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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## **Bashir will not accept alternative to Sudan unity**

*AFP* 12/10/10 - Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir today said he would not accept an alternative to unity despite his commitment to a peace deal with the South that provides for referendum.

"Despite our commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, we will not accept an alternative to unity," Bashir told Parliament in a speech.

Analysts say the vote is expected to favour independence.

## **VP Taha to visit Juba today for consultations with GoSS FVP Kiir**

*Al-Sudani* 12/10/10 – VP Ali Osman Taha is to pay a short visit to Juba today for consultation with FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit.

GoSS source said Kiir and Taha are expected to focus on referendum and Abyei. The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Kiir would insist that the referendum be conducted on time even if the border is not demarcated.

Reportedly, Taha wants to convey to Kiir the NCP's protest against his (Kiir) request for deployment of international troops at the border.

Meanwhile, other sources reported that the two partners were conducting secret talks under western observation in Juba and their talks have reached a sensitive stage and are expected to reach an agreement on critical issues during the two coming days. However, the sources indicated that it was unlikely that the outcome would be released before they are submitted to the political leadership.

According to *Al-Ahram* 12/10/10, Taha's visit to Juba is directed by President Al-Bashir and that the meeting between Taha and Kiir would discuss all the CPA pending issues particularly the demarcation of the border and Abyei.

## **Failure of vote on time means collapse of CPA and constitution – SPLM**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya* 12/10/10 – the SPLM has warned that any failure to conduct the referendum on time would automatically mean the collapse of the CPA and the Constitution, saying if that occurs the SPLM would be forced to conduct the referendum unilaterally and under the UN observation.

SPLM Deputy Chairman and Speaker of the South Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) James Wani said that any delay would mean a "great shock" to the southern Sudanese, adding that the NCP is seeking an indefinite postponement of the process. He added that according an opinion poll conducted in three southern states, the majority southerners would vote for independence.

## **Government requests UN comprehensive monitoring of the referendum**

*Al-Ahram* 12/10/10 – VP Ali Osman Taha stressed to the UN Panel tasked with monitoring the vote the need for its comprehensive monitoring of the process particularly the registration, follow-up on appeals and security of ballot boxes to ensure that the process is free and fair.

According to *SUNA* 11/10/10, Taha affirmed the state commitment to hold the referendum on time and to respect its result provided that it should be fair, transparent and reflecting the will of the people of south Sudan.

This came during Taha's meeting Monday with the UN panel for monitoring the referendum of south Sudan which is headed by the former president of Tanzania, Benjamin Mkapa. The meeting focused on the referendum issue and its monitoring.

Meanwhile, Mkapa affirmed his panel's commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and their readiness to carry out the mission assigned to them properly.

## **FM tells UN Panel Government is committed to referendum on time**

*Al-Sahafa* 12/10/10 – Foreign Minister Ali Karti has informed the visiting UN Panel for monitoring South Sudan referendum that the Sudanese Government is ready to conduct the process on time.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with the Panel, Karti said the team came to Sudan at the request of the two partners to monitor the referendum, stressing the need for a free and transparent process for the result to be accepted. He said the Government would facilitate the mission of the Panel and hoped that the talks in Addis Ababa on Abyei would produce positive results.

Head of the Panel Mr. Benjamin Mkapa said the task of his team is to monitor the referendum to ensure that it is conducted in a proper manner, adding the panel would hold consultations with GoSS officials to know their viewpoints. Mkapa said, as a panel, they would undertake their task with impartiality and transparency.

Meanwhile, South Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) Spokesperson Jamal Ahmed Ibrahim told reporters that SSRC Head Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil briefed the visiting Panel members on the administrative and technical preparations for the referendum. He said the SSRC has welcomed the international observers and all other partners to ensure a free and fair process.

## **SPLM refuses border demarcation before referendum**

*Al-Intibaha* 11/10/10 - Chair of SPLM caucus in the National Assembly, Thomas Wani, has declared that no border demarcation would be carried out before the referendum, affirming that the technical committee on border demarcation stated that due to time constraint it would not be possible to carry out the said exercise. Mr. Wani further stated that they would resort to the international community. Responding to statements attributed to the NCP that delaying border demarcation might lead to war, Wani said that these statements were mere political posturing.

