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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Highlights

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## **VP Taha, GoSS VP Machar to meet Monday**

**Akhbar Al-Youm** reports that GoSS VP Riek Machar will visit Khartoum on Monday for intensive consultations with VP Ali Osman Taha in a bid to resolve dispute between the NCP and the SPLM over the census results and to expedite implementation of the PCA ruling on Abyei as well to complete preparations for free and fair elections.

## **Egypt hosts conference on unification of Darfur movements**

**Miraya FM 22/8/09** - An international conference on Darfur including Sudan, Egypt, Libya, US Administration and the Arab League will be held today in Cairo. The conference aims at unifying stances of armed movements ahead of the upcoming Darfur peace negotiations. During a meeting organized by the US Special Envoy to Sudan, Scott Gration, four Darfur factions have agreed to reunite on Friday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The signatory factions of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) include SLM-Unity faction, SLM-Juba Unit, United Resistance Front led by Bahr el Din Abu Garda, in addition to some leaders of SLM-Abdel Wahid Nour faction.

The US Special Envoy to Sudan is also expected to hold a meeting today with the Presidential Advisor Ghazi Salaheddin, in Cairo.

Scott Gration who is also leading intensive diplomatic movements to push forward the implementation of the CPA, stated that South Sudan Referendum on self-determination should be held on time, and rejected any postponement.

## **Abyei Boundary Committee to discuss demarcation schedule**

**Al-Ayyam** reports the Abyei Boundary Demarcation Committee has begun its meetings since Thursday to discuss preparations to demarcate the boundary on the ground. FM Deng Alor said the meetings would discuss a timetable and the technical facilities needed for drawing the boundary on the ground. He added that the committee might seek assistance of experts in drawing the line.

## **UNSG briefs SC on preparations for elections in Sudan**

**Al-Sudani** reports the SC yesterday briefed the SC on Sudan's preparations for general elections scheduled for April next year. The SG's report affirmed the positive cooperation and coordination between the government and UN and praised the NEC role.

## **SCOVA to address humanitarian situation in the South**

**Al-Khartoum** reports the Sudanese Council for Voluntary Organizations (SCOVA) has begun mobilizing international and local NGOs to salvage the humanitarian situation in the South. SCOVA Chairman Siraj Al-Din Abdul Ghaffar said the Council had begun preparations to resolve the situation by providing humanitarian aid. He said SCOVA had requested a meeting with FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit for coordination with GoSS.

## **Southern Sudan faces worsening food shortage - UN warns**

**UN News 20/8/09** - Urgent financial assistance is needed to ensure that Southern Sudan can

avert severe hunger among its inhabitants, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned today, calling for over \$50 million to cover the food gap.

Some 22,000 metric tons of food aid will be needed, and the UN is working with the Government of Sudan, the Government of Southern Sudan, donors and humanitarian partners to secure the financing and supplies needed to ward off a crisis.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has 80,000 metric tons of food in stock, but will need more than \$40 million for food and transportation costs.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) needs just over \$7.5 million to provide nutritional support, while the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) requires \$800,000 for its activities.

OCHA today also expressed concern over possible flooding in the area due to the late onset of seasonal rains.

Meanwhile, UNICEF is supporting this month's mass measles and neonatal tetanus campaign in Malakal County in southern Sudan, targeting over 24,000 children between the ages of six months and five years, as well as over 30,000 women of child-bearing age.

The agency is also working with partners to implement emergency nutrition schemes in the town of Akobo, with almost 400 children having received supplementary food in the first week of August.

### **SPLM condemns NCP statement on security situation in the south**

**Miraya FM** 22/8/09 - The SPLM has condemned recent statements made by the NCP Deputy Chairman, Nafie Ali Nafie in which he claimed that the absence of security in southern Sudan led to the assassination of leading members of political forces in the south. SPLM SG Pagan Amum accused NCP of arresting leaders of political forces in the north and hindering other parties from exercising their political activities.

While addressing the Khartoum State NCP General Convention on Thursday, Nafie said political freedom does not exist in southern Sudan, pointing to the recent killing of NCP's leading member, Mariam Bringi, in Western Equatoria State.

Meanwhile, **Sudan Tribune website** 22/8/09 reported the SPLM has once again accused its northern Sudan peace partner of arming militias to destabilize the semi-autonomous region.

"The National Congress has been arming militia groups to cause instability in south Sudan," said SPLM SG Pagan Amum in a press briefing held in Juba after the end of SPLM political bureau meeting on Thursday. "The NCP is also arming civilians," he added.

Meanwhile, SPLM Spokesman Yien Matthew on Saturday said the southern Sudan authorities seized guns bearing a logo of a Khartoum manufacturer.

