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# Media Monitoring Report

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## Referendum Watch

- Kiir votes and calls for patience and security (*Gurtong*)
- Southern Sudanese go to poll (*Sudan Radio*)
- Referendum kicks off (*Miraya FM*)
- About four million southern Sudanese will go to poll today (*Dailies*)
- Voting for separation deprives southerners of nationality – President Al-Bashir (*Al-Ahram Al-Youm*)
- South Sudan leader wants “coexistence” with north (*AFP*)
- Gen. Athor calls for respect to vote result (*Al-Ahdath*)
- Four SPLA members killed in the South (*Al-Wifaq*)
- Athor accuses SPLA of violating ceasefire (*Al-Ahram Al-Youm*)
- Tens are killed in sporadic clashes in Abyei (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Security in Malakal seizes munitions-laden aircraft (*Al-Intibaha*)
- Referendum puts police on maximum alert (*Al-Khartoum*)
- Security organs say measures in place to protect citizens (*Al-Sudani*)

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

# Highlights

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## **Kiir votes and calls for patience and security**

**Gurtong** 9/1/11 - President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, cast his vote this morning here in Juba and called on Southerners to be patient while waiting to vote, pointing out that there are seven days available for voting.

Kiir also called on the security forces throughout the region to maintain security throughout polling stations and to protect citizens, those officials responsible for the voting, foreign monitors and Northern Sudanese in the South.

He also called on security forces in the North to do likewise in protecting Southerners. There is so far a huge contrast between polling stations in Khartoum and those in Juba. While thousands have been queuing up here, only a handful of registered Southerners in Khartoum have turned up so far. Explanation is that those Southerners who registered in Khartoum have either returned to the South, are on their way or are waiting for transportation back to the South for fear of violence or being denied services such as medicine.

It is early yet but indications are that turnout in the south is going to be very heavy, thus making independence of the South certain. The crowd has been so far orderly though open excitement for being able to vote at last is very evident.

## **Southern Sudanese go to poll**

**Sudan Radio** 9/1/11 - Turnout in El-Fashir (North Darfur state) for voting is high, says Adam Ali Adam, Head of polling centre, adding that the process is proceeding smoothly, no challenges reported.

In White Nile state, voting kicked off on time at eight polling centres. Abdul Rahman Mohamed Ahmed, Chair of the Higher Committee says all materials have been received and state police will secure the process and guard the polling centres. No incident or obstruction is reported. In Juba the process is also proceeding smoothly.

SSRC says the referendum results will be released on the first week of the month of February.

## **Referendum kicks off**

**Miraya FM** 9/1/11 Southern Sudanese voters are going to polls today, inside and outside Sudan, to vote on whether or not to secede from the north. President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir, who was the first person to cast his ballot in Juba, called on southerners to vote in a peaceful manner over the week-long poll.

He promised, after casting his ballot in one of the polling stations, to protect northerners in the south in the case of separation.

Meanwhile, Southern Sudan Police expressed their readiness for the vote. The spokesperson of the Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS) Major General, Biar Mading Biar, said that

police will secure the polling process.

Biar said the security situation in the region is calm, adding that crime rates have dropped.

### **About four million southern Sudanese will go to poll today**

**Local dailies** 9/1/11 – About four million southerners will go to polls today to cast their vote in the referendum on self-determination of South Sudan.

The SSRC has announced that all preparations have been completed for the start of voting today across the country. SSRC spokesperson Chan Reec told reporters that all voting cards have reached polling centres.

Meanwhile, Khartoum state police has also announced the completion of measures to secure the referendum process.

According to *Al-Sahafa* 9/1/11, the process is monitored by 400 international and 2100 national observers in addition to 18,000 monitors from the Sudanese political parties.

### **Voting for separation deprives southerners of their nationality – President Al-Bashir**

**Al-Aharam Al-Youm** 8/1/11 – president Al-Bashir has called for an EU-like union between the South and the North to safeguard economic, security and social interests between the two entities. Speaking to Al-Jazeera TV on Friday, the President downplayed the establishment of relations between the South and Israel but warned that it should not be directed against the North. He reiterated commitment to Abyei Protocol, adding that there would be no return to war.

He said that if the southerners vote for secession that would deprive them of their nationality. “If they establish their own state there will be no logic in granting them the nationality of the state they refuse to live in”.

Meanwhile, *Al-Sahafa* 9/1/11 reports that GoSS Minister of Peace and SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum has accused Khartoum of backing the armed groups which attacked SPLA on Friday, saying it’s a plan intended to undermine the referendum process.

Amum, who was speaking to Al-Jazeera TV yesterday, has rejected President Al-Bashir’s call for a union between the North and the South should secession take place.

### **South Sudan leader wants “coexistence” with north**

**AFP** 8/1/11 - South Sudanese president Salva Kiir said on Saturday that there was no alternative to peaceful co-existence with the north as his people prepared to vote on independence after five decades of conflict.

"Today there is no return to war," he said, speaking in the grounds of the presidential state house alongside US Senator John Kerry, who has engaged in intensive talks with northern and southern leaders over the past week to make sure the vote begins smoothly on Sunday.

"The referendum is not the end of the journey but rather the beginning of a new one," he said

alluding to the six-month transitional period to recognition as an independent state stipulated by the 2005 peace agreement between the Khartoum government and the southern rebels.

"There is no substitute for peaceful coexistence," he added...

