

27 April 2009

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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Local News Headlines

- Population Census Council approves census report (**Local dailies**)
- 11 JEM rebels sentenced to death (**Local dailies**)
- SPLM to hold conference on Darfur in May (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- SPLM to begin registration today (**Al-Ayyam**)
- I have not decided to contest presidential elections – Al-Mahdi (**Al-Sahafa**)
- SPLM visit to US a sign of failure to argue Abyei case – NCP (**Al-Intibaha**)
- Parliament to hear report on power cuts today (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- Government denies new Israeli bombing (**Al-Sudani**)
- US security official conducts talks in Khartoum (**Sudan Vision**)
- Lack of medicine and medical practitioners in Abyei (**Ajras Al-Hurriah**)
- Gedaref schools closed due to rising temperature (**Al-Khartoum**)
- Journalist Union calls for release of Al-Wifaq (**Al-Sudani**)

## Websites/International Headlines

- 20 reported killed and 37 wounded in Lakes-Warap herders conflict (**ST**)
- Sudanese official gets cool reception from French communists (**ST**)
- Israeli Intelligence agents moving at Sudan-Chad border (**SMC**)
- Health Ministry committed to malaria control (**SMC**)

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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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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### Population Census Council approves census report

**Local dailies** report the Population Census Council chaired by the Presidency Affairs Minister Gen. Bakri Hassan Salih endorsed yesterday the 5th Population Census Technical Committee's report prior to submission to the Presidency of the Republic for final approval and announcement. Gen. Salih has told **SUNA** after the 8th meeting of the Council which was held at the Republican Palace yesterday that according to the report of the technical committee the number of Sudanese population has reached 39.154.490, pointing out that Khartoum State came at the top of the list followed by the Southern Darfur State, Gezira State and Northern Kordofan State. He said the Central Bureau of Statistics would announce the census breakdown later.

### 11 JEM rebels sentenced to death

**Local dailies** report Khartoum Court chaired by Judge Essam Al-Din Ismail sentenced yesterday another 11 JEM rebels to death who were found guilty of participation in an attack on Khartoum in May 2008. The Court acquitted eight others for lack of evidence and referred two to a mental hospital.

Those convicted to death are: Nasir Al-Sheikh Mohamed Ahmed; Mohamed Hassan Osman; Al-Sadiq Adam Abdullah; Rajab Abdullah Izzel Din; Suleiman Adam Abdul Rahman; Mohamed Jibril Abdul Mawla; Bakri Suleiman Haroun; Mohamed Atata; Mohamed Al-Nour Norein; Abdullah Mohamed Ahmed Ali and Abdul Rahim Adam. Those sent to the mental hospital are: Jumma Roga Kushain, Stephen Nyon Lam.

According to **Sudan Tribune**, today's verdicts bring to 82 the number JEM rebels ordered hanged since last year. None has been yet executed.

### SPLM to hold conference on Darfur in May

The SPLM is preparing to hold a conference on Darfur crisis on 5th May, reports **Al-Rai Al-Aam**. SPLM Northern Sector Chairman Yassir Arman said their movement was keen to resolve Darfur crisis in coordination with the NCP.

Also, Arman revealed that he was determined to push for an urgent question in the Parliament on what he described as the interference of the Sudan Religious Council in parliamentary affairs.

Meanwhile, **Ajras Al-Hurriah** reports that GoSS Presidency Affairs Minister who is currently in Washington has lashed out against the Sudan Religious Council's fatwa against the SPLM official Yassir Arman. "If you feel your rights are violated, why do not you file a case with a court, rather than resorting to questionable fatwas," he said. "How can the state standby while others issuing fatwas to declare people Kafirs," he wondered. "Media role is to promote co-existence not murder" he added. Biong described the fatwa as dangerous and warned of its consequence.

### SPLM to begin registration today

**Al-Ayyam** reports SPLM Southern Sector Chairman Yassir Arman as saying registration of SPLM as a political party will begin today and its elections campaign will kick off on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

## **I have not decided to contest presidential elections – Al-Mahdi**

*Al-Sahafa* reports the Umma Party leader Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi as saying that he has not yet decided to run the upcoming presidential elections. However, he said his Party would participate in both presidential and parliamentary elections.