## **Talks on Abyei fail, FVP Kiir and VP Taha likely to join**

*Al-Sahafa* 12/10/10 – Talks between the NCP and the SPLM over Abyei in Addis Ababa have

reportedly deadlocked but would be resumed after two weeks with the participation of FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit, VP Ali Osman Taha, US envoy Gration and former South African President Thabo Mbeki. Some members of the NCP and SPLM delegations have already left Ethiopia for Khartoum and Juba and the rest will follow today.

Sources said the two delegations have totally failed to reach an agreement on the definition of the voter which has the right to vote in the upcoming referendum. They have also failed to agree on a joint communiqué but they agreed to make high-level contacts to achieve rapprochement on US envoy Gration's proposal which suggests annexation of the Area to the South and that other Sudanese living in Abyei including the Misseriya would be granted dual nationality should secession take place.

"This round has failed," said Pagan Amum, secretary-general of the south's ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement and head of the SPLM delegation to the talks, according to *Reuters* 12/10/10.

"We are left with 90 days. The time is very critical. If the parties fail to sort out these issues this could lead to an end of the peace process itself. And the peace may unravel in Sudan," he told reporters in the Ethiopian capital where the talks were being held.

*Sudan Tribune website* 11/10/10 reported that the office of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in the oil contested town of Abyei on Monday said the region has no intention to compromise even any inch of the areas demarcated by the permanent court of Arbitration even if it means resorting to war.

Miyen Alor Kuol, a member of the SPLM in Abyei town told *Sudan Tribune* that the area would not accept any proposal demanding renegotiation of the Abyei protocol.

"We will not at all, accept anything less than implementation of the protocol itself. We will not accept any proposal demanding renegotiation of the Abyei protocol even if it mean[s] resorting to war. I repeat, we will not and will never compromise even any inch, in current discussions, because the protocol itself is clear and tells who comes where and lives where," said Kuol sounded annoyed at how discussions.

"Like I talked to them yesterday, they again told me this morning that they are still consulting among themselves. They have not resumed discussions that means talks are not progressing. They are working out differences because members of the delegation from the National Congress Party representing Messeriya are initiating completely new discussions over Abyei," said Kuol, adding.

He said that he does not understand why the NCP is insisting on definition of who is eligible to vote in the Abyei referendum.

"I still do not understand why the NCP insists on definition of eligibility and citizenship of those who will have to vote in Abyei referendum because these rights and eligibility have already been defined and explained in the protocol."

Kuol does not believe the Messeriya should be able to vote and says the rights were already

agreed in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the SPLM and NCP. "All rights including that of Messeriya to seasonally move freely in the region with cattle and access grazing and water areas have been defined. Their rights according to the CPA are limited to water and grazing rights. I do not see any other right of the Messeriya which has not been granted."

"Not only in the protocol, the Permanent Court of Arbitration has also identified boundaries which identifies and locates who has what right and who comes from where," said Kuol, accusing the NCP of violating peace agreement.

Kuol said that the NCP was using the Messeriya to try to affect Abyei by attempting to change the original agreement that only the Dinka Ngok would be able to vote in the regions referendum.

This referendum, he said, according to the CPA, is meant only for the nine Dinka Ngok chiefdoms transferred to the Kordofan region in 1905 by the British under colonial rule. "When the nine Dinka Ngok were transferred, they were not transferred with Messeriya. They were transferred alone and so [this] is why the referendum is being organized for them. It does not include Messeriya," he said.

Acuil Akol Miyen, Abyei's secretary of finance and administration told Sudan Tribune that the talks in Ethiopia were moving in a "snail style".

"The talks are slowly moving. Our delegations remain at the vicinity of the [negotiating] table ready and opened for an honest discussions," said Miyen describing situation in the area as "relatively calm,"

In the mean time "people are leading their normal lives. Commercial routes connecting the area are open," he said.

