

Sudan Domestic Media, May 3, 2010 (covering April 26 to May 2, 2010)

By Kristen Zbikowski, MIGS Reporter for Sudan

April 26

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 26 Apr 10)

- The National Congress Party (NCP) belittled calls from the leaders of some opposition parties and their supporters to stage protest demonstrations over the election results and noted the possibility of violence as a result of such demonstrations. Dr. Muhammad Mandur al-Mahdi, Deputy Chairman of the NCP in Khartoum State, ridiculed the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) candidate's statement that millions of his supporters would take to the streets "to emphasize the existence of his party".
- The United Nations and African Union Mission for Darfur (UNAMID) announced the release of four UNAMID police abductees as a result of strong efforts by Sudanese authorities. Special representative of the UN and African Union for Darfur, Prof Ibrahim Gambari, said their release would not have been possible without the cooperation and support of the Government of Sudan and local Darfur authorities. The four abductees, two women and two men from South Africa, had been held in detention for 16 days. They had been working as advisors for UNAMID police and were kidnapped outside Nyala city as they headed to their camp.

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 26 Apr 10)

- A grenade exploded in Torit town on Friday. The attack was carried out by a Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldier identified as Kasimiro Oute.
- The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) is set to investigate the burning of two Lorries carrying ballot papers in Western Equatoria State. Mr. Pagan Amum, Secretary General of the SPLM, also indicated that there was an attack in the same state in a school where ballot papers were burned and polling staff were seriously beaten. The SPLM condemned these acts and called on the National Elections Commission (NEC) to bring the culprits to justice.
- Two journalists were grilled for hours in Eastern Equatoria over news stories related to the elections in that state.
- On April 21, unidentified gunmen killed a 12-year-old boy and injured four people in Twic East County, Jonglei state. The gunmen stole 40 heads of cattle as the owners helplessly looked on.

(Akhir Lahzah, Khartoum, in Arabic 26 Apr 10)

- In Kassala state in eastern Sudan, police refused to allow the DUP to organize a peaceful protest march on April 25 in response to election results. The DUP announced that it would hold a press conference in Kassala within 72 hours to expose the appeals and complaints made to the NEC. The DUP expressed astonishment that it failed to win even one constituency throughout the entire state, which has historically been a stronghold for the party.

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 26 Apr 10)

- Clashes between the Al-Ruziqat tribe and the SPLA in Balbala and Mashish, south of Al-Du'ayn in South Darfur, killed and wounded 159 people on both sides. Muhammad Isa Aliw, the chief of the tribe's Shura body, accused the central government of ignoring the areas of engagement.

April 27

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 27 Apr 10)

- In an April 27 press conference, Prof Abdallah al-Saddiq announced that the process of demarcating the January 1, 1956 border between north and south Sudan has reached advanced stages. He called for the cooperation of people living near the border, but added that neither side would be affected by the demarcation.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 27 Apr 10)

- Sudan Vision website called on elected leaders to come up with a plan to make the unity option attractive in the upcoming referendum.

April 28

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 28 Apr 10)

- The Sudanese government called for the U.S. State Department and Special Envoy to Sudan Scott Gration to clarify statements attributed to Gration referring to the elections as “rigged” and doubting their credibility. Abd-al-Halim Abd-al-Mahmud, Sudan’s Permanent Envoy to the UN, noted that Gration’s alleged statements were published by news websites known for their lack of credibility and hostility toward Sudan. As a result, Sudan requested clarification in order to determine its position.

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 28 Apr 10)

- Police tightened security around Juba as a precautionary measure to avoid potential post-election violence. Maj-Gen Jackson informed the media that the tightened security was based on rumors regarding threats of what some election

candidates would do in response to adverse polling results. Most citizens remained indoors, fearing an outbreak of violence. Gunshots were heard around Juba, but otherwise the streets were calm and offices operative. Many said that they were celebrating Salva Kiir Mayardit's election as President of South Sudan, but were doing so indoors because of heightened security.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 28 Apr 10)

- The South-South Dialogue Alliance congratulated Omar al-Bashir on his win, hailing election results in the north, but dismissed election results in the south at all levels. In a press conference on April 27, Dr. Lam Akol, Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Democratic Change (SPLM-DC), stated that the southern results did not represent the will of the people and indicated that polling in the south had been rigged. He claimed that the SPLA assumed the functions of the NEC and totally controlled the ballot boxes. He added that elements of GoSS and the SPLA forced people to vote for the SPLM and noted the NEC's silence on such activities, suggesting its lack of impartiality. He concluded that the elections were a "farce" and the South-South Dialogue Alliance publicized its non-recognition of the final results in the south. The Alliance plans on making a legal appeal in accordance with the 2008 Electoral Act.
- The interim statement of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) mission, which observed Sudan's elections from April 11 to April 17, concluded that the election process was credible but noted a number of issues that did come up during polling.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Apr 10)

- Al-Zahawi Ibrahim Malik, Sudan's minister of information and communication, hailed the role of the media in covering the elections at all levels and stressed that the media should work toward the country's unity in the coming period.

