

2 June 2010

www.unmissions.unmis.org



Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Headlines

- Akol's nomination for foreign portfolio triggers partners' differences (**Al-Akhbar**)
- Clashes between SPLA, Gai forces near Mayom (**Al-Ayyam**)
- Cabinet receives reports on food needs in the South (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- South Sudan Police institutes new reforms (**ST**)
- Ugandan LRA rebels hold 3 Sudanese children – village chief (**ST**)
- Sudan peace negotiator rejects Khalil's return to Darfur region (**ST**)
- Darfuri opposition expelled from Juba hotels (**Al-Akhbar**)
- Darfur governor seeks UN help to construct a road through Kalma camp (**Al-Sahafa**)
- South Africa FM reiterates resolve to arrest Sudan president if he visits (**ST**)
- Detained Sudanese journalist to be transferred to hospital - says lawyer (**Al-Ayyam**)
- Al-Bashir will soon have nowhere to hide - ICC prosecutor (**The Daily Monitor**)

Pre-Referendum Watch

- SPLM says Abyei referendum should be assigned to UN (**Al-Akhbar**)
- Self-determination is responsibility of all parties (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- We are committed to conduct an acceptable referendum – Nafie (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- Athor says SPLM "ruling clique" can rig referendum against people's choice (**ST**)
- CPA partners may reach agreement in the next two days – Alor (**Al-Ahdath**)
- Election lesson will benefit referendum – VP Taha (**Al-Ahdath**)
- Upper Nile tribal chiefs coordinate with southerners in North on referendum (**Al-Ayyam**)
- Kiir holds "constructive" meeting with southern Sudan factions (**Miraya FM**)

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

Akol's Nomination for foreign portfolio triggers differences between NCP, SPLM

Al-Akhbar 2/6/10 – Differences emerged between the two CPA partners over formation of new government when the NCP nominated SPLM-DC chairman Dr. Lam Akol to take over the foreign Affairs portfolio. Reportedly, FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit yesterday left for Juba angry. Sources said after the Energy Ministry is split into three ministries – Electricity, Mining, and Oil – Kiir refused to exchange the Foreign Ministry with the Ministry of Energy. SPLM has nominated Luka Biong to take over the ministry of foreign affairs. According to the sources, the differences between the two partners have not been resolved yet but consultations between them are continuing.

Meanwhile, *Miraya FM* 1/6/10 reported that The SPLM as saying that it would be represented by nine ministers in the next government of national unity, in addition to state ministers. However, the SPLM said that the issue is still under discussion.

Addressing the press in Khartoum, the Deputy Secretary General for the Northern sector, Yasir Arman, said that the two partners have agreed on the principle objectives of the next government.

Clashes between SPLA, Gai forces near Mayom

Al-Ayyam 2/6/10 – SPLA yesterday announced that its forces clashed with the forces of Galwak Gai in Tamour area in Mayom Country (Unity state). SPLA spokesperson Kuol Diem Kuol said his troops captured a sergeant from SAF named Galwak Hoth Bar and he would be shown in the South Sudan TV as evidence. Kuol has accused SAF of supporting SPLA defectors, a charge SAF spokesperson Lt. Col. Al-Sawarmi has denied.

Cabinet receives reports on food needs in the South

Al-Rai Al-Aam 2/6/10 – Federal Cabinet has received a report on food needs in the South in the light of the existing food gap in the southern states. Meanwhile, UN has estimated the food gap at 880,000 tones. GoSS Voluntary Return Coordinator in the North Kormaj Chol described the food situation in the South as “very critical”.

South Sudan Police institutes new reforms

Sudan Tribune website 1/6/10 - Efforts to modernize Southern Sudan Police force appear to be on course with the recent initiation of reforms within the law enforcement body, Sudan Tribune has learnt.

These reforms, introduced as a result of numerous public outcries for better policing, strive to ensure that the Police practice good governance in line with universally accepted principles of democracy.

Dr. Fred Yiga, a Senior Advisor to the Internal Affairs Minister and the Inspector General of Police (IGP) told this reporter yesterday that the new Police reforms was instituted to make officers within the force accountable to the existing laws, citing the 2009 Police Act and the Draft Code of Conduct for Southern Sudan Police Service.

