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AFRICAN UNION LIAISON OFFICE  
IN THE SUDAN

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**To:** Commissioner, Peace and Security  
Director, Peace and Security  
*File No.:* AU-LOS-K/13/09/01/2011

**From:** Mahmoud Kane (Amb.)  
Head, AU Liaison Office  
*Date:* 09 January 2011  
*Tel. Ext :* 109

**Subject:** UPDATE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE SOUTH SUDAN REFERENDUM

1. The South Sudan Referendum process commenced today, 09 January 2011 and it will continue until 15 January 2011. Preliminary indications are that the process has proceeded without incident throughout Sudan, both in South and North. The Sudanese leadership, especially President Omar Al Bashir, has vowed to respect the outcome of the referendum while the State security organs have reported their readiness to protect the process all over the country.
2. It will be recalled that there are about 4 million registered Southern Sudanese voters and 60% of the registered voters should take part in the referendum process for the results to be accepted. Of the 60% registered voters that will participate in the process, 51% are required to cast their votes to make the final decision on separation of South Sudan.
3. The African Union, which has fielded one of the largest Observer Missions, with about 110 observers, has deployed both in the North and South of Sudan. The AU Mission is headed by the Dr. Victor Tonchi, who is the Namibian Independent Electoral Commission. Upon arrival in Sudan, the Mission issued a press statement (herewith attached), which appeals to all stakeholders to ensure the conduct of free, fair and peaceful Referendum.

**Cooperation with other Observer Missions**

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4. There has been good cooperation and information sharing between the different Observer Missions deployed in Sudan. A number of meetings were held for purposes of exchanging information. The AU Liaison Office hosted one of these meetings on 7 January 2011. Local observer groups were also invited to these meetings. In line with the spirit of cooperation, the AU Mission together with other observer teams from European Union, Arab League, IGAD and Carter Center issued a Joint Statement on the commencement of the process today ( also attached).

#### **Deployment Plan**

5. It is expected that most of the AU observers will deploy to different Southern Sudan states by tomorrow, 10 January 2011. They will be joining the other AU Observer colleagues who have been already deployed there. While the AU has not fielded observers in Darfur, it has been able to deploy to far away places like the Red Sea State in Northern Sudan. The Head of the Mission will be observing in Khartoum and plans to travel to Juba midway through the process.
6. Meanwhile, the AU Observer Mission deployment plan is attached herewith for ease of reference.

#### **Northern Sudan**

7. In Khartoum, the AU Observer Mission visited a number of polling stations from 7 am. So far the polling process has gone well with no negative reports. While the numbers were few in some polling stations, i.e. by mid day, one polling station in Jabal Awlia had received only 9 people out of the 211 people registered voters. However, there was confidence amongst the polling staff that the polling numbers will increase as the days go by.

#### **AUHIP Observation**

8. We also wish to bring to your attention the fact that the AU High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) also departed Khartoum to Malakal, Upper Nile, in South Sudan to observe the start of the Referendum process. As you maybe aware, Juba, South Sudan happens to be the epicenter of this referendum process and everyone has travelled to observe the voting process from there; as such the Panel decided to chose a different venue to obverse the start of the event. First Vice President Salva Kiir was observed casting his vote this morning in Juba, South Sudan.

#### **Southern Sudan**

9. In the absence of the AU Referendum Observation Team during this first day, the AU Juba Office sent out three teams to cover the polling observation in the Central Equatoria State. The three Payams of Juba, namely Juba Payam, Kator Payam and Munuki Payam were covered. A total of thirty polling stations were covered by 1.30pm.

10. Voting started at 8.00am in all visited stations. Voters started queuing from 11pm on Saturday 08 January 2011. The President of GoSS and First Vice President of GoNU, Salva Kiir, accompanied by Senator John Kerry voted at the John Garang Mausoleum at 8am. This event was observed by members of GoSS, diplomatic corps and international journalists.
11. There were domestic and international observers in all polling stations. Among the international observers met during the observation, were former UNSG Kofi Annan, Former US President Jimmy Carter, Former President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, Head of the UN Secretary General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Lise Grande and UNDP Head of Office, Joe Feeney. Observers from IGAD, East African Community, the Arab League, Amani Forum of Kenya, the Government of Nigeria, and domestic observers including SuNDE SuDEMOP, the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations, representatives of political parties, Women and Youth group.
12. In all polling stations observed, there was security at the premises and orderly queues of voters. In addition, voters were screened before they voted. Priority was given to pregnant women, the disabled, aged persons, nursing mothers, the sick, some of whom were even brought in ambulance.
13. There was subdued excitement and jubilation, side activities such as cultural dances boom-box music, women dances, and ululations to welcome observers.
14. It is worthy to note that some polling centers were dedicated to returnees. Our team went to one such center for returnees from Ethiopia. Those with registration papers were able to cast their votes. During this reporting period there had been no reports of any major incidents.

