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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN  
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

# Highlights

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## **UNSG appoints ex-Tanzanian president to head Sudan referendum panel**

*Sudan Tribune website* 21/9/10 - The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today tapped the former Tanzanian president Benjamin Mkapato to lead a panel that will monitor the South Sudan and Abyei referendum that is due early next year.

Mkapato will be joined by the former Portuguese foreign minister Antonio Monteiro and former Nepalese election commission chairman Bhojraj Pokharel.

The request for the monitoring commission was made by the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan people Liberation Movement (SPLM) this year.

"The Panel will make periodic visits to Sudan through the scheduled holding of the referenda in January 2011. Panel members will engage with all relevant actors, including the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the referendum commissions, civil society and observer groups. The Panel will follow key referenda processes, as well as the political and security situation. In addition to reporting to the Secretary-General on the conduct of the referenda, the Panel will work directly to enhance confidence in the process by encouraging the Parties and the relevant authorities to take corrective measures to resolve any significant problems or disputes that may arise," said a statement released by the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General.

The Spokesperson noted that the panel "is independent of the United Nations Mission in Sudan's substantial programme of technical, logistical and security assistance for the two referenda" ...

## **“We will not be surprised if NCP refused to recognize separation” – Kiir**

*The Citizen* 22/9/10 – FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit, at the a forum held at the Washington-based Peace Institute, said that the new strategy announced by the NCP would not resolve the problem, adding that he would not be surprised if the NCP refused to recognize the nascent state of the South if southerners opt for separation at the coming referendum. He underlined the need for carrying out a fair and free process under international supervision.

The new strategy on Darfur announced by the NCP will not resolve the problem because the strategy does not address the root causes of the crisis, says Kiir, according to *Al-Ayyam* 22/9/10.

Also, *Ajras Al-Hurriya* 22/09/10 reports head of SPLM's South Darfur Chapter Suleiman Ishaq has criticized the strategy, describing it as a “war strategy”, calling for the immediate adoption of an alternate plan for negotiations with all parties to the conflict.

## **Referendum delay for two months may be proposed at NY conference**

*Al-Sahafa* 22/9/10 – The newspaper has learned that the US Administration is likely to submit a proposal with regard to the relationship between the North and the South should secession take place. Reportedly, several countries including the US are expected to propose at the NY conference the extension of the referendum deadline for a period not exceeding two months if it is logistically proved not possible to have the plebiscite conducted on time. According to

sources, the US Administration also proposed to the two CPA partners a dual currency to be circulated for ten years if secession takes place and the oil pipelines in the north should also continue to exist for a period of 20 to 25 years to avoid collapse of the North's economy.

Meanwhile, GoSS Minister of Peace and CPA implementation Pagan Amum has expressed the SPLM readiness to negotiate on all post-referendum issues in order to create good relations between the North and the South. Amum said the SPLM delegation led by FVP Salva Kiir held a series of meetings with US officials which focused on the US's support to the full implementation of the CPA including the conduct of the referenda on schedule, demarcation of the border and popular consultation for Southern Kordofan and the Blue Nile states.

### **US denies Karti and Goush visas, NCP threatens to boycott NY meeting**

*The Citizen* 22/9/10 – Diplomatic sources revealed that the US administration has refused to grant entry visa to Sudan's Foreign Minister Ali Karti and Presidential Adviser Salah Goush who were part of the delegation of the NCP to talks organized by UNSG Ban Ki-moon under the American sponsorship.

Reportedly, the US Administration justified its rejection by the two officials' record in the fields of human rights and terrorism. In response, the NCP threatened to boycott the NY talks.

### **Abyei appeals for accelerated discussions over referendum commission**

*Sudan Tribune website* 21/9/10 - With looming pressures and repeated calls on the two peace partners to break a deadlock on Abyei, acting chief administrator, Kuol Monyluak, on Tuesday called on the parties to accelerate discussions over the establishment of the referendum commission.

He also called for restraint in demands to freeze settlements on areas inside demarcated boundaries by the ruling of permanent court of arbitration.

"In order to succeed in these negotiations both parties need to understand that neither side can come out with all that they want, especially when it involves resources," said Monyluak, describing the dispute over the area as an indicator of a political fight over resources.

He made the remark while addressing a gathering organized to observe international peace day in Abyei Freedom Square, southern Sudan. The function organized under the theme "Peace, Youth and Development," attracted participation of government officials, representatives of the United Nations (UN), international organizations, civil society organizations and the local community. Speaking of the values "diversity, equity, learning to live together, reconciliation, forgiveness, trust, compassion, tolerance, benevolence, mutual understanding, and collective community efforts and living in solidarity" that the event embodied, Monyluak said that "these themes are even more critical when we look at own current Abyei context."

