

7<sup>th</sup> July 2010

www.unmissions.unmis.c



# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Headlines

- Sudan security suspends Al-Intibaha newspaper indefinitely (**Dailies/ST**)
- Messeriya militia attack kills 5 Policemen, injure 2 in Abyei (**ST**)
- SPLM suggests placing Abyei administration under UN (**Al-Ayyam**)
- Residents of Jonglei state's Khorfulus call for dialogue with Athor (**ST**)
- Peace mediator urges Sudan to create suitable environment in Darfur (**ST**)

## Pre-referendum Watch

- Referendum Commission members sworn in (**Al-Ayyam**)
- China favors Sudan's unity but will respect referendum outcome: envoy (**ST**)
- People of South Sudan equate referendum to independence, VP (**ST**)
- Cairo is referendum voting station – NCP (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Border demarcation of Northern Sudan starts (**Miraya FM**)

**NOTE:** *Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN  
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

# Highlights

---

## **Sudan security suspends *Al-Intibaha* newspaper indefinitely**

**Local dailies** 7/7/10 – Security authorities yesterday suspended ***Al-Intibaha*** newspaper indefinitely for its role in encouraging secessionist tendencies in the South and the North, an approach that contravenes the Constitution and the CPA.

According to ***Sudan Tribune website*** 6/7/10, the decision by NISS against *Al-Intibaha* took the country by surprise given the wide perception that the newspaper enjoys the NCP's blessing.

*Al-Intibaha*, established in mid-2007, is run by Al-Tayeb Mustafa, an uncle of Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir. One of Mustafa's sons named Abu-Bakr was killed during the North-South civil war in the '90s as a recruit in the government militias.

Many of Mustafa's critics claim that the death of his child in this war has made him a staunch supporter of South Sudan's secession and a fierce critic of Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) which rules the South.

Many commentators and observers accused Mustafa of inciting hatred and racism through his writings and the line *Al-Intibaha* is adopting saying that it is widely read in the South and being portrayed as reflective of the North's views towards the South. The newspaper had its motto as "the voice of the silent majority".

The head of the NISS information department told government sponsored Sudanese Media Center (SMC) website that the decision to suspend *Al-Intibaha* is to "diminish its negative role in encouraging separatist tendencies in the South and the North. The NISS official stressed that Sudan's interim constitution calls for renouncing violence and promoting harmony, fraternity and tolerance among all people of Sudan in order to transcend religious, linguistic, cultural and religious differences.

*Al-Intibaha* newspaper has frequently attacked countries such as Libya, Egypt and Uganda accusing them of conspiring against Sudan.

Editors of two other newspapers told *Reuters* that security agents phoned late on Monday telling them to remove articles about conflicts in Sudan's oil-producing south, saying they would damage relations between Khartoum and the South.

"They said they wanted us to concentrate on the issue of unity. They said anything that might disturb the government in the south might make problems," said the editor in chief of Al-Tayyar newspaper Osman Mirghani.

Northern and southern leaders are due to start politically sensitive discussions on Saturday in Khartoum on how they would divide oil revenues and debts after the plebiscite.

Analysts say most southerners favor independence but President Al-Bashir has promised to campaign to persuade southerners to vote for unity.

A ban on papers criticizing the south would mark a change in direction for Sudan's security which, newspapers say, has in the past focused its censorship on criticisms of Al-Bashir and his northern National Congress Party (NCP).

"We are back to square one," said Mirghani, adding he had been forced to scrap Tuesday's print-run of Al-Tayyar because there had not been enough time to remove the offending article about tribal clashes in the south.

Similarly, editors at daily Al-Ahdath said they also received a late call from state security and pulled their Tuesday edition, which had contained an article about clashes between south Sudan's army and a renegade militia leader.

Mohiedinne Titawi, president of the Sudanese Union of Journalists, told Agence France Presse (AFP) that censorship has been reinstated with regard to the issue of the country's future.

"The censorship will focus on the issue of the country's unity or separation and the security of south Sudan," he said.

Sudan official news agency carried a statement by the Union saying it rejects suspension to any newspaper or pre-publication censorship...

### **Messeriya militia attack kills 5 Policemen, injure 2 in Abyei**

**Sudan Tribune website** 6/710 - At least five Policemen were killed and two were seriously injured when armed Messeriya militias reportedly attacked Tajalen area, located 60 miles north of the oil-rich region of Abyei.

The General Union of the Messeriya, led by Mohammad Al-Ansari and Mahdi Baboun reportedly masterminded Monday's attack.

Following the incident, the Joint Integrated Units (JIU) and United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) forces reportedly rushed to the scene but their intervention came rather too late.

