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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### Presidential Assistant Nafie rejects national government

The Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie said the NCP was ready to contest upcoming elections, reports ***Al-Rai Al-Aam***. Nafie, who addressed a workshop at the University of Khartoum yesterday, said the solution for the current challenges lies in seeking the people's verdict. "The proposal for a national government is unacceptable. It will mean the NCP losing grip on power," he said. "We will not hand over power to others," "talk about formation of a national government is a far-fetched dream," Nafie said, according to ***Al-Khartoum***.

NCP official Mandour Al-Mahdi, who also addressed the workshop, said most of the political parties were not interesting in elections and rejected the idea of a national government.

### CPC approves CJMC report

***Al-Ahdath*** reports the CPC yesterday approved the CJMC report (26) including SPLA and SAF redeployment. George Boreng who chaired the meeting described the report as "encouraging", adding some political issues require more clarity especially police and Abyei status.

### Criminal code not withdrawn from Parliament – Justice Minister

Justice Minister Abdul Basit Sabdarat has said the criminal bill was not withdrawn from the National Assembly, saying the meeting between the Parliamentary Legislation Committee and the Justice Ministry was intended to discuss the criminal procedures bill.

Meanwhile, ***Al-Sudani*** reports the Justice Minister Sabdarat has assured that referendum law drafting was underway.

### 52 political parties to contest elections

***Al-Rai Al-Aam*** reports the Political Parties Affairs' Council Chairman Mohamed Beshara Dosa as saying that 52 political parties would be permitted to engage in political activity and to contest upcoming elections. He said while 32 of those parties have been registered in accordance with the Political Association Act 1999 and the Political Parties and Organizations Act 2001, 20 others have been accredited based on the Council's decision.

### Journalist Union receives electronics equipment from US Embassy

The General Union of the Sudanese Journalists yesterday received electronic equipment from the US Embassy, reports ***Al-Ahdath***. The equipment was donated for the operation of the Union's conference hall. The Union Chairman Mohi Al-Din Titawi expressed gratitude for the US Embassy's concern for capacity building of the Sudanese journalists.

### 502 cases suspected to be meningitis reported in Khartoum State

The Federal Ministry of Health yesterday announced 502 cases suspected to be meningitis in Khartoum State, reports ***Al-Rai Al-Aam***. However, the Ministry has confirmed the meningitis cases reported in Darfur.

## Websites/International News Coverage

### UN-local probe over tribal clashes in south

**Miraya FM** 29/4/09 - A fact finding committee from the Jonglei State government and the United Nations Mission in Sudan will arrive today in the areas affected by the recent tribal clashes between Lou-Nuer and Murle tribes, which killed over one hundred and seventy people.

The Deputy Governor of Jonglei State, Hussein Maryot, told **Miraya FM** that the committee which is headed by the State Governor, Koul Manyang, and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan, David Gressly, has moved to Akobo and Pibor Counties today morning.

### Nile Commercial Bank branch manager suspended over cash shortage

**Sudan Tribune website**, 29/4/09 — The Nile Commercial Bank (NCB) branch manager in Juba was suspended by the Government of Southern Sudan with four other officials, allegedly for pinning the bank's money woes on senior government figures who had failed to re-pay loans.

NCB on the whole was politically initiated by the 'New Sudan' administration in 2003. The branch in question was established in 2007 and was linked to the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly through a US\$10 million contribution.

The bank included operations conducted through Stanbic Bank of South Africa to Kenya Commercial Bank.

The indefinite suspension derived from the Southern Sudan council of ministers' emergency meeting held Monday over NCB's mismanagement.

Marta Michya, the suspended branch manager, had alleged that some figures in the Government of Southern Sudan had borrowed "huge amount of money but failed to repay."

"Hence we told our clients to wait until the borrowed money is paid back" Michya explained, adding that the money was loaned out without proper collateral.

But on Monday the council of ministers directed the governor of the Bank of Southern Sudan to audit and take necessary action to pay clients of NCB.

The announcement this month that NCB has run out of cash was seen as a clear sign of the deepening financial crisis facing the semi-autonomous region. On Monday the head of Sudan's Assessment and Evaluation Commission, a body set up to monitor the implementation of the 2005 peace agreement and interim institutions, said "The revenue of the government in the South this year is expected to be 68% lower than last."

### John Garang student killed in car ambush – official

**Sudan Tribune website**, 29/4/09 – A student at John Garang de Mabior Institute of science and Technology in Bor is killed in a car ambush at Kor-Gana on Juba – Torit road, Institute official said today.

Samuel Magai Chol, a student at the faculty of Ecology was killed with another unidentified person Tuesday April 28 while traveling to Torit on a family visit, Dean of student David Malual Wuor told the Sudan Tribune Wednesday in Bor Town.