He expressed his view that, "the fight over Abyei is not about land. It is not about territorial differences between the two tribes in reference to Dinka Ngok of Abyei and their neighboring Messeriya. It is about resources."

"If it is about land, why are the other neighboring areas to the south, east and west not complaining? Why are there no complaints from Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Warrap and

many more?" asked Monyluak.

He called for, "critical thinking and understanding with good faith on broader issues. The first task for spirit of compromise on both sides is to break deadlock. If they say no compromise it's a bad sign."

Speaking from Juba, Abyei Chief Administrator, Deng Arop Kuol, said that if talks over the region resume, settlement and ongoing construction must be addressed as priority.

"There is no need to allow people to settle in areas that have already been demarcated [for construction]. This must be addressed as a priority. The border demarcation technical committee must be allowed to resume their work before referendum," explained Kuol in a telephone interview with Sudan Tribune.

### **Borders not condition for referendum – AEC**

*The Citizen* 22/9/10 – The 2005 CPA does not state that demarcating borders between the north and the South is a condition for conducting the self-determination referendum in southern Sudan, AEC chairman Sir Derek Plumbly told a press conference in Juba yesterday. "I do not think the right of the people of southern Sudan to self-determination is something conditioned in anyway," He said. "But I think border demarcation is something that has to be resolved. It is also important in the context of the post referendum arrangements to reach at what will happen after the vote".

In a related development, *Al-Tayar* 22/9/10 reports Head of the North-South Border Demarcation Committee Abdullah Al-Sadiq has accused the SPLM representative in the committee of obstructing the committee's work by frequent and deliberate absence from meetings. He said his committee could not continue its work due to repeated absence which hampers its work, adding the absence is a tactic from the SPLM so that the issue could be referred for international arbitration.

### **SC members should meet Al-Bashir or visit will be cancelled – Official**

*Al-Sahafa* 22/9/10 – The Sudanese government is holding consultations with the SC permanent members with regard to the visit of its members to the country in October. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that the members should either meet with Al-Bashir or call off the visit.

"The Government will not agree to the visit if they insist not to meet President Al-Bashir," Foreign Ministry Undersecretary, Rahamatullah Mohamed Osman said. "Our position is clear. We will not accept their visit and they will not be received if they refuse to meet with the President".

### **Clinton, Taha meet amid pressure over referenda in Sudan**

*AFP* 21/9/10 - Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met here Tuesday with Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha as part of US efforts to ensure that Sudan holds two referendums peacefully and on time.

Clinton confirmed she would raise with Taha the issue of the referendums in January in south Sudan and in the oil-rich region of Abyei, votes that US officials expect will lead to the south's secession from the north.

"That's one of the things that we'll be discussing," the chief US diplomat told reporters as she sat opposite Taha over a large table in a luxury New York hotel, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

During a meeting at the United Nations on Friday, US President Barack Obama will deliver a "very forceful" message that the referendums in Sudan must go ahead on time, a top aide said.

Concern is growing in the international community that preparations for the votes are behind schedule.

Many diplomats fear that a delay in the votes could lead to a unilateral declaration of independence by the south and a possible new conflict.

According to *Reuters* 21/9/10, Hillary Clinton told Sudan on Tuesday the door was open to better U.S. ties, seeking to coax Khartoum into cooperating with referendums next year that could split the country.

Clinton told Taha that the Jan. 9 plebiscite on the independence of south Sudan could be an opportunity for the northern government in Khartoum, which critics accuse of foot-dragging before the vote, U.S. officials said.

"We know that every day is important and we do have expectations that both north and south need to take very specific steps (to) cooperate," Crowley told reporters after the meeting.

"The secretary made clear that the door to improved relations with the United States ... will open depending on Khartoum's cooperation," Crowley said.

There are widespread concerns that Sudan does not have enough time to organize the votes, and Crowley said Clinton pressed Taha to support the country's electoral commission, prepare ballots and register voters -- all essential steps if the plebiscite is to take place.

"Vice President Taha was very direct: there are some things that Sudan wants to get out of its future relations with the United States," Crowley said of the meeting.

"I think there was a very good understanding of the opportunities but also the consequences and the importance of Khartoum demonstrating its commitment" to the 2005 peace agreement, he said.

Rights groups have criticized the United States for not being tough enough on the Khartoum government and the new U.S. policy does not publicly spell out specific consequences that may ensue if it obstructs or delays the vote.

"I think that our focus right now is to demonstrate to Khartoum that ... if you work constructively in the post-referendum period, then there are clear opportunities available to you," Crowley said.

