

Media coverage on the referendum

Mid-day report

Day 8

16 January 2011

In the local newspapers

Polling ends, count begins

Akhir Lahza 16/1/11 – The SSRC announced yesterday the closure of all polling centres in the North, South and out-of-country centres and started the counting process.

SSRC member Gen. Kamal Ali Saleh revealed that percentage of voting in the South reached 87%, 56% in the North and out-of-country is 91.3%.

He said the Commission would be ready to release final results during the period from 7 to 14 February.

Percentage of voting in the South is 83%, in the North it is 53% and 91% abroad, SSRC says, according to *Al-Khartoum* 16/1/11.

Vote counting, sorting process takes off

Sudan Vision 16/1/11 - South Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) announced yesterday the wrap of the weeklong polling process and the start of the votes, counting and sorting process set to continue till next Monday.

Furthermore, the SSRC statement says that vote results, at district-level in south Sudan and committees centers in the North is to be announced on the 20th of the current month, and final result of the vote is scheduled be announced after the challenges period that ends on the 14th Feb.

"According to the latest reports, voting percentages ranges between 73 - 88%," stated the commission. And declared that ,percentage of participation was more than 80%

'Last Friday, 3,135,000 people castled vote in the South (83% of total registered voters)' SSRC Chief, Prof. Mohammed Ibrahim Khalil told reporters in Juba, adding that 62,000 participated in the ballot casting process in the North (53%), while the turnout in the Diaspora reached 55,000 (91%) .

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

Media coverage on the referendum

Mid-day report

Day 8

16 January 2011

"These results are excellent with regard to the international standards," Khalil said, adding, "I have participated in the administration of many elections in this country, so, I can say that this referendum is the most peaceful, calm and best one."

Responding to a question on his expectations regarding the vote outcome, he hinted that it would be in favor of secession.

"If I were a politician, I would work in a better way for unity," he said winding of his speech.

Sudan's NCP heading towards recognition of referendum results

Sudan Tribune website 15/1/11 - The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in Sudan believes that the referendum process currently underway meets the threshold that would allow it to be recognized, a party official said today.

"I think until now the process is going smoothly. The most important thing is that it is going very, very peacefully ... I think it will meet with the standards required," NCP's head of political bureau Ibrahim Ghandour told Reuters on Friday.

"We still wait to see the final report of our observers as well as international observers," Ghandour added.

Ghandour said that should the vote come in favor of secession they will cooperate with the new state. "If secession occurs we are ready to support a new state and we look forward to brotherly relations with our ex-citizens."

Police says ready to secure release of referendum outcome

Al-Raed 16/1/11 – Director General of Police Lt. Gen. Hashim Osman Al-Hussein has announced the readiness of the police force to secure the phase of official release of the vote result, adding that polling was generally peaceful and police did not received any polling-related incident.

He said the police would continue to deploy so that the final results are announced in a peaceful atmosphere and praised the role of the media in reassuring civilians about the stability of security situation.

[In the International websites](#)

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

Media coverage on the referendum

Mid-day report

Day 8

16 January 2011

BBC: Sudan's referendum body chief lauds "tranquility" of process

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Newsfeed/Article/124828550/201101150849/Sudans-referendum-body-chief-lauds-tranquility-of-process.aspx>

Juba, Jan 15, 2011 (BBC Monitoring via COMTEX) -- Chairman of South Sudan Referendum Commission, Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, pointed out that the atmosphere of stability and tranquility that accompanied the voting referendum process as reflecting the awareness of the people of Sudan, especially the southerners. Prof Khalil arrived in Juba at the head of a high-level delegation of the commission's senior officials to inspect the voting process in the referendum which will end at 06:00 p.m. [local time] on Saturday

The New York Times: Roots of Bitterness in a Region Threaten Sudan's Future

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/16/world/africa/16sudan.html?_r=1&ref=africa

ABYEI, Sudan — There is a place in [Sudan](#) where Africa and the Arab world meet, where one thatched roof hut carries a roughly-hewn cross at the top and next door an identical hut flaunts a crescent moon, where heavily armed nomads sweep in for raids and heavily armed villagers fight back. It is the most contested, the most emotionally charged and, recently, the most violent piece of land in this country of nearly one million square miles. As southern Sudan's [historic independence referendum](#) came to a close on Saturday, this nation is rapidly preparing to split in half and the focus is shifting here.

