

**NO: 138-139**

**Project Business and Politics in Muslim World**

**Report on East Africa**

**September 27 – October 3, 2010**

**Abdirisak Ismail Esse**

**Headlines**

**Somalia**

- Helicopter Attacks al-Shabab-Held Town
- Clan Rivalry Complicates Terrorism Fight in Puntland
- Somali Sufi Group Backs Out of Government Power-Sharing Deal
- Pirates demand \$15mn for Maltese ship
- Somali pirates release Greek ship
- Violence in Mogadishu Swells Number of Displaced Somalis
- Somali President Met With Zenawi to Discuss Over Somali Crisis in Addis Ababa

**Sudan**

- Sudanese Vice President Urges U.N. to Reject Arrest Warrants
- Sudan's Ruling Party Sets Conditions for Vote
- Sudan Referendum Commission Not Yet Ready for Registration
- More International Observers Arrive In Sudan
- Key Challenges Ahead of Voting
- Referendum Raises Expulsion Fears
- Rising Tension and Frustration As Sudan Referendum Nears
- North, South Sudanese Leaders to Hold Crucial Talks in Ethiopia
- Salva Kiir's Speech 'Unacceptable' to Sudan's Northern Partners, Says Ruling Party Official

## **Kenya**

- Kenya Condemns Nigeria Terror Attack
- Economy Gains Momentum

## **Ethiopia**

- At General Assembly, Ethiopia Accuses Eritrea of Spoiling Peace Efforts in Somalia

## **Eritrea**

- Eritrea Alleges UN 'Ignoring' Ethiopian Occupation of Its Territory

## **Tanzania**

- The Similarities in the Regional Elections

## **Uganda**

- Ugandan Official Rejects U.N. Report Alleging Army Atrocities
- New Revelations about 2006 Ugandan Presidential Election

## **Report details**

### **Somalia: Helicopter Attacks al-Shabab-Held Town**

27 September 2010: VOA news

Witnesses say unidentified helicopter gunships have attacked a Somali town controlled by al-Shabab militants.

Residents of Marka, south of Mogadishu, say the gunships fired on houses of al-Shabab commanders Sunday. They say the helicopter flew away after Islamist forces fired back at it.

There have been no immediate reports of casualties and no claim of responsibility.

An al-Shabab commander, Salah Ali Salah Nabhan, was killed in a U.S. helicopter strike in the town of Barawe last year.

Al-Shabab controls much of southern and central Somalia, including parts of the capital. The group is attempting to overthrow the Somali government and to turn Somalia into a strict Islamic state.

## **Somalia: Clan Rivalry Complicates Terrorism Fight in Puntland**

29 September 2010: VOA news

The United States says it is planning to boost ties with Somalia's two autonomous regions - Somaliland and Puntland - in an effort to restore stability in the south and to curb the spread of Islamic extremism. Some analysts say the move, however, may end up increasing violence and instability in Puntland.

In late July, Puntland government forces began fighting with militants loyal to an Islamist factional leader based in the remote and mountainous Sanaag and western Bari regions of northern Somalia.

Puntland President Abdirahman Mohamed Farole said the assault was a counter-terrorism operation, targeting the terrorist leader of the Puntland cell of al-Qaida, Mohamed Siad Atom. The Puntland government has linked Atom to numerous kidnappings, bombings, and assassinations in the region since 2008.

In March, the U.N. Monitoring group for Somalia said it believed Atom was one of the principle suppliers of arms and ammunitions for al-Shabab, an al-Qaida affiliate that controls much of southern Somalia. A month later, the United States Treasury Department froze Atom's assets and those of a nearly dozen other suspected Islamist militants in Somalia.

But the leaders of the Warsangeli, a sub-clan of the larger Somali Darod tribe, say the conflict in the north is not about entirely about terrorism. They say it also is about long-held political and economic grievances the Warsangeli have had against the Puntland government since the region declared autonomy in 1998.

Somalia observer Stig Jarle Hansen of the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research in Oslo said if the United States is planning to assist the Puntland government in its fight against Atom; it will need to approach the situation with extreme caution.

"The danger is that you could suppress the Warsangeli in a drastic way," said Hansen. "Or you could act in a way that mobilizes the Warsangeli to the Shabab side. So, you can make your predictions come true through your own actions."

The leadership of the Puntland government is dominated by members of the Majeerten sub-clan of the Darod, and there has long been a simmering power struggle between the two sub-clans for control of Puntland's lucrative

commercial hub, Bosasso.

The rivalry between the sub-clans boiled over into a bloody confrontation in 2006, when Mohamed Said Atom's militia attacked Puntland security forces to protest exploration rights the government gave to an Australian mining company in the mineral-rich Sanaag and western Bari regions. The Warsangeli said the deal was struck without its permission.

In recent years, the Warsangeli, and other Darod sub-clans in Puntland have complained bitterly about the Puntland Intelligence Service, a counter-terrorism organization created in 2001, and which receives considerable support from the United States. The clan makeup of the powerful service is predominantly Majeerten, and the organization has been accused of working to empower one clan at the expense of others.

Somalia observers warn a narrowly-focused U.S. engagement with the Puntland government, specifically in the counter-terrorism field, could unintentionally spark an inter-clan war. They say the conflict then could be exploited by al-Shabab to expand its influence into the far reaches of northern Somalia.

### **Somalia: Somali Sufi Group Backs Out of Government Power-Sharing Deal**

27 September 2010: VOA news

A leader of Somalia's moderate Islamist Ahlu-Sunna Wal-Jama'a group says members of al-Shabab are holding top positions in the U.N.-backed Transitional Federal Government. The accusation follows the Sufi group's withdrawal from a power-sharing deal it signed with the government six months ago.

