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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Referendum Watch

## **Constitutional Court accepts appeal against SSRC**

*Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 29/12/10* – The Constitutional Court accepted yesterday an appeal against the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) filed by Al-Tayeb Al-Abbas on behalf of “Political Parties and Personalities”.

The Court has, accordingly, notified the defendants: the SSRC, the Government of Sudan and the CPA partners.

## **Al-Bashir slams opposition demands for national government**

*Al-Ahram et al Khartoum, 29/12/10* – “There would be no national government,” said President Al-Bashir at a rally yesterday in reaction to opposition outbursts for the formation of a national government in the north should the south secede. Al-Bashir said however that his government may consider the formation of a “broad-based government with a collective view.”

“Those who seek to oust the regime should lick their elbows [*try doing the impossible*],” the president told a celebration to mark National Martyrs’ Day in Al-Gazira State yesterday.

He however called on the political parties to strengthen their ranks and prepare to contest in the next elections in five year’s time. Al-Bashir noted that the government would not lose legitimacy beyond the referendum.

## **Bashir promises to help Sudan's independent south**

*AFP Khartoum, 28/12/10* - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir pledged on Tuesday to help build a secure, stable and brotherly state in the south if it votes for independence in a referendum less than two weeks away. "We will not deny our southern brothers their decision, and we will help them to build their state, because we want a secure and stable state ... if there are troubles, these troubles will come to us," Bashir said in a live speech on state television.

Speaking to thousands of supporters in Gezira State, Sudan's bread basket southeast of Khartoum, Bashir said he would be "the first to recognise the south" if it chooses secession in a free and fair vote on January 9.

"The ball is in your court and the decision is yours. If you say unity, welcome. And if you say secession, also welcome, and welcome to a new brotherly state."

"We are going to cooperate and integrate in all areas because what links us is more that what links any other country."

Pagan Amum, secretary general of the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), welcomed Bashir's comments.

"This is the positive outlook we are calling for ... This is precisely what we are saying," he told reporters in Khartoum.

"We are calling on the people of northern Sudan to be in solidarity with the people of southern Sudan as they begin to build their own independent state."

"They need their solidarity, while the people of southern Sudan need to give solidarity to the people of the north as they begin a new journey of building a new state in what remains after the separation of the south."

## **Kiir praises NCP, urges southerners to vote in large numbers**

*AllAfrica.com Gulu, 28/12/10* – GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit has this week wished the southern population and their families a peaceful festive season, but urged them not to forget to "dream of our forefathers," citing the January 9, referendum.

The president's strongly worded statement was part of this year's Christmas message delivered to the population of the semi-autonomous region.

"Remember that the greatest wish of every Southern Sudanese is to wake up in that morning of January 9th, 2011 to fulfil the dream of our forefathers in the casting of that ballot which will determine the future of the coming generations," reads President Kiir's December 27 message.

It adds, "Moreover this historic exercise [2011 referendum] is a hard-won gain whose ultimate price has been the blood of our martyrs. It is therefore incumbent upon us all to honour our heroes and heroines in the referendum vote as a significant testimony that they did not die in vain."

Kiir, also Sudan's First Vice President, further acknowledged President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir and his National Congress Party (NCP) for the role they played in the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

The NCP's contribution, he emphasized, will be remembered by all Sudanese particularly southerners, who are due to participate in the referendum.

"This is a historic credit to President Bashir and the NCP and I further urge him to continue working hand in hand with us to consolidate peace and prosperity for all irrespective of what the referendum holds in store for Sudan," further reads Kiir's Christmas message.

## **SPLM calls on opposition to work in accord with the Government**

*Radio Miraya Khartoum, 28/12/10* - The Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) has called on political forces inside Sudan to work towards a consensus among themselves, and to seek accord with the Government instead of seeking to overthrow it.

SPLM Secretary-General, Pagan Amum, said in a press conference in Khartoum that toppling the government would only result in instability. He pointed out that having two steady governments in the north and the south will contribute positively to ensure security and development.

In another development, Pagan Amum said that the two partners SPLM and National Congress Party NCP have agreed to submit the differences over issues of nationality, currency, oil and water to the Presidency for final resolutions.