### **Salva Kiir to visit restive Darfur next month**

**Sudan Tribune website** 22/8/09 — FVP Salva Kiir Mayadrit will visit the restive region of Darfur next month, said a statement issued by the SPLM this week.

In a statement released at the end of the SPLM political bureau in Juba between 16 -20 August, the southern Sudan ruling party said Salva Kiir would visit Darfur after the end of Islam's holy

month of Ramadan which started on Saturday August 22.

The SPLM will send a delegation to the troubled region to meet with regional political leadership and the tribal leaders to "identify their views on the political solution to Darfur issue."

### **Communist Party reacts to fatwa**

The Sudanese Communist Party has reacted to a fatwa issued by Sudan's Association of Scholars and Preachers declaring the party as "Kafir", ***Al-Rai Al-Aam*** reports. "Communism is blasphemy, whosoever believes in Communism is Kafir even if he observes prayer five times a day," says statement issued by the Association. However, the Communist Party reacted, saying it would resist extremism.

Meanwhile, ***Sudan Tribune website*** 22/8/09 reported a religious extremist group, carrying white weapons (knives, sticks etc.) attacked on Friday the premises of the Sudanese Communist Party in the suburb of Al-Jeraif West in the east of the capital, Khartoum.

The masked group of assailants attacked the SCP premises following the end of inauguration ceremony held by the party, communist sources told the ***Sudan Tribune***. "Our members captured the attackers and handed them over to the police."

The attack took place after a mosque preacher launched a fierce attack on the new premises of the party describing it as a den of atheism, vice and fornication. He further called on those attending the Friday prayers not to allow the party's premises to be operative.

The preacher said that the SCP is opposed to the implementation of sharia law in the country. He also said "as the Mujahedeen defeated communism in Afghanistan they can do the same in the Sudan."

### **Southern Sudanese likely to choose unity in a free referendum - NCP**

***Sudan Tribune website*** 21/8/09 — The citizens of South Sudan will vote for unity rather than the secession in the upcoming 2011 referendum if they are afforded "total freedom" a top official at the NCP said.

The Sudanese Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie told the NCP convention in Khartoum that the issue of referendum and the April 2010 elections represent the most pressing items in the political arena.

Nafie said that the NCP wants to conduct a constructive dialogue with other political parties on the issue of freedoms and liberties prior to the elections but warned against any activity targeting the security of the country.

He lashed out at newspapers that talk about enhancing political freedoms in the North while turning a blind eye to "lack of political freedom in the South".

On the issue of referendum, Nafie reiterated the NCP's position that all Southerners should be allowed to vote irrespective of where they reside. The SPLM only wants the voters in the South to take part in the referendum.

### **Sudan's SPLM kicks out two party members**

***Sudan Tribune website*** 21/8/09 — The SPLM decided today to expel two of its controversial

members.

The SPLM political bureau concluded its meetings in Juba and issued a statement in which it announced that Ghazi Suleiman and Manawa Aligo are no longer part of the movement.

The decision was on the grounds that both figures who are members of the Sudanese national assembly have not adhered to the “political line” of the SPLM and have taken part in “destructive activities” against it.

### **60 armed men attack Um Sunut in Northern Kordofan**

**Al-Sahafa** reports that about sixty armed men yesterday attacked Um-Sunut area (20 km away from North Darfur) in northern Kordofan, seizing three Land Cruisers belonging to civilians. The attackers spread panic by firing in the area but no casualties were reported.

Commissioner of Sudarei Locality Bashir Ghujal said about sixty armed men aboard scores of vehicles attacked Um-Sunut, carjacked three Land Cruisers and looted the market. Ghujal accused Darfur movements of carrying out the attack.

### **US Congress delegation to visit Sudan**

**Sudanese Media Centre** 22/8/09 – a delegation from the US congress will arrive in Khartoum Monday on five-day official visit to assess the positive development of the humanitarian and security situation in Darfur.

A diplomatic source said that the delegation would visit Darfur and hold meetings with government officials and would also visit Darfur.

### **LRA drive thousands from their homes in southern Sudan - UN**

**UN News Centre** 21/8/09 – Fresh attacks carried out by a notorious Ugandan rebel group have uprooted thousands of people and spreading panic in southern Sudan, forcing the United Nations to suspend its humanitarian work in the area, the world body's refugee arm said today.

The 12 August attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Ezo district, in the remote Western Equatoria region near Sudan's border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), reportedly killed two people and injured three others.

The rebels also abducted 10 girls from a local church, and they pillaged and torched homes, stealing food.

The following day, the LRA struck again in Bereamburu village, burning down the local church and health centre, as well as looting medical supplies.