The chairman of Ahlu-Sunna Wal-Jama'a's Shura Council, Sheik Omar Sheik Abdul Karidir, says his group has documents that show some leaders of the Transitional Federal Government are also members of al-Shabab, an al-Qaida-linked extremist group fighting to topple the government.

The Sufi cleric did not provide any details and declined to name the government officials he says are connected to al-Shabab. But Karidir says his group will no longer - in his words - "cooperate with an insincere government."

In March, the transitional government signed a power-sharing deal with a faction of Ahlu-Sunna Wal-Jama'a in Addis Ababa. The deal called for Ahlu-Sunna to back the government in its fight against al-Shabab in exchange for several Cabinet positions. But on Saturday, the Sufi group said it was pulling out of the deal because the government had failed to live up to its promises. Ahlu-Sunna's allegation against members of the transitional government has not been independently verified. But similar reports have been circulating since mid-2008, when an Islamist opposition faction based in Eritrea joined the

secular government in a U.N.-sponsored power-sharing deal. The leader of the Islamist faction, Sharif Sheik Ahmed, subsequently became president of an expanded Transitional Federal Government, which pledged to defeat al-Shabab and curb extremism.

International Crisis Group Horn of Africa analyst E. J. Hogendoorn says despite Mr. Sharif's new role as an ally of the West, he has been dogged by rumors that he and many other former members of the Eritrean-based faction are adherents of the ultra-conservative Wahhabist strain of Islam.

"There have been lots of allegations that Sheik Sharif has been sympathetic to the goals of al-Shabab - that is the establishment of a Wahhabi state, which is obviously something that Ahlu-Sunna Wal-Jama'a would be very much opposed to," said Hogendoorn.

Many elements of Wahhabism are embraced by al-Shabab and another radical Somali insurgent group, Hizbul Islam. Hizbul Islam is led by Sheik Hassan Dahir Aweys, who was a close associate of President Sharif before he joined the transitional government.

Hogendoorn says although there is no evidence to suggest members of the government are working hand-in-hand with al-Shabab, there are senior officials in government, who are likely to have deeply angered the Ahlu-Sunna Wal-Jama'a faction that signed the power-sharing deal.

"What happened was the international community pressured the Transitional Federal Government and Ahlu-Sunna to form an alliance," said Hogendoorn.

"There are Islamists in the Transitional Federal Government, who are opposed to Ahlu-Sunna Wal-Jama'a's vision. There are also actors, who are worried about Ahlu-Sunna becoming too powerful. So, there are a number of individuals, who would like to undermine the organization."

Ahlu-Sunna Wal-Jama'a's withdrawal from government is likely to cause further turmoil in an administration that has long suffered internal divisions. Somalia's Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke resigned last week following a bitter power struggle with President Sharif.

The United States and the United Nations, which provide the bulk of the funding for the Transitional Federal Government, have urged leaders to pull together and bring stability to the country before its mandate ends next August.

## **Somalia: Pirates demand \$15mn for Maltese ship**

3 October 2010: press TV

Somali pirates have demanded \$15 million to free a Malta-flagged cargo ship hijacked in the Gulf of Aden with a crew of 15 Georgians and three Turks onboard.

The owner of the MV Olib G initially offered a ransom of \$75,000, but later raised it to \$150,000. However, the sea pirates want no less than \$15 million, a Press TV correspondent reported on Saturday.

The cargo ship, carrying ballast and en route from Alexandria to India, was seized in the pirate-infested Gulf of Aden on September 8.

Rampant piracy off the Indian Ocean coast of Somalia has made these waters among the most dangerous in pirate activity.

The Gulf of Aden, which links the Indian Ocean with the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean Sea, is the quickest route for more than 20,000 vessels traveling annually between Asia, Europe and the Americas.

However, attacks by heavily armed Somali pirates on speedboats have prompted some of the world's largest shipping firms to switch routes from the Suez Canal and reroute cargo vessels around southern Africa, leading to climbing shipping costs.

Somalia has been in strife for the past three decades. Strategically located in the Horn of Africa, it has been embroiled in a bitter civil war for years. The country does not have a functional government and the authority of the so-called Transitional Federal Government is limited mostly to the area around the capital city, Mogadishu.

## **Somalia: Somali pirates release Greek ship**

27 September 2010: press TV

**Somali pirates have released a Greek freighter they had seized in the Gulf of Aden, leaving its Ukrainian crew member's unharmed, European naval forces say.**

"The Panama flagged *MV Lugela*, which was reported on September 25 as being pirated 900 nautical miles east of Eyl, in the Somali Basin, had been abandoned by pirates," a Press TV correspondent quoted the European Union NAVFOR command as saying.

"The 11 Ukrainian crew [members] are reported to be safe and EU NAVFOR is monitoring the situation," it added.

The 4,281-ton freighter was seized by pirates about a day after passing through the warship-patrolled transit corridor in the Gulf of Aden, which is highly recommended for commercial vessels to use.

The ship and its crew are now sailing free waters with a load of steel and wire, added the naval force.

Somalia-based pirates, who operate from skiffs and small boats, have caused havoc in the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia, hijacking ships for huge ransoms.

Dozens of multinational warships are currently patrolling those waters under a UN mandate to deter possible pirate attacks.

According to regional maritime watchdog Ecoterra International, pirates are holding more than 20 vessels and over 400 crew members against multimillion-dollar ransom payments.

## **Somalia: Violence in Mogadishu Swells Number of Displaced Somalis**

1 October 2010: UN news service

1 October 2010 - An estimated 410,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Somalia's violence-wracked capital, Mogadishu, have sought refuge in the Afgooye corridor, a 20-kilometre strip of land north-west of the city, up from 366,000 in September last year, the United Nations refugee agency reported today.

