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Media Monitoring Report

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Highlights

SSRC receives most of the voting material

Sudan Tribune website 24/10/10 - The South Sudan referendum commission (SSRC) announced today that it has received 90% of the voting material required to conduct the self-determination vote early next year.

SUNA quoted SSRC spokesperson Jamal Ibrahim as saying that the customs authorities in Khartoum airport released six packages containing registration books to the commission.

Speaking to SUNA, Ibrahim said that the quantity they have in their possession now should be enough to cover southern voters living in Sudan's 15 northern states. Millions more will soon arrive in the southern capital Juba, he added.

The SSRC official suggested that more may be needed during the late stages of the referendum process which is slated to start on January 9.

"This is a giant step forward ... When the materials are around everyone feels confident that these things are going ahead," commission deputy chairman Chan Reek Madut told Reuters from Juba.

The commission has already started training referendum registration staff, and organizers still hope to start voting on Jan. 9, he added. "That is our hope and it is our aim," he said...

“US will not object to referendum delay” – John Kerry

The Citizen 25/10/10 –US senator who heads the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, John Kerry, yesterday said in a press conference at Khartoum Airport while wrapping up a three-day visit to the country that the US did not mind delaying the referendum if the NCP and the SPLM agree on delaying it provided the reason should be technical to increase accessibility and assure better conduct of the referendum. However, he said both sides assured him that they were committed to conducting the referendum on time.

“The government showed me resolution and assurance that they are committed to respect the outcome of the referendum” Kerry said. He said the coming months and weeks will determine the future of the country saying that the door will remain open for them to build the future of the country and redefine many terms.

Kerry said he had received written commitment that the vote would take place on time, according to *Al-Ahdath* 25/10/10.

Khartoum Monitor 25/10/10 reports Kerry as saying he held “very productive meetings” with the Sudanese officials in Khartoum and Juba.

Meanwhile, *Ajras Al-Hurriya* 25/10/10 reports Head of GoSS Mission in Washington Ezekiel Jatkoth has stressed the need to conduct the process on time, saying the GoSS and the SPLM

would not agree to a delay of the referendum under any circumstances, adding the remaining time is sufficient to meet the deadline.

Presidency to hold a meeting today

Al-Ahram Al-Youm 25/10/10 – Informed sources said the Presidency would hold a meeting today to discuss CPA pending issues. The two partners' committees have reportedly embarked on preparing reports on contentious issues for submission to the Presidency meeting for decision.

Meanwhile, *Al-Akhbar* 25/10/10 reports that the two CPA partners have invited all the committees that had participated in the conclusion of the peace agreement to engage in intensive consultations in Khartoum on pending issues to come up with a strategy to build peace and stability in the Sudan. The consultations are expected to focus on referenda, border demarcation, security arrangements, natural resources, citizenship and international agreements.

According to *Al-Sahafa* 25/10/10, the two partners have agreed not to link the demarcation of the North-South border with the conduct of the upcoming referendum and that they would strive to find a political solution but it will be referred for international arbitration should they fail.

Addis talks on Abyei on Wednesday

Al-Sahafa 25/10/10 – Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie and Head of AUHIP Thabo Mbeki discussed preparations for Addis Ababa meeting between the two CPA partners to discuss Abyei and demarcation of the border on Wednesday.

Referenda separation unrealistic – Deng Alor

Ajras Al-Hurriya 25/10/10 – In a lengthy interview to the newspaper, GoSS Minister of Regional Cooperation Deng Alor, said the South is heading towards secession and that unity is now not possible. He has criticized talk about separation of Abyei referendum from that of the South, saying it is unrealistic.

Alor revealed military buildup at the border, saying the UN has been alerted about the development.

South Sudan chooses 'freedom' anthem

AFP 25/10/10 - Hundreds of cheering southern Sudanese packed a concert hall in the regional capital Juba to watch contestants battle it out to provide the music for a "national" anthem, less than 80 days before a planned referendum on independence.

"This is a historic moment," said Mido Samuel, one of three entrants who made the final shortlist after an initial field of 36 was whittled down in the competition which climaxed late on Sunday.

"Having a national anthem for me means that I am declaring to everybody that I am now free," he said.

"This is about the spirit of the people of southern Sudan, who have never accepted to be enslaved without resistance," said Pagan Amum, secretary general of the south's ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), speaking before the music began.

"Southerners are united by a common aspiration to be free," said Amum, who later danced in

front of the audience alongside southern army Chief James Hoth.

"On January 9, we will be free, and we will extend our hands in friendship to all the people of the world, particularly to the people of northern Sudan, whose elites have ruled us in a bad way."

