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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Referendum Monitor

- South Sudan referenda will be free, transparent – Sudan’s Taha tells UNGA (*UN News*)
- NCP accuses SPLA of military buildup (*Al-Ahram*)
- SPLM denies using youth to expel Abyei deputy chief administrator (*ST*)
- Referendum Commission approves \$700 m for referendum (*Al-Sahafa*)
- NCP launches campaign for supporting unity (*SUNA*)
- “Any person eligible to vote is a citizen of the southern state” – NCP (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Ministry of Health criticizes Minister’s remarks on secession (*Al-Ahdath*)
- “We will not reciprocate NCP Obeid’s remarks” – SPLM (*Ajras Al-Hurriya*)
- Losing citizenship not party's opinion - NCP leading member (*Miraya*)
- “Obeid’s remarks racial arrogance, ethnic blackmail” – JEM (*Ajras Al-Hurriya*)
- Upper Nile anticipates tension at the border upon secession (*Al-Ahdath*)
- Oil companies planning to evacuate staff from the South (*Al-Akhbar*)
- Southern delegates to border committee cite conditions for resumption (*Al-Akhbar*)
- Secession is a recipe for future wars – academics (*Al-Ahdath*)
- NCP rejects US proposal on Abyei (*Al-Ahdath*)
- Security situation in Abyei is under control - military official (*Miraya FM*)

## Other Headlines

- GoSS oil minister accuses Khartoum of irregularities in oil figures (*Al-Akhbar*)
- At least 13 killed in tribal clashes in South Darfur (*Al-Ahdath*)
- Robbery attempt reported at Obeid Khatim Street (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Foreign Minister accuses US of impartiality on Sudan (*Al-Ahdath*)

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# Highlights

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## **South Sudan referenda will be free, transparent – Sudan's Taha tells UNGA**

*UN News Centre* 27/9/10 - The people of southern Sudan will be able to vote freely and in an atmosphere of transparency during the referenda on the self-determination of the semi-autonomous region in January, the country's Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha told the General Assembly today.

Mr. Taha said southerners will be allowed to exercise their franchise without "coercion or dictation and in an atmosphere of integrity and transparency."

On Darfur, the western region of Sudan where conflict has raged since 2003, Mr. Taha said that the Government was making efforts to restore peace and security in the area, bring about development, resettle internally displaced persons (IDPs) and promote reconciliation between communities.

He said for the peace strategy to succeed, it will require partnership with other States and UNAMID.

According to *Sudan Tribune website* (NY) 27/9/10, Taha has implored members of the UN's General Assembly to waive Sudan's external debts and demanded that the UN withdraws the case of Darfur crimes from the International Criminal Court (ICC).

He said that relieving Sudan's debts will "eliminate many doubts" surrounding a referendum vote due in January 2011 on south Sudan's full independence. Taha also warned that the ICC's involvement in Darfur poses "a direct threat" to the prospect of peace in the region.

"From this rostrum we call for the forgiving of the debts of Sudan according to the same standards applied to the least developed countries," Taha said.

The IMF puts Sudan's external debts at about \$35.7 billion, of which less than half is the original amount borrowed and the rest is divided between interest and late payment penalties. According to IMF, the figure is projected to reach \$37.8 billion in 2010.

Taha further urged UN state members to support Sudan's unity and monitor the referendum. Many analysts believe that south Sudan's referendum is likely to split Africa's largest country in two.

Taha did not omit to fulminate against the ICC, describing it as a tool to break the will of third world nations and "a direct threat" to peace in the region. He demanded that the UN withdraws Darfur case from the ICC and remits it to the Sudanese judiciary...

## **NCP accuses SPLA of military buildup**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm* (Khartoum) 28/9/10 – Sudan's Minister of Youth & Sports who is also NCP mobilization secretary, Haj Magid Siwar, told a press conference on Monday that the SPLA is

building up troops northward, adding the SPLA is also terrorizing civilians and threatening to expel them if they vote for unity. Siwar stressed the need for one ballot box instead of two, one for unity and the other for secession. He said his party is ready to deal with a possible trouble should secession is chosen, pledging protection to southerners in the North until the two states sort out common issues.

According to *Sudan Tribune website* (Khartoum) 28/9/10, the NCP on Monday warned that it would not recognize the outcome of the South Sudan referendum, scheduled to take place early next year, unless certain conditions are met.

