, it can be referred to the International Court of Justice.

Meanwhile, *Al-Sahafa* 5/9/10 reports SPLM SG Pagan Amum as saying that differences over the demarcation of the border would not gear the parties back to war; stressing that demarcation should not be linked to the conduct of the referendum. "There are other options. It can be delayed until the referendum is conducted or it can be referred for local or international arbitration," he said. Amum has also reassured the border tribes, saying they would be protected whether the referendum result is unity or secession.

In a related development, GoSS Regional Cooperation Minister and former FM, Deng Alor, in a lengthy interview to *Al-Sahafa* 5/9/10, said "We need not rig the vote. All indications are that secession is inevitable".

## **SPLM, NCP at crossroads over North South border issue - ICG**

*Sudan Tribune website* 4/9/10 - Failure by key political actors clearly define Sudan's north-south boundary lines not only hindered the full implementation of 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), but also fueled mistrust between the two signatory parties, International Crisis Group (ICG) said in its latest policy briefing.

The 24-page document, entitled, "Sudan: Defining the North-South Border", says "the North and South must take political action to define their mutual boundary if they hope to avoid future complications, including a return to conflict."

To-date, says ICG, the Sudan's disputed North-Sudan boundary remains "dangerously militarized" because the country's oil resources are concentrated in these areas.

According to the briefing, demarcation of this border was expected to have been completed six months after the signing of the CPA signing, but remains unresolved five years later.

"A solution to the border is not only about drawing a line, but about defining the nature and management of that border and the future relations of communities on both sides", Zach Vertin, ICG's Horn of Africa Analyst says, adding that, "Completing these two tasks would go a long way toward preventing the border from becoming a source of renewed conflict in the post-CPA era".

With the referendum on self-determination just months away, the ICG briefing appeals to both

the NCP and SPLM to devise effective mechanisms that will address the post-referendum era.

For instance, it urges the two parties to, “Agree on a broad framework for cross-border arrangements, one that addresses citizenship, cross-border movement and seasonal migration, economic activity and security”.

“Progress toward a mutually-beneficial package may lessen the potential impact of where exactly the disputed boundary is drawn in the end”, Vertin further notes.

The technocrats involved in the boundary demarcation, further says the 24-paged document, needed to take into consideration views from local actors, especially in relation to their role in defining future border management and trans-border relations.

“A framework should allow space for local agreements, and the NCP and SPLM should establish a channel through which border communities can feed directly in to the negotiations on cross-border arrangements”, it says.

Meanwhile, ICG calls upon Sudan’s two dominant parties to liaise with the UN and international partners and identify an agency to implement the demarcation, agree to UN participation in that process, and act upon renewed commitments to resume demarcation in the undisputed areas.

This approach, it says, should involve sensitizing the communities on the implications of the north-south border demarcation, designing one or more complementary border-monitoring mechanisms to support a soft and stable boundary, ensure the rights and responsibilities of border populations, and possibly monitor population movements and new security arrangements.

### **NCP, southern parties stress need for free and fair referendum**

*Al-Ayyam* 5/9/10 – The NCP and the alliance of southern parties met yesterday in Khartoum for discussion on referendum where they stressed the need for the conduct of free and fair referendum. NCP leading figure Angelo Atak said his party and the southern parties have prepared themselves for the referendum, calling on political forces in the North to move to ensure the conduct of a free and fair process.

### **Referendum commission nominates Al-Nujoomi Secretary General**

*Khartoum Monitor* 6/9/10 – The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission has nominated Mohamed Osman Al-Nujoomi of northern Sudan, who had previously worked in the finance ministry, for the post of the Commission’s Secretary-General. The Presidency is widely expected to approve the appointment of Al-Nujoomi, born in 1939 in Singa, Sennar state. He started off his career at the Ministry of Finance and then moved to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Among other positions he held, he worked as a third secretary in the Sudanese Embassy in Pakistan and was later the Sudanese Ambassador in Kuwait.

"We agreed - we had only one person that was brought this morning and we agreed that he should be the secretary-general," commission member Lual Chany told *Reuters*.

*Sudan vision* 5/9/10 reports that GoSS Minister of Regional Cooperation Deng Alor told the London-based "*Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*" newspaper that SPLM had made significant concessions on the appointment of the Secretary-General of the Referendum Commission.

Alor said that the process of border demarcation between the North and South, was completed by 70% but acknowledged differences between the two partners on the demarcation of certain areas (Renk in northern Upper Nile, and Kafia Kingii between Western Bahr Al-Ghazal in the South and Southern Darfur), indicating that the presidency directed the Referendum Commission to prepare to start the process of registration of citizens.

