

27 April 2010

[www.unmis.unmissions.org](http://www.unmis.unmissions.org)



# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Elections Watch

- Al-Bashir declared winner in presidential polls (***Sudantribune.com***; ***local dailies***)
- Al-Bashir's elections victory strengthens his position against the ICC – AL (***Al-Ahdath***)
- Salva Kiir garners 92% of the votes for GoSS president (***local dailies***)
- FVP Kiir congratulates Al-Bashir on elections win (***Al-Sahafa et al***)
- Polls have proven that SPLM is a force to be reckoned with – Luka Biong (***Al-Sahafa***)
- Southern participation in government important for the referendum – NCP (***Al-Sahafa***)
- Tension in Juba as tens arrested (***Al-Ahdath; Al-Intibaha***)
- SPLM wins big but loses a gubernatorial position in southern Sudan (***Khartoum Monitor***)
- Lawrence Sulubia of Western Equatoria, a hero of electoral law (***Sudantribune.com***)
- Elections results were cooked – SPLM's Yassir Arman (***Al-Ahdath et al***)
- SLM-MM pledges support to elected government (***Akhir Lahza***)

## Other Highlights

- SAF leadership appraises VP on Security Arrangements (***Al-Ahdath et al***)
- Cautious calm in Bulbula following SPLA-Rizeigat clashes (***local dailies***)
- Four South African peacekeepers released in Darfur (***Sudantribune.com; local dailies***)
- Darfur rebel factions announce their merger with LJM (***Sudantribune.com***)
- Chadian embassy assets handed over to ambassador (***Al-Sahafa***)
- ICC judges reject appeal on charges against Darfur rebel leader (***Sudantribune.com***)

**NOTE:** *Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

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

# Highlights

## Post-Elections:

### Al-Bashir declared winner in presidential polls

**Sudantribune.com; local dailies Khartoum** – NCP candidate and incumbent president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir was officially proclaimed a winner in Sudan elections, a result which surprised no one inside the country or abroad.

First Vice-President and current president of South Sudan Salva Kiir also won the presidential race in the semi-autonomous region.

National Elections Commission (NEC) chairman Abel Alier announced that Bashir received 68% of the votes (6,901,694) while Kiir garnered a whopping 93% (2,616,613) as the SPLM candidate president in the south.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch stressed in a statement today that the win gave Al-Bashir no extra legal immunity against the ICC charges.

The European Union (EU) echoed the same position saying there can be no impunity for those like Al-Bashir, facing serious charges under international law.

A statement by EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg welcomed "the largely peaceful conduct of the recent election" but expressed concerns about "the counting and aggregation of results" as identified by EU observers.

The EU statement insisted that "impunity for the most serious crimes under international law can never be accepted." The 27 EU nations reiterated support for the ICC and called on the Sudan authorities "to cooperate fully with the ICC in accordance with its obligations under international law

Opposition parties dismissed the vote result as farce.

"They cooked the figures — (Al-Bashir) didn't get 51 percent of the vote," UMMA Reform and Renewal Party (URRP) leader Mubarak al-Fadil told **Reuters**. "His campaign was conducted under a one party system with all the foundations of a police state ... it was a farce."

Arman said on Monday he believed Al-Bashir had "lost," judging by the number of abstentions and accusations of fraud.

"I believe Al-Bashir lost the elections," Arman told reporters in the capital

"The National Election Commission told us there were 16 million Sudanese who registered and Bashir got six million and this six million (figure) is contested... that means 10 million Sudanese do not want Bashir," he said.

"These elections were fraudulent and non-democratic. The coalition of opposition rejects the results. We consider them null and void," Yusuf Sideeg, a senior communist party official, told AFP.

Mariam Al-Sadiq, a senior member of the Umma party which had pulled out of the race, said the election results are "morally more corrupt" than the coup that brought al-Bashir to power and called the voting "a costly and ineffective experience."

The elected president appeared on national television shortly after the results to declare "the success of these elections is in essence a success for the Sudanese people." He promised to reach out to all forces in Sudan to form a national "partnership" and vowed to make sure that the

referendum takes place.

"You gave us your trust," he said. "I reaffirm I will go ahead with the southern referendum on time and complete the peace process in Darfur". He hailed the Sudanese people saying that they "have achieved this moral victory before the eyes of the world in a civilized, high class and shared manner."

Darfur rebels also rejected the outcome of the elections saying it will complicate matters.

"We believe that the international communities' goal of implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and conduct a referendum on self-determination must not be an excuse for the recognition of Bashir and his blessing, this is unacceptable from the Sudanese people in general and the people of Darfur in particular. These election were rigged and do not reflect the opinion of the Sudanese citizens and the international community taken into account" Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) said.