Siwar, speaking at a press conference in Khartoum slammed the SPLM, saying that it was never serious about the option of unity.

At today's press conference, Siwar pointed fingers at the SPLM saying they have not fully implemented the security clauses in the CPA.

"The SPLA did not implement but 26% of the security arrangements compared to the [Northern] army that implemented it at a 100%," Siwar said, adding that this is a threat to the referendum and a breach of the agreement.

Southern army spokesman Kuol Deim Kuol dismissed the accusations as "baseless". "Why do they turn up with this statement at this time? ... This is someone who is looking for a pretext of starting the fight. This makes us conclude that the NCP and their SAF (the northern army) have preparations to reoccupy the south," he told Reuters.

"According to our intelligence estimates, there are seven (northern) divisions dotted along the border," he added. "We have been expecting that by October they will do something." Each division, he said, amounted to around 10,000 men.

A northern army spokesman denied his forces had any aggressive intentions against the south. "This is absolutely wrong and there is no evidence," he said.

The hard-line NCP official stressed that for the NCP to recognize the referendum certain conditions must be met including the redeployment of SPLA to the 1956 borders and excluding the Southern army from the plebiscite operations to avoid appearance of interference in its conduct.

"In the presence of the SPLA, Southerners will vote under threat of arms," Siwar said. According to Siwar, the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) must allow campaigning for unity in the semi-autonomous region.

GoSS president Salva Kiir has promised recently that authorities in South will not stop any party from expressing its support for unity.

"There is no freedom of [speech] in the south or for any movement to speak out for unity. Many people have been arrested and some of them were even killed," Siwar said.

Siwar warned the international community to maintain impartiality with regard to the referendum

outcome and also called on it to fulfill its financial pledges made during Oslo donor conference.

"The international community must [continue to] meet its obligations despite the delay to address some of the negative aspects, and we also ask them for neutrality and commitment to what was signed in the peace agreement," he said.

He described recent U.S. remarks as supportive of South Sudan secession saying this amounts to interference in internal affairs of the country.

Asked what the NCP would do if the southerners did not allow open campaigning and move their troops, he said: "We will talk to ... the USA and the U.N. and the AU (African Union) and say that the other side, they didn't fulfill the CPA, so we may not recognise the results."

### **SPLM denies using youth to expel Abyei deputy chief administrator**

*Sudan Tribune website* (Juba) 27/9/10 - The leadership of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the oil contested town of Abyei on Monday broke their silence by publicly denying using youth to expel the deputy chief administrator from the area.

"We have not used anybody to expel deputy chief administrator. The SPLM leadership does not encourage such a position. What happened was a purely a youth decision without blackmail," said Miyen Alor Kuol, a senior member of the SPLM in the area.

On Thursday 23, a group of 15 youth, in collaboration with some local civil society organizations in Abyei town, gave deputy chief administrator, Ramah Abd-al-Rahman Al-Nur, an emotional note, asking him to leave the area within 72 hours, short of that, his security would not be granted in the area.

The youth accused deputy administrator of being behind attacks on Maker and Tajalei in the area in May 2010. They also accused him of instigating some members of the Messeriya tribe to continue settling in areas demarcated by the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

### **Referendum Commission endorses \$700 million for referendum**

*Al-Sahafa* (Khartoum) 28/9/10 – The National Referendum Commission yesterday sanctioned a budget of \$700 million for the conduct of the upcoming referendum, to be contributed by the federal government and GoSS besides \$300 million from the international community.

Finance Minister Ali Mahmoud has affirmed the commitment of the federal government and GoSS to contribute the said budget for the process. Reportedly, the budget is worked out by a Sudanese firm.

### **NCP launches campaign for supporting unity**

*SUNA* (Khartoum) 27/9/10 - NCP Secretary of Political Mobilization and Minister of Youth and Sports, Haj Magid Suwar, unveiled features of a plan of the Party's movement to the South for supporting unity option through symposiums, lectures, seminars and open meetings with participation of leaders from the National Congress and other political forces.

Siwar called, in press conference he held Monday, on all the political forces to take the issue of supporting national unity seriously because Sudan is not a country of the National Congress

alone but it is the homeland of all.

