

Media coverage on the referendum

Mid-day report

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In the local newspapers

Central Government to be dissolved after release of vote result

Al-Sahafa 22/1/11 – The newspaper has learned that President Al-Bashir will dissolve the government immediately after the vote result is announced which is likely to confirm secession.

The President has also embarked on consultations to form a broad-based government including restructuring of the existing institutions.

Al-Bashir meanwhile held talks yesterday with Umma Party leader Sadig Al-Mahdi on issues in the “National Agenda”. Al-Mahdi said the two sides agreed to continue talks on these issues.

In a related development, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports that NCP’s Nafei Ali Nafei has called on the opposition parties to heed to the calls for dialogue.

Presidency to meet on 27 January – Deng Alor

Al-Rai Al-Aam GoSS minister of regional cooperation said the Presidency would meet on 27 January to discuss the Abyei and border demarcation. He said the Presidency is likely to reach an agreement on Abyei referendum if a definition of the voter is agreed upon.

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 will endeavour to establish good relations should secession is opted for.

The remark was made by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Rahamatullah Mohamed Osman yesterday during a meeting with Japanese observer mission.

Over 99.95% vote for southern independence in Eastern Equatoria

Sudan Tribune.com (Torit) -The state referendum high committee in Eastern Equatoria state has announced that 99.95 percent of votes cast in South Sudan’s independence plebiscite opted for the region to separate from the north.

According to the preliminary results only 0.05 percent of voters want Sudan to remain united.

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The Eastern Equatoria State Referendum High Committee announced the preliminary results in Torit hotel in the presence of hundreds of the state citizens who turn up to cheer the results...

Almost 99 percent choose south Sudan split

Reuters (JUBA) 21/1/11 - Almost 99 percent of south Sudanese who voted in an independence referendum chose to split away from the north, the first official but incomplete figures published by the vote's organising commission showed on Friday. The website for the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (<http://southernsudan2011.com/>) showed a 98.6 percent vote for secession, with more than 80 percent of the votes from the south counted, and 100 percent counted in other areas.

"This is the outcome we expected ... the results won't change much," the commission's deputy chairman Chan Reek Madut, a southerner, told Reuters.

"It is not surprising because of the way they conducted their registration. Some people passed as southerners who were actually northerners from Darfur," said Madut.

"They took advantage of the lack of security in the area. It won't impact seriously on the result." Darfur is the scene of a seven-year conflict pitting rebels against the government.

A senior official from north Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) said he would wait until the final announcement before giving an official reaction.

"But the expectation is that the result will be for secession," said Rabie Abdelati. "The party is working for the post referendum period now -- the demarcation of the borders and the resolution of the Abyei problem. We are doing our best to prepare for the consequences of secession on the north."

President Kiir forms constitutional review committee

Sudan Tribune.com (Juba) 22/1/11 - The President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, on Friday issued a Presidential decree forming a Constitutional Review Committee, chaired by the minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, John Luk Jok, to review the current constitution of Southern Sudan as the region moves to statehood.

Though the terms of reference for the committee is not yet revealed to the press, the 24-person committee's activity is believed to be part of implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the Southern Sudan political parties' conference, which brought together almost all of parties in the south.

The conference was called by Kiir in an attempt to unite the south politically ahead of the referendum.

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[In the International websites](#)

The New York Times: South Sudanese Vote Overwhelmingly for Secession

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/22/world/africa/22sudan.html?_r=1&ref=africa

JUBA, Sudan — Nearly 99 percent of southern Sudanese voters have chosen to split off from northern [Sudan](#) and form their own country, according to preliminary results of an independence referendum conducted this month.

Allvoices: South Sudan set to secure secession – SPLM

<http://www.allvoices.com/news/7970163-south-sudan-set-to-secure-secession-splm>

After spending nearly four decades fighting the north, southern officials says South Sudan is moving towards total secession from the north, following the conduct of a recently concluded plebiscite on self determination. Southern Sudanese are expected to choose to split Africa's largest country...

BBC: Southern Sudan referendum: 'Massive vote to split'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12252699>

With most votes counted in Southern Sudan's referendum, 99% of people have opted for independence from the north, officials say. Official results are due next month but correspondents say the outcome of the week-long poll is not in doubt. However, the former rebels now running oil-rich Southern Sudan have urged people not to celebrate yet. President Omar al-Bashir has said he will accept the result of the vote, which was held after years of war.

Reuters: Almost 99 percent vote for south Sudan split

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/almost-99-percent-vote-for-south-sudan-split/>

Only South Darfur chose unity, official questions result * Ruling northern party says expects secession* Final official results expected early February (Adds figures,

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quotes, background) JUBA, Sudan, Jan 21 (Reuters) - Almost 99 percent of south Sudanese who voted in an independence referendum chose to split away from the north, the first official but incomplete figures published by the vote's organising commission showed on Friday.

Content partner: Can Kiir Cut It as President of New State

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/can-kiir-cut-it-as-president-of-new-state>

Experts say that Salva Kiir Mayardit, the South Sudan president, is an inclusive and unifying figure, who is well-placed to make the difficult transition from rebel fighter to statesman. Last week's referendum on secession, part of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, CPA, which ended the civil war between the mainly Muslim north and Christian or animist south, is likely to see Kiir at the helm of a newly independent state in July. Kiir has been in charge of the south since the death of his charismatic predecessor, John Garang, in August 2005. Although Kiir's exact age is not known, he is believed to be in his late fifties. A member of the Dinka, South Sudan's largest tribe, he was born in Bhar al-Ghazal, a region in the west of the country.

