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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Highlights

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## **Border demarcation committee to meet next week**

**Al-Raed** reports that the North-South Technical Border Demarcation Committee will convene an important meeting next week to speed up the process of defining the border on the paper prior to demarcation on the ground. Some of the Committee members are currently undergoing training provided by UNMIS on GIS and how to use the technology in border demarcating. The Committee Chairman Prof. Abdullah Al-Sadiq said disagreement over “Jodah” area had been referred to the Presidency for decision and it would be binding for the committee. He said drawing the border on the paper is likely to be completed by the end of this year, pointing out that the training currently being provided to the committee members will facilitate their work.

## **SPLM will accept Abyei arbitration decision – GoSS official**

GoSS Legal Affairs Minister Michael Makwai has affirmed the GoSS commitment to the Abyei Arbitral Tribunal decision expected to be issued in July, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports.

## **Plan to secure elections**

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports Police DG Gen. Mohamed Nagib Al-Tayeb as saying a plan was put in place to secure the upcoming electoral process. He said Sudan’s police force has the experience and capacity to ensure a successful electoral exercise, Gen. Nagib made the remarks at a meeting yesterday with the elections security committee and Carter’s Centre.

## **South blasts releasing unofficial census figures by media**

**Miraya** 5/5/09 reported the Chairperson of South Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation, Isaiah Choul Aruai, condemned media's practice of publishing unofficial figures regarding the 5th population census results in south Sudan. Speaking to the press in Juba, Mr. Aruai urged the public in the South to wait patiently for the official census results to be released by competent authorities.

Meanwhile, SPLM SG Pagan Amum has demanded the announcement of the census results in order for the parties to give their remarks on it.

## **UNICEF warns of impact of violence on children in Southern Sudan**

**UN News Centre** 5/5/09 – UNICEF said today that it is deeply concerned at the impact on children of continuing violence in a number of states of Southern Sudan, and urged that all parties ensure the protection of young people.

The agency calls on groups involved in fighting in Southern Sudan to show “immediate restraint and ensure the full protection of children, those who care for them, and the services on which they depend for their survival and development,” UNICEF’s Veronique Taveau told a news conference in Geneva, recalling that Sudan is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ms. Taveau said that since the start of this year, thousands of children are estimated to have been displaced from their homes due to attacks by the Ugandan rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in Central and Western Equatoria, while repeated clashes between tribal groups in Jonglei, Lakes and Warrap States were believed to have resulted in the death and abduction of children.

In Pibor Country of Jonglei State, more than 140 children had been reportedly abducted, while children were feared to be among the 450 people believed killed in Pibor and the 170 people killed in Akobo County.

The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) had, almost two weeks ago, expressed its deep concern over renewed tribal clashes in the country's southern Jonglei State. It had appealed to local authorities to take steps to restore stability in the affected areas and also to the Government of Southern Sudan to do all it can to ensure civilians' safety and to find a way to end the hostilities.

UNICEF noted that since then, progress in primary education and health care has been a positive example of the valuable peace dividends benefiting the children of Southern Sudan.

However, these gains are being jeopardized by the current level of violence, the agency warned, calling on all parties to ensure the protection of all children in Southern Sudan.

### **Governors' conference calls for free elections**

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports that Sudan governors meeting in Wau have called for free and free elections. VP Taha, who addressed the closing session yesterday, said the recommendations would be submitted to the GoNU, GoSS and States governments to be implemented. "The roundtable conference confirmed that we are on the right track," Taha said. The conference recommended halt of import of food items and other luxury goods. It also recommended concentration on food production, exports augmentation and to limit imports to production inputs.

**SUNA** 6/5/09 reports the conference which is organized by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and the Council of Ministers in cooperation with the World Bank discussed the economic growth, deliberation on supporting peace principles, realization of national reconciliation, transport, roads, education, tourism, wildlife, investment and the role of the infrastructures in realization of integration. The Forum was attended by ministers, leaders of political and executive work, governors of the states, scholars as well as experts from the World Bank.

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 5/5/09, the governors of Sudanese states agreed on the need to focus efforts on the agriculture to increase the national revenue.

