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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Post-Referendum Headlines

- CPA parties trade charges at AEC meeting, decide to meet in Addis on May 25 (*Al-Sadiq*)
- NCP withholds SDG 9 billions for Abyei – official (*Ajras Al-Hurriya*)
- NCP says has no objection to suspend discussion on Abyei until pending issues are settled (*Sudan Vision*)
- Lakes state imposes dawn to dusk curfew to stop violence (*ST*)
- Eight people killed in armed attacks in south Sudan (*Xinhua*)

## Southern Kordofan Elections Focus

- Ballot boxes in southern Kordofan closed, vote count today (*Dailies*)

## Other Headlines

- Sudan's former security adviser was sacked because of "presidential ambitions" (*ST*)

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# Highlights

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## **CPA parties trade charges at AEC meeting, decide to meet in Addis May 25**

*Al-Sahafa* 5/5/11 –an AEC meeting decided to set up a committee to investigate recent incidents in Abyei in which 13 people were killed. The Standing Committee, comprising the UN, SAF and SPLA, is tasked to conduct the investigation.

The two parties have exchanged accusations at the meeting over delay of resolution of pending issues but agreed on how to handle results of elections in southern Kordofan to avert trouble. SPLM Luka Biong told reporters that the NCP insisted that Abyei is a northern territory and the SPLM included the territory in its constitution as a reaction.

Meanwhile, the NCP and the SPLM will hold a high level meeting on 25 May in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the AU to resolve differences over Abyei, borders and other outstanding issues.

## **NCP withholds SDG 9 billions for Abyei – official**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya* 5/5/11 – Abyei Area Legislative Council Chair Charles Abyei said the NCP has withheld SDG 9 billions intended for the area for the years 2009 and 2011 on claims that the population of Abyei are not cooperative. He said they would not accept any political settlement of the area, adding they would stick to the PCA ruling.

## **NCP says has no objection to suspend discussion on Abyei until pending issues are settled**

*Sudan Vision* 5/5/11 – the NCP has reiterated its stance not to accept exclusion of the Misseriya from any referendum on Abyei but expressed commitment to peace and stability in the area.

NCP political secretary Ibrahim Ghandor has warned against unilateral decision on Abyei and proposed the suspension of discussion on this issue until both sides achieved comprehensive accord on the outstanding issues.

He pointed out that 9 July represents the end of CPA but not the end of peace, urging for full cooperation between the two states but ruled out confederation.

"We in NCP are ready to negotiate all post-referendum issues but the problem is that SPLM is linking all these remaining issues with resolution of Abyei," said Ghandor.

## **Lakes state imposes dawn to dusk curfew to stop violence**

*Sudan Tribune website* 4/5/11 - The government of Lakes state has declared 11 hours for serious curfew within Rumbek Central County after inter-communal clashes killed 10 civilians and one policeman last month.

Lakes state's acting governor Daniel Ayual Makoi, in written statement - circular No.1/2011 - affirmed that from 7pm to 6am no unauthorized person will be allowed to be on the street until further notice.

The document did not put it clearly how many days are set for curfew.

The deputy governor, who also served in lakes state government as minister of education, said that the reason of having imposed curfew is due to inter-communal fight between five counties of Lakes state. The counties that involved in fighting are Rumbek North versus Cueibet, and Cueibet versus Rumbek Central County, as well as internal fighting within Rumbek East County.

Ayual justified his decision by saying that people were hunting down people to take revenge for previous clashes.

He also warned people who are alleged to have been hiding those suspected of killing innocent people in the clashes across the five counties of Lakes state.

“I warned those officials and civilians who are involved in hiding suspected people in their houses to surrender such most wanted man by all means to government security agency” he said.

The state government has instructed all security organs to patrol at night to enforce the curfew. Ayual urged the public to cooperate with the forces patrolling the night time curfew.

### **Eight people killed in armed attacks in south Sudan**

*Xinhua* 4/5/11 - At least eight people were killed and some others injured in armed attacks launched by a defecting militia from the SPLA in the Mayom County in south Sudan's Unity State.