In a related development, *Al-Akhabar* 12/10/10 reports that military presence at Abyei territory is increasing in an alarmed manner. Abyei Administration has denied any military buildup but SAF reportedly confirmed increasing presence of SPLA in the Area.

Meanwhile, Abyei Administration press officer Abyei Chol said SAF is building up troops in southern Kordofan, adding that SAF brigade (31) is currently stationed in Nama and Lafat Al-Tumsah area and is receiving intensive reinforcement but denied any SPLA presence in the area.

However, SAF spokesperson Lt. Col. Al-Sawarmi Khaled Saad said presence of brigade 31 is permitted by the CPA.

*Akhir Lahza* 12/10/10 reports Al-Sawarmi as saying that SAF is ready to secure the referendum process and the country until 1/1/1956 border, adding that securing the southern states is the duty of the JIUs and the UN troops. Al-Sawarmi said the CPA does not allow the SPLA to deploy arms and if it does so it would mean declaration of war.

### **Speed up formation of Abyei Referendum Commission-Ugandan envoy**

*Sudan Tribune website* 11/10/10 - The major signatories and key witnesses to Sudan's 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement should speed up the process of forming a commission to

conduct a referendum on the future of the oil rich region of Abyei, a top Ugandan envoy to South Sudan has advised.

Busho Ndinyenka, the Consul General at the Juba-based Uganda consulate made the remark while speaking during celebrations marking Uganda's 48th independence anniversary.

The Ugandan government, he said, alongside the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) friends, and the international community to agitate for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) especially the timely conduct of South Sudan and Abyei referenda.

Citing what he described as the improved and cordial relations between Uganda and the semi-autonomous region, Ndinyenka said achieving regional peace and security should be viewed as a collective effort involving key stakeholders.

"I would like at the outset to assure the people of Sudan that Uganda supports full implementation of the CPA in letter and spirit and will work together towards this end," the Ugandan envoy said, amidst cheers from the crowd.

The Consul General also denied reports he attributed to the Khartoum-based Government of National Unity (GONU), alleging that Uganda is responsible for the impending secession of Southern Sudan.

"This is far from the truth. We guaranteed the CPA with other international friends and vowed to promote the unity of the Sudan. Uganda's Pan-African credentials cannot be doubted." Uganda, he emphasized, will not shoulder the "mistakes" of other governments in the region, but instead focus on issues that will guarantee success in the forthcoming referendum and the full implementation of the 2005 peace deal.

The Ugandan envoy appealed to the Ugandan community to desist from activities that are likely to strain relations between the two neighboring regions, saying such good relations could boost the east African regional integration.

### **SPLA advances further into southern Kordofan state territory**

*Al-Intibaha* 12/10/10 - SPLA mobilized thousands of heavily-armed troops into Southern Kordofan state. Eyewitnesses confirmed that large number of SPLA troops advanced 30 km into the eastern parts of Abujubaiha locality of southern Kordofan State and forced farmers preparing for harvest to leave their lands. A SPLA commander reportedly said to them "we came to protect our country; you have to search for protectors". On other hand, NCP political coordinator of Southern Kordofan State, Awadallah Nawai has accused commissioners of localities bordering the South of collaborating with the SPLA as they did not listen to complaints from citizens. He further stated that such SPLA mobilization constitute gross violation of the CPA and an obstruction to border demarcation.

### **Misseriya preparing to defeat SPLA**

*Al-Intibaha* 12/10/10 - A number of Misseriya leaders have confirmed that they were ready to defeat the SPLA troops deployed to the north of Abyei, adding they were only waiting for permission from their leaders participating in Addis talks on Abyei. Abdelrahman Abu Saffa, a

Misseriya leader told the newspaper that SPLA was harassing people living north of Abyei town but they Misseriya were ready to defeat them. He further stated that the SPLA knows very well what fighting capacity the Misseriya possess.

### **1,000 demonstrate in Unity state for south Sudan's referendum on time**

*Sudan Tribune website* 11/10/10 - Over a thousand of youths, elders and women demonstrated in Unity state on 9 October demanding south Sudan's referendum on possible succession be held on time.

The event was organised by the governing party of the autonomous region the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) who have ruled Sudan since a 2005 peace deal with the Khartoum government.

