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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## Washington conference collapses over census results

**Al-Ahdath** reports Washington conference ended without resolving CPA pending issues but agreed to resume consultations in July and August in Khartoum and Juba. Delegations returned to Khartoum but some NCP delegation members stayed behind to continue discussion to normalize relations with Washington. According to sources, the conference deadlocked on the census results as SPLM had totally rejected the results while the NCP insisted that it was nonnegotiable. However, the conference patron, Scott Gration, said it was a success, saying his Administration intends to resume dialogue in Khartoum and Juba to address pending issues to reach understandings before election is due. The conference yesterday issued a final communiqué expressing the parties' commitment to the CPA and affirmed the south's right to self-determination through an internationally-monitored referendum.

**Miraya FM** 24/6/09 reported the forum ended without resolving the disputed issues between the NCP and the SPLM. The final statement of the forum stressed for commitment of the partners to implement the CPA and that sponsoring bodies will provide necessary support in this concern. Both NCP and SPLM promised to design a joint plan to implement the remaining CPA articles on time.

**SUNA** 24/6/09 reported the participants at the Forum for supporting the CPA has issued its final communiqué. The participants have affirmed their support to Sudan unity and the work to implement the CPA provisions on the referendum for self-determination for south Sudan. The form asserted the keenness of donors to boost the implementation of CPA. Around 33 countries, organizations and the CPA makers took part in the forum. The participants emphasized their support to realization of permanent peace, stability, security and progress in Sudan. The communiqué stated that the participants called on the two parties of the CPA to live up to their commitments which were stipulated in the peace agreement. The communiqué said that the forum, which was sponsored by the US government, discussed a range of issues focusing on the political developments and ways to boost the security and economic development in Sudan during the interim period.

The final communiqué, which was distributed by the office of the spokesperson of the US Secretary of State, stressed the importance of the democratic transformation and decentralization in compliance with the CPA that was signed in January 2005.

## Court condemned Granville killers to death

**Local dailies** report Khartoum North Court yesterday condemned to death four persons found guilty of killing the US diplomat John Granville and his Sudanese driver Abdul Rahman Abbas.

**Reuters** 24/6/09 reeported John Granville, from the U.S. Agency for International Development, was the first U.S. government official killed in Khartoum in more than three decades in a crime that sent shockwaves through the capital's expatriate community.

A fifth defendant, who admitted helping some men buy weapons but denied knowing anything about the murder, was sentenced to two years in jail for illegally dealing in weapons.

The police's chief investigator had told the court the men had funded the killing with a donation from a Saudi Arabian man and money left over from a failed bomb plot against Western

embassies in Khartoum.

The verdict was greeted by cheers of "God is Greatest, long live justice" by Rahama's family, which had asked for a death sentence in line with Islamic law that allows families of murder victims to demand the death penalty or financial compensation.

Lawyers representing Granville's family read a letter to the court saying they preferred the killers be jailed for their crimes, but said that was not presented as a possibility, so they opted to support a death sentence.

The four defendants who were condemned to hang had denied murdering Granville, saying video-taped confessions shown to the court were extracted under torture.

Prosecutor Mohamed Al Mustapha Moussa had said the defendants' original plan was to find a New Year's Eve party and kill guests as they left. After failing to find a celebration, they decided to track down Americans driving home, he added.

Lawyers said the men, all in their 20s and 30s, spotted the U.S. diplomatic plates on Granville's vehicle and opened fire when it stopped in the Riyadh area of the capital.

Lawyers said the four shouted Islamic slogans after the killing, then left Khartoum to take refuge in the northern city of Atbara, stopping on the way to pray.

The prosecution said defendants Mohamed Makkawi Ibrahim Mohamed and Abdel Basit al-Hajj Hassan fired the shots that killed Rahama and Granville.

Prosecution statements said the third defendant Mohamed Osman Yusuf Mohamed, a former army officer, was the driver of the attackers' vehicle while Abdel Raouf Abu Zaid Mohamed, the son of a well known Islamic preacher, was a passenger.

According to ***Sudan Tribune website*** 24/6/09, the US Secretary of state Hillary Clinton yesterday lauded the sentences handed down by a Sudanese court against members of an extremists groups accused of killing a USAID employee and his Sudanese driver last year.

"I believe the guilty verdicts handed down today are an important step in bringing justice for John Granville and Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama, US Agency for International Development (USAID) workers murdered in Sudan in 2008," Clinton said in a statement.

"They were dedicated to bringing peace and stability to Sudan and we honor their memory," she added.

The assassins are believed to belong to an extremist cell formed after Sudan allowed UN peacekeepers in the war-ravaged region of Darfur.

Granville's mom, Jane said in a statement read before court that she will not accept any monetary compensation in return for reduced sentence. The emotional letter described John as a "noble" and "unique" person whose death was a "great" loss not just to his family and friends but also to the people of Sudan.

Jane said that John kept asking about his driver when he briefly regained consciousness in hospital.

