

Media coverage on the referendum

Mid-day report

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In the local newspapers

57% voted for secession in seven northern states

Al-Sahafa 19/1/11- the SSRC announced that it has received vote result of seven northern states where 57% of voters voted for secession and 38% voted for unity. 98% voted for secession and 0.3% voted for unity in out-of-country centres.

SSRC Spokesperson Sua'd Eissa said the result of vote in the North would be released after the same is received from all centres.

According to *Sudan Radio* 19/1/11, many northern states including Khartoum state voted for secession.

United Nations Security Council members commend the conduct of the referendum

Al-Sahafa: Following a briefing by teleconference from Khartoum yesterday on the southern Sudan referendum, United Nations Security Council member states commended the process that most international observers described as free, transparent and credible. Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios told the representatives that the process was in line with international elections standards.

Khartoum will be the first to recognize vote result – Foreign Ministry

Al-Ahdath 19/1/11 – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that the North would be the first to recognize the referendum results and seek the establishment of good relations should the referendum result in secession. The remark was made by the undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Rahamatullah Mohamed Osman yesterday during a meeting with Japanese observer mission.

SPLM in Southern Kordofan threatens war on Popular Consultations

Al-Sahafa reports that the SPLM, Southern Kordofan chapter, has left all options open, including a return to war, should the demands for popular consultation and a new voter registry in the state not be met. The SPLM distributed to the media yesterday an “official document: from the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) Command at the Ministry of Defence outlining the distribution of arms and ammunitions to the PDF in the state and underlined, at a press conference yesterday, the need to complete the implementation of the CPA with regards to Southern Kordofan.

Opposition parties demand release of PCP's Dr. Turabi

Al-Sahafa: Opposition parties have scoffed government's excuse for the arrest of Popular Congress Party's (PCP) Dr. Hassan Turabi and are calling for his release. At

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a press conference yesterday, PCP Deputy Secretary-General Abdalla Hassan Ahmed said that the opposition figure was arrested because authorities were aware of his ability to move the masses. He underlined the need for the opposition parties to come to a common position on the issue.

Misseriya and Dinka trade accusations

Al-Sahafa: Dinka Ngok leaders are accusing the Misseriya of blocking the route to Abyei from the north in a clear violation of the recent agreement reached. The Misseriya has countered with accusations that the Dinka Ngok are pressuring Misseriya representatives at the Abyei legislative and executive organs.

CPA partners to resume talks by the end of January

Al-Sahafa 19/1/11 – AUHIP Chair Thabo Mbeki said CPA parties, the NCP and the SPLM, would resume talks on pending issues by the end of January.

Mbeki told reporters after a meeting with president Al-Bashir that an agreement was reached to continue dialogue on Abyei and other pending issues after the vote result is released.

Meanwhile, SPLM leader Atem Garang has rejected statement by the National Assembly deputy speaker that the southern holders of constitutional posts would lose their jobs if secession is confirmed. Garang warned that the North would lose its oil share should such measure is taken.

In the International websites

Reuters : Sudan arrests opposition leader Turabi, eight others

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE70H02I20110118>

KHARTOUM (Reuters) - Sudanese security forces on Tuesday arrested opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi and eight other party officials after they called for a "popular revolution" if Khartoum did not reverse price rises. Turabi's arrest comes at a politically sensitive time for the government of President Omar Hassan al Bashir, who stands to lose control over the oil-producing south which last week voted in It also

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comes as Tunisia grapples with fallout from the ouster of its long-time president Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, who fled the country on Friday after three weeks of violent unrest sparked by social grievances.

Alarabya: UN says Abyei clashes clouding Sudan landmark vote

<http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/01/19/134085.html>

The head of the United Nations Mission in Sudan warned early Wednesday that clashes in the disputed Abyei district on the north-south border risks clouding a landmark independence vote in the south that could split Africa's biggest nation into two parts. The assessment by Haile Menkerios to the U.N. Security Council came as the peacekeeping mission welcomed an agreement between the rival sides to bolster security after deadly fighting in and around the flashpoint district

AFP: South Sudanese urged not to assume independence yet

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iJlv7hlGEhUYijDI8P9Xug_F_q4A?docId=CNG.364de1da251ab2f76e561bcf4a3dce18.dd1

JUBA, Sudan — Southern Sudanese leaders warned on Tuesday against premature independence celebrations, amid indications of a landslide in last week's referendum. Information minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin said any triumphalism about the separation of the mainly Christian, African south from the mainly Arab, Muslim north risked sparking a "miscarriage" for their nascent state. "The opinion polls indicate that the south will definitely vote for a state of their own but we must still wait for the final result," the minister said. "Don't dance and beat drums and celebrate before the baby is born in case there may be a miscarriage."

MMD Newswire: UN Southern Sudan Referendum Was Timely, Fair, Peaceful, Credible, Chair of Monitoring Panel Tells Security Council

<http://www.mmdnewswire.com/southern-sudan-referendum-18263.html>

Abyei, Popular Consultations in Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan. States among Outstanding Tasks, Head of United Nations Mission Says January 18, 2011 (MMD)

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Newswire) -- The conduct of the referendum in Southern Sudan had been timely, fair, peaceful and credible in a way that no one could have predicted just a few months ago, Benjamin Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, said this morning as the Security Council heard briefings on the event, which took place between 9 and 15 January. "I can report on behalf of the Panel that we are satisfied that the process so far was conducted in a peaceful and transparent manner that allowed the people of Southern Sudan to express their will freely," said Mr. Mkapa, whose briefing was followed by that of Haile Menkerios, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS).