"The group, which carried out the attacks, belongs to defector Fatwaj Gai. All the victims in the attack are civilians," commissioner of the Mayom county Charles Machin told Xinhua. Efforts were underway to rescue the injured people and pursue the attackers, he added...

## **Southern Kordofan Elections Focus**

### **Ballot boxes in southern Kordofan closed, vote count today**

*Local dailies* 5/5/11 – the NEC yesterday closed the ballot boxes in Southern Kordofan state with polling percentage ranging between 75-80%. According to the Commission, vote count will begin today at 555 centres.

High Elections Committee Chair Adam Abideen said the last day of polling was peaceful hoping that the process would lead to peace, development and stability in the area.

*Sudan Vision* 5/5/11 reports that initial results are expected to trickle in until the 8 May and will be announced gradually. Results will be made final by the end of this month.

Governor of South Kordofan State Ahmed Haroun held a press conference in which he revealed that there were only six alleged violations from the 66 polling centres which proves that the process was fair.

The sorting out and vote count will start on 8am Thursday after consulting all parties.

On its part the SPLM insisted that the vote count was supposed to start immediately after the closure of polling centres according to the law...

## Other Highlights

### **Former security adviser was sacked because of “presidential ambitions”**

*Sudan Tribune website* 4/5/11 - Sudan's former presidential security adviser, Salah Gosh, was sacked from his position because of his “presidential ambitions”, an official said on Wednesday, stoking speculations of growing divisions within the country's ruling party.

The senior member of Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP), Qutbi al-Mahdi, told the Sudanese daily newspaper *Al-Watan* on Wednesday that Gosh's attempts to overstep and expand his mandate as a security adviser had led to his removal.

Al-Mahdi, who occupies the position of the NCP's head of organizations, went on to say that his party had reached a conclusion that Gosh, “among others”, was planning to succeed President Al-Bashir after the latter announced intention to step down when his current term expires in 2015.

Qutbi said that the issue of the PSA dialogue with opposition parties “represents only a small part” of the problem, saying that Nafi did not even attend the meeting in which the decision to sack Gosh was made.

He told the newspaper that Gosh's activities were surrounded by many questions which led the party to re-evaluate his attitudes. He further added that Gosh was “grooming himself” to take over Sudan's presidency.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior NCP official told Sudan Tribune that Gosh was removed for reasons that are completely different from what is swirling around the domestic arena. The official denied that Gosh would be sacked from the party.

This week Qutbi Al-Mahdi told local media that Gosh might soon see himself booted out of the NCP's leadership altogether.

He said he was expecting a soon-to-be-made decision stripping Gosh of all his titles within the party which included presiding over the NCP's workers' secretariat. The former adviser also holds a parliamentary seat as a representative of the Merowe constituency.

However, Al-Mahdi fell short of saying whether Gosh's membership would be revoked. Apart from Al-Mahdi, NCP officials generally avoided giving details on the reasons for Gosh removal. The NCP's prominent member Ghazi Salah al-Din last week said that Gosh's dismissal was dictated by internal party considerations.

Some observers in Khartoum have speculated that Gosh was planning a coup against Bashir with the consent of the US administration while others linked his removal to an Israeli strike carried out in East Sudan against suspected arms smugglers in early April. The government claimed that

Israel had informants on the ground that provided the intelligence to carry out the operation.

Gosh is the poster boy of counterterrorism cooperation between the U.S Central Intelligence Agency and Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Services, over which he presided since 2002 until he was surprisingly demoted to the rank of a presidential adviser for security affairs in August 2009.

The subtly pro-government daily newspaper *Al-Sudani* on Tuesday reported that the U.S embassy in Khartoum showed great interest in Gosh's removal.

The paper quoted unidentified sources as saying that the embassy had invited a number of writers and political leaders to watch a documentary film but the embassy staff was keen to hold sideline talks with the participants on the repercussions of Gosh's dismissal and what was happening within the NCP.

The Islamist opposition leader Hassan Al-Turabi, who was just released from a 4-month detention today, suggested that Gosh was involved in a power struggle.

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