"Things in our country are not going according to what the people of Sudan wanted. This is going to lead to tension and chaos," Ahmed Hussein, the Spokesperson for the Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) said. "People are not going to accept al-Bashir for another five years."

The Sudanese president is flying to Egypt on Tuesday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak in the Red Sea resort of Sharm Al-Sheikh.

### **Al-Bashir's elections victory strengthens his position against the ICC - AL**

The head of the Arab League elections monitoring delegation to Sudan, Salah Halima, regards President Al-Bashir polls win as a way to strengthen his political position against the ICC, reports *Al-Ahdath*. He said that the positions of the Arab League, the African Union, and other international organisations against the ICC position as expressive of international public opinion against the arrest warrant on Al-Bashir.

### **Salva Kiir garners 92% of the votes for GoSS president**

FVP Salva Kiir emerged victorious in the GoSS presidential polls sweeping 92% of the valid votes to the sole challenger Lam Akol's 7.01%, *Al-Ahdath* reports. Addressing a rally of supporters in Juba yesterday, FVP Kiir commended the people of Sudan for the peaceful conduct of the polls.

SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum told reporters in Juba yesterday that the SPLM has accepted the elections results "despite the wide scale rigging that marred the process in northern Sudan." He said that the SPLM is ready to form a new government that would continue in the implementation of the CPA.

"The NCP candidate for President of the Republic (Al-Bashir) won 64% of the votes in the north and got only 2% of the votes in the south," he said. He pointed out that this shows that southerners reject Al-Bashir. He also pointed out that this is a serious issue that puts Sudan at a crossroads.

Amum called on President Al-Bashir to expedite the border demarcation and preparations for the referendum in order to "gain some credibility in the eyes of the southerners".

### **FVP Kiir congratulates Al-Bashir on elections win**

First Vice-President and President of the GoSS, Salva Kiir Mayardit, has congratulated President Al-Bashir for winning the presidential polls and has pledged to establish a "positive partnership" with the NCP for the implementation of the CPA, *Al-Sahafa* reports.

The FVP told a gathering of senior SPLM members in Juba following the proclamation of the polls results that his next government would be formed within the next three weeks.

While addressing press conference in which he officially accepted his election to the office, the GoSS President-elect vowed never to discriminate against any southern citizens during his term President of the Government of Southern Sudan.

"I will be the president of all the Southern Sudanese citizens during my term, Kiir said adding he will not let the euphoria of his victory affects his judgment and delivery of what he promised the electorate during his campaigns.

Delivering his acceptance speech in Juba, the president-elect thanked the people of Southern Sudan for entrusting him with the esteemed position. He also commended them for maintaining peace during the electioneering period and urged them to maintain the same spirit into the future.

"The trust you have bestowed upon me is immense and I can assure you that I'll not disappoint you", he said. He also admitted that the responsibilities of the presidency cannot be delivered by one individual but through concerted efforts of all the patriotic citizens of the Southern Sudan.

He also encouraged those who may have lost in the elections not to succumb to the sorrow of the loss but join the rest of the citizens in developing Southern Sudan. Nonetheless, he assured all the citizens that he will not discriminate anyone during his tenure. "I will be the president of all the Southern Sudanese citizens during my term," he emphasized.

Authorities in Juba have meanwhile raised the security alert levels in a bid to pre-empt possibilities of violence following the announcement of the poll results.

### **Polls have proven that SPLM is a force to be reckoned with – Luka Biong**

"Despite the different projections, the polls have caused ripples in the political pond in the country and have shown that the SPLM is a real political force to be reckoned with," Luka Biong, GoSS Minister for Presidential Affairs, said. *Al-Sahafa* reports that the GoSS minister added that the political forces, if they had participated in the polls, would have made it impossible for Al-Bashir to get the 50+1 majority required for a win and would have thus pushed the elections to a second round.

Biong further pointed out that the polls have shown that the independents are the only other formidable political forces in southern Sudan, apart from the SPLM. He pointed out however that this overwhelming SPLM victory in southern Sudan is a lesson to the SPLM and that the party should work towards consolidating democracy within its own ranks.

### **Southern participation in government important for the referendum - NCP**

Senior NCP member Kamal Obeid says SPLM participation in the pre-referendum federal government is very important, reports *Al-Sahafa*. Obeid said that there is a move to include the SPLM in the next federal government.

