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Links

- Sudan: Experts raising serious concerns about the human rights record of a putative state emerging...(*Global Trends weblog*) http://ionglobaltrends.blogspot.com/2011/01/sudan-experts-raising-serious-concerns.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+blogspot%2FzqKG+%28i+O+n+Global+Trends%29
- Kiir: Discreet ex-rebel leader of new nation (*Khaleej Times*): http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/international/2011/January/international_January737.xml§ion=international&col=
- Sudan's people deserve the credit for this success (*The Guardian*): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jan/20/sudan-referendum-defied-apocalyptic-predictions>
- Informante Sudan: A nation split by oil: http://www.informante.web.na/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7604&Itemid=102&PHPSESSID=76a6a08794a91d3803b70feeca9c1b3a
- South Sudan's referendum "historic milestone" (*Xinhuanet*): http://en.ce.cn/World/Africa/201101/20/t20110120_22156024.shtml

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Referendum Watch

Initial results: S. Sudan independence vote approved

AP Khartoum, 19/01/11 - Officials say preliminary results show more than 98 percent of voters in and near Southern Sudan's capital voted for independence from the north. The referendum committee for Central Equatoria State on Wednesday posted their results of the weeklong poll that ended Saturday.

Referendum bureau spokesperson Aleu Garang Aleu said "five or six" of the south's 10 states have reported final tallies.

In a separate story, the Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir has reiterated Sudan's commitment to respect the outcome of the referendum for southern Sudan and to continue towards the full implementation of the provisions of the CPA, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports. Separation, he told the ongoing meeting of the OIC in the UAE, does not mean that the north would sever ties with southern Sudan.

Meanwhile in Khartoum, Deputy Speaker of the Nations Assembly Atem Garang has called on all southern Sudanese to respect the feelings of the unionists in the country while they celebrate the outcome of the referendum should it result in separation, reports *Al-Rai Al-Aam*.

The NCP Leadership Office meeting in Khartoum yesterday resolved to respect the outcome of the referendum and expressed commitment to allow for wider political participation in the post-referendum government, reports *Al-Khartoum*.

SSRC downplays reports of irregularities on referendum

Al-Khartoum Khartoum, 20/01/11 – The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) has announced that preliminary results of the referendum have been finalised for the northern Sudanese states and abroad and show that the majority of voters have opted for separation. SSRC Spokesperson Sou'ad Ibrahim Eissa described the exercise as in conformity with international standards and has downplayed talk of irregularities in the process.

Revoke of nationality from southern Sudanese is illogical – US Cd'A

Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 20/01/11 – The Charge d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Khartoum has called on the parties to the CPA to tap on the experiences of other states to resolve the issue of nationality. He pointed out that there is no logic in revoking the nationality of southern Sudanese in the north without resolving their status.

Robert Whitehead pointed out that the US is committed to normalising relations with Sudan and scrapping it from its list of state sponsors of terrorism once the outstanding issues in the implementation of the CPA and the issue of Darfur are resolved.

The US Charge d'Affaires told a select number of journalists at the US Embassy in Khartoum that his country does not favour one option in the referendum over another. He hailed Sudan for the conduct of the referendum.

Conference on Southern Kordofan after referendum

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 20/01/11 – Over 650 people are expected to participate at a conference on issues pertaining to Southern Kordofan expected to kick off in Khartoum next Saturday. The conference will discuss a range of issues including relations between Southern Kordofan and

South Sudan, coexistence between border areas and Abyei among other issues.

The conference is being sponsored by three local civil society organisations.

SPLM demands return of military ware from Blue Nile State

Sudan Vision Khartoum, 20/01/11 – The SPLM has called on Blue Nile State Governor Malik Aggar to return all military equipment and weaponry to the south before the official final results of the southern Sudan referendum are announced. Sources report that the SPLM has also requested the governor to order the redeployment of SPLA soldiers in his state to areas away from the border areas during this time.

Popular Consultations Watch

Popular Consultations in Blue Nile State progressing smoothly

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 20/01/11 –The Popular Consultation Commission has announced that the process in the Blue Nile state is progressing smoothly. Rapporteur of the Commission Sila Musa said the process has entered its fifth day amidst a huge turnout and in a climate of calm and security.

Other Highlights

President Al-Bashir calls for Sudan debt relief

Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 20/01/11 – President Al-Bashir has called on his country's debtors to relieve his country of these debts. Al-Bashir, who was addressing the Arab economic summit in Egypt yesterday, pointed out that Sudan has just emerged from a long and surely deserves some exceptional treatment. He said he hoped the summit would result in some support for Sudan's debt relief efforts.

Sudantribune.com reports also that following a meeting last Tuesday between Al-Bashir and the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the sidelines of the Arab Economic summit, Sudan's state media quoted foreign minister Ali Karti as saying that Al-Bashir thanked the Kuwaiti leader for the projects his country undertook in Sudan following the meetings of the joint committee. He said that Al-Sabah was briefed on developments in Sudan following the conclusion of the South Sudan referendum and the preparations by Khartoum to face the upcoming period. The Sudanese top diplomat said they also tackled the issue of debt relief in light of the fact that Kuwait is one of Sudan's largest creditors.

The official government mouthpiece, *SUNA*, also reports that participants at the summit have resolved to assist in Sudan's debt relief effort.

Reward Al-Bashir – UK lawmaker

Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 20/01/11 – A group of lawmakers in the UK are calling on the international community to meet its pledges to Sudan, stop issuing wrong signals on sanctions and to desist from supporting Sudan's rebels.