### **Gen. Athor calls for respect to vote result**

*Al-Ahdath* 9/1/11 – Renegade Gen. George Athor, during a visit to Jonglei, has called for calmness as the referendum process kicks off, saying the process should be conducted in an atmosphere of freedom and transparency.

Athor has reportedly called for respect to the vote result whether it is unity or secession. "We want a democratic state in the South if secession takes place," he said.

### **Four SPLA members killed in the South**

*Al-Wifaq* 9/1/11 – Four SPLA members were killed in an attack launched yesterday by armed elements on SPLA position in southern Sudan. SPLA spokesperson Philip Aguer said the attack occurred in the town of Mayom (Unity state).

"Armed men attacked SPLA's position, killing four members," he said. He accused forces of Gatluak Gai of launching the attack which occurred just one day before the kickoff of the vote.

*Al-Intibaha* 9/1/11 claimed 50 SPLA soldiers were killed and 47 wounded in a fierce fighting yesterday between the SPLA and forces of dissident Gen. Gatluak Gai in Unity state.

Reportedly, Gai's forces entered "Tor Abyad" town in Mayom County and Unity state authorities imposed curfew across the state Counties since yesterday evening.

*AP* 8/1/11 reported that two rebel groups clashed with Southern Sudan's military ahead of the region's independence referendum, resulting in at least nine deaths, and a top security chief said Saturday he suspected the groups were trying to depress voter turnout.

The attacks against the Southern Peoples' Liberation Army, or SPLA, happened late Friday and Saturday.

"Why is it happening now? The intention or the motive behind must be undermining the referendum," said Gen. Acuil Tito Madut, the inspector general of the south's police. "Once these fights break out in these states that will mean some people will not vote and once people don't vote that means the required percentage is not achieved."

Southern army spokesman Col. Philip Aguer said forces loyal to rebel leader Gatluak Gai attacked SPLA forces overnight Friday and into Saturday in Unity State, an oil-rich area bordering northern Sudan. Aguer said six rebels died in the exchanges.

Jonglei state, meanwhile, saw deadly clashes between men commanded by militia leader David Yauyau and the southern military, said Madut. One civilian was among those killed, Madut said.

Madut said 32 rebels from Gai's group were captured by the southern military and were being brought to Juba, the southern capital, to be interrogated about who is behind the group. The men

were captured with 30 AK-47 assault rifles, one machine gun and one rocket-propelled grenade, he said...

### **Athor accuses SPLA of violating ceasefire**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm* 8/1/11 – Head of renegade Gen. George Athor’s team for negotiation has accused the SPLA of breaching the ceasefire signed recently in Juba by supplying arms to militias in Jonglei state and Pibor.

Speaking to the newspaper on Friday, Athor accused unnamed SPLA elements of seeking to derail the ceasefire agreement.

### **Tens are killed in sporadic clashes in Abyei**

*Al-Ayyam* 9/1/11 – at least 15 people were killed in clashes between the Dinka and the Misseriya and some Abyei police members in clashes on Friday.

Abyei Chief Administrator said the problem started when an unknown armed group attacked civilians in Makuer area 20 km north of Abyei killing a large number of them. He said police clashed with the armed men killing four armed Misseriya, one militia member and seven were wounded.

Meanwhile, a group of Dinka who had chased the armed Misseriya clashed with them, 9 Dinka killed and 7 wounded yesterday evening.

According to *Al-Sahafa* 9/1/11, at least 49 people have been killed and tens wounded in the clashes between the Misseriya and the Dinka. Preliminary reports indicated that 9 were killed on the side of the Dinka and Abyei Administration police force and 40 people on the side of the Misseriya.

Dinka chief Kuol Deng Majok said the clashes occurred when a group of Misseriya attempted to occupy “Macuer” village.

Reliable sources revealed that the SPLA yesterday bombarded the Misseriya areas killing at least three Misseriya nomads who were transported to the Mieram town for treatment, according to *Akhir Lahza* 9/1/11.

### **Security in Malakal seizes munitions-laden aircraft**

*Al-Intibaha* Khartoum; Malakal, 09/01/11 – Security forces at Malakal airport briefly seized yesterday an aircraft with 1,133 machine-guns and 2,780 boxes of ammunition. The aircraft and its cargo were later released when it was learned the cargo was an official SPLA consignment destined for troubled spots in Upper Nile where armed opposition forces are said to be active.

### **Referendum puts police on maximum alert**

*Al-Khartoum* Khartoum, 09/01/11 – Police in the fifteen states of northern Sudan have upped their alert levels to the maximum to face the challenges of the referendum period as voters head to the polls today. The police say their plans focuses on the protection of public figures and symbols.

## **Security organs say measures in place to protect citizens**

*Al-Sudani* Khartoum, 09/01/11 – Head of the National Security and Intelligence Services, Mohamed Atta, has revealed that a number of arrangements are in place to guarantee the safety of northern Sudanese and their property in southern Sudan and of southern Sudanese in the north of the country. He also said that they have measures in place to avert acts of sabotage targeting federal government property in southern Sudan.

Speaking at a meeting yesterday with lead newspaper editors in Khartoum, Atta sent a warning to the opposition parties against attempts to topple the regime by the use of force.

He lauded the recent statements from the GoSS assuring that it had no intention to unilaterally declare Abyei as part of southern Sudan but pointed out that the presence of elements of the Darfur rebel groups in Juba remains a “dangerous issue”. He said the government in Khartoum was still waiting for the GoSS to follow up on its vows to expel these movements from the south.

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