

27 July 2010

www.unmissions.unmis.org



# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Headlines

- AU drops resolution barring arrest of Sudanese president in continent (*ST*)
- Presidential decree issued forming committee to follow up on Darfur (*Al-Ayyam*)
- National Government parties meet today (*Sudan Vision*)
- Parliament reconsiders waiving immunity for SPLM-DC (*the Citizen*)
- Independent SSLA MPs push for house committee seats (*The Citizen*)
- South Sudan wants to establish fiber-optic communication system (*ST*)
- Over 21,000 residents of Fashoda require relief in Upper Nile State (*ST*)
- Shilluk Community in Diaspora send open letter to UNSG (*The Citizen*)
- Doha negotiations to resume next September (*Sudan Vision*)
- Sudan reiterates displeasure over Dr. Khalil's presence in Libya (*Al-Wifaq*)
- Defence Minister says Darfur rebellion close to an end (*Al-Khartoum*)

## Pre-referendum Monitor

- Border demarcation to complete ahead of referendum – Head of committee (*Al-Sahafa*)
- SPLM calls for equal access to media to advocate for unity or separation (*Al-Ayyam*)
- SPLM seeks to tip balance in favour of unity – Deputy Speaker Garang (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Unity Support Committee calls for demonstrations (*Ajras Al-Hurriya*)
- Advocates for secession have vested interests – NCP (*Al-Ahdath*)
- Islamic Development Bank to assist in development of South Sudan (*ST*)
- Egyptian Foreign Minister urges CPA partners to reach an understanding (*Al-Ahdath*)

**NOTE:** *Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

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

# Highlights

---

## **Presidential decree issued forming committee to follow up on Darfur**

*Al-Ayyam* 27/7/10 – President Al-Bashir yesterday issued a republican decree forming a committee to follow up on the Darfur file and also reappointed Dr. Ghazi Salaheldin as the government official in charge of the Darfur dossier.

According to the decree, the membership of the Follow up Committee will comprise the ministers of defence, foreign affairs, finance, information, the three Darfur governors and the representative of the regional transitional authority.

The decree also directs the establishment of an advisory team to advise the Head of the Committee and the team will comprise official and non-official personalities from Darfur and other regions.

The Darfur Follow up Committee will be tasked with preparations for the talks, devising strategies and plans and to follow up on the implementation of concluded agreements without prejudice to initiatives.

The Decree also tasked the Committee to determine policies towards UN and its bodies and agencies, regional organizations, AU, UNAMID and UN-AU JSR and the neighbouring countries with influence in Darfur.

According to Sudan Tribune website 26/7/10, the decree instructed the new committee to prepare for the negotiations and craft its strategy as well as monitor and assess international media reports on Darfur in order to counteract hostile media reports and reflect the real facts.

Furthermore, the new committee will determine the policies to be taken with regards to the United Nations and its affiliate bodies, African Union (AU) working group, African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), joint UN-AU mediator and regional countries with influence in Darfur.

The announcement appears to reflect a desire by Khartoum to undertake a more aggressive approach towards resolving the seven-year old conflict which has isolated the country on the international arena and portrayed the government as one with a poor human rights record.

## **National Government parties meet today**

*Sudan Vision* 27/7/10 – Parties in the “Government of National Unity” will hold an important meeting on Tuesday in Khartoum in presence of Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, Assistant to the president of the republic, deputy Chairman of the ruling National Congress Party for political affairs.

In this context, Dr. Awad Al-Jaz, the Minister of Industry, head of referendum commission, will discuss the parties’ arrangement for the referendum stage.

Gabriel Angom, Secretary of information of greater Bahr el Ghazal General Secretariat, said the meeting would discuss security arrangement regarding the referendum besides debating the

finalization of the items of the CPA.

He indicated in press statements that participation of all political leaders led by Prof. Moses Machar. Angom stressed that unity is a national issue that concerns all political parties. He said the two partners to the agreement were in charge of the referendum and they have to exert efforts to make unity a priority as stipulated in the CPA.