"It [Police reforms] will also handle issues of indiscipline within the law enforcement body. But

most importantly is to make officers practice good governance inline with agreed standards," Dr. Yiga exclusively told Sudan Tribune.

The Police Act 2009, enacted in accordance with provision 59(2)(b) of the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan 2005 empowers the Police force to prevent, combat and investigate crime, maintain law and public order as well as protect the people and their properties.

As part of these reforms, however, the Police have embarked on massive recruitment of young people into the force.

Currently, 6,500 new recruits, drawn from across all the 10 states of Southern Sudan are undergoing professional training at the Juba-based John Garang Memorial Police Academy.

"This professional training not only looks at the aspect of equal representation but provides an avenue for recruits to realize their national obligation as citizens of this nation," Dr. Yiga said. He added, "Such professional trainings are essential in enhancing unity among the people. By bringing people from different locations, the element of regional imbalance is addressed hence minimizing the common causes of conflicts among the people."

Meanwhile, the Southern Sudan Police Service has now created a regional network with their counterparts in neighboring Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.

As a result, Rwanda recently trained several Southern Sudan Police officers, while Uganda is offering the latter study opportunities, all aimed at further professionalizing the force.

According to Dr. Yiga, the newly instituted reforms have seen Southern Sudan Police Service become a member of the East African Police Conference (EAPCO). The new initiative has also improved its training and cross-border control programmes.

Ugandan LRA rebels hold 3 Sudanese children – village chief

Sudan Tribune website 31/5/10 - Ugandan rebels are holding 3 children they abducted from schools during raids last Sunday on villages in remote Tambura County, a village chief said on Monday.

"Fighters from Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) appeared in Namutina at 1:00PM and collected three kids and escaped with them to the bush but they didn't kill anybody," local resident said.

The abducted children are between the ages of 8-15 years old.

A local chief who requested anonymity said "The abducted kids are two girls and one boy and their mother since yesterday is following them. Since yesterday nobody has heard from her". She was quoted by her neighbours as saying "I cannot live on the earth without my beloved kids, I must follow them and until I am equal grabbed."

He added that "apparently only Arrow Boys are following the LRA rebels".

"These children were taken from their schools. I am very concerned that they will now be forced to fight or support fighting, putting their lives at risk," he said.

Rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have been attempting to boost their forces by raiding schools.

Children in Uganda, South Sudan, DRC and CAR towns have been target of abductions and

residents are again complaining that the allied forces are not protecting the population.

President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda has said that impunity shall no longer be tolerated and all world citizens should work together to punish perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

He was speaking in Kampala Sunday evening after a commemorative war victim's day football match. Museveni said no one should kill people and go scot free. Museveni has been under pressure to convince the ICC to rescind indictments of Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) leader, Joseph Kony and three of his top commanders for war crimes.

The most-wanted Ugandans are Joseph Kony, the LRA rebel leader, and two of his commanders, Okot Odhiambo and Dominic Ongwen. Two other warrants for arrest were made on Vincent Otti and Raska Lukwiya, both of whom are now dead.

Museveni said the match in which he participated on opposite sides with Ban Ki-Moon, the UN Secretary General is aimed at demonstrating solidarity with war victims world over.

He applauded the Uganda War Victims Foundation, African Youth Initiative Network on the eve of the International Criminal Court Review Conference that starts in Kampala on Monday.

Ban Ki-moon said the match has sent a very strong message to the world that justice should be part of efforts to bring about peace in any part of the world.

"As we have played so peacefully on the pitch today, I hope we can work together to ensure there is justice for stable peace, so that we can ensure respect for human rights and ensure development," Ban Ki-moon said to the applause of hundred of hundreds of peoples who attended the match.

Sudan peace negotiator rejects Khalil's return to Darfur region

Sudan Tribune website 1/6/10 - Sudanese government expressed on Tuesday its tacit rejection to transport the leader of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) from Libya to Darfur following a meeting held by the joint peace mediator with Khalil Ibrahim.

Khalil is in the Libyan capital since 19 May after the refusal of the Chadian authorities to allow him to cross to Darfur and his forced return to Tripoli. N'djamena also confiscated his passport.