Local chief Tuonguar Kweynguong said, "The day is very importance for the future of Southern Sudanese Children".

He advocated leaving the grievances of April's bitterly fought election, which led to one southern general from the state taking up arms against the government.

Kweynguong told the crowd that the referendum needed to be held on time.

He called on young members of the SPLM to spread the awareness of the referendum due for 9 January 2011 to all citizens in southern Sudan.

The state minister of Information and Communication Gideon Gatpan Thaor urged citizens to vote in the self-determination poll.

Thaor said at the beginning it was painful to us, and now we must have a solution for it in term of making our Youths promote awareness to the citizen.

A member of the SPLM Youth told Sudan Tribune that Unity state's SPLM Youth members in Khartoum had condemned the NCP for not allowing them to demonstration in the capital on Saturday. A pro-separation group of 40 southern Sudanese were chased away from a pro-unity demonstration by police.

The National Congress Party criticized the pro-separation group for interrupting the demonstration, which they hoped would demonstrate support for President Bashir during the visit of the UN Security Council.

### **SPLA relocating residents of "Qireqir and Fakhar" by force**

*Al-Wifaq* 12/10/10 – Many southerners who reside in the areas of "Qireqir and Fakhar" have complained that the SPLA is forcing their families to leave their areas and head for the South. Survivors of the forcible relocation who fled to the White Nile state yesterday revealed that many households have been forced to relocate to the South.

### **Khartoum and Juba agree to transport southerners from the North**

*Al-Ayyam* 12/10/10 – GoSS Humanitarian Affairs Minister Dr. Peter Aduk has said that an agreement was reached with the federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs on phased

transportation of southerners from the North. He said the agreement provided for the formation of three committees between the Federal Government and the GoSS, adding that his Government has decided to spend SDG 30 million on the transportation of southerners from the North to the South.

### **SPLM invites political parties to participate in south-south dialogue**

*Al-Ayyam* 12/10/10 – The SPLM has invited the national political parties to participate in the south-south dialogue conference to be convened in Juba from 13th to 15th October.

However, the SPLM indicated that the national political parties would only be represented by their southern Sudanese members.

Meanwhile, the National Consensus Forces (opposition) have decided to hold a meeting tonight in Khartoum to discuss a roadmap for their future activities.

### **GoSS rejects Gaddafi's statement on South Sudan secession**

*Al-Intibaha* 12/10/10 - The Southern Sudan Government (GoSS) has declared categorical rejection of the statement made by Libyan leader Gaddafi during the Arab Summit convened in Sirte on possible secession of the southern Sudan. GoSS minister of information, Barnaba Benjamin, said that Africa had not fragmented when Eritrea attained its independence from Ethiopia in 1993. He added that the will of the voters should be respected regardless of the referendum outcome.

### **GoSS seeks international support to referendum**

*Sudan Catholic Radio Network* 11/10/10 - GoSS authorities seek to reaffirm commitments from international organizations and governments in order to fulfill pledges to assist the referendum process.

GoSS director for Multilateral Relations, Joshua Franco Maya, told SCR News today that his ministry would soon engage CPA stakeholder and international partners to confirm practical ways to support the referendum on self-determination for South Sudan.

Mr. Maya mentioned that the printing of ballot papers, transport and communications were among the areas the government needed support together with cash.

Mr. Maya urged international partners including NGOs, the UN, AU and IGAD, to provide materials needed to make the January referendum a success.

He said that his government would press hard to ensure that the promises made by international partners were fulfilled.

CPA grantors and other stakeholders are yet to fulfill their pledges in time to support the referendum three months away.



## Other Highlights

### **SLM leadership to hold a meeting in Paris on Darfur peace**

*Sudan Tribune website* 11/10/10 – Paris-based chairman of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) will hold a meeting for the leadership of his group in France to discuss peace in Darfur.

Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, told Sudan Tribune today he will meet the leadership of his movement in Paris to discuss ways to reach a lasting peace in Darfur.