“On 13 August, as a result of the intensifying LRA attacks, the UN was forced to suspend all humanitarian activities in the area, and 29 humanitarian workers, including seven UNHCR staff, were evacuated by helicopter,” Andrej Mahecic, spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told reporters today in Geneva.

The recent LRA attacks have triggered widespread panic and fear in the area bordering the DRC and the Central African Republic (CAR), he said. Most of those on the run have already been uprooted by earlier LRA incursions.

“UNCHR condemns the continued LRA attacks on the civilian population and is deeply

concerned about the fate of the large number of refugees and IDPs caught in the latest attacks in several villages along the borders of the three countries,” Mr. Mahecic said.

Thousands of refugees from the DRC and the CAR, along with internally displaced Sudanese persons (IDPs) are now without protection or assistance, he added.

Since October 2008, the LRA, which is said to be behind many attacks and atrocities, has “extended its deadly reach into the DRC, Sudan and the CAR, terrorizing the civilian population and causing chaos and mayhem,” the spokesperson said.

“We need to act now to assist the increasing number of people facing serious hunger in southern Sudan,” said WFP Sudan Representative Kenro Oshidari.

### **River Sobat crossing reopens**

**Miraya FM** 20/8/09 - the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs has announced that it had reopened the Sobat river path, after a one month closure due to the recent tribal conflicts in the region. The suspension of traffic on the river had delayed delivery of humanitarian aid to those affected in the area. The Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs, Hassabu Abdul Rahman, said in a press statement that the World Food Program has started sending aid through the river following the reopening.

### **NEC appoints new members to supervise general elections**

**Sudan Tribune website** 22/8/09 - The Southern Sudan High Elections Committee (SSHEC) has announced the appointment of its members in preparation for the upcoming general elections. In a press release, the Committee said it is tasked with the supervision of the elections of the GoSS President as well as the elections of the members of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly.

It added that it is also responsible for coordinating between the States High Committees and the NEC. The Southern Sudan High Elections Committee further stressed that all Sudanese citizens should enjoy the free exercise of their political rights.

### **Carter Center to observe Sudan’s elections**

**Carter Centre** 19/8/09 -The Carter Center is pleased to have finalized memoranda of understanding with the Government of National Unity (GoNU) of Sudan and the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) on its program of election observation in Sudan. The Center welcomes the spirit of cooperation demonstrated by Sudanese authorities in these efforts.

The memoranda of understanding draw from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, National Elections Act, and the Declaration of Principles of International Election Observation and Code of Conduct adopted at the United Nations in 2005. These memoranda guarantee an unrestricted program of observation, including freedom of access throughout the country and to all stages and actors in the electoral process.

The Center will at all times conduct its activities impartially, objectively, transparently and independently and will inform the NEC of any irregularities, deficiencies, or interference observed, and where appropriate recommend corrective and preventative responses. The Governments of Sudan and Southern Sudan and the NEC have pledged to facilitate the Center's work and provide all possible assistance to the organization and personnel of the Center's election observation mission.

Separate but parallel to its international observation efforts, the Center will also provide technical capacity building and training support to Sudan's domestic election observer groups. This work has been welcomed by the NEC and has also been included under the Center's memoranda of understanding with the GONU and GOSS.

Jeffrey Mapendere, former assistant director of the Carter Center's Conflict Resolution Program, has been appointed as field office director for the Center's Election Observation Mission in Sudan. Mapendere is a recognized expert on democracy and conflict resolution programming. As field office director, he will oversee the mission's efforts to observe the Sudanese electoral process.

Mapendere most recently served as senior advisor on security arrangements in the U.N. standby team of mediation experts, working to advance peace and reconciliation. As a conflict resolution practitioner and a professional mediator, Mapendere has conducted high-level political analysis and worked on projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo, East Timor, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and elsewhere.

### **Abductees married their abductors**

**Al-Akhbar** reports security authorities have found the two abducted GOAL workers at an area 10 km away from Kebkabiya, in North Darfur. Reportedly, the two aid workers were in good health. However, authorities were surprised by the refusal of two abductees, GOAL Irish and Ugandan aid workers, to return saying they have married two of their abductors and joined the armed movement.

### **European Commission opens its first office in Juba**

**Sudan Tribune website** 22/8/09 — The EC inaugurated this week its first office in southern Sudan and appointed a permanent representative in southern Sudan.

In a small ceremony organized at the new premises on August 18, the event was attended by Dr. Luka Biong, GoSS Minister of Presidential Affairs, the EU ambassador in Khartoum Mr. Carlo De Filippi, and a number of Southern Sudan official and diplomatic community in Juba.

The new head of the European Commission Juba office is Mr. Jesús Orús Báguena, is the first European Civil Servant to be based in Southern Sudan on a permanent basis.