The rise in the number of people fleeing Mogadishu is a reflection of the deteriorating security in the city since 2007, according to the latest assessment by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"We were able to identify and map every individual building and temporary shelter. Overall there are 91,397 temporary shelters and 15,495 permanent ones in the area," UNHCR spokesperson Melissa Fleming told reporters in Geneva.

In addition to the 410,000 IDPs living in Afgooye, there are another 55,000 displaced people in Dayniile, north of Mogadishu, 15,200 in the Bal'cad corridor in the northern periphery of city, and 7,260 others in Kax Shiiqaal in

the western outskirts, according to the UNHCR survey. The agency also estimated that Mogadishu itself has an estimated 372,000 IDPs.

Reflecting the increased population has been a rapid urbanization of the Afgooye corridor - clearly apparent in the satellite imagery. Entire new towns have replaced makeshift IDP sites with more people living in rudimentary buildings alongside the tens of thousands of shelters made of cloth and fabric," Ms. Fleming said.

"Overall it appears that structures in Afgooye are becoming more permanent as hopes fade for a safe return to the capital any time soon. Over the past four weeks alone, almost 12,000 people have fled to the Afgooye corridor, which has become the third largest urban area in Somalia after Mogadishu and Hargeisa," she added, referring to the capital of the self-declared republic of Somaliland to the northwest.

According to UNHCR, living conditions in the Afgooye corridor are extremely difficult, with people struggling to feed themselves and lacking other basic necessities, even as the precarious security situation prevents humanitarian agencies from accessing those in need.

Some assistance is getting there through local partners, but the amounts are minuscule compared to the needs, Ms. Fleming said.

The findings of the latest assessment in the Afgooye corridor have pushed upwards the overall estimated number of IDPs in Somalia to 1.46 million. In addition, Somalia has produced some 614,000 Somali refugees, most of whom live in camps in neighbouring countries.

Meanwhile, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga, has said violence remains the main impediment to human rights in Somalia.

"It should be noted that without peace in south-central Somalia, it will be difficult to envisage profound and lasting changes in the precarious human rights situation there, especially with regard to the right to life, and even basic human rights such as the right to food, shelter, education and health," Mr. Mahiga said in speech to the interactive dialogue on human rights in Somalia.

"It is imperative therefore that all efforts are made to bring about a peaceful solution to this endless conflict," he told the meeting in Geneva on Wednesday.

He said the UN, the African Union (AU) and the AU's peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM) are engaged in dialogue on the obligation to protect civilians and how to best do it in the volatile environment.

"Protecting the right to life of the Somali people should continue to be one of our pressing priorities, not just through ending the conflict, but through life support by providing adequate food, shelter, water, sanitation and education wherever those in need may be," Mr. Mahiga said.

## **Somalia: Somali President Met With Zenawi to Discuss Over Somali Crisis in Addis Ababa**

30 September 2010: Garowe online

The president of Somali Transitional Federal Government Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed met with Ethiopia's Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in Addis Ababa for talk over political crisis in Somalia, Radio Garowe Reports.

President Sharif discuss with Zenawi over supports from his government to battle with the two insurgent-Al-shabaab and Hizbul islam who vowed to overthrow Ahmed administration.

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has said that Somalia should appoint a new Prime Minister who would guide the country towards reconciliation and unity. He also urged that he will support Somali government over militarily when the Somali situation goes worst.

However, Somali president spokesman noted that the two principals didn't talk about who will be the new prime minister of Somalia.

"We will support Somalia government if the insurgent try to overthrow the government," Ethiopian Prime Minister, Zenawi told the Media in Addis Ababa. Adding "his government and IGAD are ready to support Somalia."

"Somali Transitional government is fighting with the radicals who not pay attention on peace; who also want to make Somalia as a terrorist ground to terrorize this continent, they have links with the terrorist who are foreigners," Somali president, Sharif sheikh Ahmed said.

Somali president and his Delegate are scheduling to travel to Djibouti later on today then on Friday are expecting to also travel to Kenya for talks.

Sheikh Sharif is expecting to appoint new Prime Minister in cause of days to come after Sharma'ake resign week ago over dispute with the president.

The government backed by the United Nations only controls some city blocks in the capital. Somalia has had no effective central government for 19 years.

## **Sudan: Sudanese Vice President Urges U.N. to Reject Arrest Warrants**

28 September 2010: VOA news

Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha has called on the United Nations to reject the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant against President Omar al-Bashir for allegedly masterminding a campaign of genocide in Sudan's Darfur region.

Addressing the ongoing General Assembly session in New York Monday, Mr. Taha said the involvement of the ICC is a threat to the peaceful settlement of the Darfur conflict.

Sudanese-born Omer Ismail, senior policy advisor for the Enough Project, an advocacy organization set up to highlight Darfur crisis, told VOA the international community should not fall for what he called Khartoum's blackmail.

"The indictment by the International Criminal Court came as a result of the behavior of the government of Sudan and its president, (Mr.) Bashir. So, he's coming now to blackmail the world basically and saying that the government will either get their way in delaying justice. Otherwise, they are not going to invest a penny in Darfur," he said.

Ismail dismissed Taha's claims that the involvement of the ICC would threaten the peaceful settlement of the Darfur conflict.

He said Khartoum has consistently reneged on every agreement to bring about a peaceful settlement of the Sudan crisis.

"There is no peaceful settlement to the conflict in Sudan. The world tried and they signed the CPA (Comprehensive Peace Agreement) to transform the country and everybody failed because this government was not trying to do the right thing by pursuing peace in Sudan," Ismail said.