The Joint Chief Mediator met the rebel leader in Tripoli on May 30 to discuss the resumption of the peace process which is announced for June 6. With regard to Khalil's demand to return to Darfur Djibril Bassole said without Khartoum's permission the United Nations could not transport him back to Darfur.

"We as a government we do not have any comment on the movements of Bassole or his actions" Amin said, adding that any country in the world does not allow the existence of rebel factions in its territory, and any country facing security challenges, deal with it according to what it deems good (for its security)".

On Monday the two belligerents confirmed clashes in Adeela Mountains near Muhajariya, South Darfur. The two parties alleged winning the battle. JEM military spokesperson said they "captured substantial amount of military hardware including 40 vehicles" while the Sudanese army spokesperson confirmed the army attack on the rebel position saying they destroyed 35 vehicles and seized three others besides heavy and small arms.

Amin further said JEM wants the government to halt negotiations with any other rebel movements and to enlarge the agendas of talks in order to discuss all the issues of Sudan and not Darfur only.

The mediation manages two separate negotiations one between the government two rebel movements, JEM and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) led by El-Tijani El-Sissi. The second group is formed from a number of rebel factions thanks to Libyan government since last year.

Libya refused Sudanese demand to press Khalil Ibrahim to return to Doha to resume peace talks. Tripoli said seeking to persuade him to rejoin voluntarily the peace talks.

"We understand the position of Libya, although we do not agree with his presence there but we understand that there is a problem due to Khalil's lack of travel document and the lack of clarity about his next destination," said Amin commenting the Libyan position.

"We do not agree to transfer him to any neighboring country," he further stressed.

Khartoum seeks to prevent Libya to allow Khalil departure to another neighboring country as Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo or Uganda. "They want to confine him in Tripoli or to return him Doha," said a reliable source speaking from Khartoum.

The rebel group had called on the UN Secretary General and the Joint Peace Mediator to ensure his return to Darfur. Khalil Ibrahim also said he would not go back to Doha unless he returns to Darfur.

Darfuri opposition expelled from Juba hotels

Al-Akhabar 2/6/10 – Informed source said all Darfuri opposition members who reside in hotels in Juba have departed the city after local authorities ordered them to leave. Reportedly, the Darfuri opposition members were ordered to leave within 48 hours except those who are sick but they will also leave as soon as they recovered.

Darfur governor seeks UN help to construct a road through Kalma camp

Al-Sahafa 2/6/10 – South Darfur governor Abdul-Hamid Musa Kasha has called on UN Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Georg Charpentier to intervene to convince IDPs in Kalma camp to allow construction of a road that will cut through the camp. Kasha, at a meeting with Charpentier yesterday in Nyala, said his government recognized the IDPs' concerns but would not tolerate opposition to development and strategic projects, warning he would be forced to seek the help of the security organs for the purpose.

South Africa FM reiterates resolve to arrest Sudan president if he visits

Sudan Tribune website 1/6/10 - The South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane confirmed that her country intends to honor its legal obligations and apprehend Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir should he sets foot in the country.

Bashir is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for allegedly masterminding the commission war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sudan's Western region of Darfur. South Africa is a signatory to the ICC founding treaty.

Last week South African president Jacob Zuma said that even though Bashir was invited along

with other African leaders to attend the FIFA World Cup Finals, hosted by Johannesburg he is still subject to arrest if he attends because of the ICC arrest warrant.

"South Africa respects the international law and certainly we are signatories [to ICC Statute] and we abide by the law," Zuma told lawmakers in response to a question on Bashir's status.

But on Monday the Sudanese foreign ministry spokesperson Muawiya Osman Khalid said that his government verified that Zuma was misrepresented by the news media to serve an agenda adding that his stance is consistent with the position of the African Union (AU).

However, the South African International Relations and Cooperation ministry said in a statement that Nkoana-Mashabane reiterated "Zuma's pronouncement that if the Sudanese President was to visit the country, he will be arrested as South Africa was a signatory to the international justice system".

The remarks came at her meeting with her French Counterpart, Bernard Kouchner on Monday on the fringes of the Africa-France Summit.

