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# Media Monitoring Report

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## Headlines

- Juba conference is “dialogue of the deaf” – NCP (*Dailies*)
- Sudan speaks out at UNGA about tribal clashes in south (*UN News*)
- SPLM-DC urges UNMIS to rescue detained members (*Khartoum Monitor*)
- Sudan acknowledges ICC warrant limited Bashir travel (*ST*)
- NCP, SPLM to discuss criminal procedures Act (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- South Sudan launches payroll control system for States (*ST*)
- Alternative NGOs to take over assets of ousted ones – Minister (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Murle and Lou Nuer tribes united against SPLA (*Al-Wifaq*)
- SPLA weighing study to demobilize SPLA (*Al-Intibaha*)
- NCP says pre-print censorship was requested by the SPLM (*Al-Sahafa*)
- NCP General Convention to kick off next Thursday (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Misseriya leaders to meet in Khartoum on PCA Award (*al-Khartoum*)
- Safe Water Campaign targets 90 % of Juba population (*Miraya*)
- China to continue to invest in Sudan (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Khartoum downplays Ethiopian fears over Al-Qaeda (*Al-Sahafa*)
- SAF captured SPLA soldier in Korma in Darfur (*Akhbar Al-Youm*)
- Chad deplores slow deployment of UN peacekeeping mission (*ST*)
- Government is investigating 13 crimes in Darfur (*Al-Intibaha*)
- Peacekeeper killed in Sudan's Darfur (*Reuters*)
- Police arrest 22 “niggers” in Soba (*Al-Akhbar*)
- Authorities arrest SPLM impersonator in Kalakla (*al-Intibaha*)

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# Highlights

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## **Juba conference is “dialogue of the deaf” – NCP**

**Local dailies** report the NCP has lashed out against the ongoing political parties' conference in Juba describing it as “dialogue of the deaf” intended to block democratic transition and upcoming elections, saying it would take the threats of the organizers seriously and sensitively. According to **Al-Sahafa**, the NCP Information Secretary Kamal Obeid at press conference yesterday criticized the forum, saying the current tension in the Sudanese political arena and in the relationship between the two CPA Partners is caused by the suspicious and selective manner in which Juba political parties' forum is organized. “How can you achieve democratic transition by boycotting elections and by talking about an alternative CPA,” he wondered. He said Juba conference is funded by foreign bodies, challenging the SPLM to prove otherwise. He said that the organizers wanted the NCP's participation to give legitimacy their conference.

**Al-Akhbar** reports Obeid denied any tendency by the NCP to discontinue dialogue with the political forces including the SPLM.

**Sudan Tribune website** 28/9/09 reported SPLM official Spokesperson Yien Matthew Chuol said in a statement that the conference would continue with its deliberations and come out with resolutions despite the pullout by the Southern Sudanese political parties.

Speaking yesterday at the opening of the conference, FVP Salva Kiir Mayadrit said "Sudan is truly at an historical crossroads."

He said that the SPLM has always struggled for the unity of Sudan. However, he stressed that, "the final decision on the destiny of the South shall neither be taken by the NCP or the SPLM. It is the people of South Sudan who shall make the decision."

"To us in the SPLM unity is a noble cause, but not any unity. Unity that does not generate a value-added to the present status of South Sudan does not attract anybody," Kiir also said.

If southerners vote for the independence, Kiir said that such a political decision will not erase "historical familial, social, economic, faith-based and cultural ties and interconnections."

He further added that the two parties should find ways and means to maintain those interconnections.

"The North and South may, for example, agree on a non-aggression arrangement to remove mutual fears, create mechanisms for ensuring that rights to employment, trade and business for the citizens of both states are guaranteed, securing the religious and cultural rights of non-Muslim Sudanese in the North and Muslim Sudanese in the South, and, uppermost, guarantying that a stable Sudan or two Sudans are firmly founded on democracy, the rule of law and the principle of live and let live," he suggested.