### **“Any person eligible to vote is considered a citizen of southern state” – NCP**

*Al-Sahafa* 28/9/10 – The SPLM has reportedly received the NCP’s response to a paper the latter submitted with regard to post-referendum issues especially nationality and citizenship.

According to head of the Citizenship Committee John Luke, the NCP in its response proposed that the issue of dual nationality be decided by each state should secession take place. The NCP said in its proposal that any person eligible for voting in the upcoming referendum would be considered “a citizen of the southern state” if the vote is in favour of an independent state.

He said the NCP’s response did not touch on all issues raised by the SPLM’s paper especially with regard to freedom of movement, border areas, nomads, employees of national government institutions including the regular forces. He said the response focused on nationality only.

The SPLM, however, proposed that if the vote is in favour of secession, the southerners in the North and vice versa should be allowed a period of six months to decide whether to move to the new state or stay in the North.

### **Ministry of Health criticizes Minister’s remarks on secession**

*Al-Ahdath* 28/9/10 – the Federal Ministry of Health issued a statement criticizing the recent remarks by the Information Minister Kamal Obeid to the effect that southerners would not be treated in hospitals should they vote for secession. The statement described the remarks as unacceptable, adding the Ministry has been affected by the remarks because southern Sudanese have lost confidence in hospitals. “Medicine is a humanitarian profession in the first place and should not be used to incite conflict and sedition,” the statement said.

### **“We will not reciprocate NCP Obeid’s remarks” – SPLM**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya* (Khartoum) 28/9/10 – The SPLM has described NCP Information Minister Kamal Obeid’s remarks as a desperate attempt to incite hatred between the North and the South. SPLM parliamentary bloc Chairman Thomas Wani said the remarks were intended to coerce and terrorize southerners to vote for unity, adding the Parliament would summon the minister to explain the motives behind his remarks.

Wani has called on the southerners in the North not to heed to such remarks and focus on registration and voting, adding they should not fear anything because the GoSS would not act on the basis of reciprocity.

### **Losing citizenship not party's opinion - NCP leading member**

*Miraya FM* 27/9/10 - A leading member in the NCP, Mathew Mabior, has said that the recent remarks of Kamal Obeid on Southerners losing their citizenship once the south opted for separation are not the party's opinion. Mabior added that such statements are Obeid's personal opinion. However, he called on the citizens to ignore such statements because the issue of citizenship is stipulated in the South Sudan Referendum Law which will be discussed after the referendum process.

## **“Obeid’s remarks racial arrogance, ethnic blackmail” – JEM**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya* (Khartoum) 28/9/10 – JEM commander-in-chief Suleiman Sandal has denounced NCP Information Minister Kamal Obeid’s remarks that southern Sudanese would lose their citizenship once they opt for independence.

Sandal has called on the UN and rights groups to take NCP remarks seriously because JEM is certain that southerners would be butchered in Khartoum like what happened in Darfur. He described Obeid’s remarks as “racial arrogance and ethnic blackmail”.

## **Upper Nile anticipates tension at the border upon secession**

*Al-Ahdath* (Khartoum) 28/9/10 - Upper Nile Governor Indrea Maya has anticipated Khartoum to attack border areas if southerners vote for independence in the upcoming referendum. He said his government, in collaboration with GoSS, is exerting efforts to avert possible frictions.

## **Oil companies planning to evacuate staff from the South**

*Al-Akhbar* (Khartoum) 28/09/10 – An informed source has revealed that oil companies operating in the southern Sudanese oilfields are planning to evacuate their staff ahead of the 2011 January referendum at least two weeks before the referendum.

The source said that the oil companies may however revise their security posture and contingency measures if they do receive guarantees of safety from the federal and GoSS governments.

## **Southern delegates to border committee cite conditions for resumption**

*Al-Akhbar* (Khartoum) 28/09/10 – Southern Sudanese representatives in the north-south border demarcation committee said the committee could only work smoothly if members stop politicising duties and if the powers of the chairman of the committee are clearly defined by the law.

A southern Sudanese delegate to the committee noted that the committee chairman should also desist from referring to them as members of the SPLM. He revealed that the committee is holding a meeting today to discuss these issues in addition to setting a timeframe for the completion of the border demarcation.