Analysts fear any delay, or messy outcome to the vote, could spark a new civil war, with dire consequences for the region...

## **Post-referendum security committee discusses building National Army**

*SUNA* 21/9/10 - The security committee for the post-referendum arrangements of the two partners is currently working out early arrangements for the post-referendum period with regard to the security aspect.

The committee's chairman, Ali Hamid, said in a press statement Wednesday following the committee's meeting, which was held at the Officers' Club, that the committee which includes military, political, security and police leaderships started to negotiate on the basic principles of establishing a future national army and divided its tasks into two stages, one in case of unity and the other in condition of separation. He said the committee met twice in Juba and Khartoum.

Meanwhile, Presidential Advisor of the Government of South Sudan and the Chairman of the Security Committee of the Referendum, Gen. Salva Matouk, said that the committee works to prepare the post-referendum arrangements and integrating the armies in one army in case of unity as well as mapping out security arrangements to meet the separation option.

## **Al-Bashir pledges non-return to war**

*Al-Ahdath* 22/9/10 – President Al-Bashir has pledged that there would be no return to war and has reiterated the government's commitment to achieve peace in the Sudan. "We have gone through war and we have also tasted the sweetness of peace," he said. "Sudan is for peace and we will continue on the path of peace whatever the cost," he added.

President Al-Bashir made the remarks at a ceremony held yesterday to mark Africa's Peace and Security Day in Khartoum.

## **Misseriya Union threatens a devastating war**

*Al-Tayar* 22/9/10 – The Misseriya Union has threatened a devastating war if the tribe is not involved in the upcoming referendum in the area, adding they would not allow the process to take place if they are to be excluded. Union Secretary Musa Hamadain said they are not concerned with any deals between the NCP and the SPLM since they have the right to vote based on the Protocol. He said the PCA Award is unacceptable but the tribe has no objection to negotiate with the Dinka to resolve the problem.

## **Analysis: Referendum raises expulsion fears**

*IRIN* (Khartoum) 21/9/10 - Forced expulsions, violent recriminations, mass exodus, peaceful co-existence - just some of the possible outcomes for hundreds of thousands of Southern Sudanese living in the North, and to a lesser extent, vice versa, after a January referendum when the South is likely to vote to transform its semi-autonomy into full independence.

"We are worried for the future, of what happens after the referendum," said James Jok, a vegetable seller who has lived in the Northern capital Khartoum since fleeing violence in the Southern state of Jonglei over two decades ago.

"I am frightened that if there is independence, we will just be told, "go home"," he added. "My home is now here in Khartoum – my children are teenagers and have known nothing else. I don't want to leave."

"I want to vote for an independent South, and I would like to go home," Halima Arop, from the

Southern border state of Unity, said in Khartoum. "But I am worried that we will not be allowed to leave peacefully."

The 9 January referendum is the climax of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended Sudan's 22-year-long civil war between North and South over governance, resources, religion and ethnicity. An estimated two million people died and four million were forced to flee their homes.

Tensions remain high between the former enemies, however, and slow progress on the referendum process, including negotiations over reciprocal citizenship rights, has generated frustration and suspicion on both sides.

In the South, the mood on the streets appears overwhelmingly pro-secession. On 8 September, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said a Southern vote to split was "inevitable".

In Khartoum, the growing inevitability of secession has elicited bitterness. "If the South wants to be its own country, then [it] can take its own people," said clothing stall-owner Ahmed al Hillu, a Northerner. "Sudan is one country, and it should stay united – that way people from the South can stay here and be welcome. If not, then they should go to their new country."

The complexities of identity in Sudan, where many people belong to several ethnic, religious and linguistic groups, often blur the distinction between Northerner and Southerner. Many of those classified as "Southerners" in the North have spent all their lives in Khartoum after their families fled the war.

Population figures are contested: a 2008 census calculated some 500,000 Southerners in the North, but Southern government estimates put the figure at some 1.5 million people, mainly based around the capital Khartoum.

"If the South separates, Southerners in the North and Northerners in the South will be especially vulnerable to violence and loss of citizenship, resulting in statelessness," the Washington-based advocacy group Refugees International stated in a June report. Violence, in either region, could spark retaliation on the streets of the opposing capital, it added.

The report went on to cite fears of "large-scale revenge killing of Southerners in the North if even a single Northerner were harmed in the South".

To encourage Southerners to return home, the humanitarian ministry in Juba has released plans for a US\$10m "emergency repatriation programme", launched under the slogan "Come Home to Choose".

