

6 April 2010

[www.unmis.unmissions.org](http://www.unmis.unmissions.org)



# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Elections Watch

- Umma Party to decide on elections today (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Sudan's opposition Umma party sets polls deadline (**Reuters**)
- Leaks say elections will be postponed, NEC denies (**Al-Akhbar**)
- Al-Bashir threatens to expel whoever interferes with elections (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Iran, Kenya and Zimbabwe experiences will not occur – NISS (**Akhbar Al-Youm**)
- Kiir calls for emergency meeting to discuss SPLM's elections boycott (**Miraya**)
- Egypt delegation fails to convince SPLM to contest elections (**Al-Ayyam**)
- Currency Print Company completes printing 45 million ballot papers (**Miraya**)
- Withdrawn SPLM candidate violated elections Act – NEC (**ST**)
- PCP accuses NCP of using state resources in campaigning (**Al-Ayyam**)
- Sudan opposition wavers on boycotting elections (**Reuters**)
- Jonglei state implicated in exporting fake voting slips (**ST**)
- Electoral board in Sudan announces rule on campaign spending limits (**ST**)
- Al-Bashir threatens Kiir with coup if Arman not withdrawn (**ST**)
- US open to "brief delay" in Sudan elections, SPLM undecided on boycott (**ST**)

## Other Headlines

- JEM rebels accuse Sudan's army of air attacks in Darfur (**ST**)
- UN peacekeeper, contractors killed in north-western DR Congo (**UN News**)
- Saving animals to save lives (**IRIN**)

**NOTE:** Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN  
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

# Highlights

---

## Umma Party to decide on elections today

National Umma Party candidate for President Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi has said that his party would adopt a final position on elections today, pointing out that 90% of his party's demands have been met including that the national security law will not be used against candidates and voters, government's resources will not be used in campaigning, a national media committee will be set up and a ceiling for spending on elections will be determined, **Al-Sahafa** reports.

Meanwhile, in a lengthy interview to **Al-Watan**, Al-Mahdi warned that his party would declare "civil jihad" if elections are rigged. "The regime will face wide protests if it resorts to corrupt practices during elections," he said. "If elected, I would conduct a non-surgical operation to dismantle the NCP state".

According to **Al-Intibaha**, the National Umma Party has issued a statement announcing that it will contest all levels of elections.

## Sudan's opposition Umma party sets polls deadline

**Reuters** 2/4/10 - One of Sudan's largest opposition parties said on Friday it would boycott presidential, legislative and gubernatorial polls if government did not meet demands including a four-week postponement within four days.

The opposition Umma Party had said Thursday it was united with Sudan's other main political parties to withdraw their presidential candidates from the race. This was intended to discredit incumbent Omar Al-Bashir's bid to secure a new term in oil-producing Sudan.

The new decision followed a six-hour meeting of the party's political bureau. Sources said the rank and file, who had spent money and time campaigning wanted to continue with the polls, despite accusations of widespread fraud.

"If these eight conditions are not fulfilled by April 6, the Umma party will boycott all the process of elections," Sara Nuqdallah, a senior party official told reporters.

Bashir's ruling National Congress Party has repeatedly said it will not accept any delay to the polls due to start on April 11 in Africa's largest country, the first multi-party vote in 24 years.

Nuqdallah said US Sudan envoy Scott Gration, who flew into Khartoum hoping to save the polls, had told Umma party leader Sadiq al-Mahdi in a morning meeting that he "would try to achieve the delay."

In Washington the State Department said legitimate concerns had arisen in the run-up to the election and that Gration would continue to press for maximum participation in the polls, which should come on schedule.

"We're working hard to try to help the parties try to resolve these issues. We are still aiming for the election to occur on April 11," State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told a news briefing.

He said Gration would travel to Qatar on Saturday and then return to Sudan and remain there

until the election.

Umma's demands include freezing oppressive security laws, a body to oversee the National Elections Commission they accuse of bias toward the NCP, fair access to state media and for the ruling party to stop using state resources in its campaign.

"If they are genuine (that there will) be free and fair elections, these eight articles may be fulfilled," Nuqदallah said.

An opposition alliance meeting Thursday ended in disarray over a full boycott of the election process. The other main opposition party, the Democratic Unionist Party, had told the meeting it would boycott, but Friday party sources said it was also wavering.

