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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## **Tens killed in ambush laid by SPLA**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm* 3/5/11 – Spokesperson of “Return Brigade” in Abyei Ali Al-Busairi said the SPLA killed tens of soldiers and destroyed more than 6 of 13 vehicles in an ambush it laid in north Abyei. He said the brigade was ambushed yesterday around 10 am.

However, SPLA spokesperson Philip Aquer told the same newspaper yesterday that it was SAF which attacked Abyei police but declined to elaborate.

Meanwhile, *Al-Ahdath* 2/5/11 reports that SPLA ambushed a JIU force killing two soldiers and wounding four.

Misseriya leader Hamid Al-Ansari told the newspaper yesterday that an SPLA force launched an attack on JIUs in Abyei and got away with four vehicles and 300 heads of cattle. He said they had submitted a petition to the UN on the need to recover the looted cows.

But *Al-Intibaha*'s report indicated that at least seven JIU members were killed and others injured in an ambush by elements of the South Sudan Police Service (SSPS) at a location between Golo and Oum Bilayel in the Abyei Area yesterday. The SSPS arrested and later released 3 officers.

## **Sudan troops enter Abyei, 14 dead**

*AFP* (Kadugli) 3/5/11 - A heavily armed Sudanese military convoy entered the flashpoint border district of Abyei, sparking clashes that left up to 14 people dead, its chief administrator and a UN spokesman said on Tuesday.

The fighting broke out on Sunday when a Sudanese army major insisted on entering the disputed territory after the police tried to stop his convoy of six Land Cruisers mounted with machine guns and more than 200 troops, administrator Deng Arop Kuol told AFP.

"They killed a local police sergeant from the SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army -- the southern armed forces). I think the UN recovered another 11 bodies. It was a violent clash," said the southern-nominated official.

A UN spokesman confirmed the deadly clashes on Sunday, saying a peacekeeping patrol had found 14 bodies, after initially being denied access to the area by an angry crowd.

"One of our patrols went to the scene of the fighting on Monday, where they found 14 dead bodies, 11 of them in JIU uniform and three in civilian clothes," said Kouider Zerrouk, referring to the special Joint Integrated Units of northern and southern personnel deployed in Abyei.

The district's chief administrator said the army had been trying to supply northern elements of the joint units with extra weapons and described their presence in Abyei as "illegal."

"They were not supposed to enter our territory according to the Abyei protocol. So there was a plan of invading," Kuol said, referring to an annex of the 2005 peace deal that ended a

devastating 22-year civil war between north and south.

Kuol said that northern elements of the joint units set up under the protocol had joined the fighting, which took place around 17 kilometres (10 miles) north of Abyei town. He said the northern troops were now in Goli - further north but still within the district's boundaries.

The Sudanese army spokesman was not immediately available to comment on the allegations.

### **Foreign Ministry Says U.S. Administration should criticize SPLM attitude**

*SUNA* 3/5/11 - Foreign Ministry has criticized US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson's statement on President Al Bashir's public address in Southern Kordofan. In statement to SUNA, Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Khalid Musa said the US administration should have exercised pressures on the Government of South Sudan to drop the item which seeks to annex Abyei to the South from the South Sudan Interim Constitution.

He said the American criticism should have been directed to the political behavior of SPLM which seeks unilaterally to impose administrative resolution to Abyei a move which contradicts the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the Federal Interim Constitution and joint agreements reached by the two partners. The Spokesman called for resolving Abyei issue through political cooperation that would take into consideration the due rights of all parties.

### **At least 68 die in Southern Sudan cattle raids**

*AP* (Juba) 2/5/11 - Officials in Southern Sudan say nearly 70 people were killed in a weeklong cattle raiding conflict between two rival tribes.

Jonglei state official Akot Maze said Monday that the cattle raids happened near water points last week when ethnic Nuer tribesmen attacked the area. He says they made off with more than 100,000 cattle owned by members of the Murle tribe.

Maze said reports indicated at least 68 people were killed during the attacks, adding that more than 5,000 people, mostly women and children, have been displaced from their homes due to the violence.

### **National Assembly to cut down on number of committees**

*Al-Tayyar*, Khartoum, 03/05/11 – Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir has censured lawmakers for their continued late reporting for business with some sessions delayed from starting by an hour and a half. He also lamented numerous unauthorised absences from the House.

