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# Media Monitoring Report

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# Highlights

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## **Presidency to meet today to discuss pending issues**

*Al-Sahafa* 25/8/10 – The Presidency is to hold a meeting today to address pending issues including the demarcation of the border, Abyei referendum commission and the appointment of the Referendum Commission’s secretary-general.

Sources said FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit is due in Khartoum today to participate in the meeting. According to the sources, SPLM committee headed by GoSS Minister of Peace Pagan Amum is already in Khartoum to agree with the NCP on the agenda for the meeting.

## **NCP Politburo meets today to discuss status quo**

*Al-Akhbar* 25/8/1- The NCP Politburo is to hold a meeting today to be chaired by the Party’s leader and President of the Republic Omer Al-Bashir. Sources said the meeting would focus on a range of issues including arrangements for the upcoming referendum. According to *Al-Raed* 25/8/10, the meeting will also discuss programmes and activities the party intends to undertake in the North and the South to support unity.

## **Referendum Commission hints reschedule of referendum processes**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam* 25/8/10 – Informed source revealed that the Referendum Commission intends to name Ambassador Omer Al-Sheikh as secretary-general for the Commission after the SPLM has agreed to the appointment of a northern to fill the post. Commission Head Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil said the appointment would be immediately processed.

Meanwhile, Khalil revealed that the Presidency has discussed the Commission’s memorandum to amend referendum schedules. “It seems that an agreement is reached to reduce the three-month period earmarked to registration to compensate for the time passed in order to meet the January deadline of the referendum,” he said.

Meanwhile, *Miraya FM website* 24/8/10 reported that Khalil assured that the final structures of the commission would be in place within a week after a breakthrough in the dispute on the appointment of the Secretary General of the Commission. Khalil said the Commission has started to draw its budget and appointments of staff prior to setting up centers for the Referendum.

## **S. Sudan plans to bring home 1.5 million referendum voters**

*Reuters* 24/8/10 - South Sudan plans to bring home 1.5 million displaced southerners from the north in time to vote in an independence referendum in January, according to government documents.

“(The southern government) has taken up the challenge to organise the repatriation program for internally displaced persons wherever they may be in the northern states,” according to ministry documents seen on Tuesday.

Half the proposed 60 million pound (\$25.4 million) price tag is allocated for transport by truck,

train, bus and boats traveling up the Nile. The other half is earmarked to cover logistics such as en route feeding and security.

Official voter numbers are not known for the referendum that will decide the future of Africa's largest country. Southerners living outside the semi-autonomous region will be able to vote once they prove their southern origins.

But some southern officials fear displaced voters in camps in the north are at risk of having their votes manipulated - either by coercion or corruption - and say they are very keen to install referendum voters in the south before polling day.

Aid agencies, however, are concerned about the impact of returnees on the humanitarian effort in the south.

### **Arab League urges holding South Sudan referendum on time**

*Sudan Tribune website* 24/8/10 - Arab League on Tuesday called on the two CPA partners to conduct the referendum on southern Sudan self-determination on time and without delay.

The League's envoy to Sudan, in remarks to the press at the premises of the Pan-Arab organization in Cairo, said that the date of the referendum is still under discussion between the two peace partners.

He further said the CPA set a firm date for the referendum on 9 January 2011. He pointed out that Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) adheres to the determined date while the National Congress Party (NCP) seeks to complete the procedures and find solutions to outstanding issues before the date of the referendum.

Ambassador Salah Halima voiced that the Arab League hopes the ongoing efforts lead to holding of timely referenda and in an atmosphere of transparency and integrity in a way to enable southerner Sudanese to exercise their right.

Hamila also stressed that the Arab League is currently focusing on the settlement of outstanding issues and complete the procedures to hold referendum on time.

Regarding fears of possible independence of Southern Sudan, he said "The choice of attractive unity was the focus of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and there are intensive efforts by the Government of Sudan and the international community to achieve this option".

However he stressed whether the result of the referendum is in favor of the unity or the separation, what is important for the Arab League at this stage that relations between the North and the South to be normal and to focus efforts on the southern Sudan development regardless of the outcome of the referendum.

Also, Egypt's foreign minister Ahmed Abul Gheit, stressed Tuesday on the need to conduct the referendum in southern Sudan as scheduled next January.

