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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Highlights

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## **Bashir opponents gather in Juba**

**BBC** 26/9/09 - Opponents of Sudan's president have gathered in the southern capital, Juba, invited by the former rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

Former enemies were smiling together as a historic conference opened in Juba. But the meeting has been causing a political stir, with President Omar al-Bashir's party a notable absentee.

Northern politicians like the Islamist Hassan al-Turabi and the former Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi once played major roles in successive Sudanese governments that fought the SPLM. Now the two veteran politicians are in opposition and in Juba at the SPLM's invitation. Most of the leading Sudanese political parties have also shown up.

Over three days the delegates will discuss the key issues in Sudanese politics, including the faltering north-south peace process, and the ongoing civil war in Darfur. Other topics include the controversial census, and the 2011 referendum in which the south will vote on whether it wants to remain part of Sudan.

The SPLM's Malik Agar has said the parties would not sign an alliance for next April's general elections. But the gathering of so many political heavyweights in one place can only be of concern to those not there - and notably to President Bashir and his party.

**Local dailies** report the conference which was supposed to kick off yesterday was delayed until today for further consultations on the agenda.

SPLM SG Pagan Amum regretted the NCP's boycott of a conference that is intended to discuss the current economic situation in the country as well as ongoing efforts to extricate the country from the present crisis.

## **Opposition can not topple Al-Bashir's Government – Adviser**

**Al-Ayyam** reports Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail as saying that the opposition can not overthrow President Al-Bashir Government, challenging them to do so if they have the capacity, adding many political parties would support Al-Bashir's candidacy.

On Darfur, Ismail said efforts to resolve the crisis was encountering many obstacles but it was not impossible to make a breakthrough.

## **Machar condemns attack on Duk Padiet in Jonglei State**

**Sudan Tribune website** 25/9/09 — GoSS VP Dr. Riek Machar condemned the attack on Duk Padiet in Jonglei state last Sunday by armed groups that has left over 160 people dead and more than 80 wounded according to the latest figure released by authorities in Juba on Friday.

Machar, who was in Khartoum for talks on the referendum law with delegation from the NCP described the incident as "unfortunate" and said it is a result of proliferation of arms in the hands of the civil population in Southern Sudan.

He said the solution is for the government to disarm the civil population, not only in Jonglei

state, but also throughout the whole of Southern Sudan and strengthen the law enforcement agencies instead of the civilians themselves taking the law into their own hands.

Meanwhile, the Lou Nuer Youth today denied that recent attack on Dinka Duk in Jonglei state had been carried out by organized militia saying armed civilians were behind it. They also accused the southern Sudan army of taking Dink's side

In a strong statement released in Juba on Friday the Lou Nuer Youth Association (LNYA) which advocates the cause of the tribe, said the attack on Duk Padiet last Sunday had been carried by "ordinary civilians" in retaliation to previous attacks they suffered.

The tribal group condemned statements by southern Sudan officials who described the attackers as militia saying "the Greater Akobo is in full control of the SPLA forces and if there are militias in the area we believe their first attack would have been on the SPLA forces at Renk the way to Malakal"

"This time we are going to write differently because the Jonglei State Government (JSG) and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) have taken side with the Dinka Bor, and we also have right to take side with our community in whatever cost. "

The Lou Nuer association also said opposed to a probable decision to disarm them first in a disarmament campaign that the Government plans to implement in the restive state of Jonglei.

"The LNYA would like to make it clear to the JSG and the GoSS that if the Lou-Nuer is going to be disarmed first as we have heard then please expect a full resistance from our civilians."

According to **Radio Miraya**, South Sudan's Interior Ministry said it had ordered investigations into the attacks in Duk Padiet, Jonglei County. Then Minister, Gier Chuang said that the perpetrators of the attack should be punished. He described Sunday's incident that claimed scores of innocent lives as a criminal act.

Chuang said those who carried out the attacks were enemies of peace and the people of South Sudan.

### **NCP shifts its position on referendum quorum**

**Sudan Tribune website** 25/9/09 – The debate between the partners to the CPA which aims to formulate the referendum law for the people of Southern Sudan remains heated as the NCP has extremely shifted from its initial position on the quorum of the required voters turn out.

In a press conference held in Juba on Friday, GoSS VP Dr. Riek Machar Teny, said the NCP had shifted from its previous proposal of 75% of the required quorum of the would-be registered voters turn out to a more demanding position of 90% required to recognize the outcome of the referendum

Machar said his party had proposed 50% as the required quorum of the general voters turn out to recognize the exercise of the referendum.

"On the turn out quorum of the registered voters the NCP has moved from 75% to 90%, when we [SPLM] said, well, at least 50% of the registered voters, if that is done, then such a referendum should be recognized."

The two parties also remain deadlock on the percentage of registered voters required to declare Southern Sudan an independent country. The SPLM has proposed 51% while the NCP proposed 75%.

Dr. Machar further added that the SPLM accepts only indigenous people of Southern Sudan to vote in the North and demands that any other person in the North that claims to trace his or her ancestry to the South Sudanese indigenous communities should only vote in the South after being verified by the respective local chiefs; a position rejected by the NCP.

Machar also said the SPLM has conceded to accept about eight locations in the Diaspora in which the indigenous people of Southern Sudan can also be allowed to vote in the referendum.

These locations include Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Egypt, USA, Australia, UK and Canada.

He said there are several other contentious issues among which include the post-referendum arrangements, which he said should be discussed in a separate forum according to his party's position.

The post-referendum issues include discussions on what to do with the liabilities, assets, water, Joint Integrated Units (JIUs), oil, international agreements, etc. in case the South would vote for separation.

