

Sudan Domestic Media, May 24, 2010 (covering May 17 to May 23, 2010)

By Kristen Zbikowski, MIGS Reporter for Sudan

May 17

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 17 May 10)

- Abdullah Deng Nhial, Deputy Secretary-General of the Popular Congress Party (PCP), called on the Sudanese security service to release Dr. Hassan al-Turabi, his party's boss, who was arrested on May 15. The Popular Congress condemned the arrest, stating that it was against freedom and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). According to al-Turabi's son Sadiq Sait, the arrest could be the result of an interview with a Sudanese newspaper wherein al-Turabi claimed that the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) had rigged the country's recent elections. al-Turabi's wife, on the other hand, suggested that the arrest is connected to ongoing clashes between the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and Sudan's Armed Forces in Darfur. According to a statement al-Turabi made regarding the elections before his arrest, "The voting and the counting process are fraudulent. We will take the matter to court and if the judges do not rule in our favor, we may have to use other alternatives than the ballot boxes."
- One of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement's (SPLM) senior leaders refused to negotiate with Lt-Gen George Athor Deng, former Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). According to a representative of the government of South Sudan, Michael Makuei Lueth, the Caretaker Minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, "The need to fight Athor as a rebel will be determined by the prevailing situation and he must be dealt with accordingly. He is now threatening to attack. He has been quoted twice wanting to attack Bor. Such behaviors will be some of the reasons will make the government resort to military options."
- The SPLM vowed to bring General George Athor to justice for his crimes.

May 18

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 18 May 10)

- According to Dr. Abd al-Rahim Ibrahim al-Khalifa, Dean of the Sudan Bar Association, Israel is seeking to separate south and north Sudan because a united Sudan does not serve its ends. In particular, Israel wants the south to separate because the north supports Gaza and because Israel wishes to exploit the Nile water.

(Al-Ahram al-Yawm, Khartoum, in Arabic, in Arabic 18 May 10)

- The National Security and Intelligence Service has allowed PCP leader Hassan al-Turabi to be visited by his family in Khobar prison. Meanwhile, the student's sector of the PCP issued a statement that one of its members was detained after a protest. A second student protest was subsequently barricaded.
- Hatim al-Sir, spokesman of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), denounced the shutting down of R'ay Al-Shab newspaper. He noted that the government's reliance on detentions and security apprehensions was a dangerous sign for available freedoms and a setback for democratic transformation.
- Abd-al-Hamid Musa Kasha, southern Darfur's governor, announced that the present situation in southern Darfur calls for general mobilization and Jihad. He noted that fighting between government forces and the JEM has reached a state of emergency and added that the fighting with JEM in Sania Afandu led to the deaths of 31 national reserve forces.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 May 10)

- The Armed Forces announced their complete control over Jabal Moon in Western Darfur State as well as the restoration of security and stability in the aftermath of rebel attacks. They added that operations to pursue the rebels remain ongoing.

May 19

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 19 May 10)

- Mandur al-Mahdi, deputy chairman of the NCP, indicated his rejection of a leading SPLM member's invitation to the JEM to visit south Sudan. According to al-Mahdi, "[t]hat invitation means termination of the peace agreement and return to the war square."

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 19 May 10)

- According to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, fighting between the army and the JEM in South and West Darfur has led to the displacement of roughly 25,000 people.
- The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) threatened to permanently shut down Miraya FM, the UN radio, if it does not adhere to several conditions, including a transfer of the radio's headquarters from Khartoum to Juba. Paul Mayom, GoSS minister of information, accused the radio of diverting from its duties, pointing out its interview of renegade SPLA General George Athor. The government requested an official apology and asked that those responsible for the interview be held accountable. According to sources, GoSS confirmed its suspicion that there were NCP elements within the radio station and Michael Makwai, GoSS minister of justice, asserted that the radio was responsible for broadcasting inaccurate reports and promoting tribal feuds.

May 20

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 20 May 10)

- Five people were killed and roughly 300 cows were stolen by unknown armed men in a two-day raid in Payar and Lual-Aloch cattle camp and in the Pajomba area. According to local authorities, Lou-Nuer gunmen were behind the attacks. With respect to the current security situation, local commissioner Diing Akol stated that "[t]here are still rumors going around that all cattle camps in Twic East are under threat from raiders."

(Al-Quwat al-Musallaha, Khartoum, in Arabic 20 May 10)

- A Sudanese armed forces newspaper commentary indicated that south Sudan is not interested in development or infrastructure but rather the abolishment of Islamic shari'ah in the north.

May 21

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 21 May 10)

- The United Nations and African Union Mission for Darfur (UNAMID) has demanded the release of three aid workers who were kidnapped on May 17 near Nyala in South Darfur State.
- Human Rights Watch (HRW) urged countries that are party to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and UN Security Council members not to attend the May 27 inauguration of Omar al-Bashir. HRW sought to remind all that al-Bashir is wanted by the ICC on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for Darfur atrocities.

May 22

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 22 May 10)

- According to Secretary-General Pagan Amum of the SPLM, south Sudan's parliament might declare unilateral independence if there are delays or tampering with the date of the referendum.

(Akhir Lahzah, Khartoum, in Arabic 22 May 10)

- Clashes between unknown armed groups and the SPLA in the Andi area, Bor-bibor Road in Jonglei State have killed 77 and severely injured 23 others. Following the surprise attack against the SPLA, the unknown assailants withdrew and escaped.

May 23

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 23 May 10)

- The SPLM-DC secretary general condemned ongoing arrests, harassment and torture of members of its party in southern Sudan.