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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## **President Al-Bashir to visit Ethiopia today**

**Al-Khartoum** 4/7/10 – President Al-Bashir will leave today for Ethiopia to take part in an extraordinary IGAD summit meeting on Monday set to focus on peace and stability in Somalia. Several Government officials including Foreign Minister Ali Karti will accompany the President.

## **Egypt dismisses President Al-Bashir's territorial claims on Halayeb**

**Sudan Tribune website** 3/7/10 — The Egyptian foreign minister Ahmed Aboul-Gheit dismissed remarks recently made by Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir in which he stressed that a region on the borders with Egypt belongs to Sudan.

"Halayeb is Sudanese and will stay Sudanese" Bashir told crowds at the coastal town of Port Sudan on Wednesday marking the 21st anniversary of his military coup.

But the Egyptian top diplomat responded to Bashir saying that "the Southern borders to Egypt are well known at latitude 22° and I see no need to further indulge in the historical backgrounds [of this subject]" Aboul-Gheit said.

He further noted that there is an agreement between Bashir and his Egyptian counterpart to make Halayeb an integration and development zone.

Egyptian media and columnists fiercely criticized Bashir accusing him of seeking to deflect attention from his internal problems.

An Egyptian source was quoted by Cairo-based *Al-Shurooq* newspaper as saying that Bashir's assertions cannot be separated from those of his foreign minister Ali Karti in which he said that Cairo has a "shallow" understanding of Sudan's complex problems.

The source said that the remarks reflect growing influence by Islamists within the power circles in Khartoum and a deliberate push to strain relations.

## **Presidential Aide Nafie leaves for China on several-day visit**

**SUNA** 2/7/10 – Presidential Assistant Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie on Friday left for China on a several-day visit for consultations with Chinese officials on bilateral relations and ways to consolidate cooperation in all domains especially in the economic and development fields, with concentration on agriculture, dams and electricity generation.

## **WFP relocates staff from Bibor due to security concerns**

**Miraya FM** 3/7/10 - The World Food Program (WFP) has begun relocating its staff on Friday from Pibor in Jonglei State using UNMIS helicopters. The WFP Coordinator for southern Sudan Leo Van Der Valden said that the relocation comes following advice from Jonglei State Relief and Rehabilitation Commission that the security situation in the area is deteriorating.

## **South Sudan army rejects Human Right report**

**Sudan Tribune website** 3/7/10 – SPLA official spokesman has rejected a human rights report of abuses committed by the army during the April elections.

Major General Kuol Deim Kuol raised an eyebrow over human rights report, describing it as unbalanced and filled with allegations aimed at tarnishing the image of the SPLA.

On Wednesday, the Human Rights Watch group released a report urging both regional and the national authorities to investigate human rights abuses connected to its April 2010 elections and bring to justice those responsible. “Addressing the abuses is especially important as the country prepares for a referendum on a widely speculated possible self-determination of Southern Sudan,” the report says...

## **“I telephoned Athor to urge him to give up insurgency” – Kiir**

**Al-Wifaq** 4/7/10 – GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit said he had telephoned the SPLA’s dissident George Athor to urge him to give up his “futile” mutiny which might lead to fresh armed confrontation between the two sides. Kiir, who made the remark while addressing a rally in Juba, accused some quarters of escalating violence in Jonglei state, pledging to restore security and stability to the state.

## **SPLA deserters surround Pibor**

**Al-Intibaha** 4/7/10 – SPLA defectors have surrounded the town of Pibor since yesterday, threatening to overrun the town if the SPLA does not free the detainees within 24 hours. More than 15 people have been killed and 7 wounded in a clash that followed a bid by the SPLA to break the siege.

## **INGO aircraft lands SLA officers in Jebel Marra**

**Al-Tayar** 4/7/10 – sources close to SLA (Abdul Wahid) revealed that an aircraft which belongs to an international NGO operating in the humanitarian area in South Darfur has parachuted SLA/AW paratroopers at the SLA-controlled areas in Jebel Marra. According to the newspaper’s sources, the landed officers had undergone military training in Israel.

# **Pre-referendum Watch**

## **CPA partners agree to discuss post-referendum issues away from foreign interference**

**Al-Sahafa** 4/7/10 – Cabinet Affairs Minister Luka Biong (SPLM) said the NCP and the SPLM have agreed to discuss post-referendum issues away from foreign interferences, adding the two sides would submit their visions on contentious issues today and their formal talks on these issues would begin on 10 July in Khartoum and would be continued in Juba on 12 July. Biong said the spirit exhibited by the two partners demonstrated their resolve to continue the implementation of the CPA as well as their discussion on post-referendum issues.

