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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Referendum Watch

- Breaking news: Sudanese Government recognizes referendum results (*Sudan Radio*)
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- Al-Bashir, Kiir to attend official release of referendum result today (*dailies*)
- Al-Bashir says government will accept referendum result (*Dailies*)
- VP Taha meets SRSG Menkerios (*SUNA*)
- NCP rejects foreign intervention in issues after the CPA (*SUNA*)
- Sudan oil production to increase to 195,000 bpd by the end of 2012 (*SUNA*)
- Sudan army mutiny in southern oil state, 50 killed (*Reuters*)

## Other Headlines

- Sudan blames Darfur mediator for support to rebels' rapprochement (*ST*)

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# Highlights

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## **Breaking news: Sudanese Government recognizes referendum results**

*Sudan Radio* 7/2/11 –President Al-Bashir has accepted the results of the referendum on self-determination for south Sudan. Addressing a ceremony held today for receiving the vote results, the President said that they would work for overcoming the remaining outstanding CPA issues and stressed his government's keenness to sustain peace. The President has expressed his total satisfaction of the SSRC's performance despite the challenges it encountered and thanked the Sudanese people for conducting a smooth, transparent and credible process that has taken all the observers by surprise. He also expressed his thanks for the sisterly and friendly countries which sponsored the CPA.

According to Sudan Radio, the Presidency issued a decree recognizing the results of the process.

## **Al-Bashir, Kiir to attend official release of referendum result today**

*Sudan Vision* 7/2/11 - The SSRC is set to announce today the final outcome of the South Sudan Referendum as the vote challenge period has expired. The announcement will be delivered in the attendance of President Al Bashir and his First Vice President Salva Kiir amid official participation of North and South Sudan figures as well as regional and international media representatives.

SSRC Information Chief George Makuer said that the commission had completed all arrangements needed for the announcement of the vote result.

"The SSRC received yesterday an official notification from the Supreme Court to the effect that no challenges have been filed by any party, hence, the Commission would announce the referendum outcome on time, Feb 7,2011 as provided for in the schedule," Makuer said.

## **Al-Bashir says government will accept referendum result**

*SUNA* 6/2/11 - President Al-Bashir affirmed that the government would accept the result of south Sudan referendum which will be finally declared on Monday.

Addressing members of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) Sunday, President Al-Bashir said that the relations between north and south Sudan would be much closer than the relations between any other two states due to the social and trade relations and interaction between the North and the South.

President Al-Bashir affirmed the government adherence to maintain flexible borders between the north and the south to guarantee safe trade, pastoral and social movement, adding that the southerners in the north would be under protection and would (not) be expelled.

President Al-Bashir pledged to exert efforts for solution of the pending issues, reiterating his rejection of any solution for Abyei territory that excludes the Messeriya tribe and ignores their historic rights.

Meanwhile, President Al-Bashir appreciates the performance of the Security and Intelligence Organ which protects the nation, the homeland and the faith.

“Southerners in the North will be under protection. They will not be expelled, their property will not be confiscated and their lives will not be threatened,” the President said, according to *Al-Ahram Al-Youm* 7/2/11.

He praised NISS performance saying “it has never let us down at times of peace and war”.

The President said there are still some SPLM elements who dream of removing and dismantling the government by supporting Darfur movements which, he said, is a “red line and unacceptable”, adding that some elements of Darfur movements are still in Bahr el Ghazal state.

On regional security, the President said the government would strive to boost its relations with Chad and CAR, indicating that a summit meeting would be held soon between the three countries to discuss border security.

He praised Qatar for its effort to address Darfur issue, pledging to free Darfur of outlaws by July.

He said the government would exert efforts to achieve development to realize self-sufficiency.

*Al-Tayar* 7/2/11 reports President Al-Bashir as saying that his government supports freedoms but it would not tolerate chaos and sabotage, adding that freedom is governed by the law and the constitution and that those who seek power should contest elections.

According to *Sudan Vision* 7/2/11, the President stressed that NISS represents a mobilization of the best of the Sudanese youth who remained faithful as has been expected of them. "We have tested them in various positions and they did not let us down be it war or peace in the peripheries, towns or operation theatres," he said.