### **Referendum Commission prepares voter registration**

*Sudan Vision* 5/9/10 - Head of South Sudan Referendum Commission, Prof. Mohammed Ibrahim Khalil said that after the appointment of the Secretary-General, the commission would start preparing the voter registration lists needed for the process. He said that the commission, during the forthcoming days, would begin to identify the registration and voting centers, prepare the polling papers and a voter register besides enhancing public awareness on the referendum process and encouraging them to go for registration which will simultaneously start in the North and South.

Khalil also revealed that the commission had started preparing a budget proposal for submission to the Presidency for endorsement.

### **Referendum budget well above \$380 million – Machar**

*The Citizen* 5/9/10 – The budget of South Sudan self-determination referendum exceeds \$380 million, said GoSS VP Riek Machar, who urged the international community to provide the required support so that the process would not face any problems.

Machar said the Southern Sudan Referendum Taskforce had studied the budget pointing out that the UN, the USAID and the CPA partners had each presented a separate budget for the referendum. He said that part of the budget was provided by the UN and the USAID besides the commitment of the federal Government and GoSS to finance the process (for further details visit: <http://www.sudanvisiondaily.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=60488>)

### **SSRA set up referendum committee, MPs want official secession drive**

*The Citizen* 5/9/10 – The Southern Sudan Regional Assembly (SSRA) has moved to establish an ad hoc committee, synonymous to the referendum task force of the executive branch to politically mobilize the voters for independence.

There were concerns last week that though the legislators were able to carry independence vote messages back to their electorates, there was no official and unified positions taken by the GoSS and the Assembly itself with regards to the options of unity or separation.

“President Al-Bashir has made his position clear and he is campaigning for unity of Sudan, what messages are we going to carry, is it just collective talk,” said Peter Bashir Gbandi, the Government Chief Whip. “So why are we shying away as an Assembly, do we stand with our people, are we getting these resources for saying what?”

All members of the House will be members of this ad hoc committee and the membership may be extended to states and the national assembly. The committee, according to the mover Tulio Odongi Ayabus, will act as an early warning regarding any obstructions, insecurity, violence and

other issues which may affect the vote.

According to a document received yesterday, the committee will, inter alia, direct the Government of Southern Sudan to establish close ties with the neighbouring countries and the international community for immediate support and recognition should southerners vote for secession, and it seeks to set up an international press center in Juba.

### **LRA activity will affect referendum – Riek Machar**

*Sudan Vision* 5/9/10 – GoSS Vice President Riek Machar said that the movements of Lord's Resistance Army in southern Sudan might affect the referendum on self-determination for South scheduled for early next year, due to its targeting of civilians in a number of states in the region.

Machar told the daily Arabic newspaper "*Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*" that his government could secure the referendum, especially that LRA leader Joseph Kony, "wanted by the International Criminal Court in The Hague for war crimes" no one knows where he is hiding for quite some time.

Machar, who led the mediation team between the Ugandan government and its LRA opponents, revealed that his government rejected a request by the tribal leaders in northern Uganda, some Christian clergy and some Ugandan parliaments for the resumption of negotiations between Kampala and the LRA. He said that he told the Ugandan delegation on the need for the approval of Kampala to resume dialogue with the LRA to enable GoSS to initiate contacts between the two parties.

### **UNMIS establishes Referendum Base in Western Equatoria state**

*Sudan Tribune website* 4/9/10 - The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has established a County Referendum Base (CRB) in Mundri West county of Western Equatoria state in preparations for the conduct of the upcoming plebiscite early next year.

Government representatives from Juba and the state capital, Yambio, in addition to UNMIS representative traveled to the county to witness the opening of the Base.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony on Wednesday, Kosti Manibe, Government of Southern Sudan's minister of Cabinet Affairs and citizen of the County, said "all citizens should continue preparing themselves until 9th Jan 2011 and all Southern Sudanese should take lead in the upcoming exercise."

Kosti said that "CPA is ending on 9th Jan 2011 and there will never be any chance again for self determination, so every citizen should work hard to its success." He urged citizens of Southern Sudan to go for registration once it kicks off so that no room is left for excuses.

The function was attended by the governor of Western Equatoria state, Bangasi Joseph Bakosoro and UNMIS Regional Coordinator for Southern Sudan, David Gressly and other State dignitaries.

"The referendum is real," David Gressly, the top U.N. official in Southern Sudan said at the opening of the first County Referendum Base. "Mechanics are starting to move forward and today is symbolic of that," AP news in Juba quotes him as saying.

On his part, Bakosoro assured that the referendum should be conducted as scheduled in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

He added that the government of the state and the community of Mundri West will support the Base, which will carry out awareness exercise for the success of referendum in Western Equatoria.

He called upon the people of Southern Sudan to vote wisely and prevent a mistake of refusing freedom while casting their votes in the referendum.

