

28 June 2009

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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## **Elections will include Darfur – President Al-Bashir**

**Local dailies** report that President Al-Bashir gave a lengthy interview to **Sudan TV** to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution, saying a coup had to be staged to save the country from collapse.

According to **Al-Ahdath**, Al-Bashir said elections would be held all over the country including Darfur except in one or two constituencies, saying problems could happen when the time for elections comes but he reassured that the plan put in place by the police would assist in averting trouble. He also revealed that the election process would face a funding problem, citing a required budget of about a billion dollars but he expected an international funding such as in the case of the census exercise.

On the CPA, he said the two Partners are keen to implement the agreement and that they would not go back to war. He added that his party's election campaign would focus on the unity of the country, saying a great deal of the CPA has been implemented except some pending issues such as the border demarcation, Abyei, the referendum bill and national security bill. He expected the border demarcation process to be finalized during the few coming days.

On relations with US, the President has praised the new approach of the US Administration, saying his government is ready to normalize relations with Washington. He expressed hope for good relations with all the neighbouring countries including Chad.

On the presence of a large number of foreign workers in Sudan, he said that is due to the foreign investment in the Sudan and the lack of trained Sudanese workers.

**Al-Raed** reports Al-Bashir said election is a necessity in order to renew confidence or to choose another alternative, saying they will respect the people's choice. He said relations between the CPA Partners is currently stable, pointing out that what has been implemented confirmed the existence of understanding between the NCP and the SPLM.

According to **Al-Sahafa**, the President said foreign circles are seeking to remove the NCP from power through the upcoming elections. He said that "influential foreign powers" might interfere to influence elections by allocation of funding.

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports the President said upcoming referendum would confirm unity of Sudan which, he said, would not be achieved by force. He said the Presidency and the CPC are exerting efforts to address pending CPA issues. He described the CPA as "Africa's greatest achievement", saying he is optimistic that the NCP and SPLM would resolve their differences. He said there are tribal conflicts and arms in the hands of civilians but efforts are underway to ensure a conducive atmosphere conducive to elections. He added the contentious issues between the NCP and SPLM include the border demarcation, Abyei, referendum bill and national security bill. The President said 90% of areas in Darfur are safe.

**Sudan Tribune website** 27/6/09 reported the Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir described the coup he carried out 20 years ago as an important milestone that saved the country from "economic and military collapse".

The Sudanese president said that the “National Salvation Revolution” made several achievements saying that during the period before the 1989 there had been war, rising level expenses and lack of essential services was prevalent in Sudan.

He noted that the IMF figures showed that when he took power the growth rate was -1%.

Bashir said that peace was the first issue tackled by the revolution and that it was a “strategic choice” along with uniting the internal front.

The Sudanese president said that the only issue left is the Darfur conflict which he expressed hope to be resolved soon.

He said that the latest census results showing an increase in the population of Darfur refutes allegations of genocide in Darfur.

On the relations with the US Bashir welcomed the “reconciliatory” tone by the Obama administration saying previous US presidents were hostile to his country.

**SUNA** reports President Al-Bashir has affirmed that Sudan is qualified to achieve a unique agricultural development and to be the food basket for the Arab and African countries depending on the vast potentialities that it is enjoying such as water, fertile lands and low price electricity power. He said that the result of the fifth population census has refuted the allegations of ethnic cleansing in Darfur and proved the population increase in the region compared to other regions in the country.

He welcomed the reconciliatory message of the new US administration, describing it as a step for new American relations with Muslim World. President Al-Bashir pointed out that the coming stage will be one for building a united and developed Sudanese nation according to the 25-year strategic plan through which Sudan will surpass all its problems and provide all requirements of decent life for all its citizens.

### **Ghazi returns after participation in Washington conference**

**SUNA** 27/6/09 - Presidential Adviser Dr. Ghazi Salah-Eddin returned home Saturday from Washington after participation in the US-sponsored CPA forum. Upon return Salah-Eddin said the conference renewed political and financial support to the implementation of the peace agreement, stressing that the conference did not setup any new mechanisms or new agreements but encouraged the two parties to the CPA to work together for executing the agreement. He pointed out that the delegations of the government and the SPLM held meeting at the sideline of the conference in presence of the US Envoy Gration whose task was confined to narrow differences over the propounded issues, explaining that some outstanding issues such as Abyei, census results and elections were discussed during the conference. He added the time set for discussion was not enough and that disclosing that discussions would be resumed next month in Khartoum so as to reach agreement on some unresolved issues.

