

Sudan Domestic Media, April 19, 2010 (covering April 12 to April 18, 2010)

By Kristen Zbikowski, MIGS Reporter for Sudan

April 12

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Apr 10)

- The National Elections Commission (NEC) admitted that a number of polling stations in Khartoum were affected by technical glitches.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 12 Apr 10)

- Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter described the withdrawal of the National Ummah Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) as illegal.

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 12 Apr 10)

- Police forces put an end to demonstrations staged by 150 members of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) led by Abd-al-Wahid Muhammad Nur. The demonstrations took place in Suq Sita market in Mayo area and Al-Haj Yusif. The demonstrators were out in the streets in order to show their rejection of the elections. Police sources told *Al-Sahafah* that a number of demonstrators who had leaflets and pictures of Abd-al-Wahid Muhammad Nur were arrested and criminal charges were filed against them with the aim of bringing them to trial.
- The coalition of civil society organizations observing the elections called the first day of voting a failure, attributing this to the NEC's lack of credibility. The coalition indicated that 12 political parties' representatives were arrested in Hayah area in Port Sudan by an unknown individual. The coalition reported this to the authorities and the NEC. The coalition also noted examples of state-owned cars being used in the ballot process.
- Twenty five boxes, 21 of which were full of ballot cards, were seized by authorities in Upper Nile State.
- Luka Biong, the acting government of South Sudan minister for presidential affairs, criticized the NEC, calling it "inefficient", and indicated that the administrative, technical and logistical errors in the election were catastrophic. He also suggested that the election process required three more days to be completed.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 12 Apr 10)

- According to an informed source, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) violated the election process in southern Sudan by arresting representatives and candidates from a number of parties, including the candidate of constituency number 9 in SSLA. The source added that the SPLA has forced some citizens to

vote for the SPLM. In addition, no foreign observers were present and most citizens in Mayom and Bentiu did not find their names on the voting register despite the fact that they had voting slips. Ballot boxes were also lost from the NEC vehicle in Kajo-keji in Eastern Equatoria.

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 12 Apr 10)

- Angry voters chased police away from a polling station at Court B in Kator South and confronted security officials who were sent in to defuse the situation. All of the voters had discovered that their names were not on the polling list. After the list was verified, it was revealed that it contained names from another polling center, that of Jebel.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Apr 10)

- Opposition groups that are boycotting the elections accused various organizations of being biased. In particular, these groups condemned the Carter Center, describing its lauding of the electoral process as biased in favor of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and suggested that the NEC's technical errors were in fact intentional and associated them with "political mistakes".
- Bona Malwal, chairman of the United Democratic Forum for Southern Sudan, announced in a press conference the suspension of political activities in Warrap State in the southern region. He complained of threats from the SPLA directed at voters and observers which prevented people from entering the area and the polling stations as well as the arrests of agents of his party in the area.

April 13

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 13 Apr 10)

- Elements of the SPLA attacked Kantousha Margan, the NCP candidate for female constituencies and other SPLA forces Al- Sheikh Isam, a figure of the NCP, and arrested other NCP members.

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 13 Apr 10)

- The Juba alliance of parties accused the U.S. of collaborating with the NCP to forge the elections in order to maintain the NCP's power. The alliance argued that the U.S. seeks to run Sudan the same way it ran Iraq. At a press conference, Faruq Abu-Isa, the alliance's spokesman, noted sarcastically: "It seems that Carter has been forced to talk in favour of the National Congress Party after it threatened to amputate feet and hands" and went on to depict the first two days of the elections as a farce, one that would eventually lead to the punishment of the NEC.

April 14

(Al-Ra'y al-Amm, Khartoum, in Arabic 14 Apr 10)

- The NCP protested to Salva Kirr Mayardit over direct interference in the voting process on the part of the SPLA and some Government of South Sudan (GoSS) officials. Salva Kirr agreed to resolve all problems impeding the electoral process and demanded that a number of detained NCP members be released immediately.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 14 Apr 10)

- Dr. Lam Akol, chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM-DC), indicated the intensified presence of SPLA soldiers at polling stations as well as intimidation and harassment of voters in Upper Nile State. According to Akol, the SPLA ejected party representatives and fired at citizens, killing two voters and terrorizing voters.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 14 Apr 10)

- In Western Darfur State, the higher elections committee denied rumors regarding freezing of the voting process in the Kolbus and Ardamata constituencies, stating that the reports of some daily newspapers were completely untrue.