Some aid workers are skeptical about the plan, noting that there is little time left to implement the proposal. Besides, the South's already struggling resources would be swamped if thousands of people arrived each day.

Returns have so far been affected by localized armed conflicts, lack of services, land disputes, and weak government capacity. "IDPs and refugees who returned to their places of origin after the CPA often found their houses and plots occupied by individuals or [government] staff," the Norwegian Refugee Council said in August.

"The process of restituting land and property rights is slow and has sometimes led to violence between returnees and occupants who are often IDPs themselves," it added.

In August 2010, Southern Sudan's humanitarian minister, James Kok Ruea, urged aid agencies to plan for a massive displacement of Southerners after the referendum. "People will be coming, and we will not be prepared."

Protection agencies are working to ensure the returns are voluntary. "In the context of the referendum, the UN and the humanitarian community at large are keen that procedures for voter registration, notably in the North and overseas, be finalized, widely disseminated and accessible," Mireille Girard, UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) deputy representative for Southern Sudan, told IRIN.

"This constitutes an important criterion for decision about return, for both IDPs in the North and for refugees," she said.

"Related to the referendum is the issue of citizenship and residency rights which are still under discussion between the CPA parties," Girard added. "It is important that such information be made available to concerned populations, including Northerners in the South, as soon as possible. This will be critical in people's decisions about return."

The referendum presents Sudan with more nuanced options than merely unity versus partition. In the event of secession, it is not yet clear whether the border will be a "hard" one between two fully separate states, with restricted movement and visa requirements, or "soft" with free movement guaranteed for people and goods, and guaranteed residency rights.

"Too firm a barrier would threaten pastoralist livelihoods in North and South alike, create hardships for Southerners who rely on goods and services from the North and unnecessarily restrict communities which see the benefit of joint cross-border initiatives and interaction," the International Crisis Group stated in a recent report.

Numerous thorny issues will have to be negotiated, the report says, including, "who can cross the border; their legal status; how they are to be identified; where, when and for how long they can cross; and the rights and responsibilities of individuals on both sides of the boundary (including economic activity, grazing fees, social arrangements and taxation)".

John Ashworth, in a September briefing published by the IKV Pax Christi organization, noted: "There are fears of large-scale migrations, either voluntary or, worse still, enforced. This could well lead to a humanitarian emergency, and a number of NGOs are gearing up for this eventuality."

But he added that the North depends on Southern labour in many areas and so was "unlikely to expel Southerners en masse".

In the South, Northerners also worry about the consequences. "I fear that if there are problems in the North, if they force Southerners out from Khartoum, then we will be in a bad situation here in the South," said Ali Said, a trader in the Southern capital Juba.

Born and brought up in Juba, his family roots lie in the Northern state of El-Gezira. "I wish to stay in the South, but I am frightened that any violence there [in the North] would be copied here in Juba," he added.

Northerners form a key part of the business community in the South. There are also large populations of people who made a new home in the South after fleeing violence in the north-western region of Darfur. "It is impossible for me to go home, because my home is still at war," said Mohammed Abdelrahman, a Darfuri living in Juba. "But if the South becomes a new country, will I be able to stay?"

## Other Highlights

### **Tougher anti-terrorism measures earmarked for Juba airport**

*Sudan Tribune website* 21/9/10 - Juba international airport will soon be equipped with state-of-the-art radar systems to avert any anticipated terrorism attacks on Southern Sudan, Anthony Lino Makana, the Roads and Transport has revealed.

According to Makana, installation of the new radar system, which is capable of detecting planes located more than 200 miles from the airport, will form part of meeting already earmarked for Montreal, Canada from Sept.28-Oct. 03.

"The government remains committed in its mandate to improve services to the people. We are on course and soon Juba airport will be upgraded to internationally-recognized standards," he told journalists attending the weekly media forum.

The fairly-small Juba airport reportedly handles between 70-80 planes that land daily, a development that calls for rapid expansion of the facility, while 33 air companies, mostly operating small aircrafts, have opened businesses in Southern Sudan.

"We are already in the process of expanding Juba airport. The process is rather slower because at the moment some legal battles are still ongoing between government and neighboring communities over land situated within the airport areas," he said...

### **Grenade explosion kills 8 people in Northern Bahr el Ghazal**

*Sudan Tribune website* 21/9/10 - At least eight people have been confirmed dead in the southern state of Northern Bahr el Ghazal, following an explosion of a hand grenade at a playing ground in Aweil East County.

The explosion which occurred on Sunday 19 at night in an area called Ajoklual in Manyiel Payam has left 17 others with severe injuries, most of whom are children and innocent civilians who could not escape the tragedy. Lieutenant General Kuol Deim Kuol, official spokesman of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), told Sudan Tribune from Juba on Tuesday that the grenade was held by one of the SPLA soldiers in the area who went to the playing ground with it without intention [to harm].

