



## Local News Headlines

- Sudan welcomes Obama's election victory (SUNA)
- South Darfur asks NGOs to coordinate with HAC (Akhir Lahza)
- Al Mirghani Buried (Sudan Vision)
- SPLM Secretary General warns of elections delay (Al-Sahafa)
- SPLM agree to south-south dialogue on Saturday (Al-Sahafa)

## Websites/International Headlines

- New Sudan indictment could ruin north-south peace-UN (Reuters)
- Progress slow but steady in implementing north-south peace pact in Sudan – UN (UN News Service)
- Ban congratulates Obama on election as United States President (UN News Service)0.
- Darfur rebels hail Obama's elections victory (ST)
- AU Special Envoy for implementation CPA visits Juba (Miraya FM)
- Mediators give Ugandan rebels deadline to sign deal (Reuters)

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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### *Sudan welcomes Obama's victory*

**SUNA** reports Sudan welcomed Barack Obama's winning of the US presidential elections. MFA statement issued yesterday hoped Obama's administration would positively contribute to the regional and international issues. President Bashir also sent congratulatory message to Obama yesterday, expressing government readiness to work with the new US Administration to normalize relations and to achieve stability and peace in the region.

**Al-Sahafa** reports GoSS have declared today Thursday an official holiday all over southern Sudan to celebrate Obama's election victory. GoSS Presidency Minister Luka Biong said FVP Kiir sent a message to Obama congratulating him on being elected President, adding he would work with him as key partner to achieve peace in Sudan.

### *South Darfur asks NGOs to coordinate with HAC*

**Akhir Lahza** reports HAC (South Darfur) demanded that NGOs operating in the State coordinate with authorities concerned in the area of health, education and relief services to avert armed movement's attack on relief convoys. HAC commissioner Saror Mohamed Abdullah told **SMC** the situation in the state was stable and large quantities of food items have been distributed to IDPs camps.

### *Al Mirghani Buried*

**Sudan Vision** reports the body of ex-Sudanese President, Ahmed Al Mirghani, was buried yesterday. President Bashir, VP Taha, the late brother Mohamed Osman Al Mirghani headed the procession. The funeral was attended by a large number of senior officials and diplomats. The brother of the late Al-Mirghani will receive condolences from diplomats between 11 to 12:30 am today.

### *SPLM Secretary General warns of elections delay*

**Al-Sahafa** reports SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum said the movement is ready for upcoming elections at all levels and warned of the consequences of failure to conduct them on schedule. SPLM press release issued after Amum meeting with EU Ambassadors stated the Ambassadors were briefed on CPA implementation, challenges encountered and efforts underway to address Darfur issue.

### *SPLM agree to south-south dialogue on Saturday*

**Al-Sahafa** reports SPLM agreed to hold south-south dialogue conference on Saturday in Juba. Seven southern Sudanese parties have declared they would attend the conference. According to the Sudanese Media Centre, leaders of southern political parties will leave for Juba within two days to participate in the conference.

### *Sudan to step up security at oil installations*

**Al-Watan** reported Ministry of Interior has given details of tightened security measures that would be implemented in areas around the country's oil fields including making it mandatory for staff of companies working in these areas to notify security bodies prior to traveling outside their

camps and to move only under strong armed escort. Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmud Hamid told the Council of States yesterday that the measures included redeploying central reservist forces in the Highlig sector and forming joint forces to comb areas where groups threatening oil production are present. He said this was in addition to activating the role of the indigenous administration in the area to assist security bodies to perform their role in the best way possible.

## Websites/International News Coverage

### *New Sudan indictment could ruin north-south peace-UN*

**(Reuters)** - If the International Criminal Court decides to indict Sudan's president for crimes in Darfur it could ruin a peace process that ended two decades of civil war, a *senior U.N. official said on Wednesday.*

Khartoum has already said that peace in its war-racked Darfur region would be impossible if the U.N. Security Council does not stop the ICC from indicting Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for genocide and other war crimes in Darfur.

