

Sudan Domestic Media, June 7, 2010 (covering May 31 to June 6, 2010)

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May 31

Privately-Owned Media

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 31 May 10)

- Authorities from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services in south Sudan defended the suspension of 28 staff members from south Sudan radio and television.

(Al-Ayyam, Khartoum, in Arabic 31 May 10)

- Police resorted to violence in order to deal with a group protesting a serious water shortage in Umbada's 19th block. After surrounding the group for hours, police used tear gas to disperse them. The water shortage has been a problem since last year, but it intensified recently.

State-Owned Media

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 May 10)

- In a public statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned “the enemy Zionist Israeli forces crime today in which it attacked the Freedom Flotilla ship with innocent civilians from various international countries on board and who had agreed to express solidarity with the Palestinian people.” The statement condemned the international community’s “suspicious silence...despite the martyrdom of at least 15 and wounding 30 others of those on board following the heinous attack.” The statement also called on governments and organizations around the world to “rally against the Zionist enemy state...and prevent Israel from avoiding punishment”.
- Omar al-Bashir called for the suspension of talks with “the enemy Israel” in response to Israel’s attack on the aid flotilla heading to the Gaza Strip. He emphasized the importance of support for Palestinian resistance and stressed the need for the international community to challenge hostile Israeli practices against Palestinians in Gaza.
- Hundreds took to the streets in Khartoum to protest the Israeli attack. In Omdurman, students protested in front of the National Assembly and were addressed by several parliamentarians. The MPs “held the international community responsible for the souls of the martyrs and urged it to take tough measures to punish the Zionist entity”.

June 1

State-Owned Media

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Jun 10)

- The Sudanese Army issued a statement indicating that it repelled an attack carried out by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in Adula, Southern Darfur. The statement said that the Army inflicted heavy losses on the rebel group and sustained some casualties and injuries as well.

June 2

State-Owned Media

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

- A Sudan Vision website editorial emphasizing the importance of unity for Sudan called on the media “to stop any damaging agitation” and insisted that every Sudanese must strive to “protect our beloved country from the plots targeting splintering Sudan into five or six tiny states”. The editorial warned that the people of Sudan must work toward unity lest they find themselves “living in a torn and crumbled country”.

Privately-Owned Media

(Akhir Lahzah, Khartoum, in Arabic 2 Jun 10)

- Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, the former presidential advisor, warned that the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) should not be tasked with protecting the south Sudan referendum on self-determination. Dr. Nafi insisted that the army should not interfere in running or monitoring the referendum and called on the international community to refrain from interfering in referendum-related issues.

(Al-Ra’y al-Amm, Khartoum, in Arabic 2 Jun 10)

- Dr. Isma’il Husayn Isa, the MP for the Popular Congress Party (PCP), addressed the arrest of the party’s secretary-general during a parliamentary session. He commented that Dr. Hasan al-Turbi had been under arrest for almost a month, but had not been charged with a crime. He called for the issue to be dealt with by the judiciary.

June 3

Privately-Owned Media

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 3 Jun 10)

- Maj-Gen Kuol Dem Kuol, the SPLA's spokesman, cautioned against politicizing security issues and urged citizens to work with the army to establish peace in Sudan. This came in response to the situation in Western Equatoria where Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels have carried out a number of abductions, as well as the disarmament currently taking place in Mundri County. The disarmament is targeting civilians who have obtained firearms and are "using them to destabilize peace within communities". Citizens complained that the disarmament process has been "brutal" and that they have been beaten by SPLA soldiers. Moreover, they argued that disarmament right now would leave them vulnerable to LRA attacks. The SPLA spokesman insisted that insecurity would persist if civilians had guns and dismissed claims that the security situation had gotten out of hand in the south.
- A *Juba Post* editorial discussing the likelihood of separation in the January referendum concluded that the Sudanese will always be divided by race (Arabs versus Black Africans).

State-Owned Media

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 3 Jun 10)

- The legislative assembly of Jonglei State called for an emergency sitting following heightened insecurity in the state capital. Killem Simon, a Major in the National Security Service (NSS), was shot and killed at the gate of the NSS compound by unknown assailants. Two men from Murle tribe were also beaten to death near the NSS compound. There have been three attacks in ten days in the state capital. Hon Peter Chol Wal, the speaker of the Jonglei State Legislative Assembly, condemned the attack and asked the people of Jonglei State to set aside their tribal differences.

June 4

Privately-Owned Media

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 4 Jun 10)

- The Sudanese government conceded for the first time the importance of the inclusion of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in Darfur's peace talks. The government admitted that sustainable peace could not be attained without JEM's participation, but noted that it would carry out negotiations with willing groups if the JEM boycotted the talks.

(Alwan, Khartoum, in Arabic 4 Jun 10)

- JEM renewed its refusal to participate in the Doha peace talks unless its demands were met. These demands included restoration of the forum for negotiations and freedom of movement for JEM leaders. JEM originally suspended its involvement in the peace talks last month, claiming that the forum was no longer overseeing talks neutrally.

June 5

Privately-Owned Media

(Al-Ra'y al-Amm website, Khartoum, in Arabic 5 Jun 10)

- Violent clashes in Unity State broke out on June 4 between the SPLA and rebel Maj-Gen George Athor's troops. Seventy SPLA soldiers were killed in the confrontation. Athor's losses had not yet been counted.

June 6

Privately-Owned Media

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 6 Jun 10)

- Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement for Democratic Change (SPLM-DC) warned that the SPLM and the SPLA might forge the referendum much like they forged the elections.
- Kuol Diem Kuol, spokesman for the SPLM, informed *The Citizen* that the army and the security service are supporting the militias of the Brig Gatlwak Gai Deng. He noted that one of the SPLM's soldiers was killed in clashes near Unity State and that the SPLM killed eight Gatlwak troops and captured 13 others. According to Kuol Diem Kuol, those captured admitted the involvement of the Sudanese Army and the National Security and Intelligence Service (NSIS). Al-Surami Khalid Sa'd, the Armed Forces spokesman, denied the involvement of his troops in any clashes in south Sudan. He commented that it would be irrational for the Armed Forces to fight the SPLA as they would be "the core of the Sudanese army in the future if the South voted for unity".