

Media coverage on the referendum

Mid-day report

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[In the local newspapers](#)

We would ask the people to judge us if we feel they reject the regime

Al-Rai Al-Aam et al Al-Damar; Atbara, 26/01/11 - President said that the people of Sudan have disappointed the opposition by not heeding to their calls for street protests. He said however that he would come out and ask the people to judge him should he feel that they reject the regime. He also reiterated commitment to the implementation of Islamic Law in the country pointing out that this has never been the reason for the outbreak of the north-south war. Al-Bashir further noted that a large majority of southern Sudanese seem to have voted for separation. His government would not mourn but would join southern Sudanese in celebrating the birth of their new state in the making.

Opposition parties prepared to talk over a “national agenda”

Al-Rai Al-Aam Khartoum, 26/01/11 – The alliance of opposition parties has announced it is prepared to talk with the NCP on a national agenda. The National Umma Party has been delegated to inform the NCP that the opposition would field a unified team to represent them in such talks. The opposition alliance issued a statement yesterday following a meeting of its senior representatives.

Parties agree to maintain CPA provisions until 9 July

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 26/01/11 – Representatives of the NCP and the SPLM agreed at a meeting yesterday at the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) that the two sides continue to maintain the Interim Arrangements until 9th July this year. AEC chief, Sir Derek Plumbly, said that the two sides discussed these issues yesterday and there appeared to be no conflict in their views on the issues. He underlined the need for continued dialogue between the two sides.

Earlier, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Atem Garang, said that the SPLM has no problem should the NCP decide to revoke membership of southern Sudanese in the National Assembly, reports *Al-Rai Al-Aam* today. Atem had pointed out however that this would mean that all provisions of the Interim Period such as those on wealth sharing, power sharing, security arrangements and others would also have to be scrapped as soon as the results of the referendum are announced.

We received only 6.5% of the funds pledged by the government - SSRC

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At a press briefing at the Hotel Salam Rotana yesterday, SSRC chief Mohamed Ibrahim Al-Tahir criticized the international community for spending donor funds on international experts. He said that the SSRC had hoped to involve local experts to help in the referendum.

He further noted that the SSRC operated within a very complex climate in light of the legal framework provided by the Referendum Law, the time constraints and shortages in funding with the Sudan government paying up only 6.5% of its pledges for the referendum.

[In the International websites](#)

Humanitarian news: NCP Proposes Extended Interim Period to Resolve Issues

<http://humanitariannews.org/20110126/ncp-proposes-extended-interim-period-resolve-issues>

A senior member of Sudan's ruling National Congress Party (NCP) told VOA an agreement between his party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to extend the "interim period" will help expedite the resolution of the outstanding issues between the north and south. Rabie Abdelati Obeid said such an extension would not, in his words, hamper the independence of southern Sudan or the formation of its government.

Foreignpolicy: More Sudans, More Problems? - If and when Southern Sudan becomes independent, it may mean two troubled Sudans instead of just one.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/01/25/more_sudans_more_problems

JUBA, Sudan—The polls are closed and the ballots have been cast. By mid-February, the world will learn whether Southern Sudanese voters voted to create a new, independent state -- as initial results suggest that they overwhelmingly did. But as rapturous as independence will be for the south, there's good reason to fear that secession will leave the governments of both Sudans reeling. In Khartoum, President Omar al Bashir faces mounting political opposition -- and for the first time in years, he looks weak, as he braces for the imminent loss of the most oil-rich region of his state. In Juba, a new country must be built from the ground up. And the risk that the new Southern Sudanese state could follow the examples of its regional peers -- from

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Ethiopia to Uganda -- and disown democracy somewhere down the road is very real. What is today one troubled Sudan may soon become two fragile states struggling to stay intact, with leaders struggling to stay in control.

KUNA: Referendum in S. Sudan "momentous" – UK

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/NewsAgenciesPublicSite/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2140568&Language=en>

LONDON, Jan 25 (KUNA) -- British Foreign Secretary William Hague described Tuesday Southern Sudan Referendum as a "momentous step." This came when Hague updated UK Parliament on the step taken by Sudan toward implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. In a written statement to Parliament, the Foreign Secretary said: "I am pleased to inform the House that polling in the Southern Sudan Referendum took place between 9 and 15 January 2011." Over three million Southern Sudanese cast their votes in this "historic" Referendum to decide their future, far exceeding the required 60 percent turnout figure.

The China post: Sudan president pledges support for southern state

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/international/africa/2011/01/26/289144/Sudan-president.htm>

KHARTOUM -- Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir on Tuesday pledged support for a new southern state in his first public address since the south of the country voted overwhelmingly to split from the north. Early results from this month's referendum indicate almost 99 percent of southerners voted to secede after decades of civil war which claimed 2 million lives and destabilized much of east Africa. Bashir had campaigned for unity and many feared the north would not let the oil-producing south go without a fight.

Kuwait times: North Sudan plans to quadruple oil output

http://www.kuwaittimes.net/read_news.php?newsid=OTQxMzA2Mjkz

KHARTOUM: Sudan's oil minister said yesterday 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

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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.