The New York Times: Vote on Secession in Sudan Comes to a Close

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/16/world/africa/16juba.html?ref=africa>

JUBA, Sudan — After the last voters in southern [Sudan](#)'s weeklong election on independence had trickled to the polls and cast their ballots, the polls closed and electoral officials quietly got down to the business of tallying the results. While a small crowd gathered at the memorial for the liberation leader John Garang, some bowing at his tomb, the counting was expected to carry on through the night.

Xinhua: UN chief welcomes end of Southern Sudan referendum

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

Media coverage on the referendum

Mid-day report

Day 8

16 January 2011

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90777/90856/7262212.html>

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has welcomed the end of the week-long polling period for the Southern Sudan referendum, calling on the Sudanese to show patience and restraint for the final result, said a statement issued here Saturday.

AP: Final day of voting in S.Sudan's independence test

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hkmLXmEhFieJ5b82RKZgO_4ZmUPg?docId=80c7a893671748118dcb78865379f195

JUBA, Sudan (AP) — A small handful of voters cast ballots Saturday, the final day of Southern Sudan's weeklong independence referendum, as officials and observers noted high turnout and praised the mostly peaceful voting process. Celebrations from southerners excited about the birth of their new nation are scheduled to begin soon.

Reuters: UPDATE 1-South Sudan ends independence vote, awaits statehood

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE70E1IO20110115>

South Sudan's polling centers closed their doors on Saturday after a week-long vote on independence from the north that could end a vicious cycle of civil war with the creation of the world's newest state. Former President Jimmy Carter, leading a mission observing the vote, said turnout could reach 90 percent and that it seemed likely the south had voted for independence.

AFP: South Sudan on final leg of vote for nationhood

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jOukU7-5NZ0P5gOwX6KniSKQbtQw?docId=CNG.5b99166958bd7d348bbaf2ae66c6ff23.561>

JUBA, Sudan — South Sudan was set to wrap up a week-long independence vote on Saturday confident one of the world's poorest regions is now securely on the path to becoming its newest nation state. A handful of voters trickled to the polls on the final day of the landmark referendum that is set to turn the page on five decades of conflict between the mainly Christian, African south and the mainly Arab, Muslim north.

AP: US official: Sudan not helping rebel leader Kony

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i_ylf4CXFPDIUqeZmi_IeDi-OMbQ?docId=41bd6e9029d245d8afa97ce475e77819

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

Media coverage on the referendum

Mid-day report

Day 8

16 January 2011

JUBA, Sudan -- A Ugandan official says the leader of the brutal rebel group the Lord's Resistance Army has crossed back into Congo from Sudan. U.S. State Department official Karl Wycoff, meanwhile, said Friday he has seen no evidence Sudan was helping rebel leader Joseph Kony. Ugandan army spokesman Felix Kulayigye says Kony entered the Darfur region of Sudan in October but has since returned to Congo. Ugandan officials worried Kony may have been receiving support from Sudan's capital.

Reuters: UPDATE 1-N.Sudan ruling party says S.Sudan vote "broadly fair"

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/update-1-nsudan-ruling-party-says-ssudan-vote-broadly-fair>

KHARTOUM, Jan 14 (Reuters) - A senior north Sudanese official said on Friday the south's independence referendum was largely fair and his ruling party would accept the likely vote for secession. "We are satisfied with the process and, as it has been declared by the President (Omar Hassan) Al-Bashir, we will respect the outcome of the referendum ... It will most likely be for secession," Ibrahim Ghandour, from the ruling National Congress Party (NCP), told Reuters in an interview.

CNN: Historic vote on whether to split Sudan ends

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/africa/01/15/sudan.historic.vote/index.html>

Polling stations across Southern Sudan began counting Saturday ballots cast in a weeklong referendum whose result could split the country into two. Voting ended at 6 p.m. Saturday and officials -- monitored by local and international observers -- began the long process of counting the millions of votes cast since January 9.

BBC: Iranian president calls for expansion of ties with Sudan

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Newsfeed/Article/124837205/201101152242/Iranian-president-calls-for-expansion-of-ties-with-Sudan.aspx>

Jan 16, 2011 (BBC Monitoring via COMTEX) -- The Iranian president says Iran and Sudan have common stances on major international issues and has called for the expansion of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the agricultural sector. Mahmud Ahmadinezhad made the remarks during a meeting with Sudanese Agriculture Minister Abd-al-Halim Isma'il al-Muta'afi in Tehran on Saturday [15 January].

