

22 April 2010

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Elections Watch

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Highlights

NEC says did not set date for announcing final electoral results

The NEC issued a statement yesterday saying it did not set a deadline for announcing final results of the electoral process, *Akhbar Al-Youm* reports. The statement said the results would be released once they are received from state polling centres.

Khartoum government warns against election-related violent protest

Governor of Khartoum state, Abdul Rahman Al-Khidir, who has been announced winner of the gubernatorial post, told a press conference yesterday that his party had already embarked on preparations for elections in 2014 by forming two committees for the purpose, *Al-Sahafa* reports. Al-Khidir rejected claims that his party had rigged elections. He made it clear that Khartoum would not be "another Teheran or Nairobi" and warned against violent reactions to the announcement of elections results and also called on the NCP supporters to avoid provocative celebrations of election victory. Khartoum state police director Gen. Mohamed Al-Hafiz who also addressed the same press conference with Al-Khidir expressed readiness of the police forces to secure all phases of the electoral process.

"We have overcome differences within SPLM over elections" – Pagan Amum

Pagan Amum has announced that the differences emerged among the SPLM leaders over participation or boycott of elections in the North were resolved and that the SPLM leading figures are now united behind their leader Salva Kiir Mayardit, *Al-Sahafa* reports. The SPLM Secretary General told the newspaper after the SPLM Political Bureau meeting on Tuesday in Juba that the meeting assessed the entire electoral process and that Kiir had briefed the Bureau on the political status quo.

"No SPLM-NCP deal on electoral results and new government" – SPLM

"The NCP and the SPLM have reviewed the situation in the country but did not reach an agreement on formation of a new government or elections results" said Yasir Arman, SPLM deputy Secretary General, in Juba. Arman's statement is apparently in reaction to an earlier statement by VP Ali Omsan Taha that the two partners agreed to accept the election results and to speed up formation of a new government.

NCP says opposition leaders want to distort elections image abroad

Sudan Tribune website 21/4/10 - The ruling NCP accused opposition leaders of seeking to travel abroad and begin a campaign to smear the image of the recently held elections in the country.

The presidential adviser Mustafa Ismail who is also the NCP external relations chief was quoted by state media as saying that they have received intelligence indicating that opposition leaders want to tour abroad and "spoil the excellent results achieved in the recent elections through the media".

Ismail said the NCP is "carefully" monitoring the movements and actions of these opposition figures ... but declined to give the names of those individuals in question.

The NCP figure said that it is important that the party "besieges the party leadership who flew abroad in an efforts to smear the image of the elections" adding that this electoral experience

belongs to the people.

The leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Mohamed Osman Al-Mirghani issued a statement this week denouncing the conduct of the elections saying that "were exposed to fraud and rigging". He left to Egypt afterwards and will also head to Saudi Arabia from there. His office denied that he has gone to a voluntary exile over the electoral dispute.

The Islamist opposition leader Hassan Al-Turabi said this week that all options are open in face of the "blatant rigging" in the elections but did not specify the measures on the table.

South Sudan opposition allege poll fraud

Sudan Tribune website 21/4/10 - Opposition groups in south Sudan accused soldiers and officials on Wednesday of tampering with ballots and intimidating polling agents during vote counting, the latest accusations to mar landmark elections.

Six independent and opposition candidates from different parts of the south told **Reuters** their supporters had been intimidated by southern soldiers or officials from the SPLM during last week's five-day voting period and vote counting.

Albino Akol Akol of the opposition United Democratic Salvation Front party said nine ballot boxes from seven polling stations were stolen and are still missing in his constituency.

"These are not elections, they are a mockery," he said. Akol said in five voting centres in Northern Bahr el Ghazal's Malwal area the army lashed agents and then managed the polling stations alone.

South Sudan's army (SPLA) denied interfering in any part of the polling, saying opposition candidates were complaining to cover up for their poor performance in the poll.

"This is just to justify their defeats ... There's no evidence of this," army spokesman Kuol Diem Kuol said.

SPLM official Yasir Arman also dismissed the accusations.

SPLM candidate Malik Agar wins Blue Nile gubernatorial post

The Elections Higher Committee in the Blue Nile state yesterday finalized vote sorting and counting in 29 state and 6 national constituencies and the indications show that the SPLM candidate Malik Agar is ahead of his rival, **Al-Sahafa** reports. Reportedly, army is deployed in the area to maintain security.

Tension in Juba as Alfred Ladu reported ahead of SPLM candidate

Quoting "South Sudan Nation website", **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reported that GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has ordered the deployment of SPLA and police in Juba after preliminary vote counting indicated that independent candidate for Central Equatoria's gubernatorial post Alfred Ladu is ahead of SPLM candidate Clement Kunga by a large margin.