Thank you.

**CC: Commissioner, Political Affairs Department**



## PRESS RELEASE

January 9, 2011

On today's commencement of polling in the self-determination referendum for Southern Sudan provided for by the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the independent international referendum observation missions of the African Union, The Carter Center, the European Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the League of Arab States:

- Congratulate the Parties to the CPA, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) and the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau (SSRB) for their efforts to organize and facilitate the referendum process;
- Urge all parties and the people of Sudan to work for a peaceful and inclusive referendum that respects the right of citizens to vote freely without fear of intimidation, coercion or violence;
- Encourage the SSRC and SSRB to work transparently during and post-polling, allow for the accurate compilation and tabulation of votes and maintain a peaceful environment in anticipation of the complete and definitive results;
- Welcome the renewed commitment of the Parties to the CPA to fully respect the outcome of the referendum and the verdict of the people of Southern Sudan;
- Will, following the completion of polling, and in accordance with the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, independently issue their preliminary findings on the referendum process.

**9 يناير 2011** مع بداية عملية الإقتراع لإستفتاء تقرير المصير لجنوب السودان، و المضمن في إتفاقية السلام الشامل الموقعة في العام 2005، فإن البعثات العالمية المستقلة لمراقبة الإستفتاء لكل من الإتحاد الأفريقي، مركز كارتر، الإتحاد الأوروبي، مجموعة دول الإيقاد و جامعة الدول العربية:

- يهنئون شريكى إتفاقية السلام الشامل، مفوضية إستفتاء جنوب السودان و مكتب مفوضية إستفتاء جنوب السودان على ما بذلوه من جهد لتنظيم و تسهيل عملية الإستفتاء.
- يحثون جميع الأطراف و الشعب السوداني على العمل من أجل إستفتاء سلمي و شامل يحترم حق المواطنين في التصويت بحرية دون أي خوف من ترهيب أو قسر أو عنف.
- يشجعون مفوضية إستفتاء جنوب السودان و مكتب مفوضية إستفتاء جنوب السودان على العمل بشفافية خلال و ما بعد فترة الإقتراع، و الحرص على دقة عمليتي فرز و تجميع الأصوات، و الحفاظ على بيئة سلمية في فترة إنتظار ظهور النتائج النهائية.

- يرحبون بالالتزام المتجدد من قبل شريكى إتفاقية السلام الشامل نحو تقبل نتيجة الإستفتاء و قرار شعب جنوب السودان.
- و مع إكتمال عملية الإقتراع و تماشياً مع إعلان المبادئ للبعثات العالميه لمراقبة الإنتخابات ستقوم بنشر تقاريرها المبدئية عن عملية الإستفتاء كل على حده.

**Dr. Victor Tonchi**, African Union Observer Mission to the Southern Sudan Referendum

د. فيكتور تونتشي، بعثة الإتحاد الأفريقي لمراقبة إستفتاء جنوب السودان

**President Jimmy Carter, Mr. Kofi Annan, Justice Joseph Warioba and Dr. John Hardman,**  
The Carter Center

الرئيس جيمي كارتر، كوفي عنان، جوزيف واريوبا و جون هاردمان، مركز كارتر

**Véronique De Keyser**, European Union Election Observation Mission – Southern Sudan Referendum

فيرونيك دي كيسر، بعثة الإتحاد الأوروبي لمراقبة الإنتخابات لإستفتاء جنوب السودان

**Ambassador Yusif Nzibo**, Intergovernmental Authority on Development Observation Mission

السفير يوسف نزيبو، بعثة مجموعة دول الإيقاد للمراقبة

**Ambassador Mohammed al- Khamlichi**, League of Arab States Observation Mission

السفير محمد الخمليشي بعثة جامعة الدول العربية للمراقبة.

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**ARRIVAL STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION  
OBSERVER MISSION TO THE SOUTHERN SUDAN  
REFERENDUM**

**09-15 JANUARY 2011**

In response to the invitation of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC), H.E Jean Ping, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), dispatched an Observer Mission to the Sudan to observe the Referendum to be conducted from 9 to 15 January 2011.