Detained Sudanese journalist to be transferred to hospital - says lawyer

Al-Ayyam 1 June (from BBC Monitoring) - The defence lawyer for [detained] Ra'y al-Sha'ab newspaper's journalists, Barud Sandal, has affirmed that they had received notification from the security authorities indicating that the deputy chief editor of the newspaper, Abu-Zar al-Amin, would be transferred to hospital.

Sandal told *Al-Ayyam* that the authorities had declined a request by lawyers to meet [opposition leader Hasan] Al-Turabi. He said discussions were ongoing to draft a judicial appeal against Al-Turabi's arrest and the fact that he had not been questioned or put on trial.

Meanwhile, the Network of Sudanese Journalists has demanded a transparent and open investigation into the torture of Abu-Zar and the other detained journalists and further condemned the brutality of the security body against detained journalists.

Sudan's Al-Bashir will soon have nowhere to hide, says ICC prosecutor

The Daily Monitor website (Uganda) 2/6/10 - Hiding space for indicted Ugandan LRA rebel leader Joseph Kony, his commanders and Sudan President Umar al-Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity is growing smaller by the day. The International Criminal Court chief prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, said yesterday that new strategies are being employed to apprehend all suspects indicted by the Hague-based court.

"It will only be a matter of time, but they will end up in the Hague for the trial," declared Mr Ocampo at a press briefing at Munyonyo in Kampala, the venue for the 10-day review of the statute of the ICC that opened Monday.

Mr. Ocampo, while giving the status of the cases currently under the ICC, also said investigations of the 2007 Kenyan post-election cases are progressing well and that at least two charges will be pressed against some Kenyan leaders by the end of the year.

"I am delighted the attorney-general of Kenya informed the conference how they are supporting our work. And as I said, we will present two cases before the end of the year," said the chief prosecutor.

He said the Kenyan case needs quick justice to prevent further violence in the east African country that erupted into violence in December 2007 following an election stalemate between

President Mwai Kibaki and Raila Odinga. Over 1,000 people were killed during the violence.

On President Bashir, Mr Ocampo said he was happy more states, including Islamic countries like Turkey, which is not even a party to the ICC, had agreed to effect the arrest warrant. "For Bashir, it's just a matter of time before he gets to The Hague for trial, although the victims of his atrocities are increasingly getting frustrated," he said.

The world's most feared prosecutor said Kony is elusive and in control of the LRA and it is the reason he is still killing people in the Central Africa Republic. "Joseph Kony's case shows the cost of impunity...almost 2,000 people have been killed after the arrest warrant was issued. This is the cost of impunity and I think it is an opportunity to be here to discuss it."

Mr. Ocampo said whenever Kony suggests peace talks, he only comes to collect money to re-organize and then he kills his people involved in the negotiations. "That's how he killed his number two, Vincent Otti. This is a clear case in which the arrest is what we need. The idea that Kony can make peace is just a fantasy," said Ocampo, adding that the ICC judges have maintained the indictment on Otti because they need to be convinced beyond reasonable doubt that he is indeed dead.

Mr. Ocampo said although the ICC got political will from Uganda, DR Congo and the Central Africa Republic to execute the warrants against Kony and his commanders, they have had difficulties to implement it and new strategies had to be devised. "We're trying to organize support to arrest Joseph Kony...There is a new scenario there and I hope we can galvanise the efforts to arrest him," said Mr. Ocampo.

The ICC official said he will on 11 June appear before the UN Security Council to report Sudan's refusal to implement the arrest warrant against the indicated Darfur warlords.

Pre-Referendum Watch

SPLM says Abyei referendum should be assigned to UN

Al-Akhbar 2/6/10 – GoSS Presidential Affairs Minister Luka Biong said it was likely that the SPLM would participate in the northern states' governments in return for participation of the NCP in the government of southern states. However, Biong revealed differences between the two partners over the chairmanship of the Abyei referendum commission and the definition of voter. Consequently, the SPLM proposed that the process of Abyei referendum should be assigned to UN. Also, Biong did not rule out that the SPLM would demand that referendum in the South be organized by UN.