April 29

(Al-Ayyam, Khartoum, in Arabic 29 Apr 10)

- Liberal Sudanese newspaper *Al-Ayyam* pondered how the upcoming referendum will be fair if the current elections in the north were "rigged".

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 29 Apr 10)

- The Sudanese Journalists Union voiced its support for unity and peace and called on journalists to contribute to achieving the unity option.
- Dr. Riek Machar, the SPLM's deputy chairman, commented that the SPLM prioritizes unity as the preferred option for the people of south Sudan in the

upcoming referendum, lamenting the inadequacy of efforts to make the unity option more appealing.

(Al-Khartoum, Khartoum, in Arabic 29 Apr 10)

- According to *Al-Khartoum*, “Some time ago there was talk about Israel's fingers moving in Africa, specifically in the Great Lakes area, to ignite a war over water. Lately, Israel's involvement was proven through a serious document that talks about Egypt's monopolization of the Nile waters and the usurped rights of the upstream States. The author's name is Tsivi Miza'il [name as transliterated]. Watch out, gentlemen!”

(Al-Ra'y al-Amm website, Khartoum, in Arabic 29 Apr 10)

- The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) announced that it released 50 captives from the Sudan Armed Forces.

April 30

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 30 Apr 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir affirmed that there will be no return to war and efforts will be made to guarantee unity, security and development in Sudan.
- Ambassador Abd-al-Mahmud Abd-al-Halim, Sudan Envoy to the UN, indicated that the Security Council noted the importance of the work of all parties to make unity the attractive option.

(Khartoum Monitor, Khartoum, in English 30 Apr 10)

- The Sudan National Labour Party denied reports that it was part of the coalition of opposition parties that had rejected the southern Sudan election results.
- Members of the Sudan African National Union (SANU) also denounced claims that it had rejected the election results.

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 30 Apr 10)

- Maj Gen Gier Chuang Aluong, south Sudan's minister of internal affairs, denied allegations that the independent candidate for the gubernatorial position of Central Equatoria State had been apprehended. Kalisho Ladu, the secretary of General Gore's Campaign Committee, told some media sources that Gore and some of his supporters were arrested by SPLA Military Intelligence officers at his home. Maj Gen Gier Chuang Aluong stated that Gore had not been arrested and there were no criminal grounds for an arrest. According to the minister, "I believe Alfred Gore Ladu is safe and sound in Juba." Some of Gore's supporters publicly announced their plans to use violence in protest of Gore's election loss to Maj-Gen Clement Wani Konga of the SPLM.

- Over 2,000 polling staff stormed the office of Lakes State High Election Committee in Rumbek demanding payment for their 10 days of work at various polling centers.

(Al-Ahram al-Yawm, Khartoum, in Arabic, in Arabic 30 Apr 10)

- A diplomatic source said that the U.S. government and U.S. President Barack Obama affirmed the need to hold the referendum as scheduled, which meant that the administration was satisfied with the elections.

May 1

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1550 GMT 1 May 10)

- At a function held by his national election committee, President Omar al-Bashir stated that his election win was “a victory against Sudan’s enemies”.

May 2

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 2 May 10)

- Additional military reinforcements were deployed to Al-Fashir town in North Darfur State for the fourth day in a row. These were precautionary measures intended to prevent possible attacks, demonstrations or riots by citizens affected by the Ponzi scheme known as “Al-Mawasir Market”. Sources indicated that those affected by the scheme had decided to stage a march and submit a memorandum to the government of North Darfur State and UNAMID in protest of the government’s failure to intervene and resolve the situation. All citizens entering Al-Fashir were subject to searches and locals were fearful of rumors regarding a possible attack on the town.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 2 May 10)

- In a televised broadcast on May 1, an SPLA spokesman stated that Gen George Athor had joined the SPLM-DC. The claim was made in relation to a bloody attack on Doleib Hill, which was blamed on Gen George Athor. The SPLM-DC denied the claim, calling it “an utter lie driven by sinister motives” and went on to say: “We are a registered political party and have undertakes [*sic*] to follow only peaceful means to achieve our objectives. We abhor violence and condemn those who initiate it.”
- Foreign Minister Deng Alor affirmed the importance of a partnership between the NCP and the SPLM in the coming period. He also referred to attacks against the SPLA in southern Malakal and the security situation in parts of North and West Bahr El-Ghazal. In addition, he noted the movement of Sudanese Army troops to the south in Blue Nile State and Southern Darfur State. President al-Bashir

indicated that the presence of troops is normal and that the Armed Forces have no interest in creating problems at this time.