## **Interaction with southerners would not change with the referendum - governor**

*Al-Tayyar Khartoum, 29/12/10* – Khartoum State Governor Abdulrahman Al-Khidir says his government would safeguard the rights of all citizens within the state regardless of their religious or ethnic background. Addressing a Khartoum State-sponsored Christmas party, he told the gathering that these celebrations are a reflection of the peaceful coexistence that prevails in all parts of the country.

## **INTERVIEW: SPLM hints at deal over post-referendum arrangements**

*Sudantribune.com Abyei, 28/12/10* – SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum on Tuesday said that, attempts to reach a compromise over post-referendum arrangements, with Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP), were "... progressing very well on most of the outstanding post-

referendum issues and arrangements.”

“These outstanding issues, as you may be aware, include citizenship, security as well as international agreements,” he said.

Amum says he is optimistic that the ongoing discussions would bring an agreement over citizenship ahead of the referendum.

“It is possible that an agreement will be reached before the referendum because we have already agreed in principle on the protection of both northerners and southerners on either side in case of secession,” said the lead negotiator.

He pointed out that the rights of people will be protected and guaranteed and that voluntary return would be assisted without interference and sabotage.

The two sides, he said, are yet to agree on the status of northerners in the south and of southerners in the north.

On the other issues, the Secretary General of the ex-rebel movement said that the two parties reached an agreement on security issues with the exception of security arrangements for the two areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

Another unresolved issue in the economic sector, particularly currency debate.

“The last issue is the economic sector. There is progress in the area of currency. We have agreed that the two regions will issue separate currencies with coordination during an interim period in which the current Sudanese Pound will continue to be the legal tender for both north and south,” he said.

Amum added that they have not reached an agreement on who would be responsible for paying cost of recovering money in circulation in the event the country splits into two.

## Other Highlights

### **Challenges facing the DDR programme in Sudan – UN**

Al-Tayyar Khartoum, 29/12/10 – The UN says its DDR programme in Sudan is facing a number of challenges. In a statement circulated yesterday, the UN said that it has launched an audit into the DDR programme in Sudan and is committed to taking corrective measures “rapidly and in consultation with all parties involved.”

The UN team in Sudan was concerned that the total number of former combatants and women associated with armed forces that have been reintegrated have been low compared to the total number of DDR participants who were demobilised and received their reinsertion packages, the UN statement said in part. The statement noted that the first phase of the National DDR Strategy should include the demobilisation and the reintegration of 90,000 ex-combatants and members of Special Needs Groups from both sides. The programme, it notes, is a national responsibility and is handled by both armies, the SAF and the SPLA, with the UN as a main supporting partner.

*[Full text of the statement in separate attachment]*

## **Sudan threatens UN over auditory report on DDR funds**

*Sudantribune.com; Al-Ahdath et al Khartoum, 28/12/10* - Sudan has demanded the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) provide it with a detailed auditory report on the finances of a program designed to rehabilitate former war soldiers, as news of money abuse by UN officials working for the program surfaced in foreign media.

A German newspaper recently cited a confidential UN report as disclosing that some 50 UN experts working for the DDR program in south Sudan had received exorbitant salaries of 14 million US dollars. According to the paper, the report also disclosed that some UN experts had received salaries of fake names that do not exist in the UN payroll.

News of the financial irregularities has prompted Sudan to react, threatening to report the issue to the UN Secretary General if the UN fails to provide it with full details on audits carried on finances of the program.

The official in charge of coordinating the DDR program with the UN in Sudan, Osman Nuri, on Tuesday claimed that the UN had only released 39.967.380 out of 105.068.169 US dollars provided by the donors for the DDR program.

As reported by Sudan's official news agency SUNA, Nuri, further recounted that the official in charge of coordinating the DDR program in south Sudan, William Deng, has noticed that enormous amounts of money were being spent outside the purview of the program. Nuri said that these two facts made the government suspicious that the UN was abusing donors' fund. Consequently, Nuri added, the government had asked the UNDP to appoint independent auditors to review the way it handled donors' money.