### **Tension in Juba as tens arrested**

Violence broke out in Juba yesterday following the proclamation of SPLM candidate Clement Wani as winner in the Central Equatoria State gubernatorial contest, *Al-Intibaha* reports. Supporters of the independent candidate, Alfred Ladu Gore, took to the streets yesterday and headed to the resident of their preferred candidate whom they claim had won the contest only to be blocked by the police. Gore's supporters then threw stones at the police that responded with ordering in more police and SPLA reinforcements who clamped down on the demonstrators.

### **SPLM wins big but loses a gubernatorial position in southern Sudan**

The SPLM has swept all but one of the gubernatorial positions in the ten states of southern Sudan, *local dailies* report. The solitary gubernatorial loss was to independent candidate Joseph Bakasoro who beat the incumbent Governor of Western Equatoria, Jemma Nunu, by a margin of 5,000 votes.

## **Lawrence Sulubia of Western Equatoria, a hero of electoral law**

**Sudantribune.com** Juba, 26/04/10 - While some of the respondents said it was important for SPLM to maintain gubernatorial positions “by all means’ in all the Southern Sudan states in order to maintain smooth inter-governmental relations with Juba, others criticized the alleged rigging through the help of the States High Elections Committees.

They criticized states electoral bodies, which allegedly allowed for rigging of votes in favour of incumbent governors, for being democratically unprincipled and violators of the electoral law that should have guided their work.

They appreciated what they said was a neutral position taken by Lawrence Suluba, chairman of the State High Elections Committee in Western Equatoria State. Many called him a “hero” of democratic principles who did not bow down to the direct threats on his life allegedly by the state authorities or did not surrender to material gains in order to rig or inflate the elections results.

In particular they owed the announced winning of the Western Equatoria independent gubernatorial candidate, Joseph Bakasoro, to the principled position taken by Suluba in the face of the intimidations.

Suluba reportedly “escaped an apparent assassination attempt on Thursday” allegedly through police conspiracy after he refused to rig the votes in favour of the SPLM gubernatorial candidate and incumbent governor, Jemma Nunu Kumba. He instead sent the true counted ballots results to NEC office in Khartoum as they originally came from the polling centres. News reports from Western Equatoria State suggest that he is still being hunted by state authorities that have now lost the elections for not cooperating with them to rig the election results.

His two Information Technology (IT) professionals, namely Alfred Gimigu and Benty Singba, were reportedly kidnapped, beaten in the state and their whereabouts are not known. The two officials were tasked to type elections results into the computer data before transmitting them to NEC head office in Khartoum for announcement.

## **Elections results were cooked – SPLM’s Yassir Arman**

SPLM ex-candidate for President of the Republic, Yassir Arman, says the fact that the NCP did not get much votes in Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile State and the states of southern Sudan show that their candidate “has been rejected by the margins”, **local dailies** report. He described the final elections results as a “lame duck” and pointed out that many changes were done to the results before the final announcement. He described the forthcoming parliament as “still-born”.

Speaking at a press conference in Khartoum yesterday, Arman said that the SPLM would participate in the next federal government not as a gift from the NCP but by virtue of the Interim Constitution.

The SPLM Deputy Secretary-General said that Al-Bashir’s polls victory was “at the expense of the people of Sudan especially against the background of his rejection by the ‘forces in the margins’ and the international community.” He maintains that the NEC had ordered manual counting of the votes in order to facilitate rigging. He further vented doubts on the results.

He assured there are no bad feelings between him and the NCP leadership and pledged to work with those in the NCP leadership who are “sincere in pushing for the realisation of a voluntary unity”.

Arman also announced that the SPLM Leadership Bureau will hold a meeting in the next two days to chart a strategy for southern Sudan for the next stage.

## **SLM-MM pledges support to elected government**

The SLM-MM leadership has congratulated the victors in the recently-concluded polls in the country and says it is ready to fully cooperate with the elected government for the interest of the Sudanese, **Akhir Lahza** reports.

Prominent SLM-MM figure Al-Tayeb Khamis, underlined the need for agreement between the people of Darfur in order to shore up peace in their region.

## **Other Highlights:**

### **SAF leadership appraises VP on Security Arrangements**

The SAF top brass briefed Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha yesterday on progress in the implementation of the CPA's Security Arrangements, reports **Al-Sahafa**.

The briefing took place at the offices of the SAF Joint Chiefs of Staff and saw Defence Minister Abdulraheem Mohamed Hussein reiterate the SAF commitment to the implementation of those arrangements.

On his part, VP Taha commended the army in its role and for its commitment to the implementation of the security arrangements. He also praised the army for advocating against a return to war in the country and its support for national unity.