"It is a great lost to the family and well as the Institute. We extend our condolence to the grieved

family and friends," Malual Wuor said. Students at John Garagng Institute are on holidays as they await a new date for opening.

### **Sudan is free from swine influenza – Minister**

**Sudan Tribune**, 29/4/09— Sudanese need not worry about the deadly swine influenza as the country was free of the epidemic, said the federal ministry of health today.

As the swine flu outbreak continued to spread to countries around the world, the WHO today took the unprecedented step of raising the infectious disease alert level to level 5, signaling that a global swine flu pandemic is imminent.

In a news conference held in Geneva, today, WHO director-general Dr. Margaret Chan warned the "virus must be taken seriously because of its ability to spread to every country in the world."

Dr. Thabita Boutrus said in a press statement issued in Khartoum on Wednesday that Sudan is free from any case of the swine influenza. She further said that health authorities are mobilized to detect any case of the disease. Sudan's airports and entry points are being closely monitored, the minister added.

In Juba, the southern Sudan ministry of health said coordinating activities with the federal ministry to respond to the possible threat of swine flu.

However Juba urged people who become sick with fever and cold symptoms and who have also traveled abroad to affected countries — or who have come into contact with those who have — should avoid close contact with others and should consult with a health care worker.

The federal ministry said it had already distributed sufficient quantities of anti-viral drugs (Tamilflu) to the different health centers and hospitals across the country, along with the distribution of protective clothing for medical teams.

The federal health ministry also announced the formation of a higher committee of senior specialists in the fight against epidemics besides the activation of the Technical Committee for pandemic influenza, which includes the relevant departments within and outside the Ministry of Health.

### **Convicted Darfur men face “horrific treatment”**

**Sudan Tribune website**, 29/4/09 – The 82 Darfuri men sentenced to death by special courts in Khartoum are being held in inhumane conditions and many have been tortured, according to a rebel group and Amnesty International.

According to Ahmed Husain Adam, JEM spokesperson, prisoners are being kept at NISS ghost houses. He appealed for authorities to transfer the captives to “the same prisons where all suspects awaiting trial are detained.”

Adam explained that the men face "horrific treatment" at the hand of their captors, adding that many of the detainees had no role in the May 2008 assault.

The detainees are prevented contacts with the outside world with the exception of a single fortnightly visit of 30 minutes, said Adam.

## **Darfur kidnappers say freed Western aid workers**

**Reuters**, 29/4/09 - Kidnappers have released two foreign aid workers they captured in Sudan's western Darfur region more than three weeks ago, one of the abductors said on Wednesday.

"We handed over the hostages to the leader of the Bani-Halba tribe and the mayor of Ed el Fursan," he told **Reuters** via satellite phone.

A Sudanese government official would not confirm their release but said the operation was in progress. "They're in good health," he said.

In Paris, AMI's spokesman, Frederic Mars, said: "It seems that things are going in the right direction." But he could not confirm their release and said AMI had not spoken to the women. Neither the French or Canadian foreign ministries made any immediate comment.

## **Sudan - Chad reconciliation begins in Doha**

**SUNA**, 29/4/09 - The Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Hamad bin Jasim bin Jabr Al-Thani, Wednesday inaugurated at Sheraton Hotel in Doha, a meeting for reconciliation between Sudan and Chad. In his address at the meeting, Sheikh Hamad hoped that the meeting would result in an improvement and consolidation of the Sudanese - Chadian relations, ending the differences between the two countries and realizing stability for the two peoples. He also hoped that the meeting would be characterized by frankness, fraternity spirit and transparency. He indicated that the reconciliation meeting was a fruit of joint Qatari - Libyan efforts to settle the difference between Sudan and Chad.

## **Qatari Prime Minister Receives US Envoy to Sudan**

**SUNA**, 28/09 - The Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Hamad bin Jasim bin Jabr Al-Thani, received Tuesday the Special envoy of the US President to Sudan, Scott Gration and the accompanying delegation and reviewed the situation in Sudan and the international efforts being exerted to realize peace in the country. The State Minister at the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ahmed bin Abdalla Al-Mahmoud, also met with the American envoy and discussed the ongoing efforts to solve Darfur issue. The US envoy expressed his country's support to the role being played by Qatar and the joint mediator of the UN and the African Union for Darfur.

## **JEM denies getting Chadian military support**

**Miraya FM** 29/4/09 JEM denied accusations made by the government claiming the presence of JEM soldiers supported by the Chadian government at the Sudan-Chad borders.

While speaking to **Miraya FM**, the movement Spokesperson, Ahmed Hussein, confirmed that there are no forces in Chad, and that all JEM forces are centralized within Sudanese territories, Hussein added that the government is preparing to launch an attack against Chad.