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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Post-Referendum Headlines

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# Highlights

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## **CPA parties resume talks in Addis Ababa**

*Al-Sahafa* 10/4/11 – The NCP and the SPLM have resumed their talks in Addis Ababa in presence of Thabo Mbeki to discuss economic and post-referendum issues. Sources said the first day of the talks witnessed no breakthrough on key issues.

In another development, *Sudan Vision* 10/4/11 reports Mbeki as saying that delegations from the NCP and SPLM will head to Washington to discuss Sudan's foreign debts. The delegation will enter into intensive meetings with the World Bank, the IMF and the debtors.

## **Parties' meeting in Juba did not address key dossiers – Amum**

*Al-Ayyam* 10/4/11 – SPLM SG Pagan Amum said the CPA parties' meetings in Juba did not address the important issues particularly the SPLM's charge that the NCP is supporting anti-GoSS militias and the controversy over the southern MPs.

According to *Al-Sahafa*, Amum, however, said the joint political committee between the two parties would meet on 13 April to discuss issues of border demarcation and nationality. Amum's statement came following Bashir-Kiir meeting in Juba after which the AU mediator Thabo Mbeki said some breakthrough had been achieved on security issues.

*Miraya FM* 9/4/11 reported Amum said Thursday that the meeting between Al- Bashir and Kiir formulated a timetable to resolve issues of border demarcation and nationality between the North and the South.

## **Kiir may be relieved from his post prior to July - Speaker**

*Sudan Tribune website* 9/4/11 – FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit may lose his federal post well before the South officially secedes next July, the speaker of the national assembly said today.

Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir was quoted by the London-based *Al-Hayat* newspaper as saying that he expects Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir to issue a decree removing Kiir from his position.

Al-Tahir said that this step might be taken because Kiir's presence in the Presidency became ceremonial and without any powers.

The speaker also warned the South from pushing for war with the North saying that Khartoum's response would be "violent".

The federal cabinet affairs minister Luka Biong cautioned against taking any steps to force Kiir out saying that this would have "serious consequences" for both North and South.

## **JIU mandate in Abyei and oil areas extended**

*Local dailies* 10/4/11 – The JDB, based on a presidential decree, ended yesterday the task of the Joint Integrated Units (JIU) but decided to maintain a brigade in Abyei. The Board also decided to retain the oil security forces in Fuluj and North Bahr el Ghazal.

*Al-Raed* 10/4/11 reports JDB spokesperson Maj. Gen. Biyar Atim as saying that the Board decided to keep a brigade in Abyei to secure civilian movement to the North and the South and the force HQ will remain in Abyei and their administrative task extends north until Defra area.

### **Preparations finalized for elections in southern Kordofan**

*Akhir Lahza* 10/4/11 – National Elections Commission said all preparations have been finalized for the start of elections in southern Kordofan, adding that candidates' campaigns in the media would begin by the end of this week.

Higher committee Chair in the state Adam Abideen said 555 polling centres have been prepared adding that the ballot papers would arrive in the area on 17 April.

However, *the Citizen* 10/4/11 reports that SPLM spokesperson in southern Kordofan Mohamedain Ibrahim expressed fears over delay in appointing staff in 555 balloting centres in the area, adding that the lack of staff could result in rigging as previous experiences showed.

### **Abyei Committee to meet tomorrow to complete implementation of Kadugli agreement**

*Sudan Radio* 9/4/11 – The Abyei committee set up by the two CPA parties is to hold a meeting on Monday in Khartoum to follow up on the implementation of Kadugli agreement.

In another development, *Sudan Vision* 10/4/11 reports NCP Political Secretary Ibrahim Ghandour has said that despite some disputes the NCP and the SPLM reached many agreements on various issues including the post-referendum issues.

In an interview with the Qatari newspaper "Al-Sharq" Ghandour said that the SPLM connects all agreements with breakthrough in the file of Abyei, adding, "For us, this file, despite its importance, is just one of the files and must not be linked to the rest of the files, and we have agreed on what proposed by Thabo Mbeki.

The SPLM wants to violate the right of Misseriya in Abyei and evacuate them while they are the original land owners, and that Abyei lies entirely north of the borders of 1956.

