

21 February 2011

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Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

Post-Referendum Monitor

- Al-Bashir promises wider participation in government (*local dailies*)
- Bashir 'will not seek re-election' (*Al-Jazeera.net*)
- ITU to release telephone code for south Sudan (*The Juba Post*)
- Sudan calls for UK intervention over foreign debts (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Southern Sudan requests UK assistance on north-south border demarcation (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Parliament to deliberate on results of the referendum today (*Ajras Al-Hurriya*)
- South Sudan should have a prime minister after independence - SPLM-DC (*Sudantribune.com*)
- Opposition parties to meet on Wednesday (*Al-Ayyam*)
- CBOS discusses status of southern Sudanese employees (*Al-Sahafa*)

Other Headlines

- Southern Sudan gets first Arabic language daily (*Al-Ahdath et al*)
- South Darfur governor on collision course with foreign ministry (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Abyei confirms nomadic routes to south are open (*Al-Khartoum*)
- SLM's Minnawi says Darfur airports are now military targets (*Sudantribune.com*)
- SAF clashes with armed groups in Shangil Tobaya (*Al-Ayyam*)
- Darfur to get first oil well (*Al-Sahafa*)
- Mediators meet with parties to Darfur talks today (*Al-Ahdath*)
- NCP warns UNAMID against overstepping mandate (*Al-Sahafa*)

Links

- Dailycamera: **Longmont's DigitalGlobe helps activists monitor violence in Sudan** - http://www.dailycamera.com/news/ci_17439946
- Businessday : **PAUL MOORCRAFT: New nation could struggle to free itself of old conflicts** - <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=134924>
- Guardiannews: **Adejumobi: Lessons from Tunisia, Egypt and Sudan** - http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=39290:adejumobi-lessons-from-tunisia-egypt-and-sudan&catid=38:columnists&Itemid=615
- The East African: **How 9/11 factor cemented Sudan peace** - <http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/magazine/-/434746/1109354/-/1115c11z/-/index.html>
- Radio Miraya: **Lakes State Government provides over 200 residential plots to returnees** - http://www.mirayafm.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5178:lakes-state-government-provides-over-200-residential-plots-to-returnees-&catid=85&Itemid=278

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Post-Referendum Monitor

Al-Bashir promises wider participation in government

Local dailies Khartoum, 21/02/11 – President Al-Bashir has reiterated pledges to widen participation in the post-referendum Sudan government but on a basis different from the concept of a national or interim government that some political parties are pushing for.

“Although we draw our legitimacy from the people, we do not say we are the only ones who have the right to run the country but would open the doors for wider participation in government,” *Al-Ahdath* quotes President Al-Bashir as saying.

Al-Bashir who received yesterday parliament’s response to his speeches after re-election and his speech when parliament returned from recess, promised major amendments to the country’s interim constitution. “We need to exert extra effort to compensate the people of Sudan for the loss of southern Sudan so that both sides emerge stronger,” he said.

He said that sustaining peace would be the major challenge ahead. Al-Bashir reiterated vows to support southern Sudanese establish their state.

Bashir 'will not seek re-election'

Al-Jazeera.net Khartoum, 21/02/11 - Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Sudan's president, will not stand for re-election, reports say, with his party insisting he is "not under pressure" from the wave of demonstrations rocking the region.

"[Bashir] announced that he will not enter the coming elections to compete for the presidency," Rabie Abdelati, a senior official from the ruling National Congress Party, told *Reuters* news agency on Monday.

The president had hinted in an interview with *Al-Jazeera* several weeks ago that he may not seek re-election in the next polls, which are due in four year's time.

Opposition groups have said the move is an attempt to stave off unrest in the region, which have ousted presidents in Egypt and Tunisia, from spreading to Sudan.

But Abdelati told the *AFP* news agency that Bashir was "not under pressure" from the wave of protests.

"This is not in the context of the change that is happening in the Arab world. It is happening because of the political strategy of the NCP to broaden participation," he said.

Nadim Baba, *Al-Jazeera's* correspondent in Juba, said Bashir was reported to have offered a number of concessions during a meeting of the youth sector of his party last week.