In a statement to the press shortly after his arrival at Juba International Airport from Western Bahr el Ghazal state, Vice President Dr. Riek Machar explained that the conference discussed the main causes of the current economic crisis in the country including the fall in oil prices and what to be done in order to move out of it. The meeting, he said, resolved to diversify the economic bases from relying only on oil revenue to seriously engaging in agricultural production. Machar also explained that the forum discussed the need to resolve the Darfur conflict in order for the long overdue national reconciliation to succeed. "For national reconciliation to succeed, Darfur [issue] has to be resolved if the country is to go for peaceful elections with clear conscience," he said. Machar also said the meeting resolved the importance of achieving the national reconciliation in the whole country before the people of Southern Sudan voted in the referendum. "If the referendum is coming we should be able to say the Sudanese are reconciled, and when the South votes, it does not vote out of bitterness," he further explained.

**Miraya** 5/5/09 reported Governors from northern Sudan contributed one million US dollars to the state government of western Bahr el Ghazal. The forum, under the motto "towards enhancing integration and national reconciliation" has come out with a number of recommendations such as community reconciliation, investment, role of education in national

reconciliation and integration.

### **The west covets Sudan's resources – Nafi**

The Presidential Assistant Nafi Ali Nafi told a rally yesterday in Khartoum that the west is waging war on Sudan because it covets its resources, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports. According to *Al-Wifaq*, Nafi claimed that a “small group” of people inside the country have provided the ICC with false information, thinking this could contribute towards bringing about a post-Bashir era.

### **36 regular troops convicted of Darfur war crimes – judge**

Sudan's judiciary announced that 36 members of regular armed forces have so far been sentenced to death in connection with war crimes in Darfur, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports. Supreme Court judge Abdul Rahman Sharfi told reporters yesterday that in 2008 97% of cases had been decided compared to 98% in 2007. He said the judiciary is independent and the executive is not interfering with its work. According to *Al-Sahafa*, Sharfi has rejected calls for the establishment of “hybrid courts” to try alleged Darfur war criminals, saying the judiciary system has the capacity to do so. “Ali Kushayb is being investigated but we want the investigation to proceed away from the media,” he said, according to *Al-Raed*.

### **Sudanese parliament introduces amendments to press law**

*Sudan Tribune website* 5/5/09 – Sudan National Assembly's subcommittee introduced amendments to a controversial press law deliberated by legislators, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The *Al-Sahafa* independent newspaper said that 20 amendments were made to the press law primarily on penalties for violators. A fine of 50,000 Sudanese pounds (\$22000) was dropped and its value left to the discretion of the court.

The changes to the proposed law will limit dual penalties on violations from the judiciary and the Journalism committee which oversees the press.

The head of the media committee at the Sudanese National Assembly Mohamed Al-Balla said that they have received several requests for changes to the law and suggested that they will attempt to reach a national consensus.

### **Botswana President supports ICC warrant against Sudan's Bashir**

*Sudan Tribune website* 5/5/09 – The President of Botswana Ian Khama dissented from African Union position on the arrest warrant issued by the ICC for President Al-Bashir. The independent Mmegi newspaper said that Khama made his stance during a meeting with visiting Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete last month. Khama told Kikwete that his government supported the arrest warrant and suggested that the AU was taking wrong positions on other African issues.

### **US envoy convinces JEM to attend Doha talks**

*Sudan Tribune website*, 5/5/09 – The US Special Envoy to Sudan left the Chadian capital after having convinced JEM to send a delegation to Qatari-mediated talks in Doha. US Special Envoy Scott Gration was in the Chadian capital on Sunday, May 3, and met the Chadian President Deby where he discussed with him the Darfur crisis. He also met with the JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim.

Having escorted the rebel delegation to Doha, the US official will travel today to Khartoum marking his second trip to the city since taking up his position. Gration is expected to bring new proposals to end the Darfur conflict.