Abyei Area legislator, Mr. Arop Madut Arop, told journalist yesterday that the attack was a planned move aimed at jeopardizing efforts to successfully demarcate the disputed north-south border areas.

"This attack is not only aimed at preventing the successful demarcation of the north-south border areas, but it's also a ploy by the Messeriya tribe to dislodge the Dinka Ngok before the Abyei referendum is conducted," the Abyei area MP told *Sudan Tribune* in a separate interview.

Mr. Madut, acting on information provided by the Abyei Chief Administrator, further

revealed that the Messeriya Union is actively mobilizing over 2,000 able-bodied men to join the militia with plans to cause more havoc.

The Messeriya, according to the MP, want to occupy the areas of Thigei, Langara, Pawul, Dek Jur and Pawet Kadit.

All efforts to reach Mr. Deng Koul, the Abyei Chief Administrator were futile as his phone was busy all the time. He did not return our calls either.

“Members of the international community should exert more pressure on the NCP so that they desist from involving themselves in incidences that are likely to gear us back to war,” Mr. Madut said.

He also urged the Government of Southern Sudan to boost security in the region, by deploying more of its forces in the disputed oil-rich region. This, he said, would prevent the occurrence of similar incidences.

In another development, the Area Joint Military Committee (AJMC) in the North-South contested border town of Abyei has called for accessibility to the borderlines, saying the body faces myriad of restrictive and procedural steps to maintaining security information.

In an interview with *Sudan Tribune*, a senior military official who requested anonymity said they have constantly experienced restrictive and procedural steps when wanting to access military related information on the other side. We have continued to face restrictive and procedural steps when we want to access any military related information at the extreme northern part of Abyei unlike in south.

“We have repeatedly brought this to the attentions of the higher authorities and leadership of the two parties but little has been done and locals have constantly blamed us for not being fair.

The local people are ever accusing us of not being fair. That we do not go to the far north of Abyei as per the permanent court of arbitration. That we are bought and cowards, he explained stressing that some community members seemed to be losing trust in them.

The call came following another clash in the border village of Tajlei at the extreme north of Abyei between the police force and armed group allegedly identified as members of Messeriya tribes.

Reports and press briefings from Abyei have indicated that hundreds of the residents in the village were equally seen fleeing the scene, leaving it as no-go area as it becomes a military operation zone.

### **SPLM suggests placing Abyei administration under UN**

***Al-Ayyam* 7/7/10** – The SPLM yesterday proposed to the NCP that Abyei Area be administered by the UN until the two partners reach an agreement. “We have proposed

to the NCP yesterday that the Abyei territory be administered by the UN to supervise its elections, referendum and the demarcation of the border in accordance with the PCA Award," SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum told reporters. "If we fail to reach an agreement, the territory should be administered by the UN until July next year," he said.

In another development, ***Al-Sahafa*** 7/7/10 reports that the Abyei Administration has called on Mbeki Panel to play a role to expand UNMIS' mandate to include Chapter VII for providing protection to civilians, saying the step is important to sustain peace in the territory. Yesterday, Mbeki Panel held a broad meeting with the Abyei Administration in Abyei town where a range of issues including Abyei referendum, boundary demarcation, elections and security were discussed.

Abyei Administration Secretary-General Reng Deng urged the visiting delegation to liaise with the AU, UN and the international community to pressurize the Sudanese Government to expedite the formation of the Area referendum commission.

### **Residents of Jonglei state's Khorfulus call for dialogue with Athor**

***Sudan Tribune website*** 6/7/10 - Fearing possible heavy fighting in the area between the forces loyal to former SPLA General George Athor Deng who turned rebel and the SPLA forces, residents of Jonglei's Khorfulus County have called on President Salva Kiir to consider peaceful dialogue with George Athor instead of military options.

The appeal came following media reports quoting President Salva Kiir, describing General Athor as criminal to be brought to book during an occasion organized on Friday in Juba by Piji Community of Jonglei state to honor the newly-elected Member of Parliament for Piji constituency and the minister of Internal Affairs, Maj. Gen. Gier Chuang Aluong...

In a letter of appeal seen by Sudan Tribune with "title an honest call on President Kiir for peaceful dialogue with Athor by Khorfulus youth group", noted that thousands of residents in the area have been trapped in their homes since April.

"Our people have been confined. They witnessed no free movement in the areas under the two forces since the start of armed confrontations in April. They all become victims of confrontations and arbitrary arrest for information, raised the appeal acknowledging capability of the SPLA to crush forces loyal to the renegade General," the letter said.