### **Leaks say elections will be postponed, NEC denies**

A "UN source" has confirmed that postponement of elections for two weeks is now almost certain for technical and logistical reasons involving the process, **Al-Akhbar** reports. The source added that transportation of the ballot cards will take nearly two weeks and entry visas for the UN crew who will transport the material have not been issued, **Al-Akhbar** reports.

Meanwhile, the paper reports that information leaked from within the Umma Party indicated the Party received confirmation from the NCP that elections will be postponed for two weeks. However, the NEC has dismissed the leaks, saying all preparations have been finalized for polls to kick off on 11 April.

### **Al-Bashir threatens to expel whoever interferes with elections**

Addressing a rally in Gezira state yesterday, NCP candidate for president Omer Al-Bashir reiterated that elections would take place on schedule and threatened to expel any quarter which interferes in internal affairs of the country, **Al-Sahafa** reports.

According **Al-Sudani**, Al-Bashir has reiterated his warnings to the election observers and foreign envoys not to interfere in the internal affairs of the country, saying he would not allow the country to be "re-colonized or ruled by the Khawaja". He lashed out against the political forces which continue to push for elections postponement. "They have resorted to the US envoy but to their surprise the envoy was for elections on schedule," he said.

### **Iran, Kenya and Zimbabwe experiences will not occur in Sudan – NISS**

**Akhbar Al-Youm** reports NISS Director General Gen. Mohamed Atta has assured the Sudanese people that elections will take place in a secure and stable environment, adding that no riots or anarchy will be allowed to happen. He said there would be no way for saboteurs and traitors to repeat what happened in Zimbabwe, Iran or Kenya. Gen. Atta made the remarks while addressing a rally to mark the launch of NISS office in the Red Sea state.

Meanwhile, **Al-Khartoum** reports that police authorities have requested the NEC to keep them informed about the movements of the election observers in order to provide them protection. Director General of police Gen. Hashim Osman has assured civilians that police forces are ready to prevent any insecurity in Khartoum and in states.

### **Kiir calls for emergency meeting to discuss SPLM's elections boycott**

**Miraya** 5/4/10 - SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir Mayardit has called an emergency meeting of the party's political bureau. The meeting in Juba is expected to discuss the SPLM elections boycott. The discussions include the stance taken by 13 SPLM candidates contesting for governorship

posts who have frozen their elections campaign with intentions to boycott Sunday's polls.

Last Sunday, SPLM supporters gathered at the party's headquarters in Khartoum calling for Yasir Saeed Arman to reverse his withdrawal and participate in the presidential elections.

The demonstrators accused the NEC of manipulating and violating the electoral process.

Meanwhile, SPLM candidate for the governorship for Khartoum State, Edward Lino said that Chairman of the SPLM northern sector, Salva Kiir Mayardit had instructed the party to continue with the elections at the level of the national parliament, state legislative assemblies and governorships.

Lino, however, added that the withdrawal of Yasir Saeed Arman, SPLM's candidate for the republic's presidency, is not final.

### **Egypt delegation fails to convince SPLM to contest elections**

Efforts by the visiting Egypt's presidential delegation to prevail upon the opposition to contest elections have stalled after differences rocked the SPLM Southern Sector, ***Al-Ayyam*** reports. The delegation held yesterday a closed meeting with the SPLM Southern Sector to convince them not to boycott the entire electoral process.

Meanwhile, SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum said the SPLM Political Bureau has set up a committee to discuss the petition submitted by the SPLM candidates to boycott elections in the North. Amum told reporters that a final decision on this issue would be made public today.

According to ***Al-Wifaq***, SPLM leaders meeting in Juba have split over the withdrawal of Yasir Arman from the presidential race. While one group including Kiir and his senior aides insist on withdrawal, another group headed by Gen. Malik Aqqar and Pagan Amum insist that Arman should continue as presidential contestant.

### **Currency Print Company completes printing 45 million ballot papers**

***Miraya FM*** 5/4/10 - The Currency Print Company has completed printing 45 million ballot papers for executive posts in the general elections. The executive posts include the presidency, the Government of Southern Sudan's (GoSS) presidency and state governorships. General Director of the Company, Mohammed Al Hassen Al Baghi, said that the ballot papers have been printed in accordance with international standards. He said that printing took place under the supervision of UNMIS, the NEC and national and international observers.