"We held a series of talks with the French foreign minister Bernard Kouchner during which I reiterated the commitment of the SLM to work for peace in Darfur, because we are peace lovers"

"I also stressed the need to bring in the leading cadres of the SLM to discuss the political settlement of the conflict and to develop a joint position over peace in Darfur and the Sudan."

Asked to elaborate on the agenda of this meeting, Nur said they will tackle on peace, security and humanitarian situations as well as the political developments in the country particularly southern Sudan referendum and the future of the country.

Regarding the date of the meeting, Al-Nur pledged to release soon further details about the event.

### **Fourth batch of Chadian rebels leave Darfur to N'djamena**

*Sudan Tribune website* 11/10/10 - The fourth batch of Chadian rebels left Darfur heading to Chad from El-Fasher the capital of North Darfur state, a Sudanese government sponsored news service reported.

The Sudanese Media Center said on Sunday that some 171 elements from a rebel umbrella called the Union of Resistance Forces (URF) accepted voluntarily to return home. "The operation is encouraged and supported by the Chadian and Sudanese governments," said the media outlet.

URF rebels said on October 4 they were discussing presence of their fighters with the Sudanese authorities as Khartoum normalized its relations with N'djamena and they pose a problem for Sudan.

The two neighbour countries agreed to stop supporting armed rebel groups from both sides ending a five years of proxy war. A joint force is now deployed along the border between the two countries to prevent rebels' circulation.

Hafiz Mohamed Omer, Minister of Culture and Information in North Darfur, said with departure of this group his state is now free from rebel presence, adding the remaining few number of rebels will leave the region within two days (Tuesday).

He further stressed that this operation is undertaken by North Darfur state with the participation of officials from the Chadian government and army.

Chadian rebel sources say President Idriss Deby urged Sudan to return all the armed opposition elements before the 16th of October. N'djamena will hold legislative elections next November.

### **Authorities threaten IDPs who met with UNSC delegation**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya* 12/10/10 – IDPs in Abu Shuk camp in North Darfur have revealed that local authorities have summoned IDP chiefs and leaders for interrogation because of meeting with the UNSC delegation during their recent visit. IDPs told Radio Dabanga that they have been threatened by authorities who also demanded them to provide names of all the people who met and spoke to the UNSC delegation members.

### **GoSS to purchases currency printing press**

*Al-Intibaha* 12/10/10 - Informed sources said that GoSS is making arrangements to buy a currency printing press in preparation for the secession. Sources have revealed that a meeting has taken place in Khartoum between GoSS Minister of Peace Pagan Amum and an unnamed businessman to finalize the arrangements for buying the printing press through an African country to be delivered after South Sudan independence.

### **GoSS prohibit Al-Intibaha in Juba**

*Al-Intibaha* 12/10/10 –GoSS has prohibited distribution of Al-Intibaha daily newspaper in Juba without giving reasons for this move. Editor-in-chief of the newspaper Al-Sadiq Al-Rizeigi has described the prohibition as a continuation of suppression by the GoSS of the freedom of expression in the South. He further stated that *Al-Intibaha* was targeted because it has been unveiling what was going in the South in terms of corruption and other violations by the SPLM.

### **Cardinal Zubeir survives assassination attempt**

*Sudan Catholic Radio Network* (SCRN) 12/10/10 -The archbishop of Khartoum yesterday escaped unhurt an assassination attempt while celebrating mass.

A Misseriya man identified as Hamdan Mohamed Abdurrahman attempted to kill the Catholic archbishop of Khartoum, Gabriel Cardinal Zubeir Wako, during a mass at the Comboni Playground in Khartoum, SCR News correspondent reported.

Cardinal Zubeir's master of ceremonies, Barnaba Matuec Anei, who was standing next to the Cardinal, said after the Glory while the dancers were returning to their places a man run towards the altar carrying a dagger.

Mr. Matuec added that he hurried to stop the attacker, took away the dagger and handed him over to the security personnel who took him away.

He said that the attacker exclaimed No problem when he stopped him.

Mr. Matuec added that Mr. Mohamed is in Police custody.

The archdiocese opened a police case against the attacker to see why he run with a dagger during the mass and if he was acting alone.