Angom affirmed that unity is a likely strong option for southerners including Sudan people's liberation movement, adding that separatists only account for 1.5%. However, he pointed out that unity can only be achieved through provision of freedoms to southern citizens to choose what they want.

### **Parliament reconsiders waiving immunity for SPLM-DC**

*The Citizen* 27/7/10 – Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly is sitting today to consider restoration of the waived immunity of members of parliament for SPLM-DC. In a message posted on an electronic notice board yesterday, the administration of the assembly confirmed that today's sitting shall be intensely focused on revoking resolution No. 8 made in June through which the immunity for SPLM-DC MPs was lifted due to an alleged connection in Paniygang killing, where seven civilians including a paramount chief were murdered in the Upper Nile State last May.

### **Independent SSLA MPs push for house committee seats**

*The Citizen* Juba, 27/07/10 – Independent lawmakers of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly are hedging their bets to secure for themselves some of the seventeen Standing Specialised Committees' positions. The Independents said they have presented a memorandum to the Assembly leadership voicing their demand to be awarded the seats but it remains unpredictable whether their requests will be considered. Among the positions they are vying for are Public Accounts Committee, the official chief whip and the leader of the opposition.

### **South Sudan wants to establish fiber-optic communication system**

*Sudantribune.com* Juba, 26/07/10 - The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) is pursuing an ambitious plan to establish fiber-optic communication network for a faster and more efficient system in the region.

This was announced by GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar, during the official launch of a symposium on Information Technology (IT) under the theme, 'Mitigating digital transformation challenges.'

In his opening statement which he read on behalf of the President, Salva Kiir, Vice President Machar said it was important for the government to link all the state capitals with fiber optic communication system and transform the government into an electronic government (E-government), which he also said was pivotal for public service reform.

He reminded the audience that the referendum for the South is only five months away, saying the 2005 peace deal has created an opportunity of peace and stability that should not be lost. "There should be no challenges to plunge us back to war. Challenges are surmountable," he said.

Ministers from both the national government in Khartoum and Government of Southern Sudan,

in addition to 40 state ministers took part in the symposium on Monday in Juba.

### **Over 21,000 residents of Fashoda require relief in Upper Nile State**

*Sudantribune.com* Khartoum, 26/07/10 - At least 21,444 residents of Fashoda County in Upper Nile State require relief assistance, according to UN agencies.

The victims are part of month-long clashes between forces loyal to former southern Sudan wildlife officer turned rebel, Robert Gwang, and SPLA forces in the area.

There were 30 people reported killed in the series of clashes which occurred on earlier this month between the same group loyal to colonel Gwang and SPLA forces. This has left hundred displaced and an unrecorded number of local settlements burned down in the main clashing points around Lul. Clashes further spread to villages of Kiji, Padual, Owekiel, PangKuai, Reethlep, Wichdewad, Omir, Koyiel, Otuwele, Aguabai among others.

A joint report by United Nations, state government and other relief organizations in the area conducted on July 12, says reports of ill-treatment and torture by officials, mainly directed at innocent civilians mostly women, children and elderly, are worrying.

"People are still very scared. There is a big problem between the groups loyal to colonel Gwang allegedly fighting against disarmament proper process allegedly in favour of local communities and SPLA forces executing regional policy as stipulated in the 2005 peace deal signed by the two former warring parties now turned peace partners" said a staff member from one of the relief organizations in an e-mail to Sudan Tribune on Sunday from Malakal.

"They do not trust each other; they do not speak to each other as people of the same state and as people with the same identity let alone being natives of the same region. They are scared of each other. There's a huge problem of psychological trauma. It's still very, very fresh for them, for those who lost their relatives. It is very difficult for them to forgive and forget and lead a normal life".

Asked what he and others in the area think could have contributed to the root cause of this conflict, he said, in our assessment, depending on who you talked to, the root cause of this instability in the area cannot be established.