He is said to have offered to form an anti-corruption commission and another to help graduates find jobs.

"If this were to be confirmed, it would be seen as a reaction to events that everybody has been following across the region," said Baba.

ITU to release telephone code for south Sudan

The Juba Post Juba, 21/02/11 – The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will allocate a new telephone code to south Sudan before the end of the Interim Period, GoSS Undersecretary for Telecommunication and Postal Services, Juma Stephen, said. He said that the ITU has

considered the request by the GoSS and would soon give the south the three digits code. He said that the subsequent developments related to the shift to the new code would be carried out smoothly to avoid inconveniences to subscribers.

Sudan calls for UK intervention over foreign debts

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 21/02/11 – Sudan’s Finance Minister Ali Mahmoud is requesting the UK government to contribute towards Sudan’s efforts for debt relief through helping sponsor positive dialogue with Sudan’s debtors. In a meeting in Khartoum yesterday with visiting UK Special Envoy to Sudan, Michael Ryder, the Sudanese minister requested UK technical support to help Sudan prepare for the possible scenarios.

Southern Sudan requests UK assistance on north-south border demarcation

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 21/02/11 – GoSS Minister for Peace and CPA Implementation, Pagan Amum, held talks in Khartoum yesterday with British Special Envoy to Sudan Michael Ryder focusing on the UK’s assistance towards the implementation of the CPA and on possibilities for its technical support for the north-south border demarcation.

Amum called on the UK government to assist the CPA partners in the border demarcation process through furnishing them with all the relevant maps and documents related to the north-south borders to enable the parties resolve the remaining five outstanding points in the border issue.

Parliament to deliberate on results of the referendum today

Ajras Al-Hurriya Khartoum, 21/02/11 – The National Assembly and the States Assembly would today sit to deliberate and probably endorse the final results of the referendum on southern Sudan self-determination. Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir would host a press conference on the issue at the end of the deliberations.

South Sudan should have a prime minister after independence - SPLM-DC

Sudantribune.com Juba, 20/02/11 - The Sudan People Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM-DC) said Saturday that South Sudan, when it becomes independent in July, should have a prime minister as well as a president.

The SPLM-DC chairperson in Central Equatoria state, Peter Yeka, told *Sudan Tribune* that he hoped the new country of South Sudan would be a democratic country that will be represented by all the political parties in the region not just the dominant SPLM.

“South Sudan should have [a] president and prime minister so that all the political parties in the African newest region will have chance to power sharing rather than having president and the vice all from the same party”, Yeka said.

The Central Equatoria SPLM-DC chairperson said: “The leaders that will be elected democratically should likewise serve a maximum of five years in the offices that will adopt the world standard, but not permanent in the office.”

Speaking at the party’s office in Juba - the capital of the South - said Yeka, said that, the technical committees that were formed to review the constitution of the newest state should be transparent. He also said that the new constitution should enforce term limits at all levels of the new South Sudan government.

Yeka said that laws that will come out of the review ensure freedom of expression for all

political parties and citizens.

He added that, the new constitution should separate South Sudan's army from its political and administrative institutions. Since the 2005 peace deal, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which fought Khartoum governments for over two decades, has been the region's official army. The SPLM is the political wing of the SPLA, and many of the South's politicians are former or current members of the army and security services.

The SPLM-DC member said that the SPLA does not belong to SPLM but should be for the region, to protect South Sudan from both internal and external threats.

"The vision and mission of SPLM-DC Secretariat is well spelt, they are to transform the country into a modern state, the party also respects the right of the citizens without any tribalism or nepotism", Yeka stressed.

Yeka said that the SPLM-DC had actively participated in the registration and education of citizens for plebiscite from the grass roots upwards.

"The DC will make sure that, they are in full gear, (cooperation) with all the political parties in the region so that, southern Sudan will be a unique country will be loved and admired by the world as they have recognized the referendum results" he said.

