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Media Monitoring Report

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Post-elections Watch

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

Highlights

New Government by end of May or early June – Nafie

Al-Sahafa 29/4/10 – Presidential Assistant and NCP deputy chairman for organizational affairs Nafie Ali Nafie told a press conference yesterday that the new government would be formed by the end of May or early June after President Al-Bashir is sworn in before the National Assembly. According to Nafie, it would not be a coalition government, it would be a government for implementing Al-Bashir's election programme but it could also include partisan or non-partisan personalities besides the SPLM. "Any party who does not believe in or supports Al-Bashir's programme will not be part of the upcoming government," he said.

Consultations underway to form GoSS

Al-Ahdath 29/4/10 - SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum has said that consultations are underway with all southern Sudanese parties for the formation of a broad-based government in southern Sudan. He said that the SPLM would also consult with the NCP over the appointment of its members to the National Assembly based on previous understandings.

Iran, Ethiopia and China congratulates Al-Bashir

Sudan Radio 29/4/10 – President-elect Omer Al-Bashir has received cables of congratulation on his election from the President of Iran and the Ethiopian Prime Minister.

According to **the Sudan Vision**, China has congratulated Al-Bashir on election victory, saying the historic poll will contribute to domestic peace and reconciliation. Beijing Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu said China would continue to engage in positive and constructive efforts with the international community to advance the peace process in Sudan.

UNSG calls for preparations for referendum

Sudan Radio 28/4/10, **Local Dailies** 29/4/10 - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on authorities and political parties of Sudan to continue to resolve by peaceful means any matters arising from contested results of presidential and parliamentary elections. The Secretary-General said the participation of the people of Sudan in these elections which were largely peaceful in spite of numerous challenges, stands as a demonstration of their commitment to democracy.

The Secretary-General takes note of the preliminary reports of observer groups detailing both the successes and shortcomings of the elections, as well as of a number of security incidents.

The Secretary-General calls on the CPA partners and other Sudanese political actors to make rapid progress with the preparations for the conduct of the referenda on self-determination in Southern Sudan and Abyei.

SPLM would welcome back independent candidates - Amum

Sudan Tribune website 28/4/10 - Pagan Amum, Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, yesterday said his party would consider welcoming back former members of the party, who failed to secure endorsement of their candidatures as official nominees by political bureau, making them go to the polls independently.

In an interview with Sudan Tribune from Juba, Amum however emphasized that relevant party procedures will have to be followed and applied while applying for membership. "All members

wishing to return to the SPLM will have to follow party procedures," he stressed.

"It will be a requirement and all would need to indicate on their applications reasons for leaving and why seeking return," Amum said adding members at the leadership council will then convene to follow all procedures involved in application before returning membership to former members of the party.

Opposition parties do not recognise poll results – URRP leader

Rai Al-Shaab 29/4/10 - Umma Reform and Renewal Party leader Mubarak Al-Fadhi Al-Mahdi said the opposition parties have agreed to stick to their decision not to recognise the results of the recently-concluded elections.

He pointed out that opposition parties are now charting a comprehensive plan to pressurize the NCP to honour its obligations to achieve democratic transformation, peace in Darfur as well as the full implementation of the CPA.

Sudan's imperfect but important elections

By Jimmy Carter

Los Angeles Times, 28 April - The country's first real elections in 24 years fulfilled an important step on the way to full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

On Monday, the results of the April 11-15 elections in Sudan were announced: The ruling party's President Omar Hassan Ahmed Bashir won 68% of the vote.

Despite being opposed in advance and severely condemned by many critics, these elections will permit this war-torn nation to move toward a permanent peace and strengthen its quest for true democracy.

Among the more than 75 challenged or troubled elections monitored by the Carter Center, the Sudanese vote was by far the most complex and difficult. Sudan is a huge country, about 1,200 miles long and 800 miles wide. There were more than a dozen political parties and a number of independent candidates. About 15,000 individuals ran for local, state and national offices, which required eight separate ballots in the north and 12 in the south. Sudan's civil war, which went on for almost a quarter of a century, ended only in 2005. Sudan had not had a real election for 24 years, and it remains deeply divided by tribal, ethnic, religious and political differences.

The Carter Center observers, some of whom have been in Sudan since 2009, were present in all 25 states in Sudan. We saw the generally orderly polling we'd hoped for, and voters turned out in good numbers. However, as we expected, notable flaws in the process prevented the election from meeting strict international standards. Still, the elections fulfilled an important, required step on the way to full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended the civil war in 2005 and which calls for a referendum in 2011 on whether the south will become an independent nation.

A few opposition party leaders decided, after the campaign period was over, not to participate in the elections. The National Election Commission reminded us that it was past the deadline for any legal withdrawal, so all candidates remained on the ballots. This gave voters an opportunity to express their preferences in all races. There were three basic reasons expressed to us by party leaders for withdrawing from the elections: to prevent Bashir's defeat, which might have caused widespread violence and an end to the peace agreement and the South Sudan referendum; to avoid an embarrassing defeat for former top officials who had aroused little support during their campaigns; and to discredit the process and avoid legitimizing the victory of Bashir, against whom an arrest warrant has been issued by the International Criminal Court for

alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Two major problems on the ground involved voters' lists and the location of polling stations. Voter lists were based on a faulty census and modified by translation back and forth in two languages before final printing and late promulgation (just before Election Day). The number of voting sites was reduced to 16,500 from 21,200, which meant an average of 1,000 registered voters were assigned to each site. It was difficult for many voters to find their names on voter lists and to find their polling places. The National Election Commission extended the voting time from three to five days to help alleviate these problems. We obtained an electronic copy of the complete voters list and will attempt to determine whether any of the logistical problems were designed to shape the outcome of the elections.