The ceremony which took place near Mundri West airstrip where the base is located was also attended by Bukul Edward Mandeson, the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

In a related development, Yambio Youth Groups assured the Commissioner of Yambio County of preparing to vote for separation in the referendum.

Yambio County commissioner Angelo Bakote Mboringba early in the week met with various youth groups in the county and discussed challenges they were facing as the referendum date approaches. Bakote appreciated the youth for their great stance during concluded elections and urged them to do the same in the up-coming referendum.

He assured the youth of his county administration's plan to improve in some areas of their interest such as education and sport activities, among others.

## Other Highlights

### **VP Taha to lead Sudan's delegation to UN General Assembly meetings**

*Sudan Tribune website* 4/9/10 - The 2nd Vice president Ali Osman Taha will lead Sudan's delegation to the UN general assembly meetings due to start mid-September, according to a news report.

The pro-government *Al-Rayaam* newspaper said that Taha would be accompanied by presidential advisers Ghazi Salah Al-Deen and Mustafa Osman Ismail, foreign minister Ali Karti and other specialized ambassadors.

The newspaper added that the delegation would hold a function called "Week of Sudan" on the sidelines of the meetings to brief on issues such as the Darfur conflict and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

### **Public Order law will remain in force –Khartoum state Government**

*Al-Sahafa* 5/9/10 – The General Secretariat of Khartoum state Government pointed out that review of laws and legislations are done in accordance with specific measures in the state.

The Secretariat, in a statement released yesterday, dismissed claims that the public order law would be amended, saying the law would remain in force until the state legislators decide otherwise.

### **Six people killed in fresh attacks on another camp in Darfur - IDPs**

*Sudan Tribune website* 4/9/10 - Darfur Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) said today that government militias in the region have attacked another settlement killing six people and wounded 28 others.

The report comes less than twenty four hours following the killing over seventy people in Tabra village, in the northern part of Jebel Marra, located in north Darfur state.

Sudanese government denied the attack in Tabra and accused the Sudan Liberation Army led by Abdel Wahid Al-Nur (SLA-AW) of attacking its troops in the region but the rebels dismissed the attack saying such statements aim to cover atrocities against civilians.

"Since Saturday at midnight militiamen attacked Al-Hamidiya camp, near Zalingei in West Darfur state killing six IDPs," a resident who declined to be identified told Sudan Tribune. He added the attackers are camping now at some kilometers from the camp and they expect new assaults at any time.

He further regretted that sluggish reaction of the UNAMID peacekeepers to their calls. "We called the hybrid forces to intervene and protect the civilians but they just arrived three hours after the end of the attack at 03:00 pm," he said.

He further said they refused to allow them and the Red Cross workers to take the injured IDPs because the Sudanese government arrests the wounded once they are transported to the hospitals.

UNAMID confirmed the attack but said ignoring the identity of the assailants. "We don't know who was behind it," said UNAMID spokesman Chris Cycmanick in statements to Reuters.

Speaking to the government sponsored *SMC*, Zalingeigi commissioner Abdalla Mohamed El-Amin accused the SLA fighters loyal to Abdel Wahid Al-Nur of attacking the residents.

But the SLA spokesperson Abdel Rahman Nimir dismissed the accusations saying Khartoum tries to misinform the public opinion and mislead the international community.

"We urge an international investigation over these attacks to determine who is behind these attacks," he said. "We have tangible evidences to prove government responsibility of these atrocities against civilians," he added.

The rebel official also urged the international agencies to provide the needed humanitarian assistance to the affected people.

According to the website 3/9/10, seventy four people were killed and ninety seven others wounded on Thursday when militiamen loyal to the Sudanese government opened fire on a crowd in Tabra, a village in the northern part of Jebel Marra, a rebel group reported Friday.

Tabra, inhabited by farmers who cultivate the fertile area in Jebel Marra, is located in North Darfur state at 12 kilometers from Tawila and 75 kilometers from the state capital Al-Fasher, the headquarters of the hybrid peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) in Darfur.

"The attack started at 2 o'clock pm on Thursday, the day of the weekly market (souk) of the village, where a large crowd was gathered" said Abdel Rahman Nimir, military spokesperson of

the Sudan Liberation Army loyal to Abdel Wahid Al-Nur.

"The assailants are led by a notorious militia leader called Al-Nur Ahmed," he added. The latter and his militia are based in Ome, a village at seven kilometers from Tabra.

Nimir said there were 18 schoolchildren among the 74 civilians killed during the attack. He indicated that the market is located at 20 meters from Tabra elementary school.

The spokesperson of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) in statements on Friday to the government supported media Sudanese Media Center website (SMC) denied the attack.

