

Sudan Domestic Media, April 26, 2010 (covering April 19 to April 25, 2010)

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## **April 19**

### **(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 19 Apr 10)**

- It was announced that National Congress Party (NCP) leader Omar al-Bashir will not accommodate any of the political parties that boycotted the elections and there will be no room for political bargaining. The NCP's vice president, Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, stated that those who boycotted the elections will not be part of the executive of the coming government. He also indicated that there was no room to question the outcome of the elections.
- In response to a threat of a return to war if and when he loses the elections made by General Malik Agar, Governor of the Blue Nile State, Dr. Nafi said he did not come across such a statement.

### **(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 19 Apr 10)**

- An independent candidate contesting the elections for the governorship of Northern Bahr el Ghazal, General Dau Aturjong, dismissed allegations tying him to arms smuggling in the region. He refuted the allegations as propaganda meant to tarnish his popularity among the civilian population.
- The European Union's Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) stated that Sudan's elections failed to meet the international standard. The EU observation mission was supposed to observe the elections in all 25 of Sudan's states, but withdrew from Darfur days before polling began in response to low-level insecurity in the region threatening the safety of personnel.
- According to Sudan's opposition parties, the National Elections Commission (NEC) did not carry out its mandate as a neutral body and was biased in favor of the NCP and incumbent president Omar al-Bashir.
- James Wani Igga, vice chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), stated that voices opposing the SPLM that do not have legitimate claims seek to bring about anarchy and chaos.
- The United Democratic Front (UDF) announced that it will reject the national election results due to "malpractices" committed by the SPLM and the NCP during polling and vote tallying. UDF leader Peter Abdurrahman Sule informed the media that during the elections, thousands of SPLA soldiers were flown from different parts of south Sudan to cast votes for SPLM candidates. He stated that he was shocked by the extent of elections rigging by the SPLM and claimed: "In all polling stations, SPLM candidates were leading, followed by the NCP which is not even popular in the south; this shows clearly that the two parties agreed on how to rig these elections well before the time." He added that the UDF will

reject the election outcome and noted that some UDF members and candidates, among them Bona Deng in Gudele and Sabina Kolo in Terekeka, were beaten during the elections period and although these incidents were reported to the NEC, no actions were taken as a result.

- Foreign traders in southern Sudan urged the population to remain calm and avoid violence as they waited for the NEC to announce the results of the elections.
- James Hoth Mai, the SPLA's army chief of general staff, dismissed an accusation by the Government of National Unity alleging that the SPLA was involved in Raja killings in Western Bahr al-Ghazal State that left 10 dead. According to France TV channel 24, the NCP claimed that the SPLA was instructed by the SPLM to kill nine members of the northern Sudanese tribes of Fulus in Raja town. Hoth stated that the Government of National Unity should not disseminate propaganda on the issue, but rather treat it as community-related violence, adding that the NCP and the SPLM were not tied to the incident. Salva Kiir Mayardit, incumbent president of the government of southern Sudan, indicated that northerners are seeking to provoke the peace dividend in the south and that explained why they were spreading propaganda regarding the killings and linking the incident to the elections.
- Twelve people were killed and a number of others were seriously hurt during a cattle raid and attack at Kueich Amiol in Turalei payam, Twic County, in the southern region. The perpetrators made off with over 300 cattle. Several houses were also burned to the ground during the attack. A village elder, Deng Akol, urged the designated authorities to protect their citizens. Twenty-five people have been killed in five different attacks in the county this year alone.
- Fourteen people were sentenced to two years in prison for their participation in election rigging by the county court of Central Equatorial State (CES) in the southern region. Mr. Michael Andrei allegedly obtained 40 vehicles and an unspecified sum of money from the NCP and was tasked with paying potential voters.

**(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 19 Apr 10)**

- A group of independent civil society organizations called for reconsideration of the entire electoral process, including the results of the election. The organizations also insisted on the dissolution of the National Elections Commission (NEC) and its committees. The organizations issued a preliminary report on April 18 pointing to breaches that tainted every stage of the elections and were described as major shortcomings. In particular, they criticized the controversial census; the NEC delay in determining a ceiling for political party campaign expenditures; educating voters using the NCP logo; breaches in polling centers in Egypt where some Sudanese voters were "bought" for the NCP; as well as errors in the registry, voting slips and logos; late arrival of electoral materials; the erasable ink used; and the insufficient training of polling officials.

**(Al-Ayyam, Khartoum, in Arabic 19 Apr 10)**

- According to *Al-Ayyam*, “Everybody realizes that these elections were held...through a tripartite deal involving the NCP, the SPLM, and the American Administration represented in the person of presidential envoy Scott Gration.” The paper stated that the United States seeks to transfer its AFRICOM command from Germany to south Sudan and establish a foothold in Africa. The article concludes: “NCP leaders forgot in the heat of their lust for power that the United States who they kept saying in their songs "will soon suffer" has bared its fangs and become the party that decides when the Sudanese elections are held and how credible they are with the international community. There is a single objective: Namely a smooth civil divorce between the South and North.”

## **April 20**

### **(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 20 Apr 10)**

- Three soldiers associated with the SPLA were killed in clashes with local police in the Makal area in West Bahr al-Ghazal State in southern Sudan. Maj-Gen Kuol Deim Kuol, the SPLA's official spokesman, described the incident as minor and stated that the situation was under control and that the individuals responsible were held for investigations.