Speaking at a roundtable meeting of the British House of Commons yesterday, Ahmed Nazir, a member of the House who was part of a delegation that recently visited Sudan, said that people in Sudan have tired of war and the general feeling of representatives of the international community in both Khartoum and Juba is that Sudan has indeed met its pledges. He also pointed out that they are of the feeling that President Al-Bashir should be rewarded especially for his last speech in Juba before the referendum. "The last thing we need at the moment is talk of the imposition of sanctions on Sudan," he said.

Sudanese police clash with opposition protesters

Reuters Khartoum, 19/01/11 - Sudanese police clashed on Wednesday with protesters demanding the release of opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi, who was detained after he called for a "popular revolution" over price rises and political demands.

A *Reuters* witness saw riot police attack about 150 protesters on a main road in the Riyadh suburb of Khartoum with tear gas and batons. Three cars full of security men carrying rifles were waiting behind the riot police. Protesters were shouting "freedom and justice".

The protesters took to the streets on Wednesday after leaving a forum by an opposition coalition, which included all the main parties, who demanded Turabi's immediate release.

The opposition had threatened on Sunday to take to the streets if the government did not remove its finance minister and dismantle parliament over the decision to raise prices on a range of goods.

On Wednesday Turabi's family staged a sit-in protest outside the feared National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) demanding they be allowed to visit him.

Prominent PCP figure Ibrahim Al-Sanoosi speaking at a public meeting on Wednesday at the PCP headquarters in Khartoum called on the opposition to unite ranks, reports *Sudantribune.com*.

"The only enemy for us [opposition] now is the government and we will bring it down by any means necessary," calling on the Sudanese army "to side with people's choices".

Al-Sanoosi also pleaded to the police to avoid hitting demonstrators, stressing that the bulk of the current country leaders "are not from well known families nor are they people of power or wealth or from the political leaders of the Islamic movement".

"In the same way we brought them to power we shall overthrow them to repent from our sin" he added.

Al-Sanoosi criticized the government's refusal to negotiate with JEM saying that if the latter is PCP's military wing then they should negotiate with them rather than go to Doha which is hosting the peace talks.

"Why are they negotiating with them [JEM] in Doha and block us from negotiating with them [JEM]. We find it bizarre their accusation that JEM is PCP's military wing. They are negotiating with JEM and not us the origin if we were truly linked to them". The PCP figure also claimed that they have the ability to end the Darfur crisis in 24 hours.

Al-Sanoosi also revealed for the first time that the Islamic movement probed Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha and presidential assistant Nafei Ali Nafei, following their involvement in the assassination attempt on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia in 1994.

Furthermore he pointed fingers at Nafei saying that he was behind a number of assassinations in

the past and threatened to unveil more secrets.

Al-Sanoosi said he does not fear arrest and is willing to join Turabi in prison and slammed corruption within the government claiming that's Bashir's vehicle costs \$1 million.

The leader of the Sudanese Communist Party (SCP) Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud speaking at the forum said that everyone needs Turabi at this moment to contribute in resolving the issues of Sudan and to hold a constitutional conference to save time rather than take the streets immediately.

Turabi's wife on Wednesday also staged a sit-in at the HQ of the NISS demanding to see her husband with two of her daughters saying that she will not leave until she gets to see him.

She told *Sudan Tribune* that the doctor was not allowed to check Turabi and that the NISS backtracked on their promise to let her meet with him at 2 pm.

NCP's Nafei warns opposition against plotting regime change

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 20/01/11 – President Al-Bashir senior aide, Nafei Ali Nafei, has warned the opposition not to use the margin of freedom availed in the country to cause chaos.

Addressing a meeting of the ruling party's Consultative Council yesterday, Nafei denied accusations that his party alone is to blame for southern Sudanese separation from the north. He challenged those who claim government would lose legitimacy post-separation to note that Al-Bashir would continue to dispense his duties as President of the Republic and parliament would continue to conduct business until the end of its term.

"Anyone who seeks to uproot the government should strengthen his arm," he said pointing out that none of the opposition has the ability to topple the current regime.

He also pointed out that Sudan would continue on its plans to implement Islamic law.

On Darfur, he called upon the holdout groups to join the peace process.

In a separate development, Khartoum State Governor Abdulrahman Al-Khidir says his government would show no leniency on those who seek to cause insecurity in the state. The governor was addressing the inauguration ceremony for a number of police outposts in the state.

The governor pointed out that the outposts that would also serve as offices for administrative assistants are meant to bring the government closer to the people.

Athor's forces to start to assemble

Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 20/01/11 – The forces of renegade SPLA General George Athor have started to assemble in designated assembly points in Khorflous and Pibor. The step is pursuant to a recent agreement with the SPLA.

SPLA Spokesperson Philip Aguer says talks of the joint monitoring committee formed between the SPLA and Athor's forces continue in Malakal and the two sides hope these talks would end this month. He said that General Athor is expected in Juba immediately after these talks.

SPLA sends 25 tanks to Abyei

Al-Intibaha Khartoum, 20/01/11 - In a fresh breach of the recent agreement in Kadugli, the SPLA has reportedly deployed 25 tanks to areas near Abyei. An informed source reports that 12 of the tanks were moved northeast of the territory and 3000 SPLA military and police elements entered the town in addition to 2000 SPLA soldiers who have taken up positions north of Bahr el

Ghazal. The source added that 13 more tanks were deployed near the Misseriya area of Abu Nafeesa.

The Popular Defence Forces (PDF) in the area says they considered these movements by the SPLA as a declaration of war, describing the situation as explosive.

Authorities seize suspicious package near SAF general headquarters

Al-Sudani Khartoum, 20/01/11 – Security forces last evening unearthed seven bottles filled with chemicals believed to be explosive. The suspect items were found in a box near the Sudan Armed Forces Mosque in Khartoum,

The suspect items have been sent to forensics.

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