

# **Media coverage on the referendum**

## **Mid-day report**

### **Day 16**

**24 January 2011**

#### **In the local newspapers**

##### **UN forces to quit by 9 July 2011 - SAF**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 24/01/11* – SAF Spokesperson Al-Suwarimi Khaled says UN forces are deployed in the country only to monitor the implementation of the CPA and would until the end of their mandate on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011 as per the peace agreement. He pointed out that it depends on the government of the south to decide whether or not it needs the UN presence in their territory should the UNSC decide an extension of its mission's mandate in the south. In the north, he pointed out, the troops would be here until "no further than 9<sup>th</sup> July" or contingent to a new agreement signed between the government in the north and the UN. "But until now, there is no need for such an agreement," he said.

He also said that the SAF is now fully in control of the Darfur region.

##### **NCP has requested an extension of the Interim Period –Luka Biong**

*Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 24/01/11* – SPLM's Luka Biong says the NCP has requested an extension of the Interim Period beyond the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011 date stipulated in the CPA. He described this as a contradiction to the NCP position.

##### **Not concerned with any deal between NCP and Umma - Opposition**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam 24/01/11* – Sidig Yousuf, a spokesperson for the opposition alliance, says the alliance had no information before-hand of the recent meeting between NCP's President Al-Bashir and Umma leader Sadig Al-Mahdi. He says the alliance could not comment on that meeting before they meet with the Umma party leader.

##### **30,000 participate in Blue Nile Popular Consultations**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 24/01/11* – The tenth day of the Popular Consultations exercise in Blue Nile State closed yesterday with over 30,000 people participating to date, according to Siraj Hammad Atta-el-Mannan who heads the commission concerned.

##### **10 counties in South Sudan had more votes than voters - SSRC acknowledges**

*Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 23/01/11* - The South Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) on Sunday admitted that vote count revealed some parts of the semi-autonomous region had a voter turnout that exceeded 100% of the registered voters.

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An analysis done by *Associated Press (AP)* showed several of these cases occurring in 10 of the south's 79 counties using information available on SSRC's website.

In Jonglei state's Bor County, the number of votes cast exceeded the number of registered voters by 720, *AP* said.

International observers who monitored the vote which concluded last week said the process was credible.

Justice Chan Reec Madut, who heads the southern bureau of the SSRC, said results from stations that recorded more than 105 percent turnout would be quarantined.

But Madut said that even if the commission throws out votes from counties where over-votes were recorded, "the trend is clear," meaning that the south has voted for secession.

The SSRC official said investigations into the quarantined results from 33 polling stations are underway. There were more than 2,600 polling stations across Sudan.

"There will be no problem I think, [but] we want to do work that satisfies our own conscience," Madut said.

The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) despite earlier threats that only a transparent and credible voting will get their recognition, decided this week that they will not object to the outcome after reviewing the process.

### **Warrap says it cannot control celebrations for secession**

*Sudantribune.com* Abyei, 23/01/11 - Authorities from Warrap, one of the ten southern states and also a home state to South Sudan president, Salva Kiir Mayardit said Sunday they cannot control individuals celebrating local results announced in favor of secession.

Initial results according to referendum officials announced that a majority of voters across the region voted overwhelmingly for secession of the south from the north in preliminary results.

Warrap voted for secession by 99.96% with neighboring state of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal scored 99.93% of secession votes votes for unity. Lakes and Western Bahr-el-Ghazal states also voted 99% for secession votes each leaving negligible percentage for unity as well as invalid and unmarked ballot papers.

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Speaking in an interview with *Sudantribune.com* from Kuacjok, capital of the state, Yel Mayar, a deputy governor of state said no official celebration for secession votes has been organized by the authorities.

"No official ceremony has been organized by the state but we have heard and witnessed it in our constituencies celebrations organized by individuals after the local results were announced at individual polling centers. There were individual celebrations which we could not control because their rights to celebrate outcome of their choice. It is not a crime since there is no law which prohibits peaceful celebrations," explained Mayar.

Mayar was one of the first senior officials in the state to approve results describing them as "great and encouraging" an interview with Sudan Tribune on Friday.

This is a great and encouraging result," said Mayar, who said he was among the first to vote. "This is what everybody who was eager to vote wants to hear. These results represent exactly the will of our people. It is now clear to the internationally community that this is what the south has been fighting for all these decades".

"The south wants to be freer than 99.96 percent. They need to be hundred percent free," he said. "The people of Warrap State have come out openly to tell the whole world what they want and I am sure that the rest of the south will now follow the same trend."

In Twic County, Warrap State, Colonel Dominic Deng Kuoc Malek told Sudan Tribune last week they were increasing the number of security personnel in the area to look after people celebrating results with relatives and friends.

But, Salva Kiir Mayardit, a president of the semi autonomous regional government last week called on the citizens not to start celebrations for secession until final official results are announced in February. He also told citizens not to low Sudanese flag and other political symbols associated with the National Congress Party saying the region was still under united Sudan.

#### **Southerners in the north fear future safety after secession**

*Sudantribune.com* *Abyei*, 23/01/11 - South Sudanese still in the north Sudan are deeply anxious and expressed concerns and fear for their personal safety and that of their property, should the referendum vote result in Sudan splitting in two.