He also recognized the benefits of the South-South dialogue that brought all the political parties under one umbrella in October, he says that resolution and promises tabled will only succeed when all the parties in the region join hands to achieve a common goal for the development of the country.

The SPLM-DC is working tirelessly to make sure services are delivered to the citizens without any discrimination because he says, South Sudan belongs to all the tribes in the south but not only for one tribe, Yeti said.

Opposition parties to meet on Wednesday

Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 21/02/11 – The council of the opposition alliance, National Consensus Forces, convenes next Wednesday to discuss possibilities for a high-level meeting of its leaders. Council head Farouq Abu-Eissa said that the recent statements by the NCP youths confirming that Al-Bashir would not stand for re-election is "useless" on the grounds that the current government institutions stand to lose legitimacy alongside the current constitution with southern Sudanese secession and the resultant exit of a partner to the CPA from the government. "This is why we have called for an inclusive meeting on the constitution with the participation of the NCP," he said.

CBOS discusses status of southern Sudanese employees

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 21/02/11 – The Governor of the Central Bank of Sudan, Sabir Mohamed Al-Hassan, meets today with his deputy, Elijah Malok, to discuss the future of southern Sudanese employees of the Central Bank.

Addressing employees of the Bank of Sudan during a meeting in Kosti yesterday, Sabir noted that southern Sudanese employees of the bank have expressed concerns over their future after the south is officially declared independent. He expressed commitment to see that they would in no way be negatively affected.

Other Highlights

Southern Sudan gets first Arabic language daily

Al-Ahdath et al Juba, 21/02/11 – GoSS Information Minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin officiated in Juba last Saturday on the launch of southern Sudan's first Arabic language newspaper. Addressing the launch of *Al-Masir* (The Fate) daily, the minister said that the GoSS is committed to printing daily newspapers in a number of languages, including local languages, to serve southern Sudan.

Atem Simon, the paper's chief editor, said that they chose to establish the newspaper at this particular time in order to help maintain a link between north and south Sudan.

South Darfur governor on collision course with foreign ministry

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 21/02/11 – South Darfur Governor Abdulhameed Musa Kasha says he would seek to institute legal measures against the Ministry of Foreign Affairs following accusations by the latter that he put state interest in jeopardy by expelling a French NGO last week. He countered with an accusation that the Ministry is to blame for putting the country's interests at stake by "crying after spy organizations".

He pointed out that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs knows nothing of the martyrs from the SAF, the Central Military Reserve Forces, the Security and the police forces who fell in rebel ambushes as a result of information provided by such organizations.

The governor defended his decision to expel the aid agency pointing out that he revealed evidence of their acts of espionage that jeopardizes national security to the special envoys to Sudan who recently visited his state.

Abyei confirms nomadic routes to south are open

Al-Khartoum Abyei/Khartoum, 21/02/11 – The Abyei Area Administration held a meeting yesterday with Misseriya tribal leaders and representatives of nomadic tribes in the region. During the meeting that was attended by representatives of the JIUs, representatives of the nomadic tribes were briefed on the security situation in the area after the redeployment of the police from the area.

Abyei Deputy Chief Administrator Rahama Abdulrahma told the *SMC* following the meeting that the Area Administration briefed representatives of the tribes on how to interact with the JIUs and assured them of security along the nomadic routes to the south as per the provisions of the Kadugli meeting. He also said that the Area Administration has requested the people not to worry about solutions to the Abyei problem because the "solutions would come from the Presidency of the Republic."

SLM's Minnawi says Darfur airports are now military targets

Sudantribune.com Khartoum, 20/02/11 - The Sudan Liberation Movement led by Minni Minnawi today warned the hybrid peacekeeping operation UNAMID and other international organizations to evacuate the airports in Darfur. In a statement released on Sunday, Minni Minnawi who denounced officially earlier this month a peace agreement he signed with the

Sudanese government in May 2006, said these airports are now "strategic military targets" for his forces.

"The SLM warns the UNAMID forces and other international organizations deployed in Darfur and other parts of Sudan to evacuate the airports in Darfur or elsewhere immediately because these sites are strategic military target for the forces of the SLM/A," said a statement signed the rebel leader.