The Sudanese vice president also told the General Assembly Khartoum is ready to put almost \$2 billion into Darfur as part of the government's effort to re-establish security, increase development and bring about reconciliation in the western region.

Ismail said Taha made the announcement for political reason and with no intention to bring about reconciliation in Darfur.

He said there can be no reconciliation without justice.

"There are over half a million people killed and seven million people living in warehouses. This government is doing this for political reasons. It has nothing to do with reconciliation. Over 20 years, if you look at the track record of the government of Sudan, they reneged on every single promise they've made so

far. What should make the world to believe that they will honor what they say,” Ismail said.

The Sudanese vice president, in his speech to the General Assembly, expressed hope next referendum would be voluntary in accordance with the wishes of the people of South Sudan, and without outside interference.

But, Ismail said Khartoum will rig the referendum and start another war in the south because it is not interested in peace.

## **Sudan: Sudan's Ruling Party Sets Conditions for Vote**

28 September 2010: VOA news

### **NCP official says failure of southern Sudan's autonomous government to follow guidelines will invalidate January 9 referendum.**

Sudan's northern-based government says it will not accept the results of an upcoming independence referendum in the south unless the vote is free and southern military forces withdraw from disputed areas.

Senior ruling party official Rabie Abdelati Obeid said on Tuesday that no one in the south should interfere with people campaigning for the unity of the country.

The National Congress Party official says a failure of southern Sudan's autonomous government to follow this guideline will invalidate the January 9 referendum.

On Monday, Sudanese Youth and Sports Minister Haj Majid Suwar said southern Sudanese military forces also must withdraw from areas north of Sudan's disputed north-south border before the referendum.

Both sides accuse each other of massing troops along the border, much of which is undefined.

Southern Sudan's main party accuses the NCP of trying to undermine the referendum to delay a secession of the oil-rich southern half of the country.

The former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement says the northern-based government is monopolizing state broadcasting to prevent supporters of secession from airing their views. NCP official Obeid denies the accusation.

Sudan's government also has fallen behind in its preparations for the referendum. Sudanese election commission chairman Mohammed Ibrahim Khalil told Reuters on Tuesday the registration of voters is likely to start three weeks later than planned in November.

He says the delay is needed to allow election workers to deliver forms to 3,600 voter registration centers.

U.S. election monitoring group The Carter Center said Tuesday Sudan must also approve the election commission's budget, recruit and train referendum workers, and publish a detailed referendum calendar.

The group has sent 16 people to Sudan to observe referendum preparations.

Many analysts predict southerners, who hold predominantly Christian and traditional beliefs, will choose independence from the Muslim-dominated northern government.

The Sudanese government agreed to hold the referendum as part of 2005 peace deal that ended two decades of civil war with the south.

## **Sudan: Sudan Referendum Commission Not Yet Ready for Registration**

28 September 2010: VOA news

The chairman of Sudan's referendum commission said there is no specific date scheduled for registration to begin ahead of the 9<sup>th</sup> January referendum after south Sudan residents accused his organization of delays.

Mohammed Ibrahim Khalil told VOA before registration begins there are a number of steps that need to be taken such as appointing a committee that will recruit people to manage the registration, as well as polling centers.

"When you say the registration has been postponed, or delayed, that will imply that a date was fixed and that date was changed. But, no date has ever been fixed. No one has made any decision that registration should begin on such and such a day. Neither the commission nor the government, or any person, has made that decision."

Khalil said his organization will need about 10,500 field workers to manage 3,600 registration centers across the country.

He also said that the referendum commission, in conjunction with other international organizations including the U.N., will oversee the training of the field workers in order to ensure the credibility of the entire referendum process.

Some civil society groups in the semi-autonomous south have accused the referendum commission of delaying tactics to purposely undermine the referendum.

Khalil said, this week, his organization will begin reconnaissance work in Sudan's north to determine where the trained commission managers would be most needed ahead of the referendum.

But, he said his organization will do everything in its power to organize the referendum.

"The registration materials were presented to us about 10 days ago. And, as soon as it was presented to us, we in the commission approved it in two days without delay. It has been sent to South Africa for printing. It has been decided, quite some time ago, that it will lead to efficiency and that it will expedite things if it were printed abroad."

Khalil added that the referendum commission has been assured that the registration materials would be ready by 23<sup>rd</sup> October. He also said that his organization will need three weeks (15<sup>th</sup> November) to distribute the printed materials ahead of the vote.

## **Sudan: More International Observers Arrive In Sudan**

29 September 2010: Sudan tribune

International observers have arrived in southern Sudan for a January referendum that could see the country split in two. While analysts fear that stalled North - South negotiations could jeopardize the critical vote, U.S. officials say the two are nearing an agreement on critical issues.

Sixteen international election observers have been deployed from the U.S.-based Carter Center to evaluate the January 9 referendum on secession in Southern Sudan.

The observation team arrives in Sudan amid growing international fear of renewed violence as a result of the poll. With just over 100 days remaining, preparations for the January referendum are falling far behind schedule. Voter registration, originally due to finish in August, has yet to begin and analysts have warned that any delay in the referendum is likely to spark renewed clashes between the two sides.

On Tuesday Referendum Commission chairman Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil revealed that registration would be delayed further and would likely begin on November 15.

But the Carter Center's Sudan director Sanne van den Bergh said there have been encouraging signs of progress in recent weeks.

"It is too early to draw any conclusions and we will wait for reports from our observers to come in but we did congratulate the commission on appointing all the members of the State High Committee in the 10 southern states and the

commencement of printing of the voter registration materials," said Sanne van den Bergh. "There are some important steps to be taken to actually move forward to the first major benchmark, which is the voter registration."

