

7 Sept 2010

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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Referendum Watch

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# Highlights

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## **GoSS says preparations finalized for voter registration for referendum**

*Al-Sahafa* 7/9/10 – GoSS Parliamentary Affairs Ministry announced the finalization of preparations for the commencement of voter registration for the referendum early in January.

Undersecretary of the Ministry, Julia Diwani, has called on the Referendum Commission to do its utmost to conduct the referendum on time, adding that her Ministry, in coordination with NGOs, would focus on raising the awareness of the people about the process.

## **Misseriya informs UNMIS they categorically reject PCA Award**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam* 7/9/10 – The Messeriya tribe has conveyed to SRSG Haile Menkerios its unanimous rejection of the PCA ruling on Abyei borders. Messeriya chief Mukhtar Babu Nimir told the newspaper that their tribe, at a meeting yesterday in Mujlad with Abyei Chief Administrator, native administrators and parties concerned, declared its rejection of the ruling. “We have informed the SRSG that we are committed to 1.1.56 border,” he said, describing the PCA Award as unfair to the Misseriya because it would deprive them of their summer grazing land. “We have made our position clear on the borders and the solution lies with the Government,” he added.

## **SRSG urges Southern Kordofan, Abyei to continue dialogue on referendum**

*Al-Tayar* 7/9/10 – SRSG Haile Menkerios has urged southern Kordofan state government and Abyei administration to continue their dialogue to agree on post-referendum arrangements to sustain the peaceful co-existence between the two areas. The SRSG, who made the remarks in Kadugli yesterday, said the future of the two areas is key part of post-referendum arrangement whatever the result of the referendum.

## **“Nomination of Commission secretary-general from the North unfair” – SPLM official**

*The Citizen* 7/9/10 – Although the chairman of the South Sudan referendum Commission Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil said the nomination of referendum Secretary-General Osman Al-Nujoomi was unanimous, some SPLM politicians are still pessimistic that referendum results would be rigged in favour of the North.

Speaking *the Citizen* yesterday in an exclusive interview at the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, SPLM member George Costa Faustino said it is unfair that the referendum secretary is nominated from the North, adding “with chairman and secretary positions given to northerners who are against freedom and progress of the South, referendum results will turn out to be in favour of the North”. Faustino said the seat of chairmanship should have been enough for Khartoum Government.

## Other Highlights

### **Russia says will give South Sudan 10 helicopters before end of the year**

*Al-Sahafa* 7/9/10 – Interfax reported Russian Aviation industry as saying that 10 helicopters – MI 17- would be delivered to Southern Sudan by the end of the year.

Source said that according to a contract concluded in 2007, Kazan Aviation Industry would deliver to the South nine helicopters MI-17B-5 and one MT-172. MI-17 helicopters could be used for landing, evacuation and cargo.

### **There is nothing new in Sudan-US relations - NCP official**

*Akhir Lahza* 7/9/10 – Presidential Adviser and NCP leading figure Mustafa Osman Ismail told reporters yesterday that relations between Khartoum and Washington have not witnessed any positive development, describing reports that US President Obama will release a new policy toward Sudan as “mere statements and medias reports which carry nothing new”.

### **NCP warns Bassole over reports of intent to facilitate Khalil return to Darfur**

*Al-Akhbar* 7/9/10 – The NCP has reacted to reports that UN-AU mediator Bassole would engage in contacts to facilitate the return of JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim to Darfur, warning that return of Khalil to Darfur is a red line.

NCP Information Secretary Fathi Sheilla said any such step would be viewed as exceeding by the mediator of his mandate, adding the question of Khalil’s return to the field should be discussed with the Sudanese Government first.

Meanwhile, JEM Spokesperson Ahmed Hussein has welcomed the news, saying if Khalil returns to the field resumption of the peace process would be considered.

### **British Government earmarks 300,000 pounds for Sudan’s border security**

*Khartoum Monitor* 7/9/10 – the British Government, through its Embassy in Sudan has signed a project agreement with Sudan’s Interior Ministry, to earmark 300,000 sterling pounds to implement the project on Sudan’s border security. British Ambassador told reporters after the signing ceremony that the agreement would be run in conjunction with the Ministry of Interior and would increase the skills of the Sudanese migration officials to enable more effective policing of Sudan’s land borders with Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

### **Sudan hopes to double gold output to offset oil risk**

*Reuters* 6/9/10 - Sudan plans to more than double its gold output in two years partly to help make up for a possible fall in oil revenues if its crude-producing south chooses to secede in a looming referendum, the minerals minister said on Monday.

Abdel Baqi al-Jailani told Reuters in an interview Sudan could raise annual production to more than 40 tonnes by 2012 by regulating tens of thousands of small-scale prospectors, many of whom currently smuggle out finds, and by licensing out new blocks to global mining firms.

His estimate of current annual production at around 20 tonnes -- far above some industry

estimates of between 4 and 6 tonnes a year -- included new data he said showed small "artisanal" mining operations already registered with the government produced 10 tonnes of gold between January and June this year.

Jailani said he was currently in discussion with mining companies from Austria, Australia and the United States, despite heavy trade sanctions imposed by Washington, but declined to name the companies.

### **Eid holiday Thursday through Sunday – Cabinet Secretariat**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam* 7/9/10 - The Cabinet General Secretariat yesterday announced that Eid holiday would be from Thursday 9 September through Sunday 12 September.

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