## **Sudan speaks out at UNGA about renewed tribal clashes in south**

**UN News** 28/9/09 - The upsurge in tribal fighting in southern Sudan this year threatens the stability not just of the country but the entire region, a senior Sudanese official told the General Assembly today, calling for greater commitment from the international community to help

bringing last peace.

Ghazi Salahuddin Atabani, an adviser to the Sudanese President and head of his country's delegation, told the Assembly's high-level debate that the renewed fighting threatened the positive steps being taken to implement the CPA.

Today, Mr. Salahuddin said "these conflicts threaten not only the stability of the Sudan and the south but also the stability of the whole region," calling on the Government of Southern Sudan – created as a result of the CPA – to take greater responsibility for maintaining peace and security.

"We invite the international community to support financially and materially the conduct of elections in deeds and in words," he said, voicing disappointment that many donors have not fulfilled their pledges to support the implementation of the CPA, especially regarding the rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants from the civil war.

Turning to the conflict in Darfur, Mr. Salahuddin said that region was experiencing "positive and far-reaching developments" towards peace, thanks in part to greater cooperation between the Government and the joint African Union-UN peacekeeping force (UNAMID).

"That policy has led to far-reaching improvement in the humanitarian situation in Darfur, as recognized and attested by UN documented reports," he said, adding that there have been "massive" returns of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their home villages across Darfur.

"We, [the] Government, [the] people and [the] international community must seize this opportunity to foster this trend."

The adviser also stressed his Government's commitment to the efforts of the Joint AU-UN Mediator, Djibril Bassolé, and Qatar to bring about a lasting peace deal with Darfur's many rebel groups.

### **SPLM-DC urges UNMIS to rescue detained members**

***Khartoum Monitor*** reports the SPLM-DC has accused the Government of Western Bahr El-Ghazal State of having tortured and detained five of its members in Wau. SPLM-DC Secretary General Charles Barnaba Kissanga told the paper yesterday that forces from the SPLM acting under the orders of the governor broke into the SPLM-DC's office on Tuesday 22 September 2009 dismantled the office and arrested the party's chairman in the state and other members.

"We actually denounce this kind of arbitrary arrest and torture of our members, we condemn it and we ask speedy release of these members because they were just doing their party activities and party propaganda as guaranteed under the law and they did not break any law," he said.

"We are also asking UNMIS to intervene and ask the governor to check on their safety because our deputy chairman John Tarcisio had been beaten badly and he was reported to be in an unconscious stage when he was taken from premises to Mapel," he added.

### **Sudan acknowledges ICC warrant limited Bashir travel**

***Sudan Tribune website*** 28/9/09 — The arrest warrant issued by the ICC last March has placed restrictions on where president Omer Al-Bashir can travel, a Sudanese official said today.

The court's decision is "limiting the movement of the president," Al-Bashir adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Deen told Associated Press in an interview. "He has to study of course any particular travel plan on its own merits" he said.

The Sudanese official stressed that Bashir would not give himself up to the court's jurisdiction.

## **NCP, SPLM joint committee to discuss criminal procedures Act**

The legal joint committee between the NCP and the SPLM is to hold a meeting this week to discuss the amendments proposed by the later to the Criminal Procedures Act which was passed by the Parliament in its previous session, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports.

## **South Sudan launches payroll control system for States**

*Sudan Tribune website* 28/9/09 — The government of South Sudan yesterday launched the newly introduced Payroll Management and Establishment Control System for states aimed at dealing with unaccounted for employees on the Government payroll.

The decentralization system has also shifted accountability and ownership of counties-based civil servants payroll from state to the county offices.

Minister of public service, labor and human resources development, Ms. Awut Deng Achuil, said the exercise is expected to reduce most of the problems associated with payroll and management for civil servants in all states and counties.

## **Alternative NGOs to take over assets of ousted ones – Minister**

*Al-Ayyam* reports State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Abdul Bagi Al-Jailani as saying that the Government had reached an agreement whereby INGOs from other countries bearing the same names as the ousted ones would be allowed to come to take over the assets of the expelled INGOs. "AN INGO with the name of CARE from a country other than America can be admitted," he cited as an example. He explained that the ousted INGOs appealed for readmission but were informed that the decision of their expulsion was taken by the Council of Ministers and it is only the Cabinet will decide their return.