She said that her belief that life imprisonment is the appropriate punishment for the murder but since Sudanese law does not provide for that “I have no other option” but to endorse the capital punishment “to protect others from those killed my beloved son”.

Under Sudanese penal code the families of the victims have the choice to accept “blood money” as an alternative for sending the suspects to the death row.

However, the family of the Sudanese driver also insisted that the death sentence be carried out.

### **Arbitration deal on Sudan's oil**

**BBC** 24/6/09 reported US officials say the NCP and SPLM have agreed to send their own officials to meet Mr. Graton in Abyei when The Hague makes its ruling in July. It is hoped Mr. Graton's presence will be able to stifle anger from any dissenters that could trigger a return to widespread violence.

### **“Sudanization” of humanitarian aid facing challenges – Al-Jailani**

**Al-Wifaq** reports State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Abdul Bagi Al-Jailani as saying that the process of “Sudanizing” aid work in the Sudan is encountering challenges. He made the remarks at the inaugural session of forum on voluntary work yesterday.

### **New elections timetable before the Presidency**

**Al-Akhbar** reports NEC SG Jalal Mohamed Ahmed as saying that the new elections schedule has been submitted to the Presidency for endorsement. He said the new timetable would be made public when the Presidency approved it.

### **MFA offers to beef up protection at US Embassy**

**Local dailies** report MFA has downplayed warnings by the US Embassy in Khartoum about possible acts of violence against the Sudanese government and interests of the west. “Events proved that such warnings are unwarranted. Sudan has already announced there are no extremists groups on its territory. Sudan security organs are vigilant day and night to protect civilians including diplomatic missions accredited in Khartoum,” MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq said, according to **Al-Akhbar**. He said authorities would strengthen security at the US Embassy building if requested; pointing out those authorities had earlier beefed up security to secure western missions and UN office, at their request, before the ICC issued its decision.

### **“We will make secession by the referendum law difficult” – Speaker**

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports the National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir has revealed the contentious issues between his party and the SPLM over the referendum law. He said the NCP would not facilitate separation through the law, saying “we will guarantee the southerners freedom but we will make secession difficult for them”. “This is a national duty,” he added. “We are pro-unity, we will not facilitate it by the law,” Al-Tahir told a press conference yesterday. Meanwhile, **Sudan Tribune website** 24/6/09 reported the Sudanese national assembly headed into summer recess without approving key laws needed to conform with the constitution and the CPA.

The draft bills of the National Security Law and the referendum law are still being deliberated without agreement between the NCP and SPLM.

The parliament speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir told reporters that there is plenty of time to endorse remaining laws when they return in October.

Efforts underway to depopulate IDP camps

### **Former rebels say opposed to increase Darfur states**

**Sudan Tribune website** 24/6/09 — SLM-MM refused any move to increase the number of the three Darfur states saying such move breaches the signed peace agreement.

The SLM-MM signed the DPA on May 5, 2006 with the Sudanese government. The Abuja deal provides to maintain the three states of the troubled province during the transitional period and to run a referendum on the establishment of one regional authority after.

Only Darfur people have to decide on this issue in accordance with the DPA, said the SLM-MM spokesperson Seif Eddin Harun who stressed such decision would violate the 2006 peace agreement.

### **Israeli National Security Chief and JEM Sign Bilateral Deal**

**Sudanese Media Centre** 24/6/09 - Israel agreed to supply JEM with all requirements it needs to continue war against the Sudanese government.

The two parties have agreed to coordinate with Chadian leadership and Israeli ambassador to Cameroon to implement the respective agreement. JEM field commander Adam Salih Dahya revealed in a telephone call with SMC that a bilateral deal was signed between the movement and Israeli military command during this month in Tel Aviv. JEM chief Ibrahim signed for the movement and national security Chief Ozi Arad signed for Israeli Dahya said. The deal stipulates that JEM shall consider Darfur an alternative home for Palestinians against receiving Israeli military support. "The deal includes a provision stating that Israel shall establish military bases on JEM controlled areas in Sudanese territories" said Dahya. It notes that the deal was signed during Ibrahim recent visit to Israeli that lasted for five days accompanied by three JEM commanders and other three senior officers from Chadian army. During his visit, Ibrahim met with a number of Israeli top military and political officials.

### **Sudan and Darfur rebels to exchange prisoners soon - mediator**

**Sudan Tribune website** 23/6/09 — Darfur joint peace mediator said Sudan and rebels would exchange prisoners in implementation of a goodwill and confidence building deal they signed last February in Doha.

"The Sudanese government and the JEM have agreed to exchange prisoners of War (POWs) in the coming days, the Joint African-Union United Nations Mediator Djibril Bassolé told Sudan Tribune from Khartoum on Tuesday.

"Sudan will release 20 members of the rebel group and JEM will free 60 soldiers," he further said.

Bassolé asserted the commitment of the two parties to implement the unannounced deal. He however expected some delay due to the start of the rainy season on the ground.