Machar stressed the need to discuss these issues separately after finalizing on the referendum law itself so that the parties are not booked down by the post-referendum discussions.

He said the post-referendum issues should not only concentrate on what to do in case the South separates but also what Sudan's system should look like in case the South votes for unity, which he said should also involve re-structuring of the state itself.

"If it [referendum result] is unity, what form of unity should we be committed to because we all want to sell unity, making unity attractive? So we need to make it attractive even by re-structuring the state itself," Machar explained.

"So these are issues which we should not be booked down with them now when we are discussing the referendum. We should discuss them separately. We in the SPLM are ready. We have also done our homework," he continued.

Machar also added that the SPLM has presented its proposals on Abyei referendum and respective popular consultations for Nuba Mountains and Southern Blue Nile and are awaiting the NCP's response.

He further added that the two partners are also working on other national laws that would make democratic transformation of the country possible and create an enabling environment for free and fair elections in April 2010.

### **US to hold decisive meeting on Sudan Tuesday**

**Al-Sahafa** reports the US Administration is to hold a decisive meeting on Tuesday to debate on a report compiled by a team tasked to review US' policy on Khartoum. Reportedly, the meeting will be chaired by President Obama and will be attended by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, US Ambassador to UN Susan Rice, Defence Minister Robert Gates and the CIA Director.

In another development, **Sudan Tribune website** 26/9/09 reported that the Sudanese Government criticized reports that the US administration imposed new travel ban on its officials.

Reportedly, US President Barack Obama made a decision to slap sanctions on officials from Zimbabwe, Sudan and Kenya during the UN General Assembly meetings.

The US ambassador to Kenya has announced this week that his government would impose a travel ban on Kenyan ministers and other prominent people blocking Government reforms aimed at preventing political violence.

Sudan Tribune found no record of such action taken by the White House against any Sudanese officials. Washington is still working on a policy review in dealings with Sudan.

An unidentified Sudanese presidential official speaking to the London based Al-Hayat newspaper said that the sanctions “send mixed signals on the US policy towards African nations”.

However, the Sudanese official stressed that dialogue will continue with Washington.

The US has imposed travel bans on seven Sudanese individuals during the Bush administration including political and military officials, militia leaders and rebels.

### **Sudan rejects accusations of manipulations in oil revenue figures**

**Sudan Tribune website** 26/9/09– Sudan’s oil minister on Saturday dismissed accusations by an international group about manipulations in the figures of oil revenue during the last few years.

The London based Global Witness said in a report published on September 6 that the oil production figures put out by Khartoum government are lower than those put out by the main Chinese operator of Sudan’s oil fields, China National Petroleum Corporation. The report further stressed that there is a difference of figures ranging from 9 to 26% in oil blocks located in Southern Sudan.

Sudan’s Minister of Energy and Mining Al-Zubair Ahmed Hassan in a press conference held today in Khartoum rejected the findings of Global Witness as “inaccurate” stressing that the oil revenues are managed at all levels by a joint mechanism between the federal Government and the southern Sudan Government besides foreign observers.

He reaffirmed the readiness of his ministry to cooperate with the “known technical organisms” in order to preserve the peace agreement.

### **Sudan delegation to UNGA holds Darfur consultations**

**Sudan Tribune website** 24/9/09 — The Sudanese delegation to the UN General Assembly meetings in New York this week held series of meetings with world officials focused on the Darfur crisis.

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) reported that Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Deen met with the Egyptian foreign minister Ahmed Aboul-Gheit to discuss the “positive development” in Darfur and the CPA.

The agency quoted Aboul-Gheit as saying that his Government supports unity and stability in

Sudan.

Salah Al-Deen also met with African Union (AU) commissioner Jean Ping, United Kingdom Foreign Secretary David Miliband along with UK special envoy to Sudan Michael O'Neill, Algerian Foreign minister Mourad Medelci, Irish foreign minister Michael Martin and Qatari foreign minister Hamad Bin Jabr Al-Thani.

Al-Thani and Salah Al-Deen also discussed the Doha peace talks and the expected resumption of talks in late October.

The Sudanese official also briefed Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina Sven Alkalaj on the current situation in Sudan.

SUNA noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina will join the UN Security Council (UNSC) next year as a non-permanent member.

### **SPLM elements integrated in southern Kordofan police– Governor**

Southern Kordofan Government Ahmed Haroun said his state had completed the process of integrating SPLA police into the unified police, ***Al-Sahafa*** reports. Haroun said the integration of the remaining elements would be completed in October.

### **Presidency asks N-S Demarcation Committee to speed up work**

***Al-Raed*** reports the North-South Border Demarcation Committee Chairman Prof. Abdullah Al-Sadiq as saying that the Presidency has submitted a host of directives to the committee in order to speed up its work to finalize the demarcation by 30 September.

### **Government seeks SCOVA's help to redress food gap in the South**

The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs has requested the Sudanese Council of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) to join efforts to address a food gap in many areas in the South, ***al-Raed*** reports. State Minister for humanitarian affairs Abdul Bagi Al-Jailani said GoSS had been informed about the need for intervention of these NGOs to assist the affected population particularly in western Equatoria areas where the LRA is active and WFP's food delivery to some villages discontinued.

### **Kony not in Darfur, says National Security Advisor**

National Security Advisor Salah Gosh has rebuffed recent reports by the SPLA that LRA leader Joseph Kony is in Darfur, reports ***Al-Ahdath***. He described as "fabrications and exaggerations" the recent statements by SPLA Spokesperson Kuol Deim that the government might try to use Kony in its war against the Darfur rebels. He said the SPLM claims were intended to distort the army's image.