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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Referendum Watch

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## Link

- Op-ed: Obama Administration intensifies efforts in Sudan (*The Washington Post*)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/29/AR2010082902816.html>

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# Highlights

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## **Presidency says referendum on time, pledges to remove obstacles**

**Local dailies** 31/8/10 - The Joint NCP-SPLM Political Committee, headed by SPLM SG Pagan Amum and National Security Adviser Salah Gosh, held a meeting yesterday in Khartoum with the AUHIP, headed by Thabo Mbeki, to brief it on the outcome of meetings between the two CPA partners. After the meeting, Amum told a joint conference he held with Gosh that the Presidency had established a political committee to assist the border demarcation committee to carry out its task. "We have agreed that the demarcation of the border is not a pre-requisite for the conduct of the referendum," Amum said.

"The North-South border demarcation issue has been resolved by 70% and discussion underway to address the remaining points," Amum told a joint press conference with Gosh, according to *Al-Khartoum* 31/8/10.

"The two partners are seeking to remove all problems and barriers and working to manage all the issues in a way that leads to resolution of the problems facing the conduct of the referendum and sustain the peace," Amum told reporters, according to *Xinhua*. "The coming period will witness joint work between the NCP and the SPLM to overcome all difficulties facing the border demarcation, the referendum and formation of the Abyei commission," he added. He stressed the desire of the two partners to work together to manage such sensitive and important phase.

Also, Amum revealed that the Presidency stressed the need for freedom of campaigning for secession or unity.

*Al-Tayyar* 31/8/10 reports that while Amum said the two partners had agreed to dislodge all obstacles hindering the formation of Abyei Commission and the conduct of the referenda on time, Presidential Adviser for Security Affairs Salah Gosh said Abyei was the only remaining CPA sticky issue for which the two partners need more dialogue to resolve.

Gosh told the press conference that the NCP is committed to the PCA ruling on Abyei, saying they would work with their partners in the political committee to form the Abyei commission to complete the implementation of the Protocol.

According to Gosh, the disagreement between the NCP and the SPLM over Abyei is limited to definition of an eligible voter who has the right to vote in the Area's referendum, calling on the international community to assist in the conduct and observation of the process, citing what he described as a new will between the NCP and the SPLM to ensure free, fair and internationally-monitored referendum.

"We would like to reassure our people that the CPA implementation is progressing," Gosh told the reporters, according to *Al-Rai Al-Aam* 31/8/10.

Abdullah Al-Sadiq, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Technical Border Demarcation Committee, has reportedly praised the outcome of the Presidency meeting particularly with regard to the

demarcation of the border, saying his committee would hold a meeting on Thursday to draw up a roadmap for implementing the Presidency's directives. He said they were optimistic that the demarcation work would be accomplished before the referendum especially if all means and facilities were provided.

Meanwhile, *Akhbar Al-Youm* 31/8/10 reports that the Presidency yesterday met with the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission to brief the members on the outcome of the Presidency meeting. Reportedly, the meeting between the Presidency and the Commission discussed a range of issues including post-referendum arrangements.

According to *Al-Ahram Al-Youm* 31/8/10, Amum told reporters that the Presidency would announce a secretary general for the Referendum Commission today.

*Al-Ahdath* 31/8/10 reports that the Presidency has agreed to the reduction of period of time between the release of list of voters and polling to one month and directed the start of receiving of application for referendum monitors from the UN, EU, regional and international organizations desirous of observing the referendum process to ascertain its fairness.

In a related development, Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail said President Al-Bashir would spearhead a campaign from the South in support for unity.

### **“Voting for separation is not a crime” – Luka Biong**

*Akhir Lahza* 31/8/10 – Cabinet Affairs Minister Luka Biong has called on southern Sudanese to voluntarily return to the South to participate in voting in referendum on self-determination. Biong pointed out that southerners, whether in the North, South or Diaspora, have the right to vote.

Biong, who made the remarks during a visit to Wad Al-Bashir IDP camp, said voting for separation is not a crime.

## **Other Highlights**

### **South Sudan to end use of child soldiers 'by year's end'**

*AFP* 30/8/10 - South Sudan vowed on Monday to end its use of child soldiers by the end of the year, as the former rebel force works to transform itself into a regular army ahead of a 2011 independence referendum.