## **Secession is a recipe for future wars – academics**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm* (Khartoum) 28/09/10 – Experts and academicians have warned that the NCP would bear the blame should the country split in the 2011 referenda. Speaking at a symposium last Sunday in Khartoum on the referenda and the challenges ahead, Al-Tayeb Zein-al-Abideen, a renowned writer and commentator, warned that Secession would be a recipe for future wars. He also pointed out that the government position is weak at the moment.

He also warned that the South secession may cause trouble in Darfur, the Nuba Mountains, the Blue Nile area and eastern Sudan and would encourage armed movements to raise the ceiling of their demands.

Zein-al-Abidin further pointed out that Kenya stands to gain over \$910 million in trade exchanges should southern Sudan opt for separation.

Other speakers at the symposium also warned that southern Sudanese working in the north stand

to lose their jobs if separation takes place.

### **NCP rejects US proposal on Abyei**

*Al-Ahdath* (Khartoum) 28/9/10 – The NCP has rejected a proposal by the US Administration to limit eligibility to participation in the upcoming referendum in the area to the people who stayed in the area for a full year until the rainy season. NCP official Al-Dirdiri Mohamed Ahmed who is also in charge of Abyei dossier has rejected the US proposal, saying the US Administration has adopted the position of the SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir Mayardit declared in NY.

### **Security situation in Abyei is under control, military official says**

*Miraya FM* 27/9/10 - The Joint Integrated Unit (JIU) in Abyei Area has said that the security situation in the area is under control. Representative of the JIU from the Sudan Armed Forces, Sami Yahya, said that the area is fully secured. Speaking to Radio Miraya, Yahya said that JIU did not see any suspicious movements in the area.

## **Other Highlights**

### **GoSS oil minister accuses Khartoum of irregularities in oil revenue figures**

*Al-Akhbar* (Khartoum) 28/09/10 – GoSS oil minister Stephen Dau is accusing the federal government of irregularities with regard to south Sudan's share in oil revenue. He said that Khartoum is intentionally barring southern Sudanese from administering the different processes in the country's oil industry. He pointed out that the fiscal budget set oil revenues at \$7 billion while southern Sudan only receives \$2 billion from that amount.

Foreign Minister Ali Karti, however, pointed out that the GoSS receives some 70% of the oil revenue. He said that the federal government does not even inquire about the other sources of revenue such as taxes and customs collected in southern Sudan although the CPA stipulates that it should have a 50% share from such revenue.

### **At least 13 killed in tribal clashes in South Darfur**

*Al-Ahdath* (Khartoum) 28/09/10 – At least three people have been killed and 29 others injured in renewed fighting yesterday between Al-Sieda and Rizeigat tribesmen in Jabra, 200km north of Nyala in South Darfur. Adam Hussein Adam, a prominent member of the Al-Sieda tribe, said that the Rizeigat came in 35 Land Cruisers and raided their area killing 9 people on the spot. He blamed the government of remaining inactive towards the attacks.

South Darfur Governor Abdalhameed Musa Kasha described the fighting as “a clash of heavy weights” saying that the government sent in troops to contain the situation.

### **Robbery attempt reported at Obeid Khatim Street**

*Al-Sahafa* (Khartoum) 28/9/10 – Three armed men attempted to rob an employee at Obeid Khatim street in Khartoum during the night when he stopped at a red light.

Police sources said that the complainant reported that he was driving in the night along Obeid Khatim Street but when he stopped at a red traffic light three armed men surrounded his car, pulled the doors open and attempted to rob him at gunpoint. The man resisted the attackers

escaped from the scene. The incident was reported to the police in Riyadh and is being investigated.

### **Foreign Minister accuses US of impartiality on Sudan**

*Al-Ahdath* (Khartoum) 28/09/10 – Foreign Minister Ali Karti has lashed out at the US Administration accusing it of bias in favour of the SPLM. According to *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, Karti pointed out that the recently-concluded mini-summit on Sudan held in New York had nothing to do with Sudan. He said that the meeting just drew much media attention but added nothing new. “President Obama’s hands are bound and Gration’s policies are unstable,” the Foreign Minister said.

The gesture was aimed at “... the US electorate ahead of the US mid-term elections,” he said. He pointed out that the US is no longer an impartial mediator and expressed hopes that the US would “return to its senses”. He also criticised the US for keeping Sudan on the list of states sponsors of terrorism “despite the favourable reports” of the last two months. For full transcript of the interview please visit:

<http://aawsat.com/english/news.asp?section=3&id=22479>

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