

Sudan Domestic Media, May 31, 2010 (covering May 24 to May 30, 2010)

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### **State-Owned Media**

**May 24**

**(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 24 May 10)**

- According to a Sudan Vision website editorial discussing the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the upcoming referendum, "There will be a referendum with its dangerous consequences to the extent that the international community warns that the South -if separated -will witness a kind of genocide in the coming years due to the clashes that will occur between the different ethnic groups and tribes."

### **Privately-Owned Media**

**May 27**

**(Akhbar al-Yawm, Khartoum, in Arabic 27 May 10)**

- Sources confirmed the May 23 arrest of Brig-Gen Joseph Aweil, head of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), by Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) intelligence agents. Sources indicated that he was arrested at his home in Upper Nile State and taken to an unknown location.

**(Akhir Lahzah, Khartoum, in Arabic 27 May 10)**

- A man called Wad al-Ghali, who claimed to be one of the individuals who kidnapped three NGO employees in South Darfur, said that they are affiliated with the Democratic Revolutionary Defense movement. He indicated that the two Sudanese workers had been released, but that the third hostage, an American named Helen, would be beheaded if the government threatened to bring them to trial. He added that they would negotiate with the American government directly in securing the hostage's release, but would not deal with the Sudanese government.

**May 29**

**(Khartoum Monitor, Khartoum, in English 29 May 10)**

- National Security arrested 12 journalists on May 19 following a journalists' strike over housing allowances that coincided with President Salva Kiir's inauguration ceremony. Three of the journalists were released four days later, but it was noted that three of the released were unconscious and had experienced harassment, intimidation, threats and humiliation while they were detained. Those released are said to have had fractures and injuries. The journalists who went on strike reportedly shut down Southern Sudan's television and radio during President Salva Kiir's inauguration. Both the media and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) condemned the "torture" perpetrated against the detained journalists.

**(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 29 May 10)**

- On May 27, authorities detained Ramadan Mahjub, the editorial secretary of opposition newspaper *Ra'y al-Sha'b*, to investigate him and hear his testimony related to charges against the suspended newspaper.

**May 30**

**(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 30 May 10)**

- The South Sudan Democratic Forum (SSDF) launched a "yes separation" campaign ahead of the 2011 referendum. According to a document obtained by *The Citizen*, any member of the SSDF, whether in Sudan or abroad, who is found to be campaigning against the conduct of the referendum or promoting the unity of Sudan or who is involved in any subversive activities will be deemed to have committed gross misconduct. Those found to have committed such gross misconduct will have their membership suspended as they are investigated and the appropriate actions are taken.

**(Al-Ayyam, Khartoum, in Arabic 30 May 10)**

- Abd-al-Rahman al-Khalifah, Chairman of the Sudanese Bar Association, condemned statements made by South African President Jacob Zuma, who announced that he would order the arrest of President Omar al-Basir if he responded to an invitation to attend the World Cup.
- The Sudanese Armed Forces denied accusations by the SPLA that they are supporting militias in south Sudan with the goal of destabilizing the region ahead of the referendum. Lt-Col Al-Sawarmi Khalid Sa'ad, the Armed Forces' official spokesman, added that the UN was monitoring the movement of arms in areas under cease-fire and challenged the SPLA to identify individuals allegedly being supported by the army.

**(Alwan, Khartoum, in Arabic 30 May 10)**

- Prominent individuals from Southern Kordofan called for the release of Maj-Gen Talafon Kuku, who was recently apprehended at Juba Airport. At a May 29 press conference, political, local and youth leaders from the Nuba Mountains urged the President of south Sudan to intervene and bring about the release of Maj-Gen Talafon Kuku. Abd-al-Jalil al-Basha, the secretary-general of the Ummah Party - Reform and Renewal, denounced the use of incarceration and emphasized the protection of freedoms and citizens' rights.