### **Withdrawn SPLM candidate violated elections Act - NEC**

***Sudan Tribune website*** 5/4/10 - Last week's sudden withdrawal of Yasir Arman the official SPLM presidential candidate contravened a section of the 2008 National Elections Act, a senior National Elections Commission (NEC) official told Sudan Tribune.

The Act, which consists of 11 chapters and 112 sections, was enacted by the National Assembly, in accordance with the Interim National Constitution of the Republic of the Sudan 2005, and signed by the President of the Republic.

According to NEC's Jersa Kide, Mr. Arman's recent withdrawal should have taken place within a period of not less than 45 days prior to polling day, provided he notified the Commission of his actions in a signed written form that would have been legally authenticated.

Citing section 45 (3) of the 2008 Act, the NEC official said, "The candidate shall not withdraw

her/his nomination after the period specified in section (1) and his name shall be included on the ballot paper and any vote cast for him/her on polling day shall be deemed valid".

Asked about the implications of Mr. Arman winning the elections after he withdrew from the race, yet his name remained on the ballot paper, Ms Kide said the SPLM candidate will then be declared winner of the presidential elections.

"Since Yasir Arman's name has already been printed on the ballot papers, some of his supporters will still vote for him and if he gets majority votes, NEC will have to officially declare him the President of the republic," she told Sudan Tribune yesterday.

### **PCP accuses NCP of using state resources in campaigning**

PCP Secretary General Hassan Al-Turabi, addressing an elections rally in El Fasher yesterday, said his party would contest all levels of elections and accused the NCP of using state resources in campaigning, *Al-Ayyam* reports. Al-Turabi has also criticized the government's inaction with regard to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur and called on Darfur crimes perpetrators to agree to face justice.

### **Sudan opposition wavers on boycotting elections**

**Reuters** 2/4/10 - A day after pulling out of Sudan's presidential election, two leading opposition parties were split on Friday on whether to boycott voting on the same day for parliament and regional governorships.

Three sources told Reuters on Thursday that at least five political parties had decided to boycott all of the contests on April 11, alleging widespread fraud.

By shunning the presidential election, they aim to discredit incumbent Omar al-Bashir's bid to secure a new term in oil-producing Sudan, Africa's biggest country.

But two big opposition groups, the Umma and Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), appeared divided on Friday on whether to boycott the other votes as well, adding to uncertainty that has blighted the elections.

US Sudan envoy Scott Gration was in Khartoum to try to salvage the polls. He has so far been unable to reconcile the opposition and Bashir's ruling National Congress Party (NCP).

Any decision by the Umma and DUP to boycott all levels of elections would undermine the votes and may prompt international observers to reconsider their missions.

Two sources within the opposition told Reuters a decision on a full boycott from the Umma party was unlikely on Friday, with the rank and file split.

"Their lower ranks have invested time and personal money in their campaigns," said one source. "They may see a revolt if they go for a full boycott."

The DUP had told an opposition alliance meeting on Thursday it would boycott fully. But on Friday it also looked to be wavering, party sources said. The party has been in talks with both the opposition and the ruling NCP.

### **Jonglei state implicated in exporting fake voting slips**

**Sudan Tribune website** 6/4/10 - The Juba-based Southern Sudan High Committee overseeing the electoral process in the region has accused Jonglei and Upper Nile states of exporting and

distributing fake voting slips among the populace. In a statement issued over Southern Sudan TV on Monday, the office of the Committee in Juba said a number of people were arrested in Malakal, Upper Nile state, as they were distributing voting slips originating from Bor in Jonglei state.

Up to 455 voting slips imported from Jonglei state were found in possession of the men arrested in Malakal and many more were expected to have already found their way to the population.

Southern Sudan High Committee said an investigation would be carried out into the source of the fake voting slips, warning that the culprits might face up to two years of imprisonment.

### **Electoral board in Sudan announces rule on campaign spending limits**

**Sudan Tribune website** 3/4/10 - One week before the election scheduled on 11 April, the Sudan electoral board today issued a decision setting the limit on campaign spending by candidates across the country.

The NEC distinguished in its decision released on Saturday between the candidate spending ceiling and that of the party. The electoral body stated that spending by party during the electoral campaign should not exceed 15 million Sudanese pound.