Speaking at a session yesterday, the Speaker said there was a proposal to reduce the number of parliamentary committees and to re-task MPs to the remaining committees.

### **30,000 police ready for security on eve of South independence**

*Al-Ahram Al-Youm* 3/05/11 – 30,000 police personnel would be deployed to provide security in the North ahead of the 9th July south Sudan independence date, Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmoud has disclosed.

Addressing annual conference for the Popular and Community Police in Khartoum yesterday, the minister said that the police deployment is part of government's preparations to ward off any potential threat to security.

## **Southern Kordofan Elections Focus**

### **South Kordofan elections kick-off peacefully**

*Dailies* 3/5/11 – The first day of elections in southern Kordofan state kicked off peacefully with a high turnout of voters.

Voters from the 19 different localities were reportedly in line waiting to cast their ballot before centers had opened at 8am, according to *Sudan Vision* 3/5/11.

Some polling centers complained of slowness of the polling procedures due to the rush of citizens to cast their vote, especially women voters.

The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) nominee and current Governor of South Kordofan, Ahmed Mohamed Haroun, and Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) nominee Lt. Gen. Abdul Azizz Adam Al Hilu, both cast their votes in the voting centre in Tallu elementary school in Kadugli.

Chairman of the Higher Committee of Elections in the state Adam Abdein Al Tahir called on citizens to participate and practice their rights within the allocated three day voting period.

The commission and the committee have sought an honorable and transparent ballot, he affirmed, and disclosed that a number of 10,000 observation cards were provided for the local parties, 37 for international observers which is supervised by the Carter Centre.

African and Asian observers will also follow all the steps of the ballot, he added. The commission attributed the responsibility of observing the elections to the political parties to neutralize the excuses of alleged forgery and dishonesty, he said.

The elections also witnessed a strong presence of the media and representatives of the political parties with continuous patrols of local and international teams of observers.

### **Three boxes stuffed with ballots seized in constituency (10)**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya* 3/5/11 – SPLM representatives have reportedly seized three boxes stuffed with ballots near Um Batah centre at constituency No (10) in Kadugli.

Violence was also reported in some other centres in Debab and several observers were expelled resulting in closure of a polling centre. Eyewitness said several centres in Lagawa were closed including centre number (3) because the ink used was easily removed.

The SPLM, in a press release it distributed to the newspapers yesterday, deplored the occurrence of several incidents of breaches and accused the High Election Committee of procrastination with regard to legal measures against violators. The press release also accused the Election Commission of biasness. However, the SPLM said it would accept elections results.

## **UN, Carter Centre and other observers disclose Haroun's attempt to rig elections**

*Sudanese Online website* 3/5/11 – on the first day of elections in Southern Kordofan, three attempts by the NCP to rig elections were disclosed on 2/5/11.

In the first incident, three empty ballot boxes were found hidden in a shop in Um Batah residential area in Kadugli. The owner of the shop, a woman, admitted that the boxes were brought by Adam Majboor (NCP), chairman of constituency No. 16. The women confirmed that the boxes were intended to be filled with ballot papers during the night and then replaced with other boxes in the centre. The SPLM reported the incident to the police, prosecution, commission, Carter Centre, UN and representatives of media and Sudanese political forces who rushed to the scene to document the incident.

The second incident occurred in Debab area where the Misseriya seized a sack full of ballot paper hidden in the house of a judge (NCP) who has no connection with the Commission. Investigation is underway.

The third attempt to rig elections occurred in the town of Heiban where a security office is located. Large number of ballot papers and boxes were found inside the state security office, an attempt by the NCP to tamper with the will of the people. Investigation is underway.

All these attempts have been documented by observers and the SRSG is currently in southern Kordofan state to observe the process and submit a report to the UNSC and the Security Council.

Also, SPLM supporters intercepted today morning an NCP vehicle loaded with ballot boxes to rig elections in favour of its candidate.

## **NCP supporters beaten up, barred from voting**

*Al-Tayyar* 3/5/11 – Chairman of the High Elections Committee in southern Kordofan Adam Abideen has disclosed the start of investigation in the complaint lodged by the NCP against the SPLM accusing the latter of preventing its supporters from entering El-Abyad area to vote.

The first day of elections in Southern Kordofan saw large turnout in a tense atmosphere. Mr. Abideen said individual breaches by some parties were reported, adding that SPLM supporters have beaten up an independent candidate, forcing him to lodge a complaint which is awaiting consideration.