### **Shilluk Community in Diaspora send open letter to UNSG**

*The Citizen* 27/7/10 – in a lengthy open letter to SG Ban Ki-moon (full text published by today's daily English newspaper *The Citizen*), the Shilluk Community in Diaspora (USA, Britain, Canada) complained of alleged atrocities committed by the SPLA in Shilluk Kingdom against civilian population. "We are deeply saddened by the continued devastation, killings, gang-rape and torture of untold proportion in the Shilluk Kingdom carried out by none other than their own Government of South Sudan (GoSS).

"Your Excellency, as we mentioned earlier, the Shilluk and the Dinka have always lived peacefully and friendly. The giving of Shilluk land to the Dinka by President Salva Kiir has caused chaos and anarchy in the area at a time when peace and stability are greatly needed for successful referendum on self-determination scheduled for January, "the letter said.

“Your Excellency, your intervention into this security matter is necessary and urgently needed so that the southern people can cast their votes in the referendum without fear. Thank you very much. With our highest compliments please.”

### **Doha negotiations to resume next September**

*Sudan Vision* Khartoum, 27/07/10 – Omar Adam Rahama, the spokesperson for the Sudan delegation to the Doha talks, said the joint AU/UN mediation and the Sudan government side are making arrangements to bring the JEM and the SLM to join the other armed groups at the negotiations table. He said that these efforts would continue until September 19th around when the talks are expected to resume. He said however that the mediation would announce the date of resumption in due course.

He also said that the committees on justice and reconciliation and security arrangements would return to Doha within two weeks to continue negotiations for a week.

### **Sudan reiterates displeasure over Dr. Khalil’s presence in Libya**

*Al-Wifaq* Khartoum, 27/07/10 – Sudan has renewed expressions of displeasure over the presence of JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim in Libya, according to the head of the Sudan delegation to the Doha talks, Amin Hassan Omar. He revealed that Khalil’s presence in Libya was an issue of discussion at the highest levels at the Sahel and Sahara Group meeting in N’djamena and that the Libyan delegation gave a good explanation of its position on the issue but Sudan remains displeased with the issue.

In a separate story, *Al-Ahdath* quotes Omar as saying that Darfur problem is not resolved only through the signing of a peace agreement with armed groups, pointing out that 80% of the solutions lie on the ground in Darfur. He expressed optimism that the parties may be able to reach a deal by October this year at the latest. Omar also underlined the need to reach an agreement ahead of the southern Sudan referendum.

The head of the Sudan delegation to Doha talks further pointed out that the government is no longer concerned about SLM’s Abdulwahid whom he described as isolated.

### **Defence Minister says Darfur rebellion close to an end**

*Al-Khartoum* Khartoum, 27/07/10 – The rebellion in Darfur is close to its end, Defence Minister Abdulraheem Mohamed Hussein told a graduation ceremony of the National Service recruits in Al-Gazira State yesterday. He said that the rebels have been defeated.

He went on to praise the National Service and its roles towards development, improving the environment and in agriculture and other fields. He said that the recruits would be sent to southern Sudan with gifts to school children there in a push for the cause.

## **Pre-referendum Monitor**

### **Border demarcation to complete ahead of referendum – Head of technical committee**

*Al-Sahafa* 27/7/10 – Head of the Technical Border Demarcation Committee Abdullah Al-Sadiq has confirmed that work on the North-South border demarcation would be finalized before the

upcoming referendum next year.

Mr. Al-Sadiq, speaking to *Miraya FM*, has denied any delay or halt of work due to the rainy season, saying the work of the committee is technical and has no direct link to the referendum.

Earlier, deputy head of the committee Col. Rig Digol said it was impossible to complete the demarcation of the border before the referendum and that the committee suspended its work due to the rainy season, pointing out that the committee could not agree on 75% of the pending issues and consequently they were forced to refer the matter to the Presidency.

### **SPLM calls for equal access to media outlets to advocate for unity and separation**

**Al-Ayyam** 27/7/10 – The SPLM has warned against the exercise of any pressure on the referendum commission or delay of the referenda in the South or Abyei area.