The spokesman of the rebel movement, Ahmed Hussein Adam, confirmed Gration's role in

pressuring the rebel group to attend the talks, saying that JEM “has dispatched a delegation to Qatar in response to pleas enunciated by both the Darfur peace partners and the US envoy to Sudan, Mr. Gration.” However, Adam stressed that the rebel delegation would not re-negotiate the terms of the Goodwill Agreement and Confidence Building Measures signed on January 17, 2009, which he says the government violated by expelling foreign aid groups.

“The remit of the delegates is expressly confined to: perusal of the mechanisms and deadlines” of the January 17 agreement said Adam from Doha. “The delegation shall not, in any way, exceed this remit save after assurance that the conditions of the IDPs will improve within an agreed period of time – much better than it was before the expulsion of the 13 foreign NGOs.”

Adam further clarified a precondition on the aid issue before moving forward: “The government pronouncements on this matter shall by no means be the yardstick according to which such improvement will be gauged. The true verdict on this improvement is that of the IDPs themselves and the international community as represented by the UN humanitarian relief agencies currently administering relief aid in the area.”

**Sudanese Media Centre** 5/5/09 reported MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq as saying that talks with Sudanese officials would focus on lifting American sanctions imposed on Sudan and removing its name from state department list of countries allegedly harboring terrorism.

### **DPA Chairman accuses GoNU of neglecting accord**

**Sudan Radio Service** 5/5/09 - The chairperson of the Darfur Peace Agreement implementation committee says that the people should forget about the "so-called" DPA. In an interview with Sudan Radio Service from Khartoum on Tuesday, Dr. Mohamed Al-Tigani Eltayib claimed that GoNU is deliberately neglecting the implementation of the DPA.

[Mohamed al-Tigani]:“There is a lot of lingering in the implementation on what we have agreed on, even in implementing the presidential decrees regarding the agreement. Before the al-Fashir declaration, we had effectively participated in the Sudan’s People Initiative to resolve the conflict in Darfur. Unfortunately until now even the recommendations of the Sudan’s People Initiative have not been implemented. So implementing the DPA is a figment of the imagination, and it is a sad story, people should not talk about it a lot.”

[Mohamed al-Tigani]: “Despite the patience and wisdom we [the SLM] have been showing, I think, the GoNU has no intention or willingness to implement the DPA and the other peace agreements. And I don’t think there will be a solution to the Darfur conflict soon.”

### **Political Parties registration period ends**

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports the Political Parties’ Affairs Council Chairman Mohamed Bushara Dossa as saying that the period allowed for the political parties to register and adjust their status ended yesterday. He said so far 56 political parties were registered; adding registration is a condition for participation in the upcoming elections. He explained that the Council has no power to extend the registration period.

Meanwhile, the Citizen reports the Chairman of the United Democratic Front (UDF), Peter Abdulrahman Sule said that the Political Parties’ Affairs Council has requested his party to remove a clause relating to secession of southern Sudan from its credentials if it is to officially register as a political party.

### **Authorities considering US aid groups’ request to operate in Darfur**

**Al-Sahafa** reports that while several American NGOs have officially sought local authorities’



permit to operate in Darfur to fill the gap left by the recent INGO ouster, the government said it had key conditions needed to be met before the applications are accepted. The paper's source said the USAID delegation's discussions with the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs focused on the humanitarian situation in Darfur and the possibility of replacing the ousted INGOs with new ones. According to **Ray Al-Shaab**, HAC Commissioner Hassabo Mohamed Abdul Rahman announced the government's readiness to cooperate with any new NGO that abides by the humanitarian principles, transparency, neutrality and separation of politics from humanitarian work.

### **Fighting in Chad is "internal conflict" – SAF**

**Local dailies** report the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) has categorically denied Chad's charges, saying what was happening on Chadian territory was purely "internal matter". MFA's official statement issued yesterday accused unnamed circles of attempt to block ongoing efforts to normalize relations between the two countries. "SAF has no link with alleged military assault on Chadian territory. What is happening is between the Chadian army and rebels," SAF spokesperson Brig. Mohamed Al-Aghbash said, according to **Al-Sahafa**.

**Reuters** 5/5/09 reported Chad accused Sudan of sending armed groups into the east of the country, just hours after the two countries struck a deal to halt violence against each other. France said reports suggested armed groups had begun crossing into Chad on Monday and it was checking how many gunmen there were and their exact position.