Meanwhile, Misseriya leaders plan to submit a memorandum to the Constitutional Court on the statements of officials in the southern government alleging that Abyei is part of South Sudan.

### **Political parties say neglected on PopCon in Blue Nile**

*Al-Sahafa* 10/4/11 – a coalition of political parties in the Blue Nile state have complained of being neglected by the Popular Consultations (PonCon) Parliamentary Commission because they have not been invited to attend the launch of PopCon data entry which began on Friday under the supervision of Khartoum University's Peace Research Institute. The parties said the negligence is unacceptable since they are observers and key parties to the process.

Parties' coalition Chair Al-Sadiq Karra told reporters that they had sent a memo to the Commission requesting access to the PopCon data before they are entered but they received no response.

## **Shiluk to complain to UN over repeated attacks in the upper Nile**

**Akhbar Al-Youm** 10/4/11 –An SPLA camp located west of Malakal was completely destroyed by fire and the Shiluk are reportedly decided to submit a memo of complaint to the UN in Khartoum tomorrow over repeated attacks against the tribe in Upper Nile area.

An anonymous source told the newspaper that the camp of the SPLA's 7th Division caught fire and the Shiluk have decided to complain to the UN because the tribe came under repeated attacks since the recent incidents in Malakal.

## **US envoy to Sudan: Abyei conflict could spark war**

**AP** 9/4/11 - Both southern and northern Sudan have violated agreements by bringing heavily armed units into the disputed border region of Abyei, the U.S. special envoy said Saturday.

A confrontation in the fertile region could restart the civil war between North and South that raged for more than two decades and ended only in 2005, said Princeton Lyman.

The newly appointed special envoy described the situation in Abyei as "very tense." By bringing in military hardware, both parties have violated the terms of a recently reached security deal stating that forces would be withdrawn.

"That is very worrisome," Lyman said in an interview in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

"The danger is that a confrontation in a place like Abyei could get out of hand," he said. "And that could lead them to wholesale war with very serious consequences."

Lyman, who attends meetings in Ethiopia and Sudan on the transition of Southern Sudan to independence in July, said Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and southern leader Salva Kiir have both said they don't want to go back to war.

But Bashir and Kiir "are adhering very, very tight to their respective positions" on Abyei, said Lyman. "It is a deadlock which has to be resolved politically."

## **Southern MPs "Checking out"**

**Local dailies** 10/4/11 – Local dailies report that the southern MPs will today complete "check out procedures" including the return of property issued to them and they will also receive their entitlements.

**Al-Sudani** 10/4/11 reports MP Ramadan Hassan Lako as saying that the MPs would leave the House peacefully and in good faith.

## **South Sudan pledges free press environment**

**Sudan Tribune website** 9/4/11 - The Government of South Sudan said on Saturday it allows journalists to freely exercise and perform their duties without entertaining violence, harassment or threats from any faction in the society against them, stressing they must "operate freely".

Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services, Barnaba Marial Benjamin Bil, said in an interview with Sudan Tribune in response to allegations that Security operatives confiscated over

250 copies identified as belonging to as biweekly English Newspaper, The Juba Post, over an article quoting Dok James Puok, spokesman of the renegade General George Athor, as threatening to launch an attack on the regional capital.

Marial said the incident in which security operative confiscated copies of the newspaper was an isolated one and that his government does not in any way support infringing on press freedom.

"We are democratic government which allows all kind of freedom including press. We do not entertain any behavior which would interfere with all freedoms. What happened last week was an isolated incident and it has been resolved," said minister Marial.

He said beating and arresting journalists without seeking evidence is undemocratic and that his ministry would not entertain.

"Beating journalists is undemocratic and unlawful. As government we are disturbed when we hear of journalists being harassed or beaten as these are professionals who should be allowed to perform their duties, whether we agree with them or not," he said.

He said social factions including security operative must not take it upon themselves to attack professional media personnel but allow them to carry out their duties as their role is to inform the nation about events happening in the country.

"In South Sudan, we must promote the spirit of tolerance in diversity. We must agree to disagree and still continue to live together, side by side," he said.

He said the government values the important role media from different backgrounds as a public broadcaster plays in providing quality information to South Sudanese and the world at large during referendum.