More than 22,000 former child fighters with the Sudan People's Liberation Army have returned to civilian life in the past decade, but some 900 children remain under arms, according to the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF.

However, SPLA chief of staff James Hoth, speaking at the launch of a special child protection unit inside the army's headquarters in the southern capital, promised to end the use of under-age soldiers.

"We are fighting for our children so that they can enjoy their freedom in their own country, and our future lies with the children," he said.

"We cannot recruit children again because we are not at war."

The child support unit, which is backed by the United Nations, is part of an action plan signed by the SPLA committing it to release all children by November this year.

"The SPLA by the end of this year will be child-free," said William Deng, head of the southern government's commission for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. But he also warned that efforts must be made to support those who go back to civilian life.

"If there are no schools or things the children can do, then they will come back to the army," added Deng. "We need to prepare facilities in the villages for these children."

The promises were welcomed by the United Nations.

"Taking a liberation army and transforming it into a professional army is a long road to walk," said Lise Grande, the UN humanitarian coordinator for south Sudan.

"All of us acknowledge today the impressive steps forward that the SPLA have taken." But she also warned that the SPLA must improve in other areas, including ensuring aid workers can safely do their jobs.

Some four million people, roughly half the population of the south, depend upon some kind of food assistance in order to survive, Grande said.

"However, in a number of areas the humanitarian workers are really struggling to get that food out - there have been interferences," she added.

"We know that this is a matter of concern for the SPLA, and we are pleased that steps are being taken to address that."

### **CIA training and equipping Sudan's intelligence agents - report**

*Sudan Tribune website* 30/8/10 - The US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is continuing to train agents of Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) as part of its global fight against terrorist networks, according to a news report.

The Washington Post quoted intelligence officials with intimate knowledge of the CIA-NISS relationship as indicating that the CIA continues to provide training and equipments to Sudanese security services.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a former intelligence official who served in Sudan said that "the U.S. government is training the Sudanese intelligence services and conducting bilateral operations with them — all in the name of the long war."

"Certainly," the former official added, "the CIA is providing training" to the NISS. The source said that he suspects that the training "was begun in the very early days after September 11."

He went on to explain that in the beginning, the training was highly covert and kept secret even from CIA personnel in the embassy because of "concerns over Sudan's grievous human rights

record.”

The official further said that the training sessions “were probably done outside the country.” He revealed that “there also have been transfers of equipment, including computers, etcetera.”

Sudan’s strong intelligence cooperation with the CIA on counterterrorism has not been reciprocated publicly or diplomatically as the US continues to designate the country as “a state sponsor of terrorism” and impose US economic sanctions.

The US’s 2009’s Country Report on Terrorism, which was released on earlier this month retained Sudan on the terrorism blacklist despite acknowledging the continuation of “solid” bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation. The report also noted that Sudanese officials view continued cooperation with the CIA “as important and recognize potential benefits of US training and information sharing”.

Similarly, Sudan has not been discreet about its relationship with the CIA. Former spy chief Salah Gosh told the Los Angeles Times: "We have a strong partnership with the CIA. The information we have provided has been very useful to the United States".

Another former U.S. intelligence official said that the “CIA-NISS partnership began even earlier, in the Clinton administration,” adding that it is "incredibly valuable."

"We have had a long term relationship with the Sudanese, even when they closed the embassy for a short period in the late 90s," he added.

"We do not do much training with the Sudanese, except in the field of counterterrorism, and they have been an exceptional partner in helping us against the terrorist target." He said.

The CIA’s curriculum with the NISS "is pretty much the same as regular humint/CO [human intelligence/case officer] training, with a focus on targeting the terrorist, i.e., setting up meetings in secure places with surveillance and counter-surveillance, knowing what info to look for, keeping all pocket litter, not allowing them to erase cell phones or computers," the former official said. "It also involves “take downs” of terrorists or their organizations."

The former intelligence officer who served in Sudan said the CIA flew Salah Gosh the former head of the NISS – who he described as “up to his butt in the genocide in Darfur” - to the U.S. in 2005.

News of the visit was leaked forcing the Bush administration at the time to limit meetings with the Sudanese spy chief and even contemplated arresting him.

In July human rights campaigners Amnesty International accused the NISS of, “carrying out a brutal campaign of killings, torture, arbitrary detentions, and mental and physical intimidation against opponents and critics of the government."