"During war time nobody else fought in the south, we offered our sons as fighters and martyrs the thing which had not been done by any other government or party," he said, adding that the government has defended the country without begging or subordination to super powers despite the plots, stressing that their conspiracies have failed though they did not extinct.

On Darfur he said, the government is continuing the implementation of Darfur strategy in security, negotiations, development and services besides the IDPs and the refugees. He revealed their intention to establish projects to provide work chances and encourage investment.

He stressed the importance of evacuation of the IDP camps and the voluntary return to home villages.

On his part, NISS Director Lt. Gen. (Security) Mohammed Atta Al-Mawla affirmed that the NISS would perform its work in professional manner based on an experience of more than two decades where all ordeals were experienced intensively.

Al Bashir received allegiance from the officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers of the National Intelligence and Security Service on the hearing and obedience in wealth and poverty as

long as he sticks to Sharia law to preserve the country's security and sovereignty.

The President will also meet today with all the commanders of the armed forces. SAF Spokesman Khalid Al-Sawarmi said the President would brief the officers and noncommissioned officers and soldiers of the armed forces on the political developments for the period of post-referendum and its implications on the situation and the proactive role of the armed forces in the coming period.

Meanwhile, *Reuters* (Khartoum) 7/2/11 reports that Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir said today he would accept the vote of the south to secede, hours before the release of final results of an independence referendum.

"Today we will announce in front of the entire world our acceptance and respect for the choice of the people of the south," Bashir told supporters in Khartoum.

"The final results of the referendum are known and it is for secession and... we will commit to the final result."

Monday's announcement of final referendum returns will likely be followed by recognition of the south's right to become the world's newest independent nation by capitals around the world and multilateral bodies including the African Union and United Nations.

Bashir made clear that no one would have dual north and south Sudanese nationality, despite the principle being allowed in the constitution, underlining the uneasy relationship the two new nations will have after secession.

### **VP Taha meets SRSG Menkerios**

*SUNA* 6/2/11 - Vice-President of the Republic Ali Osman Mohamed Taha affirmed the government acceptance and enforcement of the results of the referendum of Southern Sudan as one of the requirements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. This came when he met in his office at the presidential palace with Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios. They discussed the future of relations with the United Nations and the situation and what is required from the Missions in Sudan in the next stage.

For his part, the SRSG said that the meeting discussed the pending issues including the demarcation of the border and Abyei.

Meanwhile, *Al-Wifaq* 7/2/11 reports that the UNSC will hold special session on Sudan on 9 February to discuss referendum results and to follow up on political developments in the country particularly the Darfur issue.

Foreign Ministry official spokesperson Khalid Musa told reporters yesterday after a meeting between Foreign Minister Ali Karti and SRSG Haile Menkerios that the UN expressed commitment to assist Sudan and to support all its options to achieve and sustain peace in the North. He said the UN has commended the stances of the Sudanese political leaderships.

In a related development, *Al-Akhbar* 7/2/11 reports that the SRSG told the newspaper yesterday that after the final vote results are announced the UN would focus on post-referendum

arrangements and Abyei adding that the UN, during the forthcoming period, would deal with the Government and SPLM based on new mandate outlining how they are to be assisted to resolve the pending issues.

The SRSB declined to comment on incidents in Malakal saying what happened in the South concerns the JDB and the problem could be resolved.

### **NCP rejects foreign intervention in issues after the CPA**

**SUNA** 6/2/11 - The NCP said that it would not allow any foreign forces to intervene in Sudanese files and issues after the completion of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Responding to a question regarding the visit of the US envoy, Scott Gration, to Port-Sudan lately and his attempt to meet with leaders of some opposition parties, NCP official Haj Magid Siwar said that the major issue in Sudan was the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the United States and a number of European countries have witnessed the signing and the implementation of the agreement and even contributed to the solution of differences between the two partners from time to time.

On Darfur issue, he said it is being handled by the Joint Mediator and the Doha forum only, pointing out that the state would not permit any attempt for intervention in other files in Sudan, whether that of eastern Sudan or elsewhere.

