

Sudan Domestic Media, June 21, 2010 (covering June 14 to June 20, 2010)

By Kristen Zbikowski, MIGS Reporter for Sudan

June 14

Privately-Owned Media

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 14 Jun 10)

- One student was killed and three were injured when an armed group ambushed them as they headed from Juba to Wau University. The attack, which took place on June 13 between Aliac and Mundari in Lakes States, was carried out by 12 armed men. Three of them impersonated Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers. A policeman on board the bus engaged the attackers, prompting them to disembark. The motive of the attack remained unknown, but witnesses remarked that the assailants looked like ordinary criminals despite the fact that some of them were in uniform.

State-Owned Media

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

- A Sudan Vision website editorial noted concern over obstacles and difficulties that could lead to a delay of the referendum. The UN expressed concern over food shortages and tribal violence in South Sudan in addition to the rebellion of five SPLA officers. According to the editorial, the situation is deteriorating in the South, as SPLA elements continue to harass citizens and arrest hundreds of individuals from other political groups, including National Congress Party (NCP) members. The Chairman of the African Union Commission strongly voiced the need to support Sudan to prevent separation, which would "lead to breaking up the continent's states".

June 15

Privately-Owned Media

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 15 Jun 10)

- Mani Arkoi Minawi, Chairman of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and head of the Interim authority for Darfur States, noted flaws in the Abuja deal, calling it "defective". He accused the NCP of dragging its feet over the implementation of the agreement and warned that some NCP actions could once more push him into war. He stated that the original reasons for war still prevailed

and added that the NCP had curbed the powers of governors and controlled the administration of the states through the security services. Minawi also denied responsibility for corruption, noting his awareness of financial and administrative corruption but insisting he had "nothing to do with it". He added that the NCP had turned down requests to investigate corruption and dismiss corrupt parties.

State-Owned Media

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 15 Jun 10)

- A Sudan Vision website editorial warned of the dangers of not settling the border dispute before the referendum which could lead to military confrontation if South Sudan opts to become an independent state. The editorial urged for completion of border demarcation before the referendum regardless of whether Sudan votes for unity or separation.

June 16

Privately-Owned Media

(Al-Ra'y al-Amm, Khartoum, in Arabic 16 Jun 10)

- Five doctors affiliated with the Ministry of Health in North Darfur were reportedly kidnapped by gunmen on June 10 in the Tabara region west of the town of Tawila. UNAMID indicated that the doctors had been on a mission to investigate whether meningitis was endemic in the region.

(Al-Ayyam, Khartoum, in Arabic 16 Jun 10)

- The SPLA announced that it had detained three members of dissident General Ator's forces in Bimu in Khur Flus County. Those detained provided information indicating that Ator is in Colbat in Khur Flus County, in contrast to reports that Ator had left South Sudan. The SPLA's spokesman claimed that "Ator's medical condition is weak and we will capture him in the next few days". He also said that forces had been sent to apprehend the troops of David Yuyu in Al-Pibor for attacking Buma Park and kidnapping four wildlife guards.

June 17

Privately-Owned Media

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 17 Jun 10)

- The lawyers defending the *Ra'y al-Sha'b* newspaper journalists currently on trial quit in protest of the court's refusal to hear three of the four defense

witnesses. The charges against the accused could result in the death penalty or life in prison.

June 20

State-Owned Media

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 20 Jun 10)

- In a commentary on the upcoming referendum, Sudan Vision website highlighted the name Pagam Amum in relation to “the upcoming chaos, bloodshed and anarchy in the South (in case of secession)” and noted his willingness to “unhesitatingly draw the south into sustainable intertribal fighting”. The commentary concluded that “[i]f all roads once led to Rome, all acts of Pagan would certainly lead to destruction, and remarkably regularly to piles of dead or maimed bodies”.