Meanwhile, Biong said the two partners yesterday signed a framework agreement on the programme of the new government. He pointed out that the two partners differed on the programme, saying while the NCP wants the programme of the new government to focus on making unity attractive, the SPLM wants it to concentrate on the implementation of the remaining CPA benchmarks particularly referendum, democratic transformation as well as resolution of the Darfur issue.

Self-determination is responsibility of all parties

Al-Rai Al-Aam 2/6/10 – National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir told a parliament session yesterday that self-determination for southern Sudan is the responsibility of all the political forces including the Popular Congress Party. He said the Parliament would draw up a plan to contribute efforts towards preparations for the process.

We are committed to conduct an acceptable referendum - Nafie

Al-Rai Al-Aam 2/6/10 – NCP deputy chairman for organizational affairs Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie has reiterated the government's commitment to the conduct of an acceptable referendum. Nafie made the remarks at meeting yesterday with the Foreign Minister of Norway John Paul. However, he pointed out that acceptance of the referendum result depends on two conditions: first, freedom should be guaranteed for the political forces to express their opinion about the suitable option and second, the SPLA should not interfere with the conduct the referendum and the process should be protected by neutral forces to be agreed upon between the parties.

Athor says SPLM “ruling clique” can rig referendum against people’s choice

Sudan Tribune website 1/6/10 - In a most recent written statement attributed to him, dated 28th May, the renegade Gen. George Athor Deng, expressed his concern about the conduct of the upcoming referendum, saying he did not trust the current "ruling clique" of the SPLM-led Government of Southern Sudan to respect the people's choice in the exercise.

Athor, who confirmed the statement to Sudan Tribune, signed the document from an unknown location or base which he just called "Bushes of Southern Sudan". He alleged that the "ruling clique" of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) rigged the general elections in the South and can also rig the referendum.

"The clique in Juba is now desperately trying to mislead public opinion that the long-awaited referendum in Southern Sudan is tied with their continuation in power. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, their very presence in power jeopardizes the credibility of the referendum itself. An illegitimate government that rigged the democratic right of the people cannot be trusted to lead the Southern Sudanese into a democratic exercise to determine their destiny," reads the statement.

He alleged that the SPLM did not respect the democratic right of the people by rigging the elections results contrary to their choice of leaders and can therefore rig the referendum results between unity and separation in the same way of disrespect for people's choice.

"Since the SPLM ruling clique in Juba rigged the elections with impunity, they can in the same way also rig the referendum. The South cannot afford to have a Self-determination result that is in dispute. That will be a recipe for instability rather than the peaceful outcome the CPA was meant to realize," the statement continued.

Athor called for all the Southern Sudan political parties and independent candidates to discuss and agree on a roadmap that shall also respect the choice of the people and safeguard it against the "riggers."

"Herein lay my proposal that all the Southern political parties and the Independents who contested the last elections, should sit down to discuss and agree on a roadmap for the South as the referendum date gets near. No one Southern group, especially one that has stolen an election, can alone deliver the South to such a crucial momentous decision. We still hope that wise counsels will prevail on the ruling clique in Juba before it is too late, to see sense and stop playing with the destiny of our people."

"In view of the vital importance of the referendum on Self-determination for the people of Southern Sudan, I would like to assure our people that we shall never be party to throwing away the moment they have been waiting for now for almost half a century. In fact, our difference with the riggers of their elections is precisely to safeguard their right to make a free and

conscientious choice," he said.

He further explained that his group was committed to the implementation of the CPA and the conduct of the referendum as stipulated in the peace agreement, adding that such an exercise could also be carried out in the areas he controlled through an arrangement involving the United Nations.

"I reaffirm my commitment to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), especially the conduct of the referendum on Self-determination in 2011," he stated.

"In this regard, and should the ruling clique in Juba continue to impose war on us, it is incumbent upon us to: reiterate that the referendum on Self-determination of Southern Sudan should take place on time, that is, on the 9th of January 2011 as stipulated in the CPA; and The arrangements for the conduct of the referendum in the areas we control shall be agreed upon by us, the United Nations and the other stake holders in the process. This is to ensure that the outcome truly reflects the will of the people."

Athor, in an exclusive interview with Sudan Tribune on Monday, without disclosing his whereabouts, said he supported peaceful conduct of Southern Sudan referendum on time so as to once and for all move on the road to the fight for democracy and good governance in the South.