Meanwhile, the newspaper also reported 67 police personnel and election officers were injured yesterday in Juba when police intervened to disperse a demonstration by polling officers and staff who were reportedly not paid for their ten-day work. Police reportedly used teargas and many of demonstrators were injured.

“Elections a useful experience for Sudan” – UN

Ray Kennedy, UNMIS Chief Electoral Officer, said it was difficult to apply western standards on the Sudanese elections, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* and *Akhir Lahza* report. He said special criteria should be developed to be applied in future. Kennedy, who was speaking to reporters yesterday, said voters were able to cast their votes in all polling centres particularly in Darfur and described the percentage of participation in the region as good. He pointed out the complexity of the process, saying it is the world's most complex elections. “We can not evaluate the electoral process in the Sudan because we only advice and provide support to the Commission at all phases of the process”, he said, adding that they are trying to arrive at method to ensure that the technical, administrative and logistic errors are avoided in the coming elections. “It is a useful experience for the country,” he added.

Meanwhile, SRSG Haile Menkerios said the evaluation of Sudan's electoral process is the duty of the NEC. “We participate in the evaluation”, he said, but pointed out that it was still premature to evaluate the whole process. The SRSG, who was speaking to reporters yesterday after a meeting with NEC members, said his meeting with NEC focused on vote counting and the announcement of results, saying he asked the NEC members about the delay of arrival of polling results from states. He said the Commission exerted great efforts, citing the difficulties that the process encountered and called for avoiding these shortcomings in future elections. He said that NEC admitted some irregularities in the process and exerted efforts to resolve them.

Akhir Lahza reports the SRSG will present a preliminary report to the UNSG today on Sudan's electoral process. “It is still early to assess the entire electoral process,” he said, pointing out that the NEC is making efforts to make the process a success. He said the Commission admitted some irregularities and he expressed UN readiness to assist in their resolution.

NCP Leadership Council holds a meeting

President Al-Bashir yesterday presided over a meeting of the NCP Council of Leaders which continued until late in the night, *Akhbar Al-Youm* reports. NCP official Kamal Obeid said his party was committed to form a strong government capable of implementing all programmes designed to service the Sudanese people. He said the meeting listened to reports about the performance of the party during elections and discussed a range of issues including preparations for new sessions of legislative assemblies.

Juba to host first meeting of new government

Akhbar Al-Youm has learned that the first meeting of cabinet of the prospective government is likely to be held in Juba. The move is reportedly intended to demonstrate determination to make unity attractive.

WBG State High Elections Committee to announce poll results from Khartoum

Citing “security concerns”, the High Elections Committee in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State has decided that the poll results for the state would be announced from Khartoum instead of Wau, reports *Akhir Lahza*. Poll results project a sweeping victory for SPLM candidates in all the constituencies in the state but 11 political parties are crying foul saying that the polling process was carried out in an atmosphere that lacked freedom or fairness and was marred by a series of irregularities.

NEC delegation arrives in Bentiu to mediate tensions

Radio Miraya 21/04/10 - A high ranking delegation from the National Elections Commission (NEC) has arrived in Bentiu, Unity State, in an effort to resolve differences regarding the

election of the State governor.

The head of Unity State High Elections Committee, Michael Mayen, told **Radio Miraya** that the delegation is engaged in meetings with the committee's members. He however refused to disclose the agenda of this current visit.

Earlier, the High Elections Committee in Unity State had denied receiving a directive from NEC ordering a suspension of the counting of votes in Parieng County, as stated by Angelina Teny, an independent candidate for Unity State governorship.

The senior election officer in the state, Thomas Jenena, has confirmed that the counting has been concluded and that the results will be announced shortly.

Sudan post-polls government to be illegitimate-SPLM

Reuters 22/4/10 - South Sudan's main political group said on Thursday it would deal with the country's northern-based government following this month's elections but vote-rigging had deprived the ruling party of any legitimacy.

The reaction by the SPLM indicated that any continuation of its coalition with the northern National Congress Party would be tense.

"The SPLM is clear that the NCP rigged the elections in the north, but we will deal with the next government as the de facto government," the SPLM's top official in the north, Yasir Arman, told *Reuters*.

"Nobody has the power to cancel this result but the people, and political parties will not take it as a legitimate result."

Arman said the country's legal system had been infiltrated by President Omar al-Bashir's ruling NCP, which means there could be no challenge to the results. Early results indicate an overwhelming victory in the north for the NCP.

Senior NCP official Rabie Abdelati dismissed Arman's comments as "political pressure" and said SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir had agreed to form a coalition government.

"We are not bothered with any other views -- the only source of agreement is Salva Kiir," Abdelati told *Reuters*. Arman denied any such agreement had been made.

"We have not even got the results of the elections yet - how can we make such an agreement?" he said.