Sudanese officials have suggested that U.N.-African Union peacekeepers in Darfur, known as UNAMID, could be expelled if the judges indict Bashir. A separate U.N. force policing compliance with a peace deal that ended Sudan's north-south civil war had hoped they would be spared such retaliation.

But U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Edmond Mulet said both UNAMID and the other peacekeeping force in semi-autonomous south Sudan, known as UNMIS, could become targets of revenge if a warrant is issued for Bashir's arrest.

Mulet told the U.N. Security Council that the ICC chief prosecutor's request for Bashir's indictment "could have serious security and other implications for UNMIS and UNAMID."

"(It) could potentially derail the CPA process," he said, referring to the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended 20 years of civil war that resulted in the deaths of some 2 million people across Africa's largest country.

"We are concerned about the suggestions of an uncontrolled reaction to an indictment by the population against UNMIS," Mulet said.

"We are also concerned by statements of government officials of an intention to expel U.N. staff members ... thought to have cooperated with the ICC, even though they are performing their authorized functions as directed by the Security Council," he said.

U.N. officials have told Reuters that if UNMIS is expelled from Abyei, northern and southern Sudanese troops might resume fighting over the region in a bid to seize control of the oil.

Bashir says the charges against him were fabricated. He has had support from the African Union, Arab League and other alliances, which have urged the Security Council to block the ICC moves to protect the fragile Darfur peace process.

The ICC judges are not expected to make a decision on whether to indict Bashir before January.

### *Progress slow but steady in implementing north-south peace pact in Sudan – UN*

**(UN News Service)** Progress is being made in putting into place the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended the long-running north-south civil war in Sudan, but

obstacles such as the holding of elections remain, a senior United Nations official said today.

Addressing the Security Council, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Edmond Mulet said that the “status of CPA implementation remains a mixed picture of slow but continuing progress and a number of major outstanding challenges.”

He reported that no major ceasefire violations have occurred in the reporting period, with the overall security situation calm in Southern Sudan and transitional areas, including Abyei, which lies in an oil-rich area near the north-south boundary.

“The parties have a common interest in keeping the CPA on track, as neither can afford to return to armed conflict,” Mr. Mulet said at the open meeting, adding that the sides cooperate on many issues and interact daily in government and security institutions.

“Nevertheless, they continue to postpone and delay the implementation of the more difficult aspects of the CPA.”

Polls are one of the pact’s benchmarks, and in spite of the passing of an electoral law this July, few positive steps have been made in other areas, such as the formation of bodies to register political parties.

“At the same time, however, there is an urgent need to focus on the issues that will enable the parties to reach the referendum and ensure stability post-2011,” he stressed, referring to the exercise of the people of Abyei and Southern Sudan of their right of self-determination to vote for unity or separation.

The official underscored the importance of international assistance, especially in the fields of disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating parties, as well as human rights.

### ***Ban congratulates Obama on election as United States President***

(UN News service) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon extended his congratulations to United States President-Elect Barack Obama, voicing hope that his election will usher in a new era of multilateralism and enhanced partnership with the United Nations.

“As Secretary-General of the UN, I look forward to working with the new administration to fulfill our common goals and enormously important objectives,” Mr. Ban told reporters in New York. “This is, I believe, an historic opportunity.”

He recalled previous statements by Mr. Obama, who was elected last night and will take office next January, in which he spoke about the strong stake the US has in the UN.

This will be a “good opportunity not only for, not only the United States, but the United Nations as a whole to resolve all issues through dialogue,” the Secretary-General said, expressing confidence that there will be greater cooperation between the Organization and the US.

“If ever there were a time for the world to join together, it is now,” he said, pointing to the global financial turmoil, climate change, reaching the anti-poverty Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by their 2015 deadline and the twin food and energy crises.

Mr. Ban told journalists that he met Mr. Obama for the first and only time last year, shortly after taking office as Secretary-General, when they were seated next to each other on a flight between Washington and New York.