## **SPLM visit to US a sign of failure to argue Abyei case – NCP**

*Al-Intibaha* reports NCP Political Affairs Secretary Mandour Al-Mahdi as saying that the SPLM delegation departure from The Hague directly to the US for consultation was a sign of its failure to argue its case at the Abyei Arbitration Tribunal. He said the SPLM delegation left for the US not to complain against the NCP but to seek the US support for Abyei issue. "The visit is a preemptive step," he said.

## **Parliament to hear report on power cuts today**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports the National Assembly is to hold a session today to hear the Energy and Mining Minister Al-Zubair Ahmed Hassan's response to an urgent question on power cuts raised by two MPs. Khartoum State over the past days witnessed unprecedented electricity cuts at a time when the temperature was rising.

## **Government denies new Israeli bombing**

Presidential Press Adviser Mahgoub Fadul has said that the government had no knowledge about a new Israeli bombing of an Iranian ship off the Sudan coast, reports *Al-Sudani*. Reportedly, an Iranian ship was bombing in the Red Sea off the Sudan coast by missiles fired by an unidentified warship. Reports said the ship was en route to unload its cargo on the Sudanese soil to be transported to Gaza. "You can ask Iran to confirm if this is true," Fadul told reporters.

*Haaretz.com*, quoting an Egyptian newspaper *El-Aosboa*'s report of yesterday, said an Iranian vessel laden with weapons bound for the Gaza Strip was torpedoed off the coast of Sudan last week, allegedly by Israeli or American forces operating in the area. Unnamed sources in Khartoum told the newspaper that an unidentified warship bombed the Iranian vessel as it prepared to dock in Sudan before transferring its load for shipment to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. The sources said they suspect US or Israeli involvement in the attack, but neither Washington nor Jerusalem have released a statement on the matter.

## **US security official conducts talks in Khartoum**

*Sudan Vision* reports US Assistant Secretary of State for Security Affairs, Erick Porail, who arrived in Khartoum last Saturday met with the MFA Undersecretary Mutrif Siddiq. The US official is also scheduled to meet with security and police senior officials. Reportedly, the visit is part of Washington's arrangements to shift its Embassy premises to Soba, at the end of the year. US Charge d'Affaires to Sudan Alberto Fernandez said Erick's visit was not related to bilateral relations talks, nor did it associate with Scott Gration or John Kerry recent visits to the Sudan.

## **Lack of medicine and medical practitioners in Abyei**

The Abyei Civil Society Coordination Committee Chairman Karlo Ayuyul has said the area is suffering an acute shortage of medicine and medical practitioners as well as serious deterioration of the health situation, reports *Ajras Al-Hurriah*. He said civilians are calling for deployment of additional police force and compensations for the incidents occurred in May.

## **Authorities closed schools in Gedaref due to rising temperature**

Gedaref State Education Minister Al-Bashir Jumma has ordered the suspension of study in all schools due to the rising temperature in the State. The Minister said the schools were closed as precautionary measure for avoid outbreak of meningitis, reports *Al-Khartoum*.

## **Journalist Union calls for release of Al-Wifaq**

*Al-Sudani* reports the General Union of Sudanese Journalists has issued a statement declaring its rejection of the shut down of *Al-Wifaq* newspaper. The statement called on authorities to allow the paper to resume publication, saying a case could be filed if authorities think the paper is in the wrong. The statement reminded journalists of the need for responsible reporting.

## **Websites/International News Coverage**

### **20 reported killed and 37 wounded in Lakes-Warap herders conflict**

*Sudan Tribune*, 26/4/09) – Twenty people were killed as well as 37 wounded on Friday clashes at a cattle camp called Yar, said Lakes State Deputy Speaker Hon. Marik Nanga Marik, who had been to the fighting zone in Rumbek North before arriving back in Lakes state.