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

Media coverage on the referendum

Mid-day report

Day 8

16 January 2011

Al Jazeera Net: Sudan: A tough story to tell

<http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/listeningpost/2011/01/2011115131931929845.html>

We start the show this week with a report on the referendum in southern Sudan and the polarised coverage it triggered in the country and throughout the international media. We then have a report on the challenges journalists face when covering the very large, complex and secretive defence industry. A simple vote for independence in southern Sudan resulted in some not so simple news coverage.

Dw-world: European Union welcomes peaceful Sudan referendum

<http://www.dwworld.de/dw/article/0,,14769435,00.html>

Election officials began the task counting votes on Sunday after polls in Sudan closed putting an end to a week-long vote in a landmark referendum on the South's independence.

A small, non-representative sampling of early returns showed an overwhelming vote for independence.

"This was a historic event and a major milestone in implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)," the European Union's high representative for foreign affairs, Catherine Ashton said on Saturday.

Xinhua :China welcomes end of south Sudan referendum: FM spokesman

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2011-01/16/c_13693067.htm

BEIJING, Jan. 16 (Xinhua) -- China welcomes the end of the week-long polling period of the south Sudan referendum, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Sunday.

Hong made the remarks when responding to a question concerning China's view on the end of the referendum.

"Through the joint efforts of north and south Sudan and the international community, the south Sudan referendum proceeded smoothly," Hong said.

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

Media coverage on the referendum

Mid-day report

Day 8

16 January 2011

In the Radio

Radio BBC: Sudanese diaspora in Europe vote for secession

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12200794>

The first official count of Sudan's referendum has been announced, with the country's diaspora in Europe overwhelmingly voting for secession. Voters cheered as the results declared that more than 97% of the 640 voters had been in favour of a new state. The referendum was part of a peace agreement signed with north Sudan in 2005, ending decades of war.

Radio BBC:South Sudan's independence vote ends.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12200479>

Voting has ended in Sudan in the south's historic independence referendum, with a large turnout for the week-long poll. The vote is widely expected to see the south choose overwhelmingly for separation from the north. The referendum was a condition of a 2005 peace deal which ended a 21-year civil war. Official results of the vote - which was largely peaceful - are not expected until early next month.

Radio BBC(Listen): Sudan starts counting votes after referendum

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-12200842>

Election officials in Sudan have begun to count the votes cast in a referendum which will decide whether the country is split in two. Voters from the south are widely expected to support the plan, which would see the creation of a new country.

Radio Miraya: 91% of voters in Unity State cast their ballots

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

Media coverage on the referendum

Mid-day report

Day 8

16 January 2011

http://mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4889:preliminary-results-show-91-of-voters-in-unity-state-cast-their-ballots-&catid=85:85&Itemid=278

The Chairperson of Unity State High Referendum Commission, Michael Mayil Chol, said as voting came to an end on Saturday more than 91 percent of registered voters have cast their ballot in the state.

Chol said he is satisfied with the referendum process and applauded the people of Unity State for maintaining peace and order during the vote. He urged all citizens to patiently wait for the results.

Radio Miraya:Counting of Referendum votes on

http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4893:counting-of-votes-starts-saturday-&catid=85&Itemid=278

The sorting and counting of votes started Saturday immediately after polling centres were officially closed in and outside Sudan, Chairman of Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, Mohammed Ibrahim Khalil, said. The preliminary results will be announced in southern Sudan by 31st January, before the announcement of final official result from Khartoum in February, he added.

In the Television

Al Jazeera TV:

History of a Broken Land Al Jazeera maps the turbulent history of a country on the verge of a momentous decision. Can be seen from Wednesday, January 5, at the following times GMT: Wednesday: 0300, 1900; Thursday: 1400; Friday: 0300; Saturday: 2200.

Crossroads Sudan 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,

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

Media coverage on the referendum

Mid-day report

Day 8

16 January 2011

0830; Saturday: **2030**; Sunday: **0730**; Monday:

[1430http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/peopleandpower/2010/12/2010122964716111620.html](http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/peopleandpower/2010/12/2010122964716111620.html)

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.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/peopleandpower/2011/01/20111585750480428.html>

Al Arabiya News Channel's:

<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 G, 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 G along the lines of BBC's Newsnight or ABC's Nightline.

BBC TV:

Bulletins every hour

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.