They also alleged that the NISS use a variety of methods to torture people including: “beating detainees while held upside down against a wall, electric shocks, whipping, sleep deprivation, kicking and stamping on detainees and beating them with water pipes."

According to the report in the Washington Post one US official claimed that working with the NISS, "has been one tool our government has used to try to influence the Sudanese in terms of human rights and the rule of law".

The US is well aware of Sudan's human rights record, the official said.

"We're not blind" to what happens in Sudan, said a senior administration official, adding "everybody understands what's going on there." He threatened that "If the Sudanese go outside the box," he maintained, "we can pull the plug."

### **FVP Kiir and Education Minister discuss relocation of universities**

**SUNA** 31/8/10 – FVP and GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit yesterday received in his office at the Republican Palace Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Peter Adok, who informed Kiir on the higher education performance, result of the student's admission and the process for relocating a number of universities from Khartoum to their headquarters in southern Sudan.

In a statement to the press after the meeting, the minister said that a number of faculties of the Universities of Juba, Bahr El Ghazal and the Upper Nile are operating at their headquarters in the South, while their faculties of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine are carrying out their activities in Khartoum, referring to the efforts to provide finance for the transfer of these faculties to the South.

### **Three Russian aircrew released in Darfur-state media**

**Reuters** 31/08/10 - Three Russian air crew members kidnapped in Darfur two days ago have been released, Sudanese state media said today.

The three pilots who were working for the Sudanese Badr Airlines, but subcontracted to UNAMID, were taken on their way back from the market inside the region's largest town Nyala on Sunday.

"South Darfur's governor announces the release of the abducted Russian pilots," the Sudan Media Centre said.

Badr Airlines Deputy Executive Manager Mutaz Shora told Reuters: "I have been told that they are on their way back to Nyala but cannot confirm their release because I've not yet actually spoken to any of the hostages".

Meanwhile, **Sudan Tribune website** 30/08/10 reported that the Russian special envoy to Sudan Mikhail Margelov chided Khartoum saying that the latter appears unable to assert control over security in Darfur.

"We would not like the seizure of the Russian citizens in Sudan to turn into a vicious tendency," Margelov said in an interview with Voice of Russia.

"We don't know who kidnapped our citizens, that is, whether these gunmen belonged to a political group or whether they were simply bandits but as it seems, the most unpleasant thing is the question that immediately arises – meaning whether the Khartoum government can ensure

order and security in Darfur and can it function as a responsible side in the Darfur settlement," he added.

"The helicopter was carrying food and other civilian supplies for the United Nations mission to Darfur," Margelov said.

### **Government to institute stringent measures to protect foreigners**

*Al-Sudani Khartoum, 31/08/10* – Sudan has announced it is instituting stringent measures that would provide for better protection for foreigners operating in the country. Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Muawiya Osman Khalid, also called on foreign nationals operating in Darfur to abide by the local safety and security regulations with regards their movements and communications.

### **Director of Kobar prison relieved and jailed over Granville case**

*Al-Sudani Khartoum, 31/08/10* – Authorities investigating the escape from prison of convicted murderers of USAID employee John Granville and his Sudanese driver Abdulrahman Abbas have ordered the sacking of Director of Kobar Federal Prison and 7 other prison staff and stripped of their entitlements. The Director of the prison has also been sentenced to six months in jail. The prison officers were charged with failure in their duties.

### **FVP Kiir lists observations on the rights of non-Muslims in the capital**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya Khartoum, 31/08/10* – Following a meeting with FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit in Khartoum yesterday, the head of the Commission on the Rights of Non-Muslims in the National Capital said that FVP Kiir had listed a number of observations on the rights of non-Muslims. He said that the commission has plans to brief non-Muslims at their places of residence in Khartoum on their rights to a peaceful co-existence. He cited a 1996 Administrative Order that bars non-Muslims activities in Khartoum as some of the difficulties the commission and non-Muslims face.

Meanwhile, SPLM Northern Sector Spokesperson Keji Roman said the SPLM welcomes the move by authorities for legislative amendments that would allow non-Muslims to conduct religious activities without hindrance in Khartoum. She said that this creates an attractive framework for the diversity that reflects unity of the people of Sudan. She pointed out however that these measures should have come sometime earlier, but added, "Better late than never".