According to van den Bergh, some issues that needed to be addressed included the Referendum Commission budget, which has yet to be approved. Van den Bergh said rapid dispersal of the commission's funds would allow the commission to begin hiring and training staff needed to administer the vote.

The Carter Center, founded by former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, is sending four two-man teams to southern Sudan, three to the north and one to the contested border region of Abyei.

While traditionally considered part of northern Sudan, Abyei residents are divided and the region will hold a separate referendum on January 9th to determine its allegiance should the south choose independence?

Abyei holds large deposits of oil and lies between three Sudanese states. It is caught in contentious negotiations on North-South border demarcation mandated under the 2005 peace agreement.

The Brussels-based International Crisis Group says stalled border negotiations have "poisoned" the atmosphere surrounding talks on other critical issues such as oil-revenue sharing. The group warned that these issues could provide another path to war if not resolved.

Such warnings are starting to reach the international community. At last week's United Nations General Assembly in New York, world leaders including U.S. President Barack Obama held a Sudan Summit to bring the two sides together. US Assistant Secretary of State P.J. Crowley said on Tuesday the meeting established a foundation for resolving issues surrounding Abyei. Crowley revealed that another meeting would be held in October in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, where an agreement was expected.

The January 9 referendum is the final provision of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended more than 20 years of civil war between the Sudanese government and southern rebels. While the agreement was intended to promote unity, southern voters are widely expected to choose independence.

## **Sudan: Key Challenges Ahead of Voting**

1 October 2010: IRIN

Juba — Three months before Sudan's landmark referenda on the status of the South and Abyei, concern is rising as to whether credible polls can be pulled off in such a short time. Below is an outline of some pending key challenges?

### **Voter registration**

Final registration lists were supposed to be published at least three months before the vote, but that deadline has been cut to a month, which leaves little time to run the entire process. While printing of voter registration materials has begun in South Africa, actual registration is expected to begin by mid-November.

The logistical challenges are huge. So far, the UN Mission in Sudan has promised support - including transport of materials by helicopter to remote areas. About 3,600 registration centres are planned, including for Southerners living in the North.

### **Southern Sudan Referendum Commission**

Commission chairman Mohammed Ibrahim Khalil says deadlines will be met. Delays over naming the secretary general and members of the state referendum committees have been resolved. But cash has not yet been released for the commission's US\$370 million budget. Half of it is expected from international donors, the other half will be split between Sudan's finance ministry and the South's government.

In Abyei, the referendum commission has yet to be appointed. Meanwhile, tension is rising between the pastoralists Misseriya, who enjoy grazing rights within Abyei, and often sided with the government during the most recent (1983-2005) phase of Sudan's civil war, and the Ngok Dinka, who mainly supported the Southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army.

### **Referendum questions**

The exact phrasing has yet to be decided. Accompanying symbols will likely be used to denote the choices. While some referendum awareness has been raised through community, church and youth groups, detailed civic education on the process has been hampered by a lack of clarity on the questions.

## **Fears of fraud**

It is still not clear how voting eligibility for Southerners will be decided, especially those in the North or outside the country. A contested 2008 census estimated 500,000 Southerners in the North, but the Southern government and aid agencies put the number at more than 1.5 million. There have recently been unconfirmed reports that authorities in the North are talking about a much higher figure - between 2.5 and five million - and that vast numbers of "ghost" registrations are being planned so as to make an agreed minimum turnout of 60 percent impossible to attain, thereby invalidating the result.

The final decision requires a simple majority - 50 percent plus one vote cast. A rerun would require another 60 days to organize.

## **Deployment of observers**

The US-based Carter Center has deployed 16 international observers to monitor the process, but that effort will be spread thinly over Africa's largest nation. More international observers are expected, including from the European Union and African Union, and domestic observers are preparing to monitor the processes too. But time for this is running short.

## **North-South tensions**

Northern leaders claim pro-unity campaigners in the South are being harassed, accusations denied by the South. In retaliation, the South points out those pro-independence campaigners have little freedom in Khartoum. Tempers are fraying over claims that both sides are bolstering troop numbers along the still undefined border. This is denied by both sides, but observers believe tensions will increase as voting nears.

## **Post-referendum negotiations**

Meetings continue to hammer out key issues such as future wealth sharing, border demarcation and citizenship. Although separate from the referenda, success in these dealings will be key for the future of Sudan. There are four working groups focusing on: citizenship; security; financial, economic and natural resources; and international treaties and agreements.

The country's vast oil reserves could help prevent the fragile peace from derailing entirely. Sudan is sub-Saharan Africa's third-largest oil producer but more than 80 percent of known oil reserves are thought to lie in the South. With all pipelines running north, a peaceful agreement benefits both sides. Analysts also suggest Sudan's \$35 billion debt could be a key bargaining chip for the South, if it took on a share and then sought to have it written off.

## **Existing problems**

The South continues to face humanitarian challenges. Violence between rival communities has decreased, but flashpoints remain. At least 890 people have died and more than 188,000 been displaced since January, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Some 4.3 million people affected by drought or floods will need aid in 2010 - about half the population.

Concern is also growing over citizens from one side living in the other, should the South choose secession. Advocacy groups warn of potential backlashes from disappointed supporters of either side.

## **Possible delays**

Southern leaders are adamant the referenda will go ahead on time, fearing any delay could lead to cancellation. Politicians also warn of anger on the streets even if a delay is agreed for legitimate reasons.

While most CPA milestones were late, diplomats fear the South would rather declare independence following a vote in its parliament than accept delay.

