

Media coverage on the referendum

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In the local newspapers

Presidency to meet on Abyei

Al-Sudani 25/1/11 – Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Rahamatullah Mohamed Osman has revealed that the Presidency will hold a meeting on Abyei.

Osman, who met with a visiting German official in Khartoum yesterday, said the post-referendum issues are taking long time but they are not difficult to solve, adding that the Sudanese Government would accept the result of the referendum. He hoped that the international community would continue supporting the peace process including writing off Sudan's debts to ensure stability and development in both the North and South Sudan.

FVP Kiir adheres to Abyei protocol and referendum

Al-Sahafa Juba, 25/01/11 – Addressing the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly yesterday, FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit said he rejects the idea advocated by some people from the Abyei region that the south unilaterally issues a decision to annex the area to southern Sudan. He called upon the people to give him the chance to resolve that issue within the framework of the Presidency and expressed confidence that he and President Al-Bashir would be able to resolve the outstanding issues.

The FVP further called on southern Sudanese to remain calm as they wait to receive the results of the referendum.

Salva Kiir vows to contest for South Sudan presidency after secession

Sudan Tribune.com (Juba) 24/1/11 - Salva Kiir Mayardit, the South Sudan president has declared his intention to contest the presidency of the newly created nation, should the semi-autonomous region gain independence in July this year.

"There is no vacuum in leadership as many of you are already thinking. Those who think that I will step down after the referendum are wrong. I was given the mandate by the people and I have to fulfill my obligations" Kiir told delegates attending the opening of the second session of Southern Sudan Parliament.

"As southerners, we should never allow individual interests override our national interests. Nations are built by people through sacrifice, patriotism and a common goal," the southern leader said.

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He further appealed to members of Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) to expedite the passing of certain key bills, citing the 2011 budget, transitional constitution as well as other relevant laws necessary to guide the new nation.

On Abyei, President Kiir vowed to protect the grazing rights of the nomadic Messeriya tribe, and urged the Sudan's ruling National Congress Party to remain committed to the ongoing post-referendum negotiations with the south-ruling party.

The southern leadership, the president added, remain strongly opposed to military options for resolving the conflict in Sudan's troubled western region of Darfur, but said peaceful measures should be taken.

Tension in opposition meeting

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 25/01/11 – A tense atmosphere prevailed at a meeting of opposition figures yesterday as Sadig Al-Mahdi (Umma Party) briefed them of his recent meeting with President Al-Bashir (NCP). Farouq Abu-Eissa, a spokesperson for the opposition alliance, said that the opposition continues in its resolve to oppose the government. He said that a communiqué would be issued at the end of a meeting of the opposition leaders later today.

Massacre in Upper Nile

Quoting "sources", *Al-Intibaha* reports that an unidentified group of military personnel killed last Monday some 63 civilians in a remote area north of Upper Nile State. "Eyewitnesses" say the victims were first taken to the remote area on board an unmarked vehicle then lined up and shot dead. The paper says a source in Juba has confirmed the incident did happen and the victims were "unionists" but refuses to say where exactly this happened "for security reasons".

[In the International websites](#)

Xinhua: Sudan's NCP, opposition agree on studying "national agenda paper"

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-01/23/c_13703032.htm

Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and the National Umma Party, the biggest opposition party in the country, on Saturday agreed to form a joint committee

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to study a paper on national agenda concerning current political issues facing Sudan. Sudanese President and NCP Chairman Omar al-Bashir on Saturday met Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the national Umma party, and reviewed the national agenda paper which the Umma party had previously presented. "This meeting was convened at the invitation of the president of the Republic to the Umma party leaders to review the content of the national agenda paper," Nafie Ali Nafie, NCP deputy chairman, told reporters here.

AFP: North Sudan could quadruple oil output: minister

http://www.africasia.com/services/news_africa/article.php?ID=CNG.e943001219a6d9ad02686ab0695962cb.471

Sudan's oil minister said on Monday that north Sudan could nearly quadruple its crude production within three years and that French oil firm Total was set to start drilling in the south in April. "(Oil production in the north) will be higher than in the south. They can get 500,000 barrels per day in three to four years, if they double their efforts," Lual Deng told reporters in Khartoum. Deng is a senior member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, the ruling party of the south, who was appointed oil minister in Sudan's government of national unity last June. He said he would return to the south if it gains international recognition as an independent country as expected in July, following this month's landmark referendum, and if ordered to do so by the SPLM.

Allvoices: South Sudan Speaker appeals to replace tribalism with unity

<http://www.allvoices.com/news/7988397-south-sudan-speaker-appeals-to-replace-tribalism-with-unity>

James Wani Igga, a speaker of the Juba-based South Sudan Legislative Assembly has called for a replacement of tribalism with love and unity, describing it as "easiest way" toward achievement development. Ntinda Township in the Ugandan capital of Kampala over the weekend

Armenpress: NKR MFA welcomes the referendum on the self-determination of South Sudan

<http://www.armenpress.am/news/more/id/637179/lang/en>

STEPANAKERT, JANUARY 24, ARMENPRESS: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic released a statement concerning the referendum on

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the self-determination of South Sudan. In the statement the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (Republic of Artsakh) welcomed the referendum on the self-determination of South Sudan. "The referendum in South Sudan testifies that the recognition and realization of peoples' inalienable right to self-determination is the most optimal and democratic way of the peaceful settlement of similar conflicts. The conflicts between Ethiopia and Eritrea, Indonesia and East Timor were settled in the same way," the statement runs.