He also expressed the determination of the mediation to reach a ceasefire agreement in the upcoming round which is expected to take place within two months.

The former Burkina Faso foreign minister briefed the African ambassadors accredited in Khartoum in a meeting held on Tuesday about the progress of the peace process.

"We also sent a letter to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the European Union and Japan about the negotiations."

Bassolé said it was important for the mediators to keep informed the different partners on the progress on the talks stressing the need to move together with all the stakeholders toward peace.

The leader of the rebel United Resistance Front (URF), Bahar Idriss Abu Garda, on Sunday urged the mediation to broaden the negotiations to include other rebel groups.

Bassolé said the process would not remain only bilateral between Sudan and JEM adding they plan to make it more comprehensive after the signing of the ceasefire between the warrant parties to include the different rebel groups and the civil society.

The joint mediator also disclosed that he would meet five rebel groups among them the URF in Libya next week. "I have a meeting with them on the sidelines of the African summit scheduled for 1-3 July in Sirte," he said.

Speaking about the need to settle Sudan – Chad differences, Bassolé said the mediation is coordinating its efforts with UN Security Council and the African Union in order to encourage the two countries to ease the current tension and to normalize bilateral relations.

### **Interview: Arop Mayok, Head of the Abyei Area Administration**

Al-Ahdath – 25/06/09

***With the Abyei Area Administration (AAA) just over a year old, what services have you delivered to the people?***

Frankly, we have not done anything worth mentioning. We were charged with an area that has been totally destroyed since May 2008 and the evidence of that destruction still remains. We sent to the Presidency a budget request for the amount of SDG73 million for salaries and another for SDG211 for the provision of development and basic services. To date, the Presidency of the Republic has not informed us whether or not these budgets have been endorsed. Of the amount requested, we have only received SDG5 million – SDG2 million in January and SDG3 million last month.

***Have you tried to rehabilitate the infrastructure destroyed by the May clashes?***

Representatives of construction companies are on the ground and the Ayyad construction company has indeed started the construction of the Abyei to Mayan-Abon road and would also construct the AAA offices and health centres in the area.

***Do AAA employees receive their monthly salaries?***

No, no. as I said earlier, the Presidency only sent us the sum of SDG5 million out of the SDG73 million we had requested. We are therefore not able to pay AAA employees. Indeed we had instances where employees bought things for credit from traders and were not able to pay and trouble broke out.

***The UN estimates that over 50,000 people left Abyei during the May 2008 clashes. Have they returned home?***

A considerable number of displaced persons have returned to Abyei but the lack of basic services in the area does not encourage more returns. Most of them have kids in school and no services are provided to the IDPs. I did inform authorities in Khartoum that the IDPs are prepared to return if they could have schools for their children and basic services and if



transportation could be provided. As usual, the federal government gave me promises that have remained just promises despite the fact that the Roadmap stipulates that this should be the duty of the Presidency.

***Can you give an estimate of the current population in the region?***

The Dinka-Ngok currently in the area represent between 20-25% of their earlier population here. This means that the majority of the people still remain outside Abyei.

***You said earlier this month that a large number of traders have started leaving Abyei with the arbitration decision approaching. Are they still leaving?***

I have toured the markets. Every trader has the right to do what he/ she wants to do and we do not prevent anybody who wants to leave the town from doing so. We will however issue a decree that would allow for a revoke of the license of any trader who leaves the area. Such traders would never be allowed to work in Abyei again. This is the only way to prevent them from going out of the area.

***What does the future hold for the AAA after the arbitration results?***

First of all, the decision is important for the AAA to know the geographical boundaries of the area under its jurisdiction and to determine the areas of the nine Dinka-Ngok chiefdoms. Whether these fall within the territories of north or southern Sudan will be decided by the 2011 Referendum. We will therefore not be affected by the arbitration decision and I will therefore remain head of the AAA until elections.

***Prominent figures in the region have protested the constituencies the NEC gave Abyei. What is the nature of these protests?***

The problem is not on whether we were given one or two constituencies. The problem is that no mention has been made of Abyei at all although constituencies have been drawn for all parts of the country.

Abyei had a population of about 200,000 before the violence that broke out in May 2008. This number is now reduced to about 70,000. This contributed to the NEC's ignoring Abyei. Abyei has a special status and should be treated as the 26<sup>th</sup> state of the country.

***With a month to go before the arbitration results, are the Dinka and Misseriya in peaceful coexistence?***

The Dinka and the Misseriya know their boundaries very well. Wealth such as oil is to blame for politicizing the region and for flaring up conflicts in the region. The Misseriya wonder whether all the wealth in the region will go to southern Sudan if Abyei becomes part of southern Sudan. Talk by politicians on rights and wealth also contributed to the problems. In general terms, however, the Dinka and Misseriya coexist peacefully and I expect this peaceful coexistence to continue whatever the results of the arbitration.