"The talks could reach good outcome if the other party expressed the spirit of optimism instead of depicting bleak image" he said. Salah-Eddin said the Sudanese delegation held meetings with a number of American officials from White House, Pentagon and United States Agency for International Development USAID and demanded them to lift sanctions imposed by former US administration on Sudan. He affirmed that the stance of the present US administration towards Sudan differs from the former, saying it is for the first time an US official concedes that what is

happening in Sudan is not genocide.

### **Sudan reiterates rejection of the ICC**

**Al-Ahdath** reports Sudan government has downplayed the ICC judges' decision to grant Ocampo the right to appeal against dropping of genocide charge against President Al-Bashir. "There is nothing new. Whether the judges agree to Ocampo's request or not, it is the same for the Sudanese government. The entire world, except the US, say there is no genocide in Darfur," MFA spokesperson, Ali Al Sadiq, said. Al-Sadiq has reiterated the government's rejection of the ICC decisions.

**AFP** 26/06 reported the ICC judges granted the prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo his request to appeal their decision of scrapping genocide charges in the arrest warrant issued for Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir. Based on this decision, the ICC Prosecutor can now proceed to the five-member appeals chamber to seek addition of genocide charges to Bashir's arrest warrant based on his interpretation of the "reasonable evidence" threshold in the Rome Statute.

Meanwhile, **Sudan Tribune website** 27/6/09 reported ICC First Vice-President will visit the countries of Mali, Benin and Senegal on a tour of African states that are signatories to the Rome Statute, the treaty governing the ICC.

The ICC official, Fatoumata Dembele Diarra, along with Deputy Registrar Didier Preira, will on Sunday begin her official visit to the African States Parties.

Ms. Diarra "will use the opportunity to encourage dialogue related to the issue of complementarity, a topic for discussion initiated by ICC President Song earlier this month during his recent first visit as President of the Court to the African continent."

Vice-President Diarra intends to "emphasise the central importance of implementing the Rome Statute into domestic legislation that will enable an international justice system aimed at ending impunity for the worst crimes known to humanity."

### **Voting to last eight days – NEC**

**Al-Akhbar** reports NEC SG Jalal Mohamed Ahmed as saying that voting duration was decided to be eight days in the new schedule instead of 15 days in the timetable. MPs had earlier demanded that elections should take place in one day to avoid rigging.

### **Khartoum denies deal between Bashir and Obama**

**Al-Ahdath** reports Sudan government has dismissed reports that a deal has been concluded between Presidents Al-Bashir and Obama whereby Khartoum will "review" its relations with Iran and halt arms supply to Hamas in exchange for consideration of the ICC decision against president Al-Bashir and the easing of sanctions imposed on the Sudan as well as removing its name from the list of countries sponsoring terrorism. "Talk about a deal between Khartoum and Washington is incorrect," MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq said. However, he said the US and the Sudan are making efforts to normalize their relations.

It is worth mentioning that Egyptian "**Al-Shurook TV**" reported a deal between Khartoum and Washington.

### **CPA partners discuss South Sudan Referendum Draft Bill**

**Miraya FM** 27/6/09 – the NCP and SPLM joint legal committee resumed its meetings yesterday in Khartoum to complete discussions on the outstanding issues regarding the south Sudan

referendum draft bill.

The Minister of Legal Affairs in the Government of South Sudan, Michael Makuei, told Miraya FM that the Joint Committee will listen to a report presented by a special committee tasked with bringing closer all the disputed views regarding the bill.

Earlier, the Spokesperson of the National Assembly, and leading member of the NCP, Ahmed Ibrahim Al Tahir, said that there were disputes between the NCP and SPLM on the referendum draft bill.

He added that his Party will work on making the separation of South Sudan difficult through the referendum bill, a matter considered by some leading members of the SPLM as a sort of a political trusteeship and dictatorship.

### **Al Tahir's statement runs contrary to CPA - Deng Arop**

**Miraya FM** 27/06 -The Chairperson of the Legal Affairs Committee in Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, Deng Arop, has said that statement of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmed Ibrahim Al Tahir saying that Referendum Act will be framed in a way that can make separation difficult for southerners is contrary to the spirit of the CPA which he said guaranteed the right of self-determination for the people of South Sudan.

Mr. Deng said that the right to self-determination is a human right and nobody can take it from anybody.