According to ***Sudan Tribune*** website 3/7/10, the SPLM and the NCP held preliminary meetings in Khartoum Saturday on post-referendum issues to prepare for full negotiations on Monday.

The NCP was represented by state minister from the presidency Idriss Abdel-Gadir and state ministers in the cabinet including Said Al-Khateeb and Muhammad Mukhtar. The SPLM delegation was comprised of SPLM Secretary General and South Sudan Government peace minister Pagan Amum, SPLM deputy SG for Northern sector Yasir Arman and Luka Byong who is the minister for cabinet affairs. The meeting focused on procedural issues particularly the ground rules for negotiations.

### **South Sudan wants referendum voter registration computerized**

***Sudan Tribune website*** 3/7/10 - The semi-autonomous government of Southern Sudan has requested for computerization of the whole voter registration process for the upcoming referendum in the region.

GoSS VP Dr. Riek Machar Teny, on Saturday urged the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to work on computerizing the upcoming voter registration process where each registered voter is given an ID card with his or her photo and finger print attached for easy location and identification during the voting.

This came during a meeting between the Vice President and a delegation headed by the UNMIS Under-Secretary for Department of Field Support, Suzan Malcorra. Machar said it was important to computerize the registration system so that it could minimize the chance of votes rigging and build confidence in the exercise in order to avoid repeat of the mistakes committed during the April elections.

He also briefed the Under-Secretary on the ongoing processes to form the commissions for both Southern Sudan and Abyei referenda.

The Vice President also briefed the delegation on the post-referendum arrangement discussions on issues such as oil, assets, liabilities, Nile waters, international agreements, etc. He informed the Under-secretary about the ongoing preparations by the Southern Sudan Referendum Taskforce, which he chairs and plays the role of assisting the referendum commission in preparing the ground for the conduct of the referenda.

On her part, UNMIS Under-secretary, Suzan, acknowledged the importance of computerizing the registration process but however doubted whether the remaining period to the referendum will be enough to allow for establishment of the system.

She also asked the government to present an official request to UNMIS outlining details of areas the region would need assistance on during the referendum.

### **VP Taha begins push for unity, signs development contracts for South**

***Sudan Tribune website*** 1/7/10 –GoSS President Salva Kiir Mayardit and GoNU VP Ali Osman Taha attended the signing ceremony for several development projects contracts

as part of a push by the ruling party to make unity attractive.

The contract was signed by the Unity Support Fund (USF) and the companies awarded the projects to execute. The representative of the companies pledged to fulfill their obligations within the next six months including schools and universities in addition to other projects for provision of water services and establishment of railways and river transport passages.

Taha said that costs of these projects add up to \$200 million, 89% of which would be paid by the federal government and 11 percent by the Government of South Sudan (GoSS).

"We have made advanced strides towards the implementation of all items of the comprehensive peace agreement, and with the formation of the referendum commission, we enter the final stage in the transitional period program," *Xinhua* news agency quoted Taha as saying when addressing a joint meeting of the federal government and GoSS.

"It is important that the southern Sudanese citizens feel the value of peace through provision of services for them and improvement of their living conditions," he said.

Taha also expressed disappointment at the international community for failing to follow through on their pledges to provide the necessary support for the development and rehabilitation programs in south Sudan.

"The response of the donor international community was very weak, which is disappointing. We have relied on our self-resources to implement many of the projects and we will carry on in this respect," he said.

### **SPLM officials calls on Taha to apologize to southerners**

***Al-Sahafa*** 4/7/10 – Deputy Head of GoSS Mission in Cairo Robin M. Benjamin has criticized VP Taha's visit to Juba. Benjamin, who was addressing a rally of southern students, politicians and youths in Cairo, called on VP Taha to apologize for the crimes committed by northerners against the southerners. "Whoever talks about unity now, including Kiir, will be met with fierce confrontation from the people of the South," he said, adding that confederation should be discussed after the secession of the South not now.

### **South Sudan hints at recruiting more police officers for referendum**

***Sudan Tribune website*** 1/7/10 – GoSS authorities on Thursday hinted intentions to recruit more police officers, saying it lacks adequate professional officers to safeguard conduct of successful referendum.

General Achuil Tito, inspector General of police at the regional ministry of internal affairs, told *Sudan Tribune* from Juba that police service hopes to recruit more police officers to beef up security ahead of the 2011 referendum.

The police service hopes government will allow it to recruit more officers to maintain

peace and order ahead of referendum. "It would be good if parliament and council of ministers debate to approve plans of the ministry to increase number of professional police forces especially officers before referendum is held," said General Achuil.

Currently, he said, the service only has less than 10,000 professional police force across the region; adding that this number is insufficient to safeguard the eight millions purportedly population of South Sudan, according to the last fifth population census, boycotted by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)...