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# Media Monitoring Report

United Nations Mission in Sudan/ Public Information Office

## Post-Referendum Watch

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# Highlights

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## **CPA Parties to resume talks on Abyei on Wednesday**

*Al-Sahafa* 11/4/11 – Presidential Adviser for Security Affairs Gen. Salah Gosh said the two CPA parties agreed to resume talks on issues of borders and Abyei on 13 April. Gosh also said that the parties' talks in Addis Ababa on economic issues are progressing and expressed optimism that they would be able to overcome differences.

## **President Al-Bashir to visit southern Kordofan**

*Al-Ayyam* 11/4/11 – President Al-Bashir is to visit southern Kordofan on 28 April to attend a wrap-up ceremony of election campaign of the NCP candidate for gubernatorial post Ahmed Haroun. The President will visit various Localities in the state to be briefed on preparations for the kickoff of the voting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

## **NCP, SPLM to form security committees in S. Kordofan for elections**

*The Citizen* 11/4/11 – the NCP and the SPLM have agreed to form emergency committee in southern Kordofan state to restore security during elections. SPLM candidate for gubernatorial post Abdul Aziz Al-Hilu said he did not rule out surprises in the state elections scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

Meanwhile, *Al-Ayyam* 11/4/11 reports Al-Hilu as telling reporters in Kadugli yesterday that despite the precautionary measures taken by the National Elections Commission, there was no guarantee the elections would not be rigged.

## **Parliament to resume sessions, terminate southern MPs membership today**

*Al-Sahafa* 11/4/11 – The National Assembly is to resume sittings today and will announce the termination of the membership of the southern MPs who have already began the handover takeover process.

Meanwhile, the SPLM has reportedly begun considering the possibility of absorbing the MPs in the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly.

## **Opposition parties deny reports of backing SPLM in S. Kordofan**

*Al-Sahafa* (Khartoum) 11/04/11 – Five political parties under the opposition umbrella known as the “National Consensus Forces” say no agreement has been reached to back the SPLM candidate for the gubernatorial position in Southern Kordofan state.

The National Umma Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, the United Sudan National Party, the Justice Party and the Baath Socialist Party said in a joint press release yesterday that some opposition parties did participate in the launch of the SPLM elections campaign in Southern Kordofan last Tuesday but no agreement has been reached to jointly support the SPLM candidate. The parties further noted that none of the opposition figures that participated at the launch of the SPLM campaign was delegated to represent the alliance.

## **Global witness: Sudan's new oil deal must guarantee transparency**

*Sudan Tribune website* 10/4/11 - As fresh talks on the future of Sudan's oil commence in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, a UK-based organization has urged parties involved in the negotiations to deliver on stated commitments to transparency in the oil sector as measures to "preserve peace and drive development".

In a statement released on April 8, Global Witness urged members from the south's ruling party and their northern counterparts currently involved in the negotiations ahead of the South's separation to strive towards ensuring that whatever is agreed upon is based on "credible transparency mechanisms".

"A lack of transparency in the current deal has fuelled mistrust between the north and south since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) brought an end to Sudan's 22-year civil war in 2005," Global Witness says in the report.

It added, "Suspicion that the north was cheating it out of due revenues was one of the primary reasons for the south's temporary pull-out from the shared government in 2007. It is still impossible to tell if the current deal, a 50:50 split of southern oil revenues, has been implemented fairly."

According to Global Witness, with more than 75% of the oil is in the south but the pipelines, refineries, and port for exporting are all in the north so it is important that the two sides come to a new agreement on how to share oil revenues.

"If Sudan is to build a sustainable and peaceful future, it must learn the lessons of the past. This means the new oil deal must be built on effective transparency and accountability mechanisms from the outset," says Dana Wilkins, a Global Witness campaigner.

She added, "Without transparency the new oil deal will set the stage for continued suspicion and disputes, and potentially even a return to conflict."

Specifically, however, the organization says the new oil agreement currently being discussed should include full regular independent monitoring to build trust and confidence between the two parties, involve full audits, covering engineering, technical and financial flows, conducted annually by a credible international firm.

In addition, it agitates that information on sales and production figures, fees paid and received by governments and oil companies and exploration contracts must be published, while an independent multi-stakeholder group with sufficient authority, resources, access and expertise must also be brought in to monitor the general functioning of the sector.

"As the legitimate owners of Sudan's natural resources, ordinary citizens must be able to see exactly how they are being managed, how much money is being generated, and what it is being spent on," further said Wilkins, adding that, "Both sides must make good on their commitments to a transparent deal, thereby making oil a driver for peace and development, not war."

## Other Highlights

### **Police clash with students in Omdurman**

*Al-Sahafa* (Khartoum) 11/04/11 – Police used teargas yesterday to disperse student protests at the College of Education, Khartoum University, in Omdurman. It all started when students who were last year residents of a hostel entered forcefully into the hostel. The hostel was closed last year on the grounds of maintenance following a fire during student protests last year. The protestors claimed that they were living in congested quarters and that repairs of the old hostel were taking a long time.

### **Journalists express solidarity with *Ajras Al-Hurriya* and *Al-Midan* dailies**

*Ajras Al-Hurriya* (Khartoum) 11/04/11 – The Sudan Journalists' Network has declared solidarity with the *Ajras Al-Hurriya* and *Al-Midan* dailies whose editions of Wednesday and Thursday were seized by authorities prior to distribution.

Abdulla AL-Sheikh, the chief editor of *Ajras Al-Hurriya*, told a sit-in by members of the Network yesterday that it was important that journalists stand as one against the intimidation they are subjected to at the hands of authorities.

The journalists have also called for the release of Jaffar Al-Sabki and Abuzar Ali, both journalists arrested by authorities earlier.

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