The minister said he would use the interview as an opportunity to tell management of different media houses especially those involved in the broadcast to provide a well equipped in-house language laboratory fitted with microphones, recorders and headphones which will allow newscasters to practice, record themselves and playback to refine oral delivery.

"As Government, we will continue assisting our media to achieve its strategic objectives. We will, for instance, continue to support the broadcaster's rural television project because we want to ensure that rural areas are also availed information," he said.

## **Other Highlights**

### **Eastern Equatoria state declares famine**

*Al-Sahafa* 9/4/11 – Humanitarian Affairs Minister in the Eastern Equatoria state Banaya Benjamin said the state was hit by famine. Benjamin called on NGOs for urgent intervention and stressed the need for these NGOs to allocate adequate budget to deal with the situation.

## **Defense Minister visits Port-Sudan**

**SUNA** 9/4/11 – Defence Minister Abdul-Rahim Mohamed Hussein on Saturday made a one-day visit to the Red Sea State heading a high-level military delegation as part of his field visit to the various units of the armed forces in the country.

The Minister and the accompanying delegation also inspected the site of the attack on the Sudanese car, 15 kilometers south of Port-Sudan, and listened to a report presented by the acting governor.

The Minister visited the families of the two victims of the attack in Port-Sudan. It is to be noted that the two victims of the attack were Issa Hamid Mohamed Hussein Hadab from Al-Amrar tribe and Ahmed Jibril from Al-Ababda tribe.

**Sudan Tribune website** 9/4/11 reported that Gen. Hussein commented for the first time on the air strike that took place near the coastal city of Port Sudan that was blamed on Israel.

Hussein was quoted by the Sudanese Media Center (SMC) as saying that the government "is aware of all the dimensions related to the incident".

The victims were identified as Eissa Ahmed Hadab from Al-Amrar tribe and his personal driver Ahmed Gibreel. The government denied any links between the two men and Islamist groups.

Gibreel was a businessman from an Egyptian-Sudanese tribe in Red Sea state who had lived in Egypt for many years before returning to Sudan in 2009, a political activist in the region told Agence France Presse (AFP). Hadab, the car's driver, was a fisherman and also from eastern Sudan, the activist added.

The Sudanese defense minister who paid condolences to the families of the victims said that he discussed with security agencies the precautions taken to prevent the repetition of such attacks and vowed to secure the Red Sea area despite having long coastlines.

Hussein claimed that the attack took place because of Sudan's commitment to Islamic Sharia's law and the cause of the Palestinian people. He pledged to the citizens of the state that the army will "stop violations by the Mossad [Israeli intelligence] in East Sudan".

The top military official met with air defense commanders and stopped by the Flamingo military base to review the air defenses.

The army spokesperson Al-Sawarmi Khalid who accompanied Hussein told SMC that the air strike was carried out by two planes that entered Sudan's air space using jamming technology and bombed the car in two minutes before heading back.

He made no mention of Sudanese air defenses firing at the planes as was reported earlier this week by SMC.

The Sudanese foreign ministry also issued a statement with further details saying that two Israeli Apache helicopters fired rockets and bullets into the vehicle. It added that three rockets were found at the scene that did not explode as well as ballistics.

The ministry revealed that it has launched a diplomatic offensive to get Arab, African and Islamic support through contacting the respective regional organizations. The Sudanese ambassador at the United Nations is working on drafting a formal complaint to present to the UN Security council (UNSC), the statement added.

Furthermore, the ministry said that Sudan will bring up the issue before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to condemn the Israeli aggression.

### **Turabi's family concerned over his health**

*Al-Intibaha* 10/4/11 – The family of jailed PCP leader Hassan Al-Turabi expressed concern yesterday over his health condition after news that he slipped and fell in a bathroom and was hospitalized.

Turabi's wife Wisal Al-Mahdi said the family and his personal doctor do not know his location and also has no information about his present health condition.

According to *Al-Tayyar* 10/4/11, Wisal stressed the need for treatment of her husband abroad even if he is to be accompanied by a NISS representative.

Meanwhile, *Local dailies* 10/4/11 report that the PCP drawn up a plan for the Sudanese opposition to overthrow what it described as "corrupt regime".

According to *Al-Tayyar* 10/4/11, the PCP's plan advised the opposition that anti-regime demonstrations should not be confined to Khartoum, it should be organized across the country to bring the regime down.

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