With regard to the candidates, the NEC said the maximum expenditure for a candidate for the Sudanese Presidency is 17 million pound, a candidate for Southern Sudan Government President should not spend more than 7 million pound, and spending by a candidate for a state governor should not bypass 800 thousands pound.

The spending of contenders competing for parliamentary seats is limited to 700,000 pound for the candidate in a geographical constituency, while the runners in the party list (proportional) or women list their expenditure is fixed at 50,000 pound.

The elections law of 2008 adopted a mixed electoral system. Some 270 legislators, 60% of the 450 MPs, will be chosen through the majority vote in their geographical constituencies. It also guarantees 25% of the parliamentary seats (112) to women and 15% of the MPs (68) to the party lists. Both will be elected through the proportional system.

### **Al-Bashir threatens Kiir with coup if Arman not withdrawn**

**Sudan Tribune website** 3/4/10 - The Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir has warned his First Vice President Salva Kiir that it is in the South's best interest to withdraw Yasir Arman from the presidential race, an opposition leader said in an interview broadcasted on Saturday.

The Umma Reform and Renewal Party (URRP) chief Mubarak Al-Fadil told the Dubai based Al-Arabiya TV that Bashir, who is the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) runner for president, dispatched his adviser Salah Gosh with a firm message to Kiir of the consequences of not pulling Arman from the race.

According to Al-Fadil, the Sudanese president said that under no circumstances will there be a second round in the presidential elections and that the army will stage a coup should it appears that Arman has an edge in the elections.

This week the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) abruptly pulled Arman as its presidential nominee which took the Northern opposition parties by surprise and led some to describe the decision as "betrayal" and "rushed" with some hinting that a secret deal with the NCP was behind the move in return for facilitating the 2011 referendum in South Sudan.



Observers say that the South is more interested in securing the referendum right than running in the elections, an ideological shift that occurred following the death of late SPLM chairman John Garang in 2005.

### **US open to “brief delay” in Sudan elections, SPLM still undecided on boycott**

**Sudan Tribune website** 4/4/10 - The United States on Sunday appeared to be giving mixed signals regarding the timing and conduct of elections days after its special envoy Scott Gration said he is confident that it would "be as free and as fair as possible". "The United States is concerned by the troubling developments, including serious restrictions on political freedoms, which have led to the ongoing uncertainties" on the election, State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said. "It is important for the Government of Sudan immediately to lift restrictions on political parties and civil society," he told reporters during the daily press briefing in Washington today.

Sudan "must also ensure that all voters are able to participate in the election by improving conditions on the ground, including in Darfur and elsewhere, and by providing meaningful access polling places."

Crowley's remarks contrast rosy ones made by Gration who sought to avert the crisis brought about by threats of major political parties to boycott the elections. The opposition has demanded a postponement and reform to the electoral process...

## **Other Highlights**

### **JEM rebels accuse Sudan's army of air attacks in Darfur**

**Sudan Tribune website** 5/4/10 - The rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) accused the Sudanese army of attacking its position in Darfur as the two sides are negotiating a ceasefire agreement in Doha, the venue of the peace talks.

Yesterday the Sudanese delegation in Doha accused JEM of seeking to hinder the conclusion of a ceasefire agreement while the rebels said they made some proposals aiming to achieve a genuine ceasefire on the ground citing Khartoum violation of the past ceasefire agreement signed in 2004.

"The Sudanese army is carrying out since yesterday an air attack in North and West Darfur states. The Antonov and Mig warplanes bombed our positions in Furawiyah area in North Darfur and Abu Gamrah as well as Jebel Moon in west Darfur," said JEM official spokesperson Ahmed Hussein Adam, who was talking from Doha.

Ahmed further said around ten civilians are wounded in the neighbouring areas and dozens of livestock were killed during the different attacks. He further said the warplanes destroyed and buried water boreholes in the bombed areas.

### **UN peacekeeper, contractors killed in north-western DR Congo**

**UN News** 5/4/10 - A United Nations peacekeeper and two contractors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) were shot dead by insurgents who attacked the capital of Equateur province, Mbandaka, yesterday, first striking at the governor's mansion and national assembly before temporarily occupying the airport.

"The blue helmet was killed after he had been deliberately targeted by an insurgent while he was standing at the top of an armoured vehicle," the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC

(MONUC) said.