AFP: Vote turnout 96 percent in south Sudan: organizers

<http://www.zawya.com/story.cfm/sidANA20110118T163508ZNHL84/Vote%20turnout%2096%20percent%20in%20south%20Sudan%3A%20organisers>

JUBA, Jan 18, 2011 (AFP) - Turnout inside south Sudan for a landmark vote on independence for the region reached 96 percent, massively exceeding the 60 percent threshold for it to be valid, organisers said on Tuesday. "The total turnout in the south was 96 percent and in the diaspora it was 97 percent," organising commission spokesman George Maker Benjamin told AFP, adding that it had topped 50 percent even among southerners registered in the north. The south accounted for some 3.75 million of the nearly four million people registered to vote in the week-long referendum which closed on Saturday.

Alarabiya: South Sudan seeks millions for war-hit wildlife

<http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/01/19/134104.html>

South Sudan appealed for investors to plough \$140 million into its war-hit wildlife parks, seeking to kick-start a tourism industry and wean itself off oil months ahead of its expected independence. The south has the world's second largest migration of mammals, untamed wildernesses and vast herds of gazelles and antelopes, rivaling anything seen in Kenya, Uganda and other African holiday hotspots, say experts, according to Reuters. But populations of elephants, hippos and other fleshier animals have plummeted after hungry militia fighters hunted them for their meat and forced them to take shelter in dense forests.

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In the Radio

Radio Miraya: Lagu: Sudan must consider power balance on both sides

http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4921:joseph-lagu-sudanese-must-consider-power-balance-at-state&catid=85&Itemid=278

The special advisor to the President of southern Sudan, Joseph Lagu, has said that northern and southern Sudan governments should have a balance of power between them, if peace is to prevail in The Sudan, notwithstanding whether the Referendum results in unity or separation of the country. Addressing a press conference in Juba on Tuesday, Lagu added that every citizen should also be given a sense of belonging

Radio Miraya: GoSS : Repatriation of returnees to resume soon

http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4916:official-says-repatriation-will-resume-soon-&catid=85:85&Itemid=278

An official of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs has said that planning is underway to resume the repatriation of southern returnees from the North to their final destination. Hundreds of returnees stranded at the Juba port say they lack the very basic of services and have appealed to humanitarian organizations and Arop Mathiang Amiyock, Director of Repatriation, told Radio Miraya the government, in collaboration with International Organization for Migration, was working on a plan to help the returnees continue to their final destination.

Africa News: African Union declares South Sudan's vote credible, free and fair

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/african-union-declares-south-sudan%E2%80%99s-vote-credible,-free-and-fair-2011011967943.html>

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - The African Union (AU) Observers have certified South Sudan's secession vote "free, fair, credible and a true reflection of the democratically-

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expressed will of the South Sudanese voters.” In its preliminary statement on the conduct of the vote, which could lead to the creation of Africa’s newest country and pave the way for the independence for Somaliland, the AU said the referendum was conducted in a safe and peaceful environment.

Africa News:Sudan Referendum: Abyei - one tiny issue yet unresolved

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/sudan-referendum:-abyei---one-tiny-issue-yet-unresolved-2011011967952.html>

Khartoum, Sudan - The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) Tuesday welcomed an agreement between two rival tribes in the oil-rich triangle of Abyei, a southwest Sudanese area disputed by the North and the South and which many fear could trigger new war between the two sides."The UNMIS welcomes the agreement concluded 17 January in Kadugli, Southern Kordufan State, between the delegations from Government of Sudan (GoS) and Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), led by Ministers of Interior Ibrahim Mohamed Hamid (GoS) and Gier Chuang Aluong (GoSS)," a statement issued by the world organization said.The statement explained that the key elements of the agreement included, among others, the provision of security for Abyei, by deploying more Joint Integrated Units, ensuring the freedom of migration for Misseriya nomads to Aybei and southwards; and providing security for the movement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) returning home.

In the Television

Al Jazeera TV:

History of a Broken Land

Can be seen from Wednesday, January 5, at the following times GMT: Wednesday: 0300, 1900; Thursday: 1400; Friday: 0300; Saturday: 2200.

Crossroads Sudan: A question of identity

<http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/crossroadssudan/2011/01/20111178117700490.html>

Can be seen from Monday, January 11, at 1730GMT, with repeats airing at 0030GMT, 0530GMT, and 1130GMT the next day.

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People & Power can be seen from Wednesday, December 29, at the following times
GMT: Wednesday: 0630, 1230; Thursday: 0300, 1930; Friday: 0630, 0830; Saturday:
2030; Sunday: 0730; Monday:

The LRA and Sudan can be seen from Wednesday, January 5, at the following times
GMT: Wednesday: 0630, 1230; Thursday: 0300, 1930; Friday: 0830, 1630; Saturday:
2030; Sunday: 0730.

Al Arabiya News Channel:

<http://www.alarabiya.net/english.html> and <http://www.alarabiya.net/default.html>

Currently Al Arabiya has a daily one hour show on the referendum at 14 GMT, plus special coverage on all its bulletins.

The main bulletins are at 6 GMT, 7 GMT, 9 GMT, 13, 14, 15, 18, and 20 GMT

Panorama is a daily current affairs programme at 19 GMT along the lines of BBC's Newsnight or ABC's Nightline.

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