### **World Bank Vice Presidents visit Southern Sudan**

*Sudan tribune website 30/8/10* - Two Vice Presidents of the World Bank are expected to visit southern Sudan sequentially beginning early September in a move seen to be indicating the commitment of the world's financial institution to remain a reliable partner to the region.

According to a press release, the visits by the World Bank's Vice President for Africa, Obiageli Ezekwesili, from September 2 to 4 and of Joachim von Amsberg, Vice President for Operational Policies and Country Support, September 5 to 8, respectively, confirm the bank's long-term engagement to getting development results in southern Sudan.

The chief of Africa affairs in the bank said his financial institution will continue to support southern Sudan irrespective of result of the referendum due on 9th January 2011.

"Regardless of the outcome, after the 2011 Referendum, when residents will have decided on

whether or not to become a separate nation, Southern Sudan's focus must turn all the more towards economic growth, jobs, and services. The World Bank is committed to staying engaged and assisting the Government and its citizens in addressing their extraordinary needs," said Ezekwesili.

Southern Sudan is among the poorest regions of the world. More than twenty years of civil war—which ended in 2005 with a Comprehensive Peace Agreement—devastated the region and its infrastructure and left it in critical need of schools, clinics, roads, and clean water. A US\$524 million Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Southern Sudan (MDTF-SS)—supported by 15 donors and administered by the World Bank — has been operating since 2005 and has assisted the interim government with state - and peace-building efforts.

The Trust Fund has been instrumental in putting southern Sudan back on a path of recovery. It has provided almost 250,000 people with safe drinking water; helped 2.5 million people access medical supplies; delivered school supplies to 1.7 million students and provided community-based training for better sanitation and hygiene. It also rehabilitated and built roads as well as built capacity in government ministries that were previously nonexistent.

"As the Trust Fund overcomes the difficulties of the first years, the social and financial impact is becoming more and more visible," said Ian Bannon, the World Bank's Acting Country Director for Sudan.

"Between the end of 2009 and the first quarter of 2010 the Fund disbursed US\$117 million, a figure that exceeds its previous two years combined."

To ensure continued progress after the referendum, the Bank and its partners are geared up to help Southern Sudan put into place a long-term strategy with a cross-cutting theme of peace building and a primary focus on six key elements: oil revenue management; public expenditure management; delivery of basic services; private sector growth; infrastructure; and security.

Within this strategy, possible areas of engagement for the bank include: laying the foundations for broad-based growth; building the southern Sudanese state; and realizing development results.

"To tackle these development challenges, all partners, including the Bank, donors, and the government of Southern Sudan, must maintain a coordinated effort," Amsberg said.

"Security, logistical, and capacity constraints will still exist, but to get the job done, we must stay engaged and focus on the deliverables for the people of Southern Sudan," he added.

### **Minnawi blasts Sudan's new strategy for peace in Darfur**

*Sudantribune.com* Khartoum, 31/08/10 - The Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) led by Minni Minnawi voiced this week its opposition to the Sudanese government's new strategy to end the seven year conflict in the Western part of the country. The signatory of Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) said the new plan breaches the 2006 peace deal and ignores its dispositions.

The former Senior Presidential aide submitted his remarks in a 10-page memorandum to the Presidential Advisor in charge of Darfur file, Ghazi Salah Al-Deen Al-Attabani on August 22.

Minnawi in his memorandum, seen by Sudan Tribune, blamed the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) for not involving his movement in the drafting of the new strategy. He also stressed that the plan omitted the Transitional Regional Authority (TRA) established in accordance of the



DPA signed with Khartoum more than three years ago.

Minnawi also criticized the new strategy for ignoring the government responsibility in Darfur conflict underlining that the government presented the conflict as something "between the local components without reference to its role in the conflict," he said.

The former rebel leader contested the presentation of the elected governors and institutions in Darfur after April elections as sole representatives of Darfur people.

Minnawi further disapproved the focus on IDPs only saying the conflict has been detrimental to all Darfur people. He also stressed that a comprehensive peace in the region cannot be achieved without the participation of all the components Darfur's society.

Speaking about the security measures included in the new plan, the head of the transitional authority said these unilateral arrangements breach all the security protocols signed between with the rebel groups including the ceasefire agreement of 2004.

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