MONUC helped the national army recapture the airport, and UN police along with national police are now patrolling the street trying to bring some sense of security to the population as well as to the province at large.

The attack by a couple of dozen of insurgents, who arrived by boat, came as Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon proposed withdrawing 2,000 troops from for the 20,000-strong peacekeeping force by June, saying the DRC had made sufficient progress in restoring a measure of stability over much of its vast territory despite continued violence and human rights abuses by both rebels and the army in the east.

### **Saving animals to save lives**

**IRIN** 5/4/10 - As a region still recovering from years of brutal civil war and battling inter-ethnic clashes and food insecurity, Southern Sudan would appear to have bigger worries than animal welfare.

But when so many people rely on animals for their survival, improving their health and tackling rising death rates is of critical importance, veterinarians say.

“People’s lives depend on animals but the services for them are very few,” said Sukhir Singh, a vet, who runs a basic but busy animal clinic in the dusty Southern Sudanese town of Malakal, capital of the underdeveloped but oil-rich Upper Nile state.

“Most cannot afford even the drugs that are available,” added Singh, a lieutenant colonel in the Indian army, which runs the animal unit as part of the UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan (UNMIS) operations.

Long lines of cows and donkeys arrive each day for free treatment. Their owners are in no doubt about the benefits of this service.

“I have two donkeys but this one is sick,” said Yahir Adam Hassan, who delivers river water in converted oil drum carts pulled by the donkeys. “I don’t have enough money to pay for treatment, so without help, I would lose my livelihood.”

Sudanese students help the Indian vets, who provide training for students and community animal health workers, who then take their skills to more remote areas. Most patients are working animals – cows, donkeys, horses, as well as sheep and goats – but one young boy carries in his thin puppy for treatment too. A goat with a broken leg has its limb cast in plaster, while the dog gets an injection to kill internal parasites. The clinic has treated more than 55,000 animals since 2006, with a second opening this February in Bor, the state capital of Jonglei, Singh said.

Cows represent wealth and status for many people in Southern Sudan and are the source of regular raids and revenge attacks.

More than 450 people have been killed in inter-communal clashes in the South this year, after 2,500 were killed in 2009, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Southern Sudan.

Poor or badly timed rains, combined with insecurity, have also affected animal health, with organizations now boosting efforts to vaccinate cattle in an attempt to cut rising rates of infection.



“People primarily depend on livestock for their income, and the death rate among animals has been rising steadily,” the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in a 16 March statement.

“Drugs to treat sick animals are either prohibitively expensive or unavailable in the local markets,” the ICRC added, warning that many animals had not been vaccinated since 2006.

“In order to alleviate the hardship of both resident and displaced communities it has now become crucial to improve the health of their animals.”

It is working alongside Veterinarians without Borders to vaccinate 50,000 cattle before rains close roads to many areas. More than 30,000 have already been vaccinated, including in the remote and swampy Pibor county area of Jonglei state. The campaign is targeting four major cattle diseases, including pneumonia.

“The animals – mainly cows – are not only a source of food and milk but are also used for trading,” the ICRC said. “The loss of wealth makes it increasingly difficult for pastoralists to meet their families’ needs.”

The few centres such as Malakal’s clinic are therefore highly valued. When heavy fighting broke out in February 2009 between Northern and Southern soldiers in the town, nearby university buildings were badly damaged by tank and mortar shells, but the clinic was spared.

“People did not want to destroy this [the clinic],” said John Malak, who had brought his cow to be treated. “They said, ‘This is something that is for everybody’.” Many travel long distances to reach it.

“I live across the other side of the river, so I had to bring my cow across by boat,” said Peter Augustine, a cattle herder.

The team also runs mobile clinics in more remote areas, treating more than 8,000 animals over the past year.

Outside Mayom in Unity state, the vets erect a tent, and Indian soldiers and cattlekeeping boys work together to put cows into a restraining pen for the vet to examine.

“Many have problems with worms, ticks and other parasites,” said Singh, injecting a cow to kill internal worms, one of more than 280 cows, sheep and goats treated in the two-day camp.

“It takes a little while for the message to get out that we are here,” said Singh. “But once the first animals have been treated, the news travels very quickly and many more come.” The centre also provides training for community animal health workers, who can provide basic advice to improve livestock health across wide areas.

Radio programmes also advise to farmers on how to prevent diseases – and what to do if they think their animals are sick.