## **Murle and Lou Nuer tribes united against SPLA**

*Al-Wifaq* reports the Murle and the Lou Nuer tribes have united against GoSS. The unity is viewed as a sign of a possible military escalation in the South. The Murle chiefs have threatened to wage war on the SPLA should their tribe is subjected to detentions and property looting. A Murle tribe chief told the paper yesterday that their tribe would join hands with the Lou Nuer to resist violations by the SPLA.

## **SPLA weighing study to dissolve SPLA**

The SPLA is mulling implementation of a study prepared by experts from Kenya and South Africa that requires the demobilization of 95% of its soldiers and replacing them with "youths from secondary schools in the south", *Al-Intibaha* reports. The step is based on the assumption that the current SPLA has a large number of illiterate soldiers who will not be able to understand the issues of the region besides the fact that they have become the cause of insecurity in the South.

## **NCP says pre-print censorship was requested by the SPLM**

State Minister for Information and NCP Information Secretary Kamal Obeid told a press conference yesterday that the press would not be censored so long as they abide by the Code of Honour, *Al-Sahafa* reports. He revealed that pre-publication censorship was requested by the FVP and SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir Mayardit and was agreed upon by SPLM SG Pagan Amum and then National Intelligence and Security Chief Salah Gosh.

## **NCP General Convention to kick off next Thursday**

The NCP says its Third General Convention is set to start next Thursday, reports *Al-Sahafa*. NCP Information Secretary Kamal Obeid expects some 6,000 NCP members to attend as well

as invitees from different parts of the world. Participants would discuss the party's performance. He also revealed that the party's Consultative Council convenes today to discuss the party's performance in the political area and to nominate the party president for the next term who will also be its presidential candidate in the forthcoming elections.

### **Misseriya leaders to hold conference in Khartoum on PCA Award**

Misseriya leaders are to hold a General Convention in Khartoum next month to discuss implications of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ruling on the Abyei boundaries, reports **Al-Khartoum**. Misseriya Information Officer, Baggadi, said that representatives from the UN, Arab states and political parties would be invited to the conference that would discuss the PCA Award on Abyei which they described as unjust.

Meanwhile, **Al-Intibaha** reports that Misseriya traders have blocked the Meiram road that serves as a trade route between Southern Kordofan and Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal to protest what they described as high taxes imposed on them by the Government of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal.

A trader in Aweil market said that the road had been closed for the last two months and that Aweil market get its commodities from Khartoum through a longer and more costly route.

### **Safe Water Campaign targets 90 % of Juba population**

**Miraya FM 28/09/09** - The Population Services International (PSI) has revealed that a one-month campaign on water safety is targeting over ninety percent of the population in and around Juba. Speaking to **Miraya FM**, the PSI Water Safety Program Manager, Lukadi David, said the campaign which started around two weeks ago emphasized the importance of treating drinking water at household level. The PSI Maternal and Child Health Manager, Oksana Chikina, said that the safe water program is meant to educate the population on how to prevent diarrhea and other diseases related to contaminated water. She said the program is trying to reduce under-five child mortality rates.

The campaign is conducted by the PSI in collaboration with Southern Sudan ministries of health and water resources, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society in Juba, and the United States Agency for International Development, USAID.

### **China to continue to invest in Sudan**

The Chinese Ambassador to Sudan said China and its partners would continue to invest in Sudan without heeding to the "conspiracies from the major powers", reports **Al-Sahafa**. Ambassador Li Ching told a press conference in Khartoum on the occasion of the Chinese National Day that the conflicting oil revenue figures cited by the Global Witness report might have been a result of technical or minor problems. He noted that oil revenues usually show disparities between the production and marketing figures. He further said that Chinese oil companies operating in Sudan were committed to cooperating fully and transparently with Sudanese authorities in accordance with the relevant laws and statutes.