"We sincerely call your attention for peaceful dialogue with General Athor as a means to resolve the differences not because we doubt capabilities of our army, but because of the consequences our people will face during armed confrontations," emphasized the letter...

### **Peace mediator urges Sudan to create suitable environment in Darfur**

***Sudan Tribune website*** 6/7/10 - The Joint Chief Mediator has urged the Sudanese government to stop violence and restore confidence in the restive region of Darfur in order to create suitable environment for peace in the region.

"I said to Dr Ghazi that I would like the Government to take all possible measures to

restore confidence and reduce tensions, including seeking an end to all armed hostilities with all armed groups in Darfur," said Djibril Bassole in a statement released on Tuesday following a meeting with the Sudanese Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Eddin Attabani who is in charge with Darfur file.

"This will help promote reconciliation and create a climate of peace and security in Darfur," he added.

Special Envoys for Sudan of China, Russia, Austria, Canada, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden, the European Union and the League of Arab States as well as UN's envoys to Sudan voiced "grave concern" over the deterioration of the security situation and violence in Darfur during a meeting held Monday in El Fasher.

They called on the Sudanese government and rebel Justice and Equality Movement to end hostilities and engage in dialogue.

The AU-UN mediator called on the Sudanese government to provide the necessary assistance to allow the participation of "all of the Darfuri civil society representatives" invited by the mediation to attend the 2nd Civil Society Forum on July 12.

The mediation had announced it would work to reach a comprehensive peace agreement before the run of the referendum on self-determination for southern Sudan in January 2011. The two negotiating stakeholders — the government and Liberation and Justice Movement — agreed to reach a deal before the end of July.

Ghazi announced, in separate remarks after the meeting that he would travel to Doha before July 15 stressing that the government delegation would present a set of ideas to activate the talks.

Ghazi is expected to brief the Sudanese parliament on the Doha peace process on Wednesday.

## **Pre-referendum Watch**

### **Referendum Commission members sworn in**

**Al-Ayyam** 7/7/10 – members of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission were sworn in yesterday before President Al-Bashir.

Addressing the commission members after the swearing-in ceremony, President Al-Bashir pledged support to the commission to discharge its duties, hoping that the result of the referendum would confirm Sudan's unity. He reiterated the Government's commitment to conduct a transparent referendum and promised to assist all southern Sudanese to reach voting stations to vote freely. The President said efforts were continuing to resolve other outstanding issues including the demarcation of the North-South border, describing the mission assigned to the commission members as the "most crucial task in Sudan's history".



## **China favors Sudan's unity but will respect referendum outcome: envoy**

**Sudan Tribune website** 6/7/10 – The Chinese special envoy to Africa Liu Guijing said his government would be “delighted” to see Sudan remain united following the 2011 referendum in the South but noted that Beijing would nonetheless respect choices made by Southerners.

"We would be delighted to see Sudan remaining united, [but] at the same time we would respect the choice and the choice of the Sudanese people," he told reporters after meeting with foreign minister Ali Karti.

"At the same time, whatever happens, whatever the result of the referendum will be, we hope and we believe that peace and tranquility will prevail," he added.

Guijing cautioned against pre-judging the outcome of the referendum or manipulate people's choices saying that the Sudanese must be the one making the decision.

For his part, Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Karti said that Sudan is looking forward for a Chinese role during the period leading up to the referendum to support the unity efforts and realizing a comprehensive peace and stability in Sudan.

## **People of South Sudan equate referendum to independence, VP**

**Sudan Tribune website** 6/7/10 – GoSS VP Riek Machar Teny said the upcoming referendum means independence of the South as the public opinion is concerned on the two options of unity and secession.

He made the remarks on Tuesday in a meeting with the new United States Consul General to Juba, Barrie Walkley.

He said the reading of the public opinion of the people in the region indicates their choice for independence.

Machar briefed the US diplomat on the ongoing preparations for the referendum. He said the people of Southern Sudan are more concerned about the success of the referendum than any other political and developmental event during this last phase in the implementation of the 2005 peace deal...

## **Cairo is referendum voting station – NCP**

**Al-Sahafa** 7/7/10 – Cairo-based NCP leading figure Gafour Dawa Al-beit said all southerners within and outside the Sudan would participate in the referendum, adding there would be eight voting centres abroad including Cairo.

## **Border demarcation of Northern Sudan starts**

**Miraya FM** 7/7/10 - The technical committee tasked with demarcating the borders of Northern Sudan has started its preliminary work by surveying an estimated area of 700 kilometers. The chairman of the committee, Awad Saadun, said the work had started in collaboration with the ministries of interior, defense and federal government in addition to the department of survey, adding that the process would take seven months.