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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Referendum Monitor

## **GoSS launches campaign for voluntary returns from the north**

*Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 13/09/10* – The Federal and GoSS Ministries of Humanitarian Affairs would hold coordination meetings next week to discuss the repatriation of some 1.5 million southern Sudanese residing in the northern states, reveals Kormaj Chol, the GoSS Coordinator for Voluntary Returns. He pointed out that voluntary returns is a humanitarian right stipulated by the CPA and has nothing to do with the forthcoming referendum. He said that it is a continuation of the voluntary repatriation campaigns that started in 2005 but were suspended for lack of funding.

Chol criticised politicians for the exchange of accusations over the returns programme pointing out that the resultant rhetoric has caused the weariness within the southern Sudanese towards the campaign. He went on to say that the GoSS has earmarked the amount of \$30 million for the returns of southern Sudanese from Egypt (\$15 million) and from Khartoum and the northern states (\$25 million). Returnees would be ferried by river transport from Kosti to Juba via Malakal and Bor, by road from Khartoum to Juba through Kosti, El-Obeid, Kadugli and Unity State and from Khartoum by rail through Kosti, Aweil and Wau.

The GoSS Coordinator further revealed that the GoSS, in coordination with the Federal Government and international partners, would establish reception camps in Wau and Juba and provide foodstuff for returnees for the first three months while preparations are in process for their return home. He called on the UN and partners to support the reception centres with the provision of tents, foodstuffs and emergency health and education facilities.

## **Machar urges southern governors to play greater role in referendum process**

*Sudantribune.com Juba, 11/09/10* – GoSS VP Riek Machar has urged the governors of the ten states of the region to prepare their respective state administrations and to play a greater role in the ongoing referendum process as the 2011 referendum date draws close.

Machar urged the state governors to prepare the groundwork for the referendum exercise during the meeting of the Southern Sudan Referendum Taskforce, to which all the state governors were summoned on Thursday.

He explained to the governors that most of the referendum education will be carried out by the state governments and civil society organizations.

The meeting was also attended by a number of GoSS ministers, who are members of the taskforce, as well as legal experts from the Oversight Committee.

The budget for the taskforce and its allocation to the state governments were discussed. The VP, who chairs the forum, explained GoSS' obligation to offer technical assistance to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission/Bureau in preparation for the referendum, as stipulated in the referendum law.

The attendees were briefed on the ongoing work plan and proposed coordination with the state governments by the Minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, John Luk Jok, who is also the chairperson of Sub-committee One, which holds responsibility for the process of the referendum.

The taskforce was also briefed by the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster

Management, James Kok Ruei, on his ministry's plan to repatriate the Southern Sudanese from the northern states. The minister said that unlike in the past, the repatriation would be done in close coordination with the ten state governments.

State governors cited insecurity and lack of mobility in the states as among the most challenging areas in the referendum process. However, they expressed their readiness and commitment to effectively carrying out their functions in the states.

### **Central Equatoria State to set aside land for referendum activities**

*Al-Akhbar Juba, 13/09/10* – The Government of Central Equatoria State has instructed state County Commissioners to set aside land in their respective areas for the establishment of registration and voting centres for the forthcoming referendum. The state government is also calling on the people to turn up in large numbers to register for the vote.

### **AEC calls for good preparations ahead of the referendum**

*Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 13/09/10* – The mid-term evaluation report by the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) notes that good preparations are required ahead of the 2011 referendum, pointing out that the voters have to be convinced that the referendum would be free and fair. The report underlined the need to expedite completion of the administrative, logistics and funding processes required for the referendum as well as the mechanisms for monitoring the process. The report further underlined the need for agreements over post-referendum arrangements in order to enable voters make informed decisions.

### **SPLM to announce Thursday its position on the referendum**

*Al-Ahram Khartoum/ Juba, 13/09/10* The SPLM Liberation Council (the highest legislative body in the SPLM) meets in Juba next Thursday to determine its position on the issues of unity and separation, sources report. The sources further say that the Liberation Council would also chart an alternate course for the SPLM should the referendum in the event the referendum does not take place.

### **Representatives of south Sudan states in Khartoum call for unity vote**

*Al-Akhbar Khartoum, 13/09/10* – Representatives of southern Sudanese tribes in Khartoum are calling on their people in Khartoum to contribute to shore up unity through voting for unity at the 2011 referendum. They pointed out that the individual and historic ties between north and south are able to tip the balance towards the unity option. Jacob Mateir, a tribal leader, told *Al-Shurook television* that Sudanese should not miss this opportunity to show a new model through voting for unity.