Lastly, there were some observer reports of intimidation, especially in the south, and of serious irregularities and a lack of transparency in the vote tabulation process.

With some exceptions, the elections were relatively peaceful, calm and orderly. The people of Sudan and about 100,000 dedicated poll workers are to be congratulated for completing a campaign and election cycle under the most difficult circumstances. It is imperative that the United States and the international community remain deeply involved in Sudan, insisting that all elements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement be implemented. This is the only hope for a long-suffering and courageous people, including those in Darfur, who have had at least a partial taste of freedom, peace, and democracy.

Former President Jimmy Carter is founder of the not-for-profit Carter Center. He was in Sudan during the voting.

Other Highlights

US envoy expected in Sudan for talks on post-election arrangements

Sudan Tribune website 28/4/10 - The US Special envoy to Sudan is expected in Khartoum on Sunday where he will hold talks with the Sudanese officials, during his five-day visit, about the post-election arrangements.

During his visit the special envoy will hold talks on the recent developments after the announcements of elections results and ongoing consultations between the two peace partners for the formation of a national government as well as the implementation of the remaining CPA provisions.

Maj. Gen. Scott Gration who is facing criticism in Washington for his failure in Darfur file seeks to focus his efforts on the CPA implementation particularly the referendum on southern Sudan self-determination.

Commissioner donates ambulance, mobile clinic to Abyei

Khartoum Monitor 29/4/10 - The General Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, Suleiman Abdul Rahman Suleiman said his visit to Abyei represents a major step towards the implementation and support of the urgent needs of the region.

He said Abyei is a region of peaceful coexistence and stability and that the government has donated to Abyei administration a mobile clinic and an ambulance and promised to provide food items and other needs for development and stability of the region.

The commissioner said that he met with a number of leaders in the region and the head of the UN mission, the coordinator of UN agencies and other organizations in Abyei.

Experienced UN official appointed to senior political post

UN News 28/4/10 - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, who currently heads the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Cyprus, to a senior political post at the world body's Secretariat in New York, it was announced today.

Mr. Zerihoun, of Ethiopia, will replace Haile Menkerios – who is serving for the next year as the top UN official in Sudan – as Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

Since April 2008, Mr. Zerihoun has served as Mr. Ban's Special Representative in Cyprus and the head of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

Prior to taking up his post in Cyprus, Mr. Zerihoun, 67, served as the Secretary-General's Principal Deputy Special Representative in the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and was the Acting Special Representative from October 2006 to October 2007.

He has also acted for a time as a UN mediator as part of the world body's efforts to bring peace to the war-ravaged Darfur region of western Sudan.

Since joining the UN in 1981, Mr. Zerihoun has gained a wealth of experience and administrative skills from his numerous assignments with the world body, where he has worked on issues including decolonization, conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

SPLA, Rizeigat agree to stop bloodshed in South Darfur

Al-Wifaq 29/4/10 -The Government of South Darfur has revealed that an agreement was reached between the SPLA and the Rizeigat tribe to end fighting at the border region between South Darfur and Western Bahr-el-Ghazal. According to the agreement, the SPLA will withdraw its troops south of Bulbula. Reportedly, the situation in the area remains tense.

SPLA Spokesperson Malek Ajok however denied reports of an agreement between the two sides. He pointed out that the SPLA voluntarily withdrew to an area about 28 miles south of Bulbula in order to save lives. He said that the SPLA was attacked by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) not the Rizeigat tribe.

March to referendum on course

Gurtong 28/4/10 - Residents of Malakal in Upper Nile State have welcomed the re-election of Sudanese President Omar al Bashir and his First Vice-President and who is also the Government of Southern Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit.

In interviews with Gurtong, most residents expressed hope that the two leaders will implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) fully in order to pave way for next year's referendum vote.

"The two leaders were re-elected into office to give them more time to implement the CPA for the betterment of this country and shape its future", said SPLM member Philip Ajing.

<http://www.gurtong.net/ECM/Editorial/tabid/124/ID/3498/Default.aspx>

Sudan signs gold exploration agreements

Sudan Tribune website 28/4/10 - The Sudanese minister of Energy and Mining Al-Zubair Ahmed Al-Hassan signed gold exploration agreements with five international companies this week.

The companies included one from Chechnya headed by Sheikh Musa & Maussane which won the concession in box 30 in the Wadi Miskeen Red Sea state. The Paramount Mining company from India will work in the Wadi Al-Sankir box 28, located in West Berber in North Sudan.

The Faroun for Indian metals Metal Hindi received concession in Wadi Abu Khasous in West Atbara area located in Northeastern Sudan.

Abu-Mast concession in the Northern state box 17 was awarded to the British company Tah Global miner. It also received the authorization to exploit another gold zone named Hamasana in the Red Sea State.

Sudan state media quoted the representatives of the firms that signed the agreements as having a genuine desire to explore and exploit the minerals, as well as an indignation about the responsibility towards the development of areas around the concessions.

Last October Sudan's energy and mining minister told Reuters that the country was witnessing a "gold rush" with an explosion of small-time prospecting and commercial concessions going to new companies.

The minister said Sudan had also been handing out mining concessions in its Nile, Northern and Southern Kordofan states, adding one field alone had proven reserves of 30 tonnes.