Siwar said that it is known that the file of east Sudan was ended by the signing of the Eastern Sudan peace agreement which is now being implemented in full and wide strides have been made in this regard.

### **Sudan oil production to increase to 195,000 bpd by the end of 2012**

**SUNA** 6/2/11 - The State Minister at the Ministry of Oil, Engineer Ali Ahmed Osman, announced that the north Sudan oil production would increase to 195,000 barrels per day (bpd) by the end of the year 2012.

While inspecting progress of work at Balila oil field in southern Kordofan Sunday Osman said that the ministry has set plan to increase the field's production to reach 100,000 bpd by 2012.

The minister called on the companies working in the field to speed up the process for increasing oil production in the area which produces 60,000 bpd...

### **Sudan army mutiny in southern oil state, 50 killed**

**Reuters** 6/2/11 - At least 50 people have died as a mutiny in the Sudan army spread through towns in oil-producing Upper Nile state, stoking tension as the south prepares for independence, the military said on Sunday.

Heavy fighting, with tanks and machineguns, first broke out in the politically sensitive southern town of Makalal on Thursday, when members of an army unit refused to redeploy with their weapons to the north and turned on other members of their unit.

Fighting then spread from Makalal, Upper Nile's capital, to the settlements of Melut and Paloich

on Friday and Saturday, state officials told Reuters.

The violence is a worrying accompaniment to the separation of Sudan's northern and southern armies and their military hardware ahead of the southern secession, expected on July 9.

Early results from a referendum in January show the vast majority of southern voters chose to separate from the north. Final results of the vote, promised in a 2005 peace accord that ended decades of civil war, are due to be announced on Monday.

"The fighting in Malut yesterday (Saturday) killed 19 and wounded 18 ... In Paloich 11 were killed and eight wounded," said Akuoc Teng Diing, county commissioner of Melut county. All the dead were soldiers, he said.

Officials earlier said 20 people died in Malakal, including two children and a Sudanese driver working for the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR, caught in the crossfire.

Malakal is currently patrolled by a combined military unit made up of the north's Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the south's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), a force the U.N. said was in the process of splitting up before the south's independence.

The situation was complicated by the fact that the SAF unit included many southern soldiers drawn from a militia that fought alongside the north during the civil war.

Southern army spokesman Philip Aguer said it was those southern soldiers in the SAF unit who resisted the redeployment north and began exchanging fire with other members of the same SAF unit.

## **Other Highlights**

### **Sudan blames Darfur mediator for support to rebels' rapprochement**

*Sudan Tribune.com* 6/2/11 - Sudan criticized Joint Chief Mediator Djibril Bassole for his support to an understanding released by rebels groups who vowed to work together in the negotiations for peace in Darfur.

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) on 29 January committed themselves to work hand to hand for the first time in the peace process held in Doha.

Djibril Bassole praised the reconciliation of the two movements as he used in the past to point out that division among the rebel groups is one of the reasons obstructing the Doha talks.

However Sudanese government expressed its "dissatisfaction with some steps" taken by the joint mediator Djibril Bassole during a meeting of the Tripartite Mechanism on Darfur held on 3 February in Addis Ababa.

The Sudanese delegation blamed Bassole for praising the understanding reached by JEM and LJM which "included a mention to the existence of genocide in Darfur," said the spokesperson of the ministry of foreign affairs, Khalid Musa on Sunday.

The statement of the joint mediator "contravenes the position of the African Union and the United Nations in this regard and makes Bassole's stance inconsistent with the position of the official bodies which he represents as joint mediator," he said.

Further, while Khartoum seeks to bring home the efforts to end Darfur conflict, Al-Mahmoud and Bassole sought to gather regional and international support to Doha forum. They held a series of meetings and trips in this regard. The Afro-Arab ministerial committee in January backed their efforts and called to make Doha as sole venue for all the initiatives on Darfur conflict.

Sudan's delegation to the tripartite meeting chaired by the Undersecretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Rahamtalla Mohamed Osman also "criticized the unjustified position of the joint mediator against the Darfur-Darfur Political Dialogue which is part of the joint understandings between the government, international community, UNAMID, United Nations and the African Union," said the spokesperson of the foreign ministry...

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