Al-Sawarmi Khalid said troops belonging to the army were attacked by a group of bandits stressing that they repelled the attackers and killed 27 of them without elaborating. He further denied any attacks against any village.

UNAMID told Reuters they had unconfirmed reports about the death of 45 people in the attack.

"Our security received reports that armed men on camels and horses rode into the market area and indiscriminately began firing upon civilians," said Chris Cycmanick, the official spokesperson of the peacekeeping mission.

Cycmanick further said SLA rebels barred them from entering the village to investigate the incident.

However, the rebel spokesperson dismissed UNAMID statements asserting they had informed the peacekeepers in Tawila about the incident and urged them to intervene to protect the civilians who were in imminent danger.

"Again we call on the UNAMID to contact us and come to Tabra and we are ready to cooperate with them to accomplish their mandate in the protection of civilians not only there but in all the areas under our control" he stressed.

Regarding SAF statements, he said Sudanese army used to deny attacks in Jebel Marra. He also said they had no military presence among civilians' settlements in Tabra or elsewhere.

Nimir accused the assailants of robbery saying they captured all the vehicles and goods in Tabra market. "They also threatened to burn the neighboring villages," he said.

According to the rebel official, the grave cases among the 79 wounded civilians were transported to MSF dispensary in Tawila, and Al-Fasher.

### **UN pledges \$ 15 million for Eastern Equatoria**

*Al-Sahafa* 5/9/10 – the UN has pledged \$15 million for development projects in Eastern Equatoria state. DHRC Lise Grande has commended the development strategy worked out by the state Government.

Eastern Equatoria state governor, Louis Lobong, for his part, promised total transparency of management of resources on implementation of the projects.

## **NCP downplays ICC move to press Sudan to hand over wanted officials**

*Al-Ayyam* 5/9/10 – The NCP has downplayed statement by the ICC Prosecutor on resolve to request the UNSC to press Sudan to hand over wanted officials.

NCP leading figure Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al-Khalifa said ICC Prosecutor's threat to ask the Security Council would be of no use because Sudan is not a member of the Court, adding the Security Council would not be able to force Sudan to hand over any of its national because it has no mechanism to do so.

## **SPLM purchased 10 helicopters, SAF says in the know**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya* 5/9/10 – Spokesperson of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) Lt. Col. Al-Sawarmi Khaled reportedly told Bloomberg that SAF was aware about the helicopter deal between SPLM and Kazan.

SPLM spokesperson was also reported to have said that SAF was informed beforehand, saying the deal was consistent with the CPA.

According to *Sudan Tribune website* 3/9/10, Southern Sudan army bought 10 helicopters from a Russian firm to transport troops, said a report unveiled by a news agency today.

Bloomberg's report published on Friday said it has obtained a copy of the agreement between Kazan and the government of Southern Sudan, (GoSS) represented by SPLA Chief of Staff James Hoth Mai inked in May 2010.

The 10 MI-17s ordered by GoSS are MI-17s manufactured by the Russian Kazan Helicopters.

"The first four helicopters were later scheduled to be flown from Kazan airport to Entebbe in Uganda on Aug. 12 aboard an Antonov AN-124 aircraft, according to correspondence between the parties."

Helmoed Romer Heitman, a military analyst said Southern Sudan, which is expected to vote in favor of independence in a referendum on self-determination next January, want to "discourage Khartoum from trying to preempt or nullify the referendum".

## **UNMIS Helicopter to transport resolution committee to Acholi-Madi areas**

*The Citizen* 5/9/10 – Governor of Eastern Equatoria state Louis Lobon Lojore has planned to ask for a helicopter from UNMIS for transporting the newly selected state resolution committee to borders disputed by Acholi and Madi in the state. He said the resolution committee would be transported from Torit to disputed areas bordered by the two ethnic tribes. He mentioned some of these areas as Opari, Kit and Owini Kibul. "The resolution committee is ready but logistics are a problem. I have planned to ask for a helicopter from UNMIS to transport them to those areas. They are very far to be reached by road," he said.

## **Machar hits back at Akhir Lahza newspaper**

*Khartoum Monitor* 5/9/10 – GoSS VP Riek Machar said that there were some newspapers in Khartoum, led by Akhir Lahza, that do not like to see South Sudan stable. Machar was reacting

to an article published by Akhir Lahza daily claiming that Machar was masterminding a southern organization opposing the GoSS on issues related to the referendum and that Machar would quit the government.

“The news is fabricated and runs counter to the spirit of peace and stability. The newspaper should disclose the source of the said news, otherwise legal action would be taken against it,” Machar said.

“Machar could never be a source of tension as he is the second man in the government. Machar can not quit the SPLM for which he dedicated his prime life. Machar is a historical leader of the SPLM and such news is desperate attempt to divide the movement,” the statement said.

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