Many have started packing to return south despite security concerns along the north-south border, especially where South Kordofan border southern Sudan. Many analysts

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see violence on the border region as a potential trigger that could return the north and south back to civil war.

Discussions to resolve disputes as the south approaches probable independence, between Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), are moving slowly. The status of many southerners who have remained in the northern states and capital Khartoum is one of the major contentious issues the parties are grappling to resolve.

Officials from the Khartoum-based NCP have said publicly that if the south breaks away from the north in referendum, the southerners that remain in the north will be stripped of their citizenship and jobs.

Speaking to *Sudantribune.com* from Khartoum, Sultan Wol Mawien from Northern Bahr el Ghazal said they have started fearing possibilities of becoming victims of the separation between the two regions and that he already packed his luggage to return south.

"It is possible that angry group can turn their anger to innocent south Sudanese if the referendum outcome split the country. We have already had people asking individuals who have had an opportunity to vote during the recent exercise which choice they voted for. This is a clear indication that their lives and properties would be at risk once the results are announced against unity," explained Sultan Mawien.

#### **[In the International websites](#)**

#### **AP: S. Sudan: Too many votes, some ballots quarantine**

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/01/23/2030129/ssudan-too-many-votes-some-ballots.html>

JUBA, Sudan -- Preliminary results from Southern Sudan's independence referendum indicate a landslide vote for secession, but turnout exceeded 100 percent in several areas, and a top election official said Sunday that some results were being quarantined. Voter turnout exceeded 100 percent in 10 of the south's 79 counties, according to an analysis done by The Associated Press using information on the

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Southern Sudan Referendum Commission's website. In Jonglei state's Bor County, the number of votes cast exceeded the number of registered voters by 720. The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission reported on its website that with almost all of the votes counted, 98.8 percent of voters who cast ballots in the Jan. 9-15 independence referendum voted for secession.

#### **CNN: Report: Vote for Southern Sudan independence nearly unanimous**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/africa/01/22/sudan.referendum.results/index.html?iref=allsearch>

(CNN) -- An overwhelming majority of Southern Sudanese voted to split from the north, new preliminary results show, bringing the largest nation in Africa closer to breaking into two.

The results, published Friday on the website of the commission that ran the referendum, show 98.6% voted for a split. The preliminary results are based on 83% of votes counted in the south and all votes from eligible southerners elsewhere, including overseas.

Southern Sudanese voters applauded the figures, the latest in a series of indications that secession would win by a wide margin

#### **The New York Times: Southern Sudan Nears a Decision on One Matter:**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/24/world/africa/24sudan.html?ref=world>

JUBA, Sudan — Southern Sudan, which recently carried out a referendum on seceding from the north, will be named the Republic of South Sudan upon independence, officials here in the regional capital said Sunday. majority preference is for South Sudan,” said Benjamin Marial, minister of information for the southern government and a member of the steering committee, which is working on the name of the country along with other issues. According to the latest ballot figures, nearly 99

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percent of southern Sudanese voters [have chosen separation](#) from the mostly Arab north after decades of brutal civil war. The north is under American economic sanctions and Sudan's president, [Omar Hassan al-Bashir](#), is wanted by the [International Criminal Court on charges of genocide and war crimes](#) in the Darfur region. "We've had South Korea, North Korea, South Vietnam, North Vietnam," Mr. Marial said. "South Sudan and North Sudan."

#### **In the Radio**

##### **Radio Miraya Civil Society Coalition endorses Referendum poll**

[http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=4936:civil-society-coalition-okays-referendum-vote-&catid=85:85&Itemid=278](http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4936:civil-society-coalition-okays-referendum-vote-&catid=85:85&Itemid=278)

The Coalition of the Civil Society Organizations has joined other observers to endorse the recent voting in the Southern Sudan Referendum. In a statement issued over the weekend, the Coalition said the polling was peaceful, and that it was conducted in relative calm

##### **Radio Miraya: Jonglei State mobilizes people to produce food**

[http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=4943:jonglei-state-mobilizes-people-to-produce-food&catid=85:85&Itemid=278](http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4943:jonglei-state-mobilizes-people-to-produce-food&catid=85:85&Itemid=278)

Jonglei State Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has launched its 2011 Farming Mobilization programs with the aim of encouraging local people to give priority to agriculture to produce food. Speaking to Radio Miraya during a meeting in Bor town, the State Minister of Agriculture, Mayen Ngor Atem, said food security remains a big challenge in southern Sudan.

##### **Radio Miraya: Family pushes for Turabi's release**

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[http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=4939:family-pushes-for-turabis-release&catid=85&Itemid=278](http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4939:family-pushes-for-turabis-release&catid=85&Itemid=278)

The family of detained Popular Congress Party leader, Hassan al-Turabi, has called for his "unconditional and immediate release," describing the reasons of his arrest as "frail". Sudanese security arrested al-Turabi at his house last Monday evening, charging that there was irrefutable information of his involvement in plotting sedition and assassinations.

**In the Television**

***Al Jazeera TV:***

***Crossroads Sudan: A question of identity***

***Crossroads Sudan*** can be seen from Monday, January 17, at 1730GMT, with repeats airing on Tuesday at 0030GMT, 0530GMT and 1130GMT.

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