The Sudanese official said that the UNDP had indeed appointed independent European auditors but refused to release a full report on their findings to the Sudanese authorities, citing internal regulations which prevent it from doing so. Nuri said that the UNDP had offered to provide a summary of the report but Sudan refused but to receive a full report.

He reiterated the government's demands to receive the auditors' report, warning that failure by the UNDP to do so would lead Sudan to report the matter to the UN Secretary-General.

## **Government warns SPLM against supporting Darfur rebels**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 29/12/10* - The Sudan government has criticised the SPLM for hosting Darfur rebel movements. Foreign Minister Ali Karti said that the government had warned the SPLM not to start its reign with war because its harbouring of the rebel groups would only lead towards that end. He noted that the two sides still have some outstanding issues to sort out but called on them to do so through political channels and not the military ones.

## **SPLM threatens parliamentary boycott in protest over accusations**

*Al-Tayyar The National Assembly, 29/12/10* - The SPLM parliamentary bloc has threatened to resort to measures it did not specify should parliament refuse to reject a clause from the President's speech that called on the SPLM to abide by the CPA and not to provide logistical or moral support to the armed movements of Darfur.

The head of the SPLM parliamentary caucus, Thomas Wani, pointed out that the President's speech was passed by simple majority in parliament despite protests by the SPLM on these clauses. He pointed out that the SPLM therefore requests that a response to the speech in question be tabled before the joint committee of the higher and lower houses of parliament

before it gets to the Presidency of the Republic.

“The SPLM may consider a parliamentary boycott in protest because the speech was passed despite SPLM assurances it was not harbouring or supporting the Darfur movements,” he said.

### **SPLM to dissolve structures of its northern sector**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 29/12/10* – SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum says the SPLM is preparing to de-link from the party’s Northern Sector in anticipation of a possible separation vote come the 2011 referendum. Amum told a press conference yesterday that the SPLM-Northern Sector would be transformed into a separate political entity with no organisational link with mainstream SPLM save the ideological bond.

### **Arab League chief sees no will for north-south war in Sudan**

*AFP Khartoum, 28/12/10* - Arab League chief Amr Mussa said on Tuesday that he saw no indication that north and south Sudan would return to war, with a referendum on independence for the south looming.

"I don't see any indication that the parties have the willingness to go back to war," Mussa told reporters in Khartoum.

"What is going on between them is far away from war. There is a political good will."

Mussa was speaking at the start of a two-day visit to Sudan that will also take him to the southern capital Juba.

"I will discuss post-referendum issues in Khartoum and Juba and how to save a good relationship between the north and the south," Mussa said. "The future of the relationship has an impact on the region."

### **Nepal Police’s Sudan mission likely to be returned**

*Nepalnews 28/12/10* - The Sudan Mission of Nepal Police is in threat of being returned with the United Nations declaring the mission ‘non-functional’.

UN officials have already informed Home Minister Bhim Rawal and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ramesh Chand Thakuri about their position.

UN declared the mission non-functional as the Armed Personnel Carriers (APC)s, other vehicles, arms and other equipments related to the peace operations have not been in operation since the past three years.

It is almost certain the mission will not be deployed for referendum in Sudan scheduled for the second week of January. The mission is likely to be repatriated soon as it cannot be deployed for important tasks.

### **Clooney watches Sudan using satellites**

*Reuters New York, 29/12/10* - Actor George Clooney's Not On Our Watch Foundation will be monitoring Sudan in the run-up to the referendum on southern independence in January 2011.

Groups including the United Nations, Harvard University, Google and an organisation co-founded by actor George Clooney are launching a project using satellites to “watch” Sudan for war crimes before a vote that could split the African country in two.

The Satellite Sentinel Project, which begins on Wednesday, is meant to provide an “early warning

system" for human rights and security violations before the January 9 referendum on whether to divide Sudan into north and south.

"We want to let potential perpetrators of genocide and other war crimes know that we're watching, the world is watching," Clooney said in a statement.

The satellite project received funding for six months from Not On Our Watch, an organisation co-founded by Clooney and his Hollywood friends, actors Don Cheadle, Matt Damon, Brad Pitt, David Pressman and producer Jerry Weintraub.

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