News wise: Expert: South Sudan Vote Underscores Value of Self-Determination

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/expert-south-sudan-vote-underscores-value-of-self-determination>

This month's referendum on South Sudan's independence brings renewed attention to the importance of self-determination in ensuring global peace, according to an expert at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. "Not long ago, Sudan's president, Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, sent armies to crush the South's bid for freedom," said Associate Professor of Law Timothy William Waters. "Al-Bashir's acknowledgement just before voting began that we cannot deny the desire and the choice of the people of the South' shows the real source of instability is not secession but violent resistance by existing governments." Al-Bashir's change of heart came on the heels of decades of terrible struggles pitting the Arab, Muslim-dominated government against Christian and animist southerners. The deaths of millions and enslavement of thousands have been well documented. "The will of South Sudan's people for independence has long been clear. What has made the difference between war and peace is Khartoum acquiescence," said Waters.

Arab news: Future of Sudan's Darfur uncertain post-referendum

<http://arabnews.com/middleeast/article240149arabnews.ece>

KHARTOUM: Years before Sudan's south began casting votes for succession; the woes of Africa's largest country were defined by the ethnic bloodshed in the western Darfur region. Now, international mediators and rights groups are calling for stronger efforts to settle the eight-year Darfur conflict, fearing that the expected breakaway of the south may push Khartoum's leaders to clamp down harder on dissent and place stricter limits on an international role in Darfur and other areas that remain under its direct control.

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Voa news: AU Summit Expected to Focus on Ivory Coast, Sudan

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/AU-Summit-Expected-to-Focus-on-Ivory-Coast-Sudan-114594874.html>

Shared Values" is the nominal theme of an [African Union summit](#) beginning this week in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. But as always, the summit theme is being overshadowed by pressing issues of peace and security. On Sudan will feature both President Bashir and Southern Sudanese leader Salva Kir. But Western observers say the focus is likely to be on Darfur, rather than the recent southern Sudanese independence referendum. African ambassadors say the summit is likely to approve a statement expressing deep regret at the U.N. Security Council's decision not to defer International Criminal Court indictments against Sudan's President Bashir. That follows last month's call by Kenya's parliament for a pullout from the ICC to protest indictments against six prominent Kenyans suspected of masterminding the ethnic violence that followed the country's 2007 presidential election. Kenyan officials say they will ask the summit to approve a resolution urging the Security Council to order suspension of the Kenyan prosecutions. But they will not follow parliament's call for a withdrawal from the ICC. In addition to U.N. Secretary-General Ban, a number of prominent non-African dignitaries are scheduled to attend. French President Nicolas Sarkozy will deliver the keynote summit address.

News24: Sudan not in mourning about split

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Sudan-not-in-mourning-about-split-20110125>

Khartoum - Sudan is not in mourning after 99% of southerners voted to split from the north in this month's landmark independence referendum, President Omar al-Bashir said on Tuesday. "I will announce to you the result of the referendum before the organising commission does. Secession has become a reality and it has been accepted," Bashir said in a speech in the town of Al-Damer, around 300km north of the capital. "Ninety-nine percent of southerners have chosen secession... But we're not going to mourn. I repeat what I have said before: We will go to the south to celebrate with them.

News24: S Sudan tackles bumpy road to statehood

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/S-Sudan-tackles-bumpy-road-to-statehood-20110120>

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Juba - South Sudan has erupted into jubilation as early referendum results leave no doubt a new country is about to be born, but the road to statehood remains littered with problems. The demarcation of the border with the north, the sharing of oil revenues and the future of the disputed region of Abyei are only some of the contentious issues that need to be ironed out within six months.

News24: Organisers dismiss Sudan vote fraud

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Organisers-dismiss-Sudan-vote-fraud-20110125>

Khartoum - The commission organising south Sudan's landmark independence referendum dismissed media reports on Tuesday that voter turnout sometimes exceeded 100%. "On this issue of 100% turnout, this is rubbish," commission deputy chair Chan Reec told a news conference in Khartoum. "I was shocked when I read something about it on the internet... This is not true."

Humanitarian news: South Sudan Hopes Needs Will Be Met by New Government

<http://humanitariannews.org/20110126/south-sudan-hopes-needs-will-be-met-new-government>

Southern Sudanese are eagerly awaiting the official results from a referendum earlier this month that is expected to bring independence to the region after five decades of struggle. The autonomous regional government that is part of a six-year-old peace agreement with the north has begun reconstruction, but south Sudan's needs are immense. One of the neediest sectors is health care. The maternity ward at Juba's main hospital may be under equipped, but it is as clean as its over-worked staff can keep it.

In the Radio

Radio Miraya: Bashir calls for new beginning after Referendum

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http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4957:bashir-says-he-welcomes-southerners-will-referendum-&catid=85&Itemid=278

Sudan's President, Omar Al Bashir, says he will welcome the decision of southern Sudanese in the Southern Sudan Referendum. While addressing a rally today in Al-Damer town, Bashir said he is ready to build a new Sudan in the north. Reacting to recent political opposition, Bashir also said the the opposition parties in the north would not be able to topple his government because the people, he stressed, supported his government.

Radio Miraya: Kiir: Abyei citizens should not take unilateral decision

http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4955:kiir-abyei-citizens-should-not-take-unilateral-decision&catid=85&Itemid=278

The First Vice President and President of Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), Salva Kiir Mayardit, has called on Abyei citizens to not take any unilateral decision about the future of the area. Speaking at the opening session of the South Sudan Legislative Assembly on Monday, Kiir urged the citizens to be patient until a final solution to the issue is reached in consultation with Sudan's president Omer al Bashir.

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