## **Sudan: Referendum Raises Expulsion Fears**

27 September 2010: IRIN

### **ANALYSIS**

Khartoum — Forced expulsions, violent recriminations, mass exodus, peaceful co-existence - just some of the possible outcomes for hundreds of thousands of Southern Sudanese living in the North, and to a lesser extent, vice versa, after a January referendum when the South is likely to vote to transform its semi-autonomy into full independence.

"We are worried for the future, of what happens after the referendum," said James Jok, a vegetable seller who has lived in the Northern capital Khartoum since fleeing violence in the Southern state of Jonglei over two decades ago.

"I am frightened that if there is independence, we will just be told, 'go home'," he added. "My home is now here in Khartoum - my children are teenagers and have known nothing else. I don't want to leave."

"I want to vote for an independent South, and I would like to go home," Halima Arop, from the Southern border state of Unity, said in Khartoum. "But I am worried that we will not be allowed to leave peacefully."

Sudan's information minister Kamal Obeid fuelled such fears on 25 September when he said Southerners in the North would not enjoy citizenship rights if secession was the outcome of the referendum.

"They will not enjoy citizenship rights, jobs or benefits, they will not be allowed to buy or sell in Khartoum market and they will not be treated in hospitals," Obeid said in statements carried by public radio.

"We will not even give them a needle in the hospital," he said.

## **Tensions**

The 9 January referendum is the climax of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended Sudan's 22-year-long civil war between North and South over governance, resources, religion and ethnicity. An estimated two million people died and four million were forced to flee their homes.

Tensions remain high between the former enemies, however, and slow progress on the referendum process, including negotiations over reciprocal citizenship rights, has generated frustration and suspicion on both sides.

In the South, the mood on the streets appears overwhelmingly pro-secession. On 8 September, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said a Southern vote to split was "inevitable".

In Khartoum, the growing inevitability of secession has elicited bitterness. "If the South wants to be its own country, then [it] can take its own people," said clothing stall-owner Ahmed al Hillu, a Northerner. "Sudan is one country, and it should stay united - that way people from the South can stay here and be welcome. If not, then they should go to their new country."

## **Differences**

The complexities of identity in Sudan, where many people belong to several ethnic, religious and linguistic groups, often blur the distinction between Northerner and Southerner. Many of those classified as "Southerners" in the North have spent all their lives in Khartoum after their families fled the war.

Population figures are contested: a 2008 census calculated some 500,000 Southerners in the North, but Southern government estimates put the figure at some 1.5 million people, mainly based around the capital Khartoum.

"If the South separates, Southerners in the North and Northerners in the South will be especially vulnerable to violence and loss of citizenship, resulting in statelessness," the Washington-based advocacy group Refugees International

stated in a June report. Violence, in either region, could spark retaliation on the streets of the opposing capital, it added.

The report went on to cite fears of "large-scale revenge killing of Southerners in the North if even a single Northerner were harmed in the South".

To encourage Southerners to return home, the humanitarian ministry in Juba has released plans for a US\$10m "emergency repatriation programme", launched under the slogan "Come Home to Choose".

Some aid workers are sceptical about the plan, noting that there is little time left to implement the proposal. Besides, the South's already struggling resources would be swamped if thousands of people arrived each day.

Returns have so far been affected by localized armed conflicts, lack of services, land disputes, and weak government capacity. "IDPs and refugees who returned to their places of origin after the CPA often found their houses and plots occupied by individuals or [government] staff," the Norwegian Refugee Council said in August.

"The process of restituting land and property rights is slow and has sometimes led to violence between returnees and occupants who are often IDPs themselves," it added.

### **Potential displacement**

In August 2010, Southern Sudan's humanitarian minister, James Kok Ruea, urged aid agencies to plan for a massive displacement of Southerners after the referendum. "People will be coming, and we will not be prepared."

Protection agencies are working to ensure the returns are voluntary. "In the context of the referendum, the UN and the humanitarian community at large are keen that procedures for voter registration, notably in the North and overseas, be finalized, widely disseminated and accessible," Mireille Girard, UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) deputy representative for Southern Sudan, told IRIN.

"This constitutes an important criterion for decision about return, for both IDPs in the North and for refugees," she said.

"Related to the referendum is the issue of citizenship and residency rights which are still under discussion between the CPA parties," Girard added. "It is important that such information be made available to concerned populations, including Northerners in the South, as soon as possible. This will be critical in people's decisions about return."

## **Livelihoods threatened**

The referendum presents Sudan with more nuanced options than merely unity versus partition. In the event of secession, it is not yet clear whether the border will be a "hard" one between two fully separate states, with restricted movement and visa requirements, or "soft" with free movement guaranteed for people and goods, and guaranteed residency rights.

Too firm a barrier would threaten pastoralist livelihoods in North and South alike, create hardships for Southerners who rely on goods and services from the North and unnecessarily restrict communities which see the benefit of joint cross-border initiatives and interaction," the International Crisis Group stated in a recent report.

Numerous thorny issues will have to be negotiated, the report says, including, "who can cross the border; their legal status; how they are to be identified; where, when and for how long they can cross; and the rights and responsibilities of individuals on both sides of the boundary (including economic activity, grazing fees, social arrangements and taxation)".

John Ashworth, in a September briefing published by the IKV Pax Christi organization, noted: "There are fears of large-scale migrations, either voluntary or, worse still, enforced. This could well lead to a humanitarian emergency, and a number of NGOs are gearing up for this eventuality."

But he added that the North depends on Southern labour in many areas and so was "unlikely to expel Southerners en masse".

## **Northern fears**

In the South, Northerners also worry about the consequences. "I fear that if there are problems in the North, if they force Southerners out from Khartoum, then we will be in a bad situation here in the South," said Ali Said, a trader in the Southern capital Juba.