Minnawi said Sudanese warplanes use these airports to commit atrocities against innocent civilians and to transport ammunition and weapons to Darfur.

"The Air force forms 60% of the government war effort in Darfur, while the role of the government army and militia on the ground is limited to 40% of crimes of ethnic cleansing and genocide committed in Darfur," he stressed.

The head of the joint peacekeeping mission Ibrahim Gambari said the mission is alarmed by the recent increase of fighting in the restive North Darfur between the government army and the rebels groups.

Gambari "is particularly disturbed about reports of the most recent recrudescence of violence between Government of the Sudan soldiers and a combined group of elements from several rebel movements, in the region of Shangil Tobaya, 66 kilometres south west of El Fasher" said a statement released by the UNAMID.

An official from the hybrid operation told the *AFP* on condition of anonymity that low-flying Antonov aircraft and helicopters were seen in the area, with loud explosions heard throughout the day, and gun battles between government soldiers and different rebel groups, thought to include the Sudan Liberation Army factions of Abdulwahid Nur and Minni Minnawi,.

The chief of the peacekeeping mission urged all belligerents to stop hostilities and refrain from further armed confrontation, and allow unfettered access by the humanitarian community and UNAMID to areas and population in need.

SAF clashes with armed groups in Shangil Tobaya

Al-Ayyam Khartoum, 21/02/11 – Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) Spokesperson Al-Suwarni Khaled reports clashes between the SAF and an armed group led by Ali Karmino on the way to Shangil Tobaya six days ago. He said that the two sides used light weapons in the clashes and no casualties were reported, thus denying reports of SAF casualties in the clashes.

A source in UNAMID reports that the two sides clashed on Tuesday near Tabit and Shangil Tobaya, some 70km from El-Fasher in North Darfur. The sources said helicopter gun-ships and Antonov bombers hovered over the area and explosions could be heard throughout the day.

The SAF spokesperson however says the Sudan Air Force was not engaged in the fighting.

In another development, the SAF spokesperson says the army has made some changes to its ranks with some officers going on retirement and others promoted or moved to other positions within the military hierarchy. He denied speculation that there were political motives behind these reshuffles.

Darfur to get first oil well

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 21/02/11 – Oil Minister Lual Deng announced yesterday that the first oil well in Darfur would soon be drilled in Adeela in South Darfur and may start oil production

within 36 months after drilling starts.

Deng held talks yesterday with Presidential Advisor Abdalla Massar on a number of issues pertaining to oil findings in the South Darfur area and underlined the need for cooperation from the people of Darfur.

Oil exploration carried out in the area in the 1980s revealed oil reserves in the Adeela area and around Oum Dafoug near the Chadian border.

Mediators meet with parties to Darfur talks today

Al-Ahdath Khartoum, 21/02/11 – International mediators to the Darfur peace talks would reveal today the schedule for a new round of talks to representatives of the Sudan Government, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM).

The deputy head of the LJM says the mediators for the Doha talks prefer to that the parties enter into direct talks and have expressed hopes that solutions would be reached on the outstanding issues.

NCP warns UNAMID against overstepping mandate

Al-Sahafa Khartoum, 21/02/11 – The NCP has expressed total rejection to any activity carried out by UNAMID that is out of its mandated tasks.

NCP Political Campaigns Secretary, Majid Suwar, told the press in the wake of a meeting yesterday of the NCP Leadership Office that UNAMID has failed in its duties as stipulated in its agreement with the Sudan government and is now incapable of defending itself. “It is being protected by the national police and the SAF in their missions in the region,” he said.

“Once the Interim Period as stipulated by the Darfur Peace Agreement runs out and peace is achieved in Darfur, there would be no justification for UNAMID to continue operations in Darfur,” he said.

Suwar accused some parties he declined to name of seeking to destabilize Sudan and causing problems whenever solutions to older problems are close at hand. “When we signed the CPA, these parties caused the eruption of conflict in Darfur and now that we are close to a deal in Darfur, they are seeking to cause trouble in the east,” he said.

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