Cabinet Affairs Minister Luka Biong said postponement of referendum on the grounds of unfavourable security circumstances would send negative signals to the southerners to the effect that the Government is not serious to implement the CPA. He revealed that the NCP has informed the SPLM about its reservations over securing of the referendum exercise by the SPLA. “Advocates of unity and secession should have equal access to the media to present their views and opinions,” he said. “International arbitration can be sought on demarcation of the North-South border such as it was in Abyei.”

Mr. Biong also called for conclusion of an agreement on four freedoms between the North and the South should the southerners opt for secession. He also said that oil could achieve strong relations between the South and the North because oil wells are located in the South and refineries in the North. “The South can export its oil via the North instead of establishing refineries”.

### **SPLM seeks to tip balance in favour of unity – Deputy Speaker Atem Garang**

**Al-Ayyam** 27/7/10 – National Assembly Deputy Speaker Atem Garang said the SPLM is seeking to outweigh unity option and to achieve voluntary unity. However, he stressed that the choice of the southern Sudanese should be respected should they opt for secession. He urged the northerners to convince the southerners to support unity rather than issuing “fatwas” declaring that the conduct of referendum in an Islamic state is “haram”.

### **Unity Support Committee calls for demonstrations**

**Ajras Al-hurriya** Khartoum, 27/07/10 – The Unity Support Fund has underlined the need for unity and warned against the impact of separation but admits there are some flaws that need to be resolved in order to achieve unity. They have also called for a “million man” march to send a message to southern Sudanese so the vote would be tipped towards the unity option.

Speaking at the SUNA Forum yesterday, Jalal Tawer, a prominent member of the committee, said that among the negative impacts of separation are the fact that southern Sudanese would be living in their motherland in the north as refugees or foreigners. He also said there are families made up of parents from the north and south and these too may face some difficulties. He also mentioned possibilities of internal conflict over limited resources within the nascent state in the south as well as renewed north-south conflict as other negative impacts of secession.



He also said that Southern Kordofan may face problems in the event of secession of southern Sudan because of the presence of a large number of SPLA combatants from the region who would then become foreigners in the southern Sudan army. He also talked of potential problems with regard to the border demarcation in the Abyei Area as well as problems in Darfur that may arise should the south secede.

### **Advocates for secession have vested interests – NCP**

*Al-Ahdath* Khartoum, 27/07/10 – Industry Ministry Awad Al-Gaz, who is also the chairman of the NCP's high committee on the referendum, met NCP members from the Bahr-el-Ghazal area yesterday and called on them to exert efforts to urge their people to vote for unity come the referendum. He said that his party is determined to implement President Al-Bashir's elections pledges to implement development projects in southern Sudan.

### **Islamic Development Bank to assist in development of South Sudan**

*Sudantribune.com* Juba, 26/07/10 - The Islamic Development Bank has expressed its readiness to assist in the development of Southern Sudan as the region is only less than six months away from the conduct of referendum to determine whether they want to remain part of a united Sudan or form their own country.

The delegation led by the Vice Chairman of the Bank, Abu-Bakr Berma, briefed GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar yesterday on their initiative to support development in Southern Sudan. Representatives of the Bank want to see areas of priorities of the government so that they contribute to implementation of some such projects.

VP Machar told the delegation that he would refer their document to the Council of Ministers where each of the ministers will provide their input to it and identify projects for funding. He said once the Council discusses it, the proposals could be channelled through the Government of National Unity in Khartoum.

### **Egyptian Foreign Minister urges CPA partners to reach an understanding**

*Al-Ahdath/Agencies*, 27/07/10 – Talks between Egypt's Foreign Minister and US Special Envoy Scott Gration on the fringes of the AU Summit Meeting in Kampala focused on developments in Sudan, a statement from the Spokesperson of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry says. The statement went on to underline the need to respect the wishes of the parties to the CPA as they seek to resolve outstanding issues away from foreign interference. Egypt has also underlined the need for concerted efforts from the international community to assist in improving the standard of living for the people of southern Sudan.