Born and brought up in Juba, his family roots lie in the Northern state of El-Gezira. "I wish to stay in the South, but I am frightened that any violence there [in the North] would be copied here in Juba," he added.

Northerners form a key part of the business community in the South. There are also large populations of people who made a new home in the South after fleeing violence in the north-western region of Darfur. "It is impossible for me to go home, because my home is still at war," said Mohammed Abdelrahman, a Darfuri living in Juba. "But if the South becomes a new country, will I be able to stay?"

\*This report has been updated to include remarks by information minister Kamal Obeid.

## **Sudan: Rising Tension and Frustration As Sudan Referendum Nears**

03 October 2010: VOA news

Sudan's referendum is running behind schedule with the chairman of the Southern Sudan's referendum commission saying registration for the crucial vote would now begin in mid-November.

The referendum, scheduled to be held on January 9 2011, is one of the major provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in Nairobi on January 9, 2005.

The much delayed process is one of numerous issues raising tension between the north and the south ahead of the crucial vote.

On Friday, Southern Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit for the first time openly declared that he would vote for separation in January when voters in the South and in the disputed Abyei region are expected to choose whether to break away from the mainly Islamic North.

"The commission is trying very hard to meet the deadline but it's a tight schedule" said Faud Hikmat, an analyst with the International Crisis Group, referring to the southern Sudan's referendum commission whose secretary general was only appointed recently.

Hikmat, who spoke to VOA from the Kenyan capital Nairobi, said the issue of the north-south border demarcation could also be a problem if there is no political will between the two parties to overcome this hurdle. However, he said, that now that the rainy season has ended, physical border demarcation is possible even in the disputed areas. "But the border committee should start meeting to lay the groundwork on finalizing the border demarcation."

Hikmat noted that the issue of border demarcation is highly politicized because "the National Congress Party (NCP) is making it a condition for the referendum to proceed.

While the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) thinks it is important, he said, they don't think it should affect the referendum process.

Hikmat said the heated rhetoric between the north and south reflects the level of frustration between the two parties.

He cited the initial statement of a senior Sudanese minister who said that

should the south secede, they (southerners living in the north) will lose their rights – a statement that was later reversed by the president. On the other hand, he said, the SPLM is threatening war if the referendum is not held as agreed.

Hikmat also cited [Sudanese] president Omar Al Bashir who recently expressed doubt about the benefit of the CPA that could not bring unity and peace, but secession and war.

He said the Abyei referendum further complicates the situation. Another referendum will take place simultaneously in the contested oil rich region of Abyei, where residents have to decide whether they want to be part of north or south Sudan.

“The referendum in Abyei could delay the announcement of the results of the referendum in the south as the people of Abyei have to decide whether they want to join the north or the south,” he said.

Hikmat expressed hope that the meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia that started Sunday between the NCP and SPLM will resolve some of these issues.

## **Sudan: North, South Sudanese Leaders to Hold Crucial Talks in Ethiopia**

03 October 2010: VOA news

Delegations from north and south Sudan are set to hold crucial meetings in Addis Ababa on Monday in an attempt to break a deadlock over the oil-rich Abyei region. The third party in the talks - the United States - is pressing the two sides to reach an agreement that would allow Abyei to decide whether it wants to join the north or the south.

The negotiations bring together representatives from Sudan's ruling National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

The two sides held preliminary talks on Sunday night with President Obama's special envoy to Sudan Scott Gration, the veteran US diplomat and mediator Princeton Lyman, and their host, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

U.S. President Barack Obama met with Southern Sudan's President Salva Kir and Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha at the United Nations last month to lay the groundwork for the Addis Ababa talks.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton followed up with telephone calls last week to Mr. Taha and Mr. Meles to stress the importance of settling the status of the Abyei -- an oil-rich region along the dividing line between north and south Sudan.

U.S. embassy spokesperson Alyson Grunder says the two sides are expected to be ready to resolve differences over the terms of a plebiscite to determine Abyei's allegiance if the south votes for independence in January's referendum.

"The referendum on Abyei is a critical element of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, so the special envoy and Ambassador Lyman are expecting that the parties are coming to Addis ready to reach a final agreement, so preparations for Abyei's referendum can move forward," she said.

Grunder says an agreement would clear the way for a vote on Abyei in little more than three months, at the same time that the south holds its independence referendum. "If the parties make key decisions, the Abyei area referendum commission can be appointed and be made operational. This commission has to approve the referendum budget and criteria so voter registration can take place, and the commission has to begin hiring and training poll workers so voter registration can begin in November," she said.

The deadlock centers on membership in Abyei's referendum commission and the question of demarcation, following threats of war by leaders of the nomadic Miseriya tribe.

The Miseriya, traditionally aligned with the north, are demanding the right to vote on Abyei's future, even though they migrate north with their animals for much of the year.

A Sudanese diplomat who spoke to VOA on condition of anonymity said the talks are scheduled to run through Tuesday, but that they might be extended if no agreement is reached.

## **Sudan: Salva Kiir's Speech 'Unacceptable' to Sudan's Northern Partners, Says Ruling Party Official**

03 October 2010

A top official of Sudan's governing National Congress Party (NCP) has condemned as unacceptable and provocative, remarks by Sudan's first Vice President and President of south Sudan, Salva Kiir that he will only vote for separation in the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> January referendum.

Rabie Abdelati Obeid said Mr. Kiir's pronouncement contradicts the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the NCP and Mr. Kiir's Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

"This is really against what he signed and what the SPLM signed in the CPA. Because (the) CPA stated clearly that the SPLM with the National Congress Party should work together to achieve unity and to make unity attractive

during the interim period...This is a clear violation of the CPA and it is against that agreement witnessed by the regional and international organizations," he said.