"I don't imagine a particularly rosy post-elections period," said Maggie Fick of the US-based Enough project. She said there was opportunity for manipulating laws ahead of the referendum with a likely NCP majority in parliament.

Op-Ed: UN bewildered by Sudan

"I expect the coming UN Security Council meeting to deliberate on the SG's report on Sudan to focus on Sudan's elections and the upcoming referendum for the South," says Mahgoub Mohamed Saleh who is also editor-in-chief of **Al-Ayyam** newspaper.

"I also expect the SC to echo the position of the Council members that the Sudanese elections were marred by serious irregularities in the North and the South and they have fallen short of

international standards but the results would be accepted on the assumption that the process is a step towards referendum. The debate will also push for a greater role for UN in the referendum in a bid to avoid the election deficiencies even if that entails a greater mandate for its Mission in the Sudan to ensure smooth conduct of the referendum. The SC meeting is also expected to consider a greater budget for the referendum”.

Editorial: Sudanese disavowed polls no matter what observers say

Al-Ayyam 21/4/10 - The international [election] monitors are not "referees" in a match who sound the whistle to stop the game and impose penalties. They are merely witnesses, and they could be fair witnesses or unfair witnesses. Those who testify to the truth provide evidence for what they saw and heard. Consequently, their testimony is judged by how much proof and evidence they provide. This is what they are going to do in their final reports. Ultimately, it is the people of the country who are the most capable of assessing the integrity and straightforwardness of the elections, elections that gain their legitimacy on the basis of how much the people of Sudan are convinced about them. Those who boycotted the elections expressed a conviction, before the balloting began, that integrity and equal opportunity were lacking on the basis of the facts they saw. But other competitors remained in the arena who were convinced that the existing degree of integrity was sufficient to conduct elections that might not meet the ideal standards but would still lead to acceptable results, even if not completely fair. On this basis, they entered the elections, refused the principle of boycott, and gave the benefit of the doubt to the electoral process. The real crisis that faced the elections was that those who did enter the elections in the North and South became convinced from their experience that the process was marred by shortcomings that proved to them beyond doubt that integrity and credibility were lacking and so they announced their complete rejection of the outcome and their refusal to recognize the results of the elections.

The boycotters withdrew their confidence from the elections before they began. Their hesitation and their changes and alteration of their positions caused confusion in the ranks of their supporters, but ultimately they decided to boycott. Then those who participated in the elections in the North and South joined them when they expressed their full disappointment at what happened and their refusal to recognize these elections. This comprehensive stand is stronger than the reports of all monitoring bodies and it is what determines the political effect of these elections which are ultimately a Sudanese affair.

Other Highlights

ICC Prosecutor seeks ruling against Sudan over warrants

Reuters 22/4/10 – ICC Prosecutor Louis-Moreno Ocampo has requested that ICC judges issue a finding of non-cooperation against Sudan's government for failing to execute two arrest warrants.

In a document seen by **Reuters** today, the Prosecutor said the filing followed Sudan's continual lack of cooperation in the case against Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb, both of whom are wanted for war crimes and crime against humanity.

It is the first time that the ICC prosecutor has requested judges to issue a finding of non-compliance.

According to **AP**, the Prosecutor has asked judges to report Sudan to the UN Security Council for refusing to hand over a government minister and a militia leader accused of atrocities in Darfur. The Prosecutor said in a written request to the court's judges that Sudan is refusing to arrest Humanitarian Affairs Minister Ahmed Harun and Janjaweed militia leader Ali Kushayb.

It is unclear what effect, if any, the request will have on Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir who is also wanted by the court for allegedly ordering atrocities in Darfur and has refused any cooperation.

Over 50 killed after tribal clashes in South Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 21/4/10 - Over 50 civilians have been killed and dozens wounded in renewed clashes between two nomad tribes in Sudan's South Darfur State. The clashes broke out Tuesday between Rizeigat and Al-Saada tribes in Al-Ban Jadid, Wohda district, some 61 kilometers north of Nyala, the capital city of South Darfur State over cattle rustling.

The clashes between the two Arab tribes, which involved heavy weapons and lasted for more than five hours, resulted in the killing of more than 50 people from both sides. However there are contradictory reports about the number of victims from each side.

Al-Sudani daily newspaper reported that Rizeigat armed elements used trucks equipped with heavy machine gun to attack and burn three villages near Al-Ban Jadid.

The Rizeigat who are living in northern Darfur and Chad are largely involved in the ongoing conflict in Darfur where they fight against the rebel groups. They clashed in the past against the Messeriya and the Turgum ethnic groups for the control of water sources and land.

In the meantime, Khartoum's *Al-Rai Al-Aam* daily quoted commissioner of Wohda in South Darfur State as saying that security committees are present at the sites and that the situation was under control.

He said that a committee has been formed to calm the tension between the two sides and tackle the root-causes of the problem.