Daily Times: South Sudan secession a risky precedent for Arabs

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\01\25\story_25-1-2011_pg4_11

SOUTHERN Sudan's nearly certain secession from the Arab-dominated north is likely to set a dangerous precedent in an Arab world looking increasingly fractured along sectarian and ethnic lines. Southern Sudanese voted this month in a referendum on whether to break away from Africa's largest country. Final results are expected within weeks but preliminary returns show more than 98 percent supported independence. The vote is part of a 2005 peace deal that ended 22 years of civil war between the Christian and animist south and the Muslim and Arabized north.

Washington Post: Price of freedom: S. Sudan sees food costs rise

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/24/AR2011012401452.html>

JUBA, Sudan -- Residents across Southern Sudan are in a jubilant mood after what appears to be a landslide vote to secede from the north and to create the world's newest country. There's one side effect of this month's weeklong referendum, though, that people are not cheering: higher prices. Merchants and customers are complaining of price hikes over the last several weeks as the prices of some basic goods like sugar, soap and cooking oil have increased by more than 50 percent. One factor is that hundreds of thousands of southerners who lived in the north are streaming back south, putting pressure on supplies.

Washington Post: Analysis: South Sudan secession a risky precedent

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<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/24/AR2011012400260.html>

CAIRO -- Southern Sudan's nearly certain secession from the Arab-dominated north is likely to set a dangerous precedent in an Arab world looking increasingly fractured along sectarian and ethnic lines. Southern Sudanese voted this month in a referendum on whether to break away from Africa's largest country. Final results are expected within weeks but preliminary returns show more than 98 percent supported independence. The vote is part of a 2005 peace deal that ended 22 years of civil war between the Christian and animist south and the Muslim and Arabized north. Already, there are growing secessionist sentiments, exclusive enclaves and intensifying calls for autonomy in some Arab nations such as Iraq and Yemen. In countries like Lebanon and Egypt, the fault lines are widening between ethnic and religious groups, threatening to split loyalties.

AFP: South Sudan's Kiir urges Abyei to be patient

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hIeN9LGx5KEv8yRuBmmxBIsIgYvw?docId=CNG.07485e9b9bae58aea565c435050ae5bf.c71>

JUBA, Sudan — South Sudanese president Salva Kiir urged the contested border district of Abyei on Monday to remain patient while negotiations over its future continue, as the south gears up for likely separation following an historic referendum. More than 37 people died in clashes in Abyei earlier this month, amid deadlock over a planned simultaneous plebiscite on whether it stays with the north or joins the south. "It is very unfortunate for us to lose innocent lives again and again while we are on the verge of having peace," said Kiir, who added that he was "optimistic" about agreeing a solution with President Omar al-Bashir.

Reuters: Discrepancies mar south Sudan independence vote

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/world/8706983/discrepancies-mar-south-sudan-independence-vote/>

JUBA, Sudan (Reuters) - More than 100 percent of people registered in seven of the 76 counties in Sudan's south voted in a referendum on whether to secede from the north, according to provisional results and documents seen by Reuters. The

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discrepancies are small and unlikely to change the overall result which looks to be a landslide vote for secession. But if unresolved it could cast doubts on the process and leave it vulnerable to legal appeals. The week-long vote which ended on January 15 was promised under a 2005 north-south peace deal which ended decades of civil war. International observers had said the process was credible with provisional results on the vote organising commission website showing almost 99 percent of voters opting for secession.

[In the Radio](#)

Radio Miraya: SSRC posts provisional results

http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4944:ssrc-releases-primary-referendum-&catid=85:85&Itemid=278

The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) says over 98 percent of southerners have voted for separation. According to provisional results from incomplete counting of votes posted on its website, SSRC says that all votes from north Sudan and Overseas centers, and just over 98 percent from south Sudan have been processed. Speaking to Radio Miraya, the spokeswoman of the SSRC, Suad Ibrahim Issa, said that the preliminary results for the Southern Sudan Referendum will be announced on the 2nd of February, after which the Commission will hear any appeals before announcing the final result.

Radio Miraya: Voter registration begins for S Kordofan elections

http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4948:voter-registration-begins-for-s-kordofan-elections&catid=85&Itemid=278

Registration of voters for the upcoming South Kordofan gubernatorial and state legislative assembly elections began today, as political parties launched their campaigns, Radio Miraya's correspondent in Kadugli reports. In an exclusive interview with Radio Miraya, the current Governor of South Kordofan, Ahmed Haroun, said the electoral process as an important step towards achieving political security and stability in the state.

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