"I would like referendum to be conducted on time so that another journey for peaceful match in search of a long sought democracy and good governance by the people of Southern Sudan is initiated," he said

Commenting on the general feelings of the Southern Sudan populace regarding recently conducted elections, he said the Juba-based government has shown weak image to the whole world and substantiated claims that southern Sudanese cannot manage their own affairs without being controlled.

"The elections we had [conducted] revealed and exposed complete picture of the future of Southern Sudan and equally substantiated claims that South Sudanese cannot manage their own affairs," he said.

He further added that discontented voices should not be limited to specific states or areas but rather take it as regional problem including those considered to have swallowed the bitterness of the elections. Nobody is happy with the results as nobody celebrated victory of these elections, even those who the national elections commission announced results in their favors, because they received no attendance at their functions, he adds.

Athor, who independently contested Jonglei state's gubernatorial election and lost to the incumbent Kuol Manyang Juuk, said the Government of Southern Sudan is run by individuals who are not the choice of the people, but only pretend to justify holding on to power in the name of taking the people of Southern Sudan to the referendum.

"This is just a political propaganda coined by individuals as cover up for frauds. Indeed [the] presence of these individuals in the government risks the credibility of the referendum itself because they are not the people's choice and the government in which they serve is therefore considered as an illegitimate government," he said.

The former SPLA Deputy Chief of General Staff in his official written statement alleged that the

SPLA military offensive against him has failed and warned of his "Uprising" spreading across the region, including to the Southern Sudan capital, Juba, as he also claimed that the recent attacks on Bor-Juba road were carried out by his loyalists.

"Since then the response of the Government of Southern Sudan was a decision by its Council of Ministers ruling out any talks with me and ordering its army to capture me dead or alive. Well, despite the intense propaganda by the clique in Juba downplaying the gravity of the situation, the grand military offensive to fight me mounted under the command of Major General Bol Kong suffered from internal dissent and mutiny, and finally collapsed four days ago. This dashed the hopes of the war-mongers in Juba on a quick defeat of the Southern Uprising against those who stole their will. The Uprising is now spreading as evidenced by the military actions in Pibor area these days, Upper Nile last week, Juba-Bor road and in Unity State today. More surprises are awaiting the ruling clique in Juba. Those in Juba who dream of wishing away this revolution should think again," he stated.

CPA partners may reach agreement in the next two days - Alor

Al-Ahdath 2/6/10 - Prominent SPLM member Deng Alor expects the NCP and the SPLM to reach an agreement in the next two days over issues of the Abyei Referendum Commission, the Human Rights Commission and ministerial portfolios. The former foreign minister said the SPLM's position was that the referendum process should be secured by the SSPS, not the Sudan Police.

Election lesson will benefit referendum – VP Taha

Al-Ahdath 2/6/10 - VP Ali Osman Taha has vowed that government would make use of the lessons learned from the logistical shortcomings of the elections for the conduct of the referendum. Speaking at a consultative meeting on Sudan on the fringes of the France-Africa meeting in Nice yesterday, the VP said elections in Sudan were conducted in a transparent and calm atmosphere in presence of international observers.

Upper Nile tribal chiefs coordinate with southerners in the North on referendum

Al-Ayyam 2/6/10 - tribal chiefs of the Greater Upper Nile region who are members of the NCP have concluded a coordination meeting with representatives of southern Sudanese residing in northern Sudan on the referendum. John Madit, one of the tribal chiefs, said that their committee advocates for the unity that late SPLM leader John Garang had been preaching. He called upon the federal and regional government in southern Sudan to work for unity.

Kiir holds "constructive" meeting with southern Sudan factions

Miraya website 1/6/10 -The Vice-President of the Republic and President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit met on Monday [31 May] several southern factions headed by Riek Gai, a Member of the National Parliament representing the National Congress Party (NCP).

According to the Sudan News Agency (SUNA), Riek Gai described the meeting to the press as fruitful and constructive. He added that the meeting created a reconciliatory atmosphere between the Southern Sudanese. He said that time is critical especially now when Sudan is preparing for the Southern Sudan referendum for self-determination, scheduled to take place in early 2011.