Meanwhile, campaign managers of independent candidate Telefone Kuku have disclosed that unnamed quarters have abducted four of their monitors and took them to an unknown destination. The supporters are in the process of lodging an official complaint.

## **South Kordofan elections should lead to inclusive government - UN envoy**

*Xinhua* 2/5/11 - The elections in Sudan's South Kordofan State should lead to an inclusive government, a UN spokesperson said here Monday, citing words from the head of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), Haile Menkerios.

"Mr. Menkerios said on Sunday that the elections in Southern Kordofan should not be a "make-

or-break” process, but should lead to an inclusive government," Martin Nesirky, the UN spokesperson, said in a daily press briefing.

"Menkerios spoke to the press after meeting with two candidates for the governor's position, saying that both candidates had pledged their commitment to this," Nesirky said, adding that the envoy also called on the army not to play any role "whatsoever in securing the elections" during the meeting with the state security committee, which is responsible for ensuring security for the election.

With respect to the armed incidents in southern Sudan, Nesirky confirmed that UN was informed on Sunday by the Abyei authorities about the clash between unidentified armed men and the Abyei police in the vicinity of Todach (Abyei Area) in the afternoon.

According to Nesirky, a patrol, dispatched by UNMIS on Sunday evening in a bid to verify the information of the incidents, was stopped by a hostile crowd at Diffra Market.

Fourteen dead bodies, including 11 in Joint Integrated Unit uniform and three in civilian clothes, were found by the second patrol on Monday and another Joint Military Team (JMT) was dispatched for further investigation, said Nesirky.

### **S. Kordofan: Carter Center warns over poll violence, insecurity**

*Sudan Tribune website* 3/5/11 - As polls officially opened on Monday in South Kordofan, the Carter Center expressed concerns over security deterioration in the region, urging concerned authorities to ensure “genuine and credible” process within the state.

“Although the recently concluded candidate nomination period was largely conducted transparently, efficiently, and peacefully, there have been worrying developments during the campaign period,” the Center said in its 1 May communiqué.

The Carter Center, according to the statement, remains particularly concerned about armed conflict that broke out in El Faid, reportedly resulting in dozens of casualties and the “tensions between rival candidates in certain areas could negatively affect voter turnout, impact the results, and therefore reduce the credibility of the electoral process”.

The Carter Center openly appealed to leaders from the south and northern governments, state authorities, political parties, and other stakeholders to work together and devise mechanisms for peaceful resolutions of tension in the region.

Specifically, it urged the southern regime to release one Telefon Kuku, a gubernatorial candidate allegedly detained in contradiction with the country’s National Elections Act.

“Despite flaws noted in regard to candidate nominations and campaigns, there remains an important window before the start of polling for all sides to commit to ensuring a genuine, credible election that reflects the will of the people of South Kordofan” the statement further said.

## Other Highlights

### **Authorities release PCP leader Hassan Al-Turabi**

*Local dailies* 3/5/11 – leader of Popular National Congress (PCP) Hassan Al-Turabi was released yesterday and was looking fit while receiving supporters at his residence in Khartoum.

Immediately after his release Turabi told reporters that an uprising in Sudan was inevitable, saying it would be more powerful than the previous revolutions. He denied any deal with the regime for his freedom.

*Reuters* 2/5/11 reported that Al-Turabi called for a “total political system change”, hours after authorities released him after more than three months in jail following similar tough talk.

Security forces arrested Turabi and eight other party officials on Jan. 18 after the politician called for a “popular revolution” if Khartoum did not tackle inflation.

Al-Turabi gave a cautious reaction to news of bin Ladin's death in a U.S. raid in Pakistan on Monday. “All Muslims are sad today. I don't like the killing of any human,” he told reporters at his house in Khartoum packed with supporters and friends celebrating his release. “Osama bin Laden had some good intentions but that does not mean I approve everything he did,” he said, describing the 9/11 attacks as a mistake.

He said no charges had been brought forward against him. “You enter prison without a reason and leave prison without a reason,” he said.

Commenting on the readiness of the Sudanese street to rise up against the NCP government, Turabi said none was able to predict the Egyptian revolution. “If I had been asked I would say Egypt would be the last country where a revolutionary change could occur,” he said.

Turabi said his detention for more than three months proves that the NCP government does breach the laws it voted.

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