"Two of the SPLA soldiers in the area went to playing ground. One of them had a hand held grenade. They stood in an isolated area by the side of a playing ground as spectators, and while

standing watching local dance, a group of the newly initiated young men in the area, known as Aparak in Dinka Malual Gier Nyang, passed along the area in which the two soldiers were standing and started asking who “smells like boys”. The soldiers politely told them there were no boys with them and added they were soldiers on a mission. We do not have boys. We are grown up adults;” General Kuol said the locals quoted the two soldiers as saying.

"But, the newly initiated young men viewed it differently and took it the traditional way which regards any male without traditional mark as boy, regardless of age. It was through such argument and exchange of unnecessary words that they came into contact with the arm [grenade] which unfortunately exploded during the struggle between the two sides," explained General Kuol.

The senior military officer said the explosion killed six people on spot and later claimed lives of two other civilians who sustained severe injuries at the time and who were on their way to the local hospital, making the number of the deceased 8 in total.

"That means there are six deaths on civilians’ side and two from the army. These two soldiers included the owner of the grenade and his colleague who was standing with him,” he said.

He defended blames why the soldiers went to the playing ground with the grenade. “Our forces are on maximum alert. They are on standby for any eventualities and that each of the soldier; especially those at the flash points are instructed never to apart with their arms but should hold them in responsible manner while interacting with civilians,” explained the General.

"And of course one can not blame this incident on the army because it was not initiated by the soldiers. They neither threatened the youth nor did they intend to interrupt their activities, they were part of onlookers without ill intentions," he explained...

### **Khartoum state warns against possession of illegal arms**

*Al-Sahafa* 22/9/10 – Governor of Khartoum state who is also the head of the state’s Security Affairs Coordination Committee Abdul Rahman Al-Khidir announced the start of campaign for collection of unlicensed arms, saying the campaign would continue from 21 September to 20 October as part of an overall plan for arms-free capital. He said all arms should be surrendered voluntarily during the specified period after which authorities would not permit possession of any unlicensed arms. Al-Khidir made the remarks after meeting with President Al-Bashir yesterday.

### **Sudan transfers command of border force to Chad**

*Sudan Tribune website* 21/9/10 - Sudan yesterday transferred the command of the joint force to the Chadian army six months after its deployment on 24 March.

Sudan and Chad agreed on February 5 this year to deploy some 3000 troops along the joint border to end cross-border rebel attacks from the both sides. They also agreed that Sudan will lead this joint command for the first six month and El-Geneina will be its seat.

The deployment of the joint force is seen as crucial shift in the region as Sudan and Chad stopped their support to the rebel groups from both sides.

The joint force is "a model for the standing cooperation between Khartoum and N’djamena to

secure the joint borders between them and provide security and stability for the two countries,' said the Chadian minister of defense and former rebel Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue during the transference ceremony today.

The headquarters of the force is in Abeche in eastern Chad near the border between the two countries...

### **All southern universities to relocate by late 2010**

*Radio Miraya* 21/09/10 - The Federal Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Peter Adwok, has said that the three southern Sudan universities in the north will be repatriated back to the south by the end of 2010. Speaking to Radio Miraya's Round Table, Adwok said that there are challenges facing the repatriation of some faculties of the Upper Nile University due to the lack of infrastructures.

However, he said new lecturers will be recruited from abroad if there is a shortage. The Minister also said that the Arabic and English languages will both be used in the South and curricula with religious contents will be shelved.

### **Gunmen attack two UNAMID staffers in South Darfur**

*Sudan Tribune website* 21/9/10 - Gunmen attacked two Sudanese working with the hybrid peacekeeping mission in South Darfur, the UNAMID said on Tuesday.

"Two UNAMID national staff members in Muhajeria, in South Darfur were attacked and wounded by armed men on Monday at their residence, the hybrid mission said on Tuesday.

South Darfur state has become the theatre of several recent attacks on the members of the peacekeeping mission. But the state governor blames the UNAMID for refusing the protection of the Sudanese security forces.

"UNAMID must coordinate with us and inform us with movements of its personnel so that we can provide them with protection," said Abdel-Hamid Mousa Kasha following the short kidnapping last August of two Jordanian peacekeepers.

The two are currently being treated at the Mission's clinic for light injuries. The hybrid mission dispatched a security team to the scene to probe the attack in collaborating with local authorities.

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### ***United Nations Mission in Sudan - Public Information Office***

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN  
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200