### **Cautious calm in Bulbula following SPLA-Rizeigat clashes**

Cautious calm prevails in the Bulbula area at the borders of Western Bahr-el-Ghazal and South Darfur states with an underlying tension following reports of an SPLA military build-up, reports **Al-Ahdath**. The area has been a site of bloody clashes in the past two days between SPLA soldiers and armed Misseriya tribesmen.

Mohamed Omar, the *Umda* of Bulbula area, denies reports of a SAF presence in the area but says the SPLA is amassing its troops and heavy weaponry in Abu Joko and Kitiki south of Bulbula. "We will fight them (the SPLA) with all we have," he vowed pointing out that they lost 19 fighters while the SPLA lost 70 in the recent clashes.

In a related development, **Al-Sahafa** reports that the Rizeigat have yesterday warned the SPLA against a repeat attack in Bulbula and has accused the federal government of falling short in its duties to protect them.

### **Four South African peacekeepers released in Darfur**

**Sudantribune.com** Khartoum, 26/04/10 - Four South African peacekeepers were released today after more than two weeks of capture by former rebels who were in difference with the Sudanese government.

The People's Democratic Struggle Movement (PDSM), a breakaway faction from the former rebel SLM-Free Will, admitted the kidnapping of the four peacekeepers saying it wanted to prove lack of security and no suitable atmosphere for elections in the restive region.

Last week, the abductors disclosed their decision to release the two women and two men after the announcement of the results of elections.

"We released them half an hour ago," said Ibrahim al-Dukki, a PDSM spokesperson in a statement to the AFP. "We dropped them off in the Niertiti area," in west Darfur, Dukki said, adding that no ransom had been paid.

The UNAMID in statement issued today confirmed the release saying their release after a pledge by President Omer Al-Bashir to do everything possible to for a safe return of the hostages.

"We are grateful to have our colleagues back with us. This day would not have been possible, had it not been for the good cooperation of the Government of the Sudan and the local authorities of South Darfur," said UNAMID chief, Ibrahim Gambari, who was in Nyala to greet the released peacekeepers.

The four peacekeepers are expected to fly to South Africa after medical examinations.

## **Darfur rebel factions announce their merger with LJM**

**Sudantribune.com** Doha, 27/04/10 - A number of Darfur rebel factions joined today the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) led by Tijani El-Sissi, as part of the ongoing efforts to reunite the armed groups.

In a press conference held today in Doha, the official venue of the peace talks, the LJM leader announced Monday the merger of five rebel factions with his group citing the SLM- Juba Unity, SLM-Unity, SLM-National Consensus, SLM-Abu Haraz and the Banner of Democratic Sudan.

He described the move as "historical" adding "we finish today the unification of the LJM while Sudan's unity is facing enormous challenges" he further asserted that the 90% of the armed factions have joined his group now.

Ahmed Abdel Shafi, leader of SLM-Juba, told Sudan Tribune they decided to merge within the LJM because only unity would allow them to achieve a just peace and get the rights of Darfur people.

"Divisions have weakened the resistance," he further stressed.

Ahmed who is expected to be appointed as vice-president said LJM structure would be reshaped in order to ensure the representation of all the groups.

## **Chadian embassy assets handed over to ambassador**

The head of the Protocols Department in Sudan's Foreign Ministry says that Sudan and Chad have made considerable efforts to remove all obstacles to normal relations between them. Haidar Hassan Haj Al-Sadig said that the Ministry yesterday handed over the assets of the Chadian Embassy in Khartoum to its ambassador, reports **Al-Sahafa**.

## **ICC judges reject appeal on charges against Darfur rebel leader**

**Sudantribune.com** Washington, 26/04/10 - The judges at the International Criminal Court (ICC) ruled last Friday that the prosecution has failed to provide grounds that warrant an appeal against a decision made last February to decline the confirmation of charges against a Darfur rebel leader.

Bahr Idriss Abu Garda, leader of Darfur United Resistance Front (URF), was accused by the prosecution of playing a role in the deadly assault that left 12 soldiers from the African Union (AU) peacekeepers dead and wounded eight others.

Most of the soldiers, from Botswana, Gambia, Nigeria, Mali and Senegal, were "executed" — shot at close range, according to the prosecutor's office.

Abu Garda was the first individual to appear before The Hague based court in connection with the Darfur case. The rebel chief agreed to surrender himself voluntarily last year to face the charges saying he is confident of his innocence.

---

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[Http://unmis.unmissions.org](http://unmis.unmissions.org)

---

### **United Nations Mission In Sudan - Public Information Office**

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN

Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200