### **(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 20 Apr 10)**

- Dr. Lam Akol, head of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Democratic Change (SPLM-DC), indicated in a press statement that the SPLA is committing widespread fraud inside the centres and in controlling the ballot boxes and in marking on the cards in Bahr al-Ghazal State. Akol accused the NEC of supporting the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), stating that the NEC had failed to respond to complaints of fraud. He threatened to reject election results in the south if forgery is confirmed.
- According to the Sudan Vision website, “The elections process was conducted peacefully all over the country and no documented violation; hence the talk over its fairness is just an attempt to evoke conflicts.”

### **(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Apr 10)**

- The NCP and the SPLM agree to accept the general election results, to be announced by the NEC.

## **April 21**

### **(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 21 Apr 10)**

- According to Sudan Vision website, nearly 8 percent of voters were not permitted to vote because their names were not found on the voter lists and they were therefore disenfranchised.

- EU observers also reported incidents involving the violent harassment of political party members, often by security officials. Among these incidents were the killing of a candidate, physical attacks against rivals and brief detentions, as well as the removal of election posters and the burning of t-shirts supporting rivals.
- The EU EOM received credible information reporting indirect financial and logistical limitations imposed on press agencies that were critical of the government. Such constraints included access to the advertising market shares and printing facilities and difficulties with distribution and high taxes on ink, paper and on revenues.
- The Sudan Vision website also indicated that the NCP and the SPLM, having greater financial resources, were able to dominate the media campaign, rendering other political parties and candidates less visible. According to the website, coverage was unbalanced on prime time news and in public service electronic media. In addition, apart from *Al Ayam* and *Ajras Al Hurriva*, the print media was partisan.
- The website stated that although there were mutual allegations of fraud, misbehaviour, harassment and misuse of state resources, the overall tone of the media coverage was not too aggressive. Exceptions included President Omar al-Bashir's strong declarations against international observers and an aggressive exchange between NCP and Popular Congress Party leaders, who published their speeches in *al R'ay Sha'ab* newspaper.
- In the printed press, *al Ra'id* published four ads in favor of President al-Bashir.
- Armed clashes in isolated areas continue in several parts of the country. These clashes have had an impact on the freedom of movement of potential voters and on the work of elections observers. There were, however, very few cases of violence directly related to the elections during the campaign.

## **April 23**

### **(Al-Ahram al-Yawm, Khartoum, in Arabic, in Arabic 23 Apr 10)**

- The governor of Northern Bah-al-Ghazal State in southern Sudan banned meetings of three or more people, state police were extensively deployed in all parts of Aweil town, and commercial areas in the market were shut down on April 22 in anticipation of the announcement of the results of the state elections.
- Juba was also experiencing tensions ahead of election results in response to a competitive confrontation between the independent candidate and the SPLM candidate for the post of governor of Central Equatoria State.

### **(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Apr 10)**

- A sermon by preacher Shaykh Abd al-Jalil Nazir Al-Karuri broadcast on Sudan state television from Al-Shahid Mosque in Khartoum indicated that the volcanic ash cloud that disrupted flights across Europe was “punishment from God” because of pollution caused by European overproduction of chemicals. A second sermon focused on alleged “mistakes” committed by the West against other

nations, such as support for Israel with respect to the occupation of Palestine, the colonization of African and Asian countries, “Islamophobia” and environmental pollution.

#### **April 24**

##### **(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 24 Apr 10)**

- Pagan Amum, the Secretary General of the SPLM, condemned the armed attack in the area of Mopolo in Equatoria by unknown assailants.

##### **(Al-Ra'y al-Amm, Khartoum, in Arabic 24 Apr 10)**

- The NEC in the Red Sea State in eastern Sudan set up an investigation committee to look into a complaint received regarding fraud that was captured in video footage. The video was broadcast on satellite channels and showed fraud in a polling station in the Red Sea State. The NEC stated that the video was a fabrication. The NEC planned on investigating the video and the individuals behind its recording and broadcasting.

#### **April 25**

##### **(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 25 Apr 10)**

- Thirty members of the Al-Ruzayqat tribe were killed and five others were injured in an attack by the SPLA in the semi-desert homelands of the Al-Ruzayqat tribe in the Balbala and Mishiash areas, 286 kilometers from Al-Du'aiyn town in southern Darfur. One of the tribe's chieftains told reporters that 6,000 SPLA soldiers had arrived bearing heavy arms. He added that there had been an immense loss of life and property, especially with regard to the livestock lost. The tribe's chieftains held the SPLA responsible and blamed GoSS for failing to intervene and restore security. They warned that the country could slide back into war if the SPLM does not establish discipline within its forces. Eyewitnesses described the situation as explosive and warned of another impending SPLA attack.
- In a press conference held on April 24, local elections observers expressed their concern over incidents of violence, intimidation and silencing which affected observers in West Darfur State, North Darfur State, South Kurdufan State and Sinnar State.

##### **(Al-Ra'y al-Amm website, Khartoum, in Arabic 25 Apr 10)**

- Police in the Red Sea State announced that it would not permit any peaceful demonstrations to take place as the time for the announcement of election results approached.

##### **(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 25 Apr 10)**

- Several Juba alliance forces affirmed their rejection of the election results.