Abul-Gheit said that it is important for the two CPA partners to agree on a clear approach leading them to hold it with transparency, integrity and freedom. He underlined the need to agree on the steps forward after the referendum.

## **UN ready to support referendum process - SRSG**

*Miraya FM Website* 24/8/10 - Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to Sudan, Haile Menkerios, said that the United Nations is ready to support the referendum process.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, Daniel Awet Akot, said that members of the parliament will be dispatched to their respective constituencies to witness voters' registration and carry out mobilization efforts for the upcoming referendum. Akot urged the citizens who are eligible to vote to register in larger numbers. He added that the process should be conducted in a peaceful manner.

## **Southerners anticipate referendum rigging by the North**

*The Citizen* 25/8/10 – Southern Sudanese are pessimistic about the prospects that the northern government of President Al-Bashir will allow a free, fair and honest result of referendum next January, most fearing that the NCP regime will rig the forthcoming referendum and subsequently succeed in uniting Sudan, given the fact that the northern Government proposes to again appoint the referendum secretary general from the North. To the southerners, the position of the chairman held by Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil is enough for the northern government and asked for power balancing by appointing a southerner secretary general of the Referendum Commission.

## **SPLM accuses census body of foul play in Southern Kordofan**

*Khartoum Monitor* 25/8/10 – The SPLM said the delay of announcing the census results in Southern Kordofan would impact negatively the implementation of the CPA. SPLM Secretary in Southern Kordofan Arnu Nagalu in press conference yesterday in Khartoum said the delay of the census would in turn lead to the delay of elections in the state. He added that the census was conducted on 29th June and its result should have been declared early last July. “This will impact on the exercise of the popular consultation. It seems the aim is to announce the results after the referendum of the South and this would complicate the situation,” he said.

SPLM leader and federal minister of Health Abdullah Tiya said failure to announce the results on schedule indicates some foul play.

## **Other Highlights**

### **Sudan central bank accuses South Sudan of lying over oil revenue remittances**

*Sudan Tribune website* 24/8/10 — The governor of Sudan's central bank Sabir Mohamed Al-Hassan moved swiftly on Tuesday to refute allegations made by the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) relating to the disbursement of the South's share in oil exports.

David Deng Athorbei, the regional minister of finance and economic planning revealed on Monday that the South has recently been receiving its share in local currency which is contrary to the peace agreement.

He accused the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) of deliberately doing this in order to undermine South Sudan economy and scare off investors.

But the governor of Sudan's Central bank dismissed the claims by GoSS saying that the central

government never transferred oil revenue in local currency to the South since the signing the CPA.

Al-Hassan further revealed that the operational balance of the central bank branch in the South is \$726 million saying that this twice the amount what the North branch has.

The governor said that the GoSS is interfering in the policies of the Southern branch of the central bank as if it is an entity separate from the North, describing this as a violation of the CPA. He added that this issue has been resolved through a written agreement with GoSS that preserved the independence of the Southern branch.

But the GoSS backtracked on the agreement and resumed its interference "bringing us back to square one," Al-Hassan said.

Al-Hassan suggested that GoSS statements are meant to strengthen its position with international backing to gain concessions in the post-referendum negotiations with the NCP.

### **Chopper impounded in Al-Falluj flown to Juba**

*Al-Rai Al-Aam* 25/8/10 – 12 SPLA elements who were reportedly armed to the teeth yesterday flew the Sudanair chopper impounded at Al-Falluj airfield to Juba. The SPLA elements refueled the helicopter and forced the Russian crew to fly the chopper to Juba at gun-point.

### **PDF says ready to defend the country**

*Al-Raed* 25/8/10 – Commander of the People's Defence Forces (PDF) Maj. Gen. Abdul Aziz Mohamed Abdul Rahman has affirmed the readiness of the PDF to defend the Sudanese territories. "The PDF is indispensable," he declared, adding that coordination is continuing to train the PDF to keep them ready for any eventuality.

### **South Sudan's SPLA vows to arrest or kill rebel George Athor**

*Borglobe* (Juba) 24/8/10 - the Sudan People's Liberation Army is in a hot pursuit of the rebel leader George Athor, who is cowardly in hiding, the army spokesperson Kuol Deim Kuol said, in a bid to bring security under control as the independence vote nears.