THE PENINSULA QATAR: Many Sudanese worry of post-secession future

<http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/qatar/140063-many-sudanese-worry-of-post-secession-future.html>

DOHA: As it is certain that the South would secede from the North of Sudan, some people who have close ties to the two regions and have both Muslim and Christian relatives, now wonder as to which part they should side with and what their fate would be in the future. Michael is a Muslim living in Juba, the capital of South. His family originates from Malakal, a province in the Upper Nile region which borders both south and north Sudan.

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SUNDAY'S ZAMA: Uncertainties and security threats dominate the future of South Sudan

<http://www.todayzaman.com/news-233248-uncertainties-and-security-threats-dominate-the-future-of-south-sudan.html>

In the past three weeks the Arab world has witnessed sensational political developments in Lebanon, Tunisia and Sudan. A Lebanese government led by Saad Hariri has been brought down and the Tunisian iron-fisted leader Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali was overthrown after a public uprising. Although both changes are very significant regarding political stability in the region and discussions on the non-democratic characteristics of many Arab regimes, Sudan, the largest Arab country, has faced the most fundamental change following the controversial referendum over oil-rich South Sudan's split from Khartoum. Nearly 4 million southerners went to the polls on Jan. 9 in a referendum agreed as part of a 2005 north-south Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) peace deal ending a civil war that had simmered since 1995 with an estimated loss of 2 million lives. According to the preliminary results, the South Sudanese overwhelmingly voted for separation in the referendum, which ends on Jan. 15.

Sudan day's monitor: Will Africa's despots want S. Sudan to secede?

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/OpEd/OpEdColumnists/AllanTacca/-/878694/1093962/-/ah5yv4z/-/index.html>

A 'dinosaur' named Laurent Gbagbo has made sure that his obstinacy is at least as strong as the will of all the people determined to tear his claws from the reins of the Ivorian state. The sustained tension in Cote d'Ivoire and the rapidly moving events in Tunisia have robbed some attention from the referendum on the secession of Southern Sudan. But by the time this article appears in print, it will have probably been confirmed that the South has overwhelmingly chosen to exist as a separate state. So, welcome to the club of banana republics that have oil.

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Al Jazeera: S Sudan 'secures' vote to secede

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/africa/2011/01/201112045017425601.html>

South Sudan has won the majority of votes needed in order to become the world's newest state, with just 60 per cent of results declared from a landmark referendum. Preliminary figures collated by the AFP news agency on Thursday indicated that some areas of Sudan returned 99 per cent landslides for independence. According to AFP, at least 2,224,857 votes for a separation of the mainly Christian, African south from the mainly Muslim, Arab north had been counted from the previous night. A simple majority of 1.89 million votes was needed from a total of 3,932,588 registered voters. In Lakes state, which carried a rebel stronghold during a devastating 1983-2005 civil war with the north, 99.9 per cent of votes were cast in support of independence. In Central Equatoria, which includes the regional capital Juba and is the south's second most populous state, 98.2 per cent of the 457,452 votes cast were for secession.

BBC: After Tunis... Khartoum?

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/andrewharding/2011/01/after_tunis_khartoum.html

On paper," says a western diplomatic source in the Sudanese capital, "we have many of the ingredients here." It's certainly been a bumpy ride recently for President Omar al-Bashir. And it may get bumpier still in coup-prone Khartoum, as he prepares to let the south of the country secede. In that context - what to make of this week's decision to put Sudan's most provocative rascal back in jail? A sign of the government's weakness? Bellweather proof that Hassan al-Turabi was speaking the truth when he warned that the country was ripe for revolution? Or simply a bit of precautionary housekeeping by a security ministry that still has a fairly firm lid on things? I'm guessing the latter, for now. The prospect of losing a quarter of its territory would be a recipe for instability in any country. And northern Sudan has plenty of other edges ready to fray

Reuters: Sudan is after restoring its country's image

<http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/01/20/134324.html>

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More than 120 years ago, Sudanese fighters peppered the British steamer Bordein with bullets and missiles as it made its last dash up the River Nile to rescue the doomed Empire hero Gordon of Khartoum. Today, descendants of those same Sudanese have rescued the boat's rusty shell and are busy restoring it -- all in an effort to tempt the British invaders back again, this time as tourists.

[In the Radio](#)

Radio Miraya Southern parties warn against SPLM domination in case of secession

http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4935:southern-parties-warn-against-splm-domination-in-case-of-secession&catid=85:85&Itemid=278

Leaders of some of southern Sudan political parties have warned against political domination by Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the south if it seceded from the north. Speaking to Radio Miraya, the Secretary General of the Democratic Salvation Front, David Biel Jal, said any retreat from implementation of the recommendations of the South-South Dialogue Conference in Juba could become a factor for political instability in southern Sudan.

Radio Miraya :WBeG state eyes international investment post-referendum

http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4933:wbe-g-state-plans-investment-after-referendum&catid=85:85&Itemid=278

The Government of Western Bahr el Ghazal state says its plan after referendum is to attract investors in all sectors in the State. Addressing a press conference on Friday, the State Governor, Rizik Zackaria Hassan, said they have made initial contact with some investors in China. He added that he will travel to Spain next week to sign a preliminary contract for exploration of oil and minerals in the State

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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.

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.

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