The AU Observer Mission is led by Dr. Victor Tonchi, Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Namibia. The Mission is composed of 110 members drawn from National Electoral Commissions, National Parliaments, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOC) of the AU, Regional Legislative Assemblies and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Ambassadors, prominent individuals, and members of civil societies from various African countries. The Mission is assisted by a technical staff from the AU Commission.

Based on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and in line with the communiqué of Peace and Security Council of AU of 21 December 2010, the AU Commission has sent this Mission to observe the conduct of the Referendum. The Referendum permits the people of South Sudan to confirm the unity of Sudan or secede.

The main objective of the Mission is to make an objective, independent and impartial observation of the Referendum in Sudan.

In particular, the Mission is expected to:

- (i) Determine whether the Referendum was conducted in accordance with the CPA and SSRC guidelines.
- (ii) Determine whether the Referendum environment has been conducive for voters to participate and exercise their fundamental rights.
- (iii) Establish whether the participating political parties, agencies and groups have been satisfied with the preparations for and conduct of the Referendum.

- (iv) Determine the inclusiveness of the voters' roll, whether some voters have been disenfranchised, and whether the register is complete, accurate and up to date.
- (v) Evaluate the level of voters' awareness and whether the voters' right to choose freely and the secrecy of the ballot were guaranteed, upheld and protected.
- (vi) Identify and record electoral flashpoints and/or malpractices.
- (vii) Assess whether the media coverage and conduct have been in conformity with the conduct of a free and fair Referendum.
- (viii) Evaluate transparency and adequacy of the voting, counting, and collation processes; as well as the announcement of the results.
- (ix) Establish whether the results of the Referendum are true reflection of the democratically expressed will of the people of South Sudan.

The Mission members will return to Khartoum on 16 January 2011 to prepare a Preliminary statement and a Report that will be submitted to the AU Commission.

The Observer Mission would like to commend the Government of Sudan and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) for this historic event which is in consonance with the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The Mission appeals to all stakeholders to ensure the conduct of free, fair and peaceful Referendum.

**Issued at the AU Observer Mission Office  
Grand Holiday Villa Hotel  
Khartoum  
07 January 2011**

**For further information contact: 0920668447; 0920668446**

## Deployment Plan of the AU Observer Team to the Southern Sudan Referendum

S.No.	Team	State	Hotel	Contact
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	H.E. Bachir Radhi Sghiar			
	Mr. Thomas Ejake Mbonda			
2	Team Leader Dr. Victor Tonchi	Khartoum 1		
	Nour Eddine Driss			
	Dr. Mohamed Ould Mohamed Saleh			
3	Mr. Harouna M. Manta	Khartoum 2		
	Senateur Diop Abdoulaye Demba			
	Ahmed Ould Wafi			
	Leonard Lenna Sesa			
4	Izidbih Ould Daye	Red Sea State		
	Mohamed Ould M'Barek			
	Mr. Benattou Mohamed			
	Mr. Seyoum Mahmud			
5	Ishagh Ould Ravae	Northern Nile (Ed Damer)		
	Mr. Jose Kofie Green-Harris			
	Lebatt Ould Mohamed			
	Bedahi Ould Sbai			
6	Ould Khalifa Cheikh Ahmed	Gedarif		
	Bilal Ould Hamza			
	Mr. Boufenouche Abdelmalek			
	Hivdhou Rahmane Ould Mohamed Mahmoud			
7	Mohamed Ould Ahmed Zaied	Sennar		
	Cheibani Ould Bilal			
	Mrs. Limakatso Mokthuthu			
	Mr. Mohamed O/ Yargue			



8	El Moctar Ould Elemine	Northern Kordofan	
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	Sebastian Kanduza		
9	Richard Mulako Lienda	Southern Kordofan	
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10	Mohamed Lemine Ould El Houssein	White Nile	
	Mr. Kemal Bedri Kelo		
	Moulaye Ahmed Ould Hasni		
11	Saleh Ould Bah	El-gesira	
	Hon. Mr. Wondimu Gezahegn		
	Senateur Mohamed Ould Mini		
	Sidi Mohamed Ould Maham		
12	Ms. Saba Gebremedhin	Western Equatoria	
	Prof. Amon E. Challigha		
	Mr. M. Dlakavu, Africa Bilateral		
13	Amb. Salvator Matata	Central Equatoria State	Juba Grand Hotel
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	Mr. M. Phahlane		
14	Dr. Abubaka Momoh	Central Equatoria State	Juba Grand Hotel
	Mr. Severine Rugumamu		
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