"While the ink on the Doha accord was not yet dry, Khartoum sent several armed columns into our country. In launching this programmed aggression against Chad, the Sudanese regime has reneged on its signature in Doha," said Chad's government spokesman Mahamat Hissene.

France's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday it was following events in the east of its former colony with "great concern". "We understand that armed groups penetrated into Chad's territory from Sudan," Foreign Ministry spokesman Eric Chevallier said. "It seems that these armed groups went several tens of kilometres into Chadian territory. We are checking information on the exact position, volume, etc."

Sudan denied any of its forces were on Chadian territory and said it was totally committed to the agreement signed in Doha on Monday to halt hostilities and refrain from the use of force. "I reiterate that no incursion by the Sudanese government or army has occurred into Chadian lands," Director of Protocol Ali Yousuf said. "What is happening now is a battle between Chadian opposition (rebels) and Chadian government forces within Chad's borders," he said.

Meanwhile, the **Sudanese Media Centre** 5/5/09 reported the security situation on Chadian border severely deteriorated following Chadian opposition escalation of war against government troops. Chadian president issued a presidential decree relieving army commander in chief Gen Abdel Rahim Bahar Anto and appointed Hassan Salih AL Gundi in his place.

In another development JEM executive office headed by Khalil Ibrahim flew to N'djamena on an Chadian helicopter to meet with American envoy Scott Gration, **SMC** said.

### **Arms continue to flow to Darfur – NCP official**

NCP official Mahdi Ibrahim has accused western countries including the USA, Britain and France of "direct interference in Sudan's internal affairs" **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. He expressed Khartoum's readiness to receive any international envoy to push regional and international efforts to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace in Sudan. Ibrahim, who was speaking to the Italian news agency from Austria yesterday, expressed "grave concern" over continued flow of arms to Darfur from abroad particularly Europe.

## **Uganda investigating claims of Belgian support for LRA**

**Al-Ayyam** reports that the government of Uganda has accused several Belgians of providing food to the LRA. Ugandan government spokesperson said GoSS authorities in Yambio intercepted 13 trucks laden with food items for LRA and that investigation was underway to identify the persons and NGOs which support the LRA. The Belgian Embassy in Kampala announced it was cooperating with the government of Uganda to identify those involved.

## **Southern Sudanese Minister died**

**Gurtong** 5/5/09 - The Northern Bahr el Ghazal State Minister of Finance, Trade and Industry Ajou Garang Deng has passed on. The late Minister died on Monday at a Khartoum hospital where he had been referred to for further medical treatment after a long period of illness in Wau. Deng is said to have died from heart failure.

The Northern Bahr el Ghazal State Information Technology Manager, Mr Akot Malith told **Gurtong** that the late Minister arrived safely in Khartoum but passed away as he was undergoing treatment at a private medical clinic in Khartoum. He added that the body of the late Deng is expected to be transported to Wau today, Wednesday May 6 for burial.

Meanwhile, the Northern Bahr el Ghazal State Government has announced three days of mourning in honour of the deceased state Minister.

## **Security alert in Malakal after SPLA slaying**

Sudan Radio Service 5/5/09 - Malakal residents were on security alert on Tuesday morning following reports that a group of SPLA soldiers from division seven were planning to attack the town. The incident happened just a day after angry SPLA soldiers at Wau-Shilluk camp killed a Major on Monday over a salary dispute. The dead officer was distributing two months' salaries for SPLA forces in Upper Nile state.

Malakal county commissioner Awad Marajan assured Malakal residents that the group of soldiers who killed the SPLA officer on Monday had been disarmed and were awaiting orders from Juba.

## **Breeders ordered to eliminate pigs within a week**

**Al-Khartoum** reports the Animal Wealth Federal Minister Mohamed Ahmed Abu Kalabish as saying that the Ministry has ordered breeders in the country to eliminate pigs within a week as part of efforts to avoid transmission of the swine flu. The Minister who met with the Parliament's Agricultural Committee yesterday said there were no pig farms in the country but confirmed the existence of pigs owned by individuals.