The final shortlist will now be put to senior officials of the south's autonomous regional government and army who will make the final choice, said Joseph Abuk, chairman of the technical committee overseeing the anthem.

"This is part of our search for identity," said Abuk. "That is why national anthems are so very important."

The words for the anthem have already been chosen by a committee including government and military representatives.

"Sing songs of freedom with joy," the lyrics run. "For peace, liberty and justice shall forever reign."

Tensions remain high between the mainly Muslim north and the grossly underdeveloped south, most of whose inhabitants are Christian or follow traditional beliefs.

"Oh black warriors! Let us stand up in silence and respect, saluting millions of martyrs whose blood cemented our national foundation," another verse runs.

Hundreds of southerners depart Khartoum

Al-Intibaha 25/10/10 – Repatriation operations of southerners from Khartoum to the South for the vote have stepped up. Eyewitness indicated a rush of a large number of southerners to the vehicles allocated for their transportation to the South. 17 trucks were reportedly seen arriving yesterday at Kalakela area in Khartoum to transport the southerners. The newspaper has learned from sources that southern residents of the area have begun selling their houses at low prices ranging between SDG 25,000 to 30,000 although the actual price could reach SDG 100,000.

Other Highlights

Sudanese court sentences Kalma resident to death by hanging in Darfur

Sudan Tribune website 24/10/10 - A Sudanese court sentenced to death by hanging on Sunday a resident of Kalma camp in South Darfur for alleged attempt to kill a supporter of the Doha peace process, Sudan Tribune has learnt.

Hussein Hassan Abdel Kareem was arrested on July 22 by a pro-Doha group in the camp who delivered him to the Sudanese security service accusing him of being an anti-Doha activist inside the camp.

"The pro-Doha [group] lured Hussein that day telling him by telephone they want to meet them for an important matter. But when he met them, they beat [...] and arrested him before handing him over to the security service," said a resident from the camp who requested anonymity.

Kalma residents are mostly supporters of Abdel Wahid Al-Nur, leader of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement, which refuses to participate in the peace process asking to improve the security situation and to protect the IDPs.

Based on the accounts of the security service a court in Nyala sentenced Hussein to death by hanging despite several witnesses from the displaced community attesting that the accused has nothing to do with politics and all the charges against him are unfounded.

The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Kalma say the government has recruited some people inside the camp to intimidate residents in an attempt to push them into leaving.

Kalma IDP camp, which is the home of some 100,000 residents, witnessed bloody clashes between pro and anti-Doha peace process in July this year...

Darfur on way to separation –SLM

Al-Tayyar 25/10/10 – Assistant to the Chairman of the Sudan Liberation Movement Abdul Aziz Sam has said that the Darfur region is heading to separation and that SLM Chairman Minni Minnawi is currently in Juba to witness the conduct of the referendum process in order to copy it in Darfur.

Meanwhile, SLM senior leaders have denied that they have issued statement dismissing Minni Minnawi from the SLM chairmanship, saying they have no connection with the statement.

Sudan tribune website 23/10/10 reported that the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minnawi denied today that it's leader had been sacked from his position and reaffirming its commitment to the Darfur Peace Agreement signed with the Sudanese government in May 2006.

Some 29 leading members of the SLM-MM's political wing and 33 of the groups' military commanders issued two statements this week accusing Minnawi of delaying the implementation of the DPA and moving some of his troops to southern Sudan. The statement also accused Minnawi of paralyzing the SLM-MM's institutions, mismanaging the finances of the group and neglecting the implementation of the security arrangements which provide for the integration of his military staff to the Sudanese army.

In the second statement the signatories went further alleging that the troops in southern Sudan had been imprisoned without any means of communication. Both statements gave no indication of what Minnawi's motivation for moving the troops to the south would be.

Hussein Ismail Hashim, the head of the SLM-MM office in North Darfur reaffirmed the commitment of his group to the 2006 peace deal signed with the government and disclosed they will hold a meeting with their peace partner, the ruling National Congress Party, next Wednesday to tackle the implementation of the agreement.

He further added that those behind the statements had for long time not been members of the movement.

Justice Ministry cancels court fees

Al-Ahdath 25/10/10 – Minister of Justice Mohamed Bishara Doussa issued yesterday an order

abolishing all types of fees levied by prosecutions. The order also repeals all previous decisions and circulars. The order is effective as from 1st November.

Abductors kill five Chinese hostages in Abyei

Al-Akhabar Khartoum, 25/10/10 – A diplomatic source at the Chinese Embassy in Khartoum said that five of the nine Chinese workers abducted by gunmen in the Abyei area on 18 October have been killed, two are missing and two others are said to have fled from captors. The source said that the sad news was received from Sudanese authorities.