In a press conference yesterday at the Minister of Information's regular press forum, Kuol disclosed that the army attacked the infamous rebel hideouts at Payakyak in Jonglei's Khorfulus County mid this month, killing 39 rebel soldiers. The rebels, however, managed to kill 2 army soldiers in the shoot-out.

"I can tell you, we want to arrest him alive or kill [George Athor]", he stressed, as he described the military's might as enough to deter off aggression against the January, 2011 vote. "We are pursuing them and the problem is that the area is becoming swampy".

The Undersecretary, Bior Ajang of the Ministry of SPLA Affairs, which is charged with designing the SPLA policies and handling administrative issues, said Athor would be tackled militarily in protecting the referendum.

"Fighting him to either get hold of him or kill him is what can help the people of southern Sudan", Bior said during the briefing. "I am opposing the idea of not fighting him to allow

people go for the referendum”, he added.

In a related development, Kuol said the army attacked the hideout of Kul Chaar, another leader of rebelling armed men in Unity, killing five of his soldiers and capturing some guns. He is now running towards Heglig north of the state, where they are always accommodated by the SAF, he said.

Gatluak Deng, according to the official military statement, is under treatment in Khartoum, after running from the SPLA for his life on foot, which caused his feet to swell. Duop Gatluak, also leading armed gangs, was wounded by the SPLA and he is now in hiding, according to the army spokesperson. “With unity of the SPLA and security organs, we are tracking down these criminals”, Kuol said.

Meanwhile, *The Citizen* 25/08/10 reports Deim Kuol has said that at least 16 people were confirmed dead, seven wounded and three missing in the wake of a fresh disarmament exercise last week in Jonglei’s Akobo County. He said 11 SPLA soldiers and five civilians also lost their lives in the exercise.

### **UNAMID inciting Kalma IDPs against Government – Darfur governor**

*The Citizen* 24/8/10 – The Government of South Darfur state has accused UNAMID of seeking to escalate the case of Kalma camp and rousing the IDPs against the steps the government intends to adopt for addressing the camp problem.

At the meeting he held with UNAMID officials in the state yesterday, South Darfur Governor Abdul-Hamid Musa Kasha said that his government possess information on arms smuggled into the camp in addition to the presence of a UNAMID member who was goading the displaced into opposing the step of shifting the camp to another area.

Kasha revealed that his government would establish permanent presence in the camp as of yesterday for the purpose of establishing the authority of the state and protecting the displaced. He said he would undertake repeated visits to the camp, adding that if he is met by any resistance during these visits, he would hold the place as a stronghold for the opposition and not a camp for the displaced.

He pointed out that his government has not yet received a reply from UNAMID related to their demand for handing over the persons they accused of being involved in the recent incidents.

Representative of UNAID said the Mission was cooperating with the Government of the state at all levels.

### **Sudan reiterates commitment to agreements with the UN**

*The Citizen* 25/08/10 –Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rahama Mohamed Osman has reiterated Sudan’s full commitment to all agreement it has signed with the UN and has asked the organisations to fully adhere to their mandates in carrying out their missions.

Yesterday, the Undersecretary discussed with DSRSG, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator Georg Charpentier the activities of organisations operating in the country, especially those working in Darfur. They discussed a purported joint mechanism for

mutual coordination to achieve UNMIS goals in such a way that serves the common interest of both sides.

### **ICC judge dismiss motions calling for condemning prosecutor**

*Sudan Tribune website* 24/8/10 - The judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC) rejected two motions submitted this month calling for the court to condemn prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo over an article he authored in the UK-based Guardian newspaper last month.

Ocampo's article was published following a long sought decision by the court charging Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir with three counts of genocide in Darfur. This was in addition to seven counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity already included in Bashir's warrant of arrest.

The first motion filed on July 30th by Sudan Workers Trade Unions Federation (SWTUF) and the Sudan International Defense Group (SIDG) asked the Pre-Trial Chamber I to review Ocampo's statements in the article "and decide on an appropriate course of action".

"It is evident from the article of 15 July 2010 that the Prosecutor may be seeking to gain support from the international community for his case or to be building public momentum and backing for his allegations that might render dispassionate adjudication by the Trial Chamber more difficult," said attorney Geoffrey Nice who made the submission on behalf of the two pro-Sudan groups.

Nice asserted that Ocampo has gone to give the impression that Bashir has already been convicted of genocide which was not the case at this stage of the proceedings...

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