During the half-hour flight, the President-Elect asked the Secretary-General many questions on the world body's goals and on issues such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Iranian nuclear issue and UN reform.

"He was very engaging and he knew a lot about the United Nations," Mr. Ban said, adding that he was very encouraged by the encounter.

The Secretary-General also congratulated his "good friend," Vice President-Elect Joseph Biden.

"With a glad heart, I welcome this new era of partnership for change," Mr. Ban said, noting that he hopes to speak with Mr. Obama soon, both over the telephone and in person.

### ***Darfur rebels hail Obama's elections victory***

**(Sudan Tribune website)**– Darfur rebel groups welcomed the election of US senator Barack Obama as the next president and expressed hope that his administration would make Sudan's troubled western region a top item on his foreign agenda.

"Our congratulations go to Mr. Obama on his well deserved victory. We look forward to working with him and the next administration on ending the crisis in Darfur" Sudan's senior presidential assistant Minni Arcua Minnawi told Sudan Tribune today.

Minnawi who is also leader of Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) said that Obama's "track record of supporting the cause of Darfur makes him in a unique position to foster a lasting peace for our people".

Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) said that Obama's election "demonstrates the greatness of America and its leadership in the world".

"I urge Mr. Obama to translate these great values in his handling the Darfur crisis to stop the genocide and resolving the conflict his priority" Al-Nur told Sudan Tribune by phone from Paris France.

The SLM chief said he aspires to replicating the US model of racial and religious tolerance one day in Sudan.

The spokesperson of Darfur Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Ahmed Hussein echoed Al-Nur's call and said that the election results "decided which direction the world is going to take".

The JEM official expressed appreciation to the outgoing Bush administration and stressed that action is needed to restore peace and security to Darfur.

Obama and his running-mate Joe Biden have backed forceful measures to protect civilians in Darfur. Obama characterizes the Darfur conflict as genocide and visited refugees from Darfur in eastern Chad in 2006.

### ***AU Special Envoy for implementation CPA visits Juba***

**(Miraya FM website)**The African Union Special Envoy for the implementation of the CPA Oluyemi Adeniji has made a first visit to Juba yesterday for talks with officials of the Government of Southern Sudan on the implementation progress of the Peace Agreement. It is expected that the visit of the AU delegation would last for four days before returning to Ethiopia.

### ***Mediators give Ugandan rebels deadline to sign deal***

**(Reuters)** - Mediators for Uganda's civil conflict said on Thursday elusive guerrilla leader Joseph Kony must sign a peace deal by the end of November, and called on his Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels to cease all attacks.

Kony's fighters have run amok along the porous borders between Sudan and Congo since their leader failed to sign a final agreement in April with Uganda's government, aimed at ending a two-decade rebellion in the north.

The mediators did not specify what action they might take if their deadline is not met, though countries in the region have threatened a joint military operation against the LRA.

"We strongly urge the LRA to desist from carrying out any attacks ... and unconditionally sign the final peace agreement by the end of November," said Riek Machar, the talks' mediator and South Sudan's vice president.

LRA rebels are accused of murders, kidnappings and rapes in the wider region of Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Central African Republic in recent months.

"I am hoping that General Kony takes this deadline seriously. He should reconsider his position and start thinking hard to sign the (agreement)," Machar told reporters shortly after midnight following a day of talks in Kampala with government and LRA representatives.

Kony has repeatedly snubbed mediators by not showing up at pre-arranged meetings to ink the agreement, hashed out after two years of negotiations in neighbouring South Sudan.

Kony's war killed thousands of people and displaced nearly 2 million, wreaking havoc in northern Uganda and on large tracts of central Africa.

On Wednesday, Uganda's government warned the rebels that their leader must sign or face unspecified measures.

"What the government of Uganda wants is one thing, for Kony to sign," Internal Affairs Minister Ruhakana Rugunda said. "Non-fulfillment of the obligation means they are opening the door for other things," he said, without elaborating.

LRA negotiators say their fugitive chief will sign the pact eventually, but rebels will not disarm until arrest warrants by the International Criminal Court are dropped.