Addressing his supporters over the weekend in the south Sudan capital, Juba, Mr. Kiir said he will not vote for Sudan's unity since the north has not made unity attractive ahead of the referendum.

As part of the CPA, residents in the semi-autonomous south are scheduled to vote in a referendum to decide whether to be part of the north or secede and become an independent country.

SPLM officials have often accused the NCP of undermining the activities of the commission mandated to organize the January referendum, a charge the NCP denies.

NCP official Obeid said Mr. Kiir's statement is aimed at influencing the decision of residents in the south in the run up to the referendum.

"I don't know what they mean by saying NCP didn't make unity attractive. If the CPA is fully implemented up to the referendum and the NCP is ready to accept the referendum results whenever the referendum is fair and transparent, I think this is the utmost effort to be exerted to make unity attractive."

Obeid also said, "we want to know what NCP has done to be accused that NCP didn't make unity attractive when the whole country is not governed by only NCP but both NCP and SPLM. And in addition to that the whole south is governed during the interim period by the SPLM without any intervention of the federal government."

## **Kenya: Kenya Condemns Nigeria Terror Attack**

2 October 2010: The Nation

Nairobi — Kenya has condemned the terrorist attack that took place during Nigeria's independence anniversary celebrations, which left eight people dead.

In a statement, the government said the "barbaric bomb attack" was unfortunate and hoped the "perpetrators of this despicable act will be quickly brought to justice".

"The Government of Kenya has also learnt with profound concern of the barbaric bomb attack that took place in Abuja on October 1, 2010, callously timed to coincide with the independence anniversary festivities.

"The Government condemns unreservedly this act of terrorism that resulted in injury and loss of many innocent lives and damage to property and would like to assure the Government and people of Nigeria of Kenya's support," said the statement issued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry Saturday.

On Friday, twin car bombings claimed by Nigeria's most prominent militant group MEND killed eight people near ceremonies for 50 years of independence in capital Abuja.

President Goodluck Jonathan called the blasts a "wicked act of desperation by criminals and murderers who do not wish Nigeria well".

The explosions rocked the area near Abuja's Eagle Square, but failed to halt the anniversary celebrations attended by the country's leaders and foreign delegations.

"There were two car bomb explosions," police spokesman Moshood Jimoh told AFP.

"Eight people who were bystanders were confirmed dead and three people seriously injured."

The car bombs followed attack threats issued moments earlier from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) militant group, and the rebels later claimed responsibility in a statement.

MEND has staged scores of attacks in the oil-rich Niger Delta in recent years, claiming to be fighting for a fairer distribution of oil revenue, but it was the first time they had struck in the capital.

In its earlier warning, MEND said those attending the independence celebrations should evacuate.

"With due respect to all invited guests, dignitaries and attendees of the 50th independence anniversary of Nigeria being held today ... the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) is asking everyone to begin immediate evacuation of the entire area within the next 30 minutes," it said.

"This warning expires after 10:30 Hrs. Several explosive devices have been successfully planted in and around the venue by our operatives working inside the government security services. In evacuating the area, keep a safe distance from vehicles and trash bins."

## **Kenya: Economy Gains Momentum**

1 October 2010: Business Daily (Nairobi)

Kenya's economy grew at the rate of 5.4 per cent in the second quarter of the year powered by improved productivity in the key agriculture, construction and financial services sectors.

That annualized gross domestic product outcome was nearly one percentage point higher than the official full-year target of 4.5 per cent and an acceleration from the 0.9 per cent growth realized during a similar period last year.

The pick-up in the pace of growth reflected stronger consumer spending and a larger inventory build-up in the manufacturing sector that greatly benefited from a 16.8 per cent increase in the volume of trade.

The growth was mainly driven by robust performance in agriculture, construction, manufacturing and financial services sectors, according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, whose data also pointed at strong growth in consumer confidence and spending.

"This continued expansion in the economy reflects a gradual recovery from the past external and internal shocks," said the bureau as it put the average annualized half year growth rate at 5.2 per cent compared to last year's 3.2 per cent- putting the country on course to achieving the 4.5 to 5 per cent target for 2010.

Growth was strongest in the agriculture sector at 5.8 per cent, buoyed by favourable weather that lifted productivity and global recovery that raised demand even as low commodity prices helped keep inflation in check on the home front.

Tax on products, an indication of increased consumption, also grew robustly at 19 per cent, pointing to a rise in household uptake of goods and services that only comes with improved confidence in the direction of the economy.

A survey conducted by TNS Research, a consumer market research firm and whose results were released early this week, indicates that retailer confidence index rose to 150.7 in September from 113.7 in June, in tandem with that of consumers, pointing to the possible continued rise in demand for goods and services in the remaining part of the year.

The survey, conducted among 500 retailers showed 86 per cent of businessmen believe that the next six months will be better compared to 63 per cent in June.

"Over the past three months, there is an increase of 18 per cent in optimism levels about future economic circumstances," said Melissa Baker, the chief executive officer at TNS.

The impressive second quarter performance was realised in an environment of relatively low interest rates, lower inflation and increased production of cheaper hydro-electricity that kept the cost of borrowing in check and eased the pressure on household budgets leaving them with enough headroom to spend more.

The outcome is expected to offer some relief to the Central Bank of Kenya, which has been pushing for low interest rates aiming to support growth that fell to below three per cent in the past two years.

In the past six months, most banks lowered their base lending rates, speeding up credit expansion in an economy and offering momentum to consumer demand.

Kenya's economy has also benefitted from a huge jump in