# Other Highlights

## **Sudan, China discuss future of Chinese oil investments in Sudan**

*Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 13/09/10* - Foreign Minister Ali Karti says Sudanese and Chinese representatives would meet in Beijing next Monday for post-referendum discussions on guarantees for Chinese oil investments in Sudan. The foreign minister said before flying to China yesterday that Chinese oil investment would continue in Sudan whichever way the referendum swings.

Reports had it that China was mulling the construction of oil pipelines from southern Sudan to export outlets in Kenya.

## **United front needed against LRA**

*AFP Khartoum, 11/09/10* - Coordinated action must be taken to end the long-running brutal campaign by the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels, leaders from the four countries affected said on Saturday.

A rare three-day meeting of 30 religious and community leaders - including six bishops - as well as local government officials from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), south Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Uganda criticised the "lack of a coordinated and comprehensive strategy" to tackle the rebels.

"The LRA is committing atrocities across very remote areas of already unstable nations," read a joint statement following the meeting in the southern Sudanese town of Yambio, state capital of the badly affected Western Equatoria region. Better co-ordination is needed, they warned, adding that "LRA atrocities give no sign whatsoever of being on the decrease."

"DRC, Sudan and CAR all have internal conflicts that prevent them from sufficiently allocating their forces in a fight against the rebel group," it added, calling on all national armies to work to boost troop deployment in affected areas. "The international community has so far failed to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with the LRA as a regional threat, instead addressing the crisis in a piecemeal and haphazard way in the four different countries," it added.

The signatories demanded that UN peacekeepers be given a "greater capacity to deploy quickly" in response to attacks.

## **Ex-SPLA rebels invite Nuer fighters to join**

*Al-Ahram Khartoum/ Juba, 13/09/10* - A renegade group that split from the SPLA is calling on fighters from the Nuer tribe to join them. Gabriel Tab, a spokesperson for the group, called on the Nuer to join them to save their lives because the SPLA "seeks to assassinate" Nuer leaders. He pointed out that the SPLA recently raided Mjr. Gen. Peter Gadett's residence in Juba killing his guards.

## **Egypt protects water stations from Nile oil spill**

*AP Luxor, 13/09/10* - Authorities have blocked off water purification stations along the Nile in southern Egypt to prevent some 100 tons of diesel oil that leaked from a barge from polluting drinking water, officials said Sunday.

The vessel was docked in Aswan, some 700 miles (1,100 kilometres) south of Cairo, when low water levels caused it to tilt, partially submerge and leak 110 tons of diesel fuel into the Nile on Saturday.

Aswan Governor Mustafa al-Sayed told the *MENA* news agency that sites along the Nile that feed river water to purification stations have been blocked off as a precautionary measure to prevent polluted water from entering filters.

Luxor Governor Samir Farag said the small slick fragmented as it passed through an area of dense grass. Farag said samples of water would be tested regularly as the spill approached Luxor, which is down river from Aswan.

A senior Luxor official, Hussein Ali, said the slick is 60 yards (meters) wide and 1.2 miles (2 kilometres) long, but is shrinking and is not expected to affect water supply stations.

Earlier Saturday, the barge's captain, Yasser Hussein, told police that a drop in water levels caused his vessel to tilt and submerge, allowing the diesel fuel to leak into the river, a security official said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said the barge was unloaded to refloat.

### **West Darfur government vows to protect aid organizations**

*SMC [via BBC Monitoring], 11/09/10* – West Darfur State has reinforced its security posture to protect aid agencies from kidnappings.

Mustafa Muhammad Ishaq, Speaker of the state legislative assembly, said that the state government will take decisive measures against anyone who attacks the organizations and their workers.

He also revealed that a joint government, UNAMID committee has been set up to identify the culprits of the violent events in Hamidiya camp in Zalingei.

### **South Darfur Governor issues new security directives**

*Radio Miraya [via BBC Monitoring], 11/09/10* - The Governor of South Darfur State, Abdehamid Musa Kasha, has issued a decree banning vehicles from parking around banks, trading centres and populated residential areas in the State.

These measures were taken in a bid to cut down on continuous kidnapping and looting by individuals in military uniforms and using government vehicles.

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