April 15

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 15 Apr 10)

- Officials in Yei staged a brief strike and demanded contracts defining the terms of their service. Since the first day of voting, these officials complained of working without food or water in hectic conditions. Fr. Simon Khemis, the Constituency Election Officer, clarified that officials were paid a balance from their training expenses on the first day of polling, adding that NEC did not allocate funds for meals to feed the officials at the stations.

(Akhir Lahzah, Khartoum, in Arabic 15 Apr 10)

- Nine NCP leaders were assassinated on April 14 in the town of Raja, Western Bahr-al-Ghazal. Responsibility for the attack was placed on the SPLA. According to *Akhir Lahzah*, "Today we add to our previous warnings the danger of the growing feeling of political oppression and the inclination by some political forces to liquidate their adversaries physically, something that could create what we may call political vendettas. If this happens, it will open the doors of an intolerable and unbearable hell...It will shake the ground under the feet of everybody and will detonate volcanoes of blood everywhere, especially in the areas that suffer from weak presence of the State as in South Sudan now, and in the areas that suffer from backwardness and ignorance, where it would be easy to lure citizens at present to a battle without cause in which the losers will be only

the citizens whose leaders in the North and South tried so hard to stop the war and bloodshed.”

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 15 Apr 10)

- Clashes erupted between the Al-Tha'alah and Al-Mahadi'i tribes around the town of Kas in South Darfur State, leading to the burning of the Barbaro neighborhood and the deaths and injuries of dozens of people. Thousands were displaced.

April 16

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 16 Apr 10)

- The [Darfur] People's Democratic Struggle Movement announced its intention to cooperate with the government and the UN to release four kidnapped individuals from the UN and African Union Mission (UNAMID) in south Darfur.

(Khartoum Monitor, Khartoum, in English 16 Apr 10)

- Mr. William Tuli, advisor of the chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement Democratic Change (SLM-DC), indicated that there was violence on the second, third and final day of voting in some counties in Unity State.
- Harassments and arrests carried out by military elements were witnessed in Wulu county and Rumbek East county of Lakes State. According to Radio Rumbek FM-98, the NCP chairman was arrested in Rumbek East county of Lakes State along with his driver and two of his staff members. All reportedly remain behind bars. NCP member John Anyuon Abdual was also arrested in Wulu county by the military and independent candidate Moses Ater Manyiel was detained for four hours and then freed. Ater Manyiel, who is contesting as an independent candidate, stated that he was arrested by the military and subsequently released without being charged.

April 17

(Khartoum Monitor, Khartoum, in English 17 Apr 10)

- Juma Nanu Kumba, caretaker Governor of Western Equatoria State (WES) and the official gubernatorial candidate of the SPLM from Yambio town, the capital of Western Equatoria State, disclosed that three NEC officials were found committing electoral fraud on behalf of elements she described as "anti SPLM parties" and elements acting on behalf of "independent candidates".
- The Nuer group of cattle raiders attacked Twic county in southern Sudan, killing nine people and injuring three others, including a one-year-old child.

April 18

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 18 Apr 10)

- Hatim al-Sir Ali Sikingo, candidate for the Democratic Unionist Party, announced his rejection and non-recognition of the elections. He nonetheless urged citizens to refrain from responding to the election results with unlawful acts with the goal of avoiding any turmoil.
- Eleven parties in Western Bahr al-Ghazal State announced their rejection of election results in 17 polling stations in Wau, the state capital. They attributed their decision to violations in the election process, accusing the NEC of being biased.
- An independent candidate's representative in New Halfa, Numayri Ali Husayn, told *Al-Sahafah* that the NCP candidate in one polling center received more votes than the number of the registered voters and submitted a complaint over the incident as a result.

(Al-Ayyam, Khartoum, in Arabic 18 Apr 10)

- The Forces of National Consensus (FNC) in the Red Sea State in eastern Sudan called for an election re-run in the state as a result of the fraud and irregularities observed. The FNC's spokesman, Hashim Kuna, added that election monitors were intimidated and physically abused by armed militias, although he did not identify which group they belonged to.

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 18 Apr 10)

- An election candidate and at least five others were detained for election malpractices by election security personnel in Eastern Equatoria State.
- At least 300 candidates and supporters of independent candidates and other parties have reportedly been arrested. According to sources close to independent candidates, massive detention of their supporters continues in Abiem East.
- Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, General Secretary of the Popular Congress Party (PCP), revealed the PCP's intention of taking legal action against the NEC and the NCP.

(Al-Khartoum, Khartoum, in Arabic 18 Apr 10)

- The NEC asked the media not to publicize any election results before referring back to the commission for final approval of the results. Some opposition observers pointed to this as a new attempt by the commission to manipulate and control the results in light of their bias in favor of the NCP.