### **Khartoum downplays Ethiopian fears over Al-Qaeda**

Speaking before the UN General Assembly, the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry has warned that Somalia stands the risk of being hijacked by "terrorist groups" linked to Al-Qaeda who are "more organized than the Interim Government," **Al-Sahafa** reports. He also warned that Sudan might be Al-Qaeda's "next stop". "The Horn of Africa region can not bear the consequences of failure of the peace process in the Sudan," he said.

However, a Sudanese official has reportedly brushed off these fears saying that Khartoum is capable of defending itself against any harm by extremist groups.

### **SAF captured SPLA soldier in Korma in Darfur**

Deng Chol, an SPLA soldier arrested by the Sudanese army when the town of Korma (north

Darfur) was retaken by SAF, told reporters that he was part of a group sent by the SPLA to train the SLA-Abdul Wahid forces in Jebel Marra and Korma areas, **Akhbar Al-Youm** reports. He revealed that there were SPLA trainers providing training in four camps in Darfur and the camps were also visited by foreigners and they receive arms and ammunition.

### **Chad deplores slow deployment of UN peacekeeping mission**

**Sudan Tribune website** 28/9/09 – Chad today deplored the delay in deploying the full United Nations peacekeeping mission to its eastern border with Sudan, where the spill-over from the Darfur conflict is undermining already precarious socio-economic development and has led to the recruitment of child soldiers by various armed groups.

“It is more than imperative that the parties concerned in this mission redouble their efforts to make up for this delay, whose prolongation constitutes a daily danger for the people we are all responsible for protecting,” Chadian Foreign Minister Moussa Faki Mahamat told the General Assembly.

He pledged his country's full support for the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), whose mandate includes creating a more secure environment and relocating refugee camps in eastern Chad away from the border with Sudan. At present MINURCAT has only some 2,350 troops, less than half its mandated maximum of 5,200.

He stressed that Chad is collaborating closely with the UN to find a solution to the Darfur crisis where more than six years of fighting between the Sudanese Government, militia allies and rebels have killed some 300,000 people and displaced 2.7 million others, with over 200,000 of them as refugees in eastern Chad.

“Whatever MINURCAT's efforts or my country's efforts to provide security for camps of refugees and the displaced, the real solution to the Darfur crisis can only be political to allow refugees and displaced to return to their homeland,” he added, calling it totally erroneous to believe that Chad was feeding the Darfur conflict by supporting Sudanese rebels.

### **Government is investigating 13 crimes in Darfur**

Justice Minister Abdul Basit Sabdarat has said that the Darfur Crimes Prosecutor was currently investigating thirteen major crimes in Darfur, **al-Intibaha** reports. Sabdarat pledged not to allow impunity. He made the remarks in a paper he presented yesterday to the meeting of all-Africa Parliament.

### **Peacekeeper killed in Sudan's Darfur**

**Reuters** 29/09/09 - One international peacekeeper was killed in an ambush in Sudan's troubled Darfur region and two were wounded, an official with the joint United Nations and African Union force said.

"There was a UNAMID military and police convoy escorting civilians back to our camp in El Geneina (capital of West Darfur district). They were attacked by a group of unidentified men. Three peacekeepers were injured ... Unfortunately one of the wounded later died as a result of his wounds," UNAMID official Kemal Saiki said, adding that the attack occurred on Monday.

### **Police arrest 22 “niggers” in Soba Suburb**

**Al-Akhbar** reports police authorities arrested 22 nigger gangsters who had assaulted civilians in the Khartoum suburb of Soba two days ago. Eyewitnesses said about 60 “niggers” blocked public transport movement, attacked residents and spread terror in the area.

## **Authorities arrest SPLM impersonator in Kalakla**

Security authorities in the Kalakla suburbs south of Khartoum have arrested a prominent SPLM figure on charges of posing as the Minister for Social Affairs in Warrap State, ***Al-Intibaha*** reports. He was caught with false identification papers and identity cards for a number of other people falsely identified as his advisors.