Marik told Sudan Tribune that among the 20 dead, one is a very old woman and another two are young women, while 16 are very young youth who were killed on the spot. He said that the Lakes state governor has failed to send police to the conflict zone and very surprisingly took away the county commissioner of Rumbek North County on the same day and travelled with him to Warap state.

The lawmaker was referencing a visit on Friday to part of Warap by teams from both Warap and Lakes state governments, including Lakes Governor Daniel Awet Akot, where they walked to Agugi village, the site of a mass rape incident that had recently taken place against 28 Bongo women.

"There is no protection in Rumbek North County," affirmed the deputy speaker. "This is now fourth period in which the payam was attacked since the signing of CPA in 2005."

Also in the separate incident that happened on Saturday night at Aber, a group of robbers hijacked a government car and opened fire, though nobody got injured or killed. But the car engine is not working any longer.

According to an official source in Warap state, where the two states governments are holding heated talk over the rape case, the talks are reported to be dragging on at an endless stage because Warap officials lack trust in the Lakes state government. Meanwhile, Commissioner Kongor Deng Kongo of Cueibet County — the county from which the attack stemmed — has aired out his apologies to the Bongo people, criticizing Lakes youth for making their own government voiceless toward other states.

Violence across state lines occurred in late March as well, when youth of the Cueibet Gok clan launched a flashpoint assault into Warap territories, following unexpectedly after a peace conference between parliamentarians of the two states.

### **Sudanese official gets cool reception from French communists**

*Sudan Tribune*, 27/4/09 Presidential Assistant and his delegation has been given a cool reception from the French Communist Party officials during his three day visit to Paris this week.

At his own request, Nafi met with some of the French Communist Party (FCP) and some groups seen as potential friends for the Sudanese government to plead its cause here.

At a meeting with Jacques Fath, head of FCP international relations department on Thursday, Nafi, who is also the deputy chairman of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP), called to boost relations between the two parties and said that both sides share same position against the unbalanced relations between the North and the South. He also criticized the western hegemony.

However, Fath regretted, during his meeting with the Sudanese official, the difficult situation of the weekly newspaper of the Sudanese Communist Party (SCP) Al-Medan which had been censured for three successive weeks recently. Also he mentioned the lack of good relations with the Sudanese communists.

"By speaking about this issue we intended to raise the freedom of the press," Fath told Sudan Tribune.

He said that the Sudanese official claimed that Khartoum does not target the communist weekly but that this measure is imposed every time the press deals with sensitive issues related to the security of the country.

However Nafi pledged to review the question once he is back to the Sudan, Fath underlined, Fath said.

To mark his disagreements with the Sudanese ruling party, the French communist official also tackled the need for a peaceful solution for the Darfur crisis and the full implementation of the CPA to ensure the unity of the country.

Fath particularly stressed the need to disarm the government backed militias in Darfur and the need to provide security to civilians in Darfur. He also said the only negotiated solution can bring peace and stability in western Sudan.

"Also I urged him to put an end to their support to the Chadian rebels," he added.

Fath told **Sudan Tribune** they do are not considering developing relations with the Sudan's National Congress Party

"It takes more than a first contact to boost relations with a foreign political party, especially if this contact is marked by differences" he said.

He also stressed that they met with the Sudanese official just to listen to what they have and explain their point of view over the political situation in the Sudan.

### **Israeli Intelligence agents moving at Sudan-Chad border**

**Sudanese Media Centre** 27/4/09 reports the border strip between Sudan and Chad is witnessing intense Israeli intelligence (Mossad) movements for providing military support for Chad under cover of extending medical help for Bahy Hospital. After touring the Tine area, Mossad officials held series of meetings with some inhabitants of Bahy area, reveals a Chadian opposition source. The source told (**smc**) that some equipments have installed in the area under tightened security measures by Chadian forces.

### **Health Ministry commitment to malaria control**

**Sudanese Media Centre** 27/4/09 reports the Federal Minister of Health Tabita Butros has affirmed the state's political commitment to the control of malaria as well as the commitment of her Ministry to cooperate closely with all partners operating in the field of malaria control.

has made the remark at the National Malaria Control Programme's celebration marking the launch of a national campaign to combat the disease.