### **Sudan says no release of JEM POW's without ceasefire**

**Sudan Tribune website** 27/6/09 – The Sudanese government declared yesterday that it would not release any prisoners from JEM without a ceasefire.

Reportedly, Amin Hassan Omer, head of the Sudan government delegation to Qatar said that their position “is clear.” “We will not release any fighters without a final ceasefire,” Omer said.

He stressed that the government of capable of getting rid of the rebel groups but is “wary of the social repercussions”.

“The Sudanese government and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) have agreed exchange prisoners of War (POWs) in the coming days” he said.

### **FVP Kiir on European tour in July**

**Al-Sudani** reports FVP Salva Kiir will leave on July 1<sup>st</sup> for a tour in Europe that is expected to cover UK, Norway, the Netherlands and Belgium to brief the officials on progress of the CPA implementation.

### **Committee heads for Nasir to investigate incidents**

**Al-Ahdath** reports the Upper Nile State government held a meeting with UN agencies operating in the area. The state government urged the agencies to resume delivery of aid to victims of tribal conflicts in the town of Nasir where tens were killed and wounded on both sides when SPLA and Jikany militias clashed recently. Upper Nile deputy governor Ton Moum told **SMC** a committee headed by the Minister of Infrastructure Kueite Kan would visit the area to assess loss in lives and property.

## **South Sudan to participate in international conference in Switzerland**

**Sudan Tribune website** 27/6/09 – The Government of Southern Sudan is invited to participate in an international conference in Caux, Switzerland, next month.

The conference aims to generate a new dynamic in diplomacy by inspiring collaboration between citizens and leaders in initiatives towards peace, security and development.

Spokesperson and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Paul Mayom Akech, said the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Dr. Riek Machar Teny will lead the government's delegation to the conference which is sponsored by the Swiss-based Caux Forum for Human Security under the slogan 'Trust and Integrity for a Sustainable World.'

It will be the first time for the semi-autonomous government to participate in this Forum.

## **Juba Forum for Sudanese Political Parties invites President Bashir**

**Miraya FM** 27/6/09 -The Head of the Preparatory Committee of the Juba Forum for Sudanese Political Parties, Mubarak Al-Fadhil, said that an official invitation has been extended to President Al-Bashir to attend the Forum as the Chairman of the NCP. The Forum will be attended by representatives of over seventeen (17) political parties and four (4) unions, and will address many issues topped by the Darfur crisis, the CPA, democratic transformation and the national reconciliation.

The Forum is planned to take place between 1 and 15 of July.

## **Our stand on Darfur crisis like AU – Ugandan Embassy**

**Miraya FM** 27/6/09 - The Ugandan Embassy in Sudan issued a statement confirming that Uganda's stance on the Darfur crisis has not changed and that it is similar to that of the African Union. This came in the wake of recent remarks made by President Yoweri Museveni in Germany on the Darfur crisis.

The embassy said that Museveni's remarks does not reflect a change in his country's position on the crisis, adding that he is against the ICC's arrest warrant for President Al Bashir.

The statement further dismissed Sudanese accusations claiming that Museveni was trying to please the West adding that the Ugandan president has held "strong and independent positions" in such issues.

The Ugandan President Museveni had said in an address to the German Parliament that the international community needs to take tough measures against the perpetrators of violence in Darfur, criticizing what he described as "Arab chauvinism against African sovereignty.'

## **JEM chief Ibrahim reaches secret deal to release his brothers**

**SMC** 27/6/09 reported disputes escalated within JEM to the point that the movement chief Khalil Ibrahim threatened to liquidate commander Suleiman Jamous who arrived in the town of Al-Tina recently after participation in Doha talks. Jamous told **SMC** by telephone that he plans to travel to N'djamena to see President Idriss Deby to brief him on how badly Ibrahim handled Doha talks with the government. Jamous said Ibrahim had reached secret deal with the Sudanese government to ensure release of his brothers detained in Khartoum. Jamous said he was informed that he would be assassinated if he revealed the deal. "I don't care about what would happen to me since I enjoy the support of JEM commanders in the field" he said.

## UNSG Interview

In a lengthy interview by *Al-Hayat*, republished by *Sudan's Akhir Lahza*, the UNSG Ban Ki-moon has expressed concern over criticism of his stances by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, saying a UNSG should not be criticized while discharging his duties. He said they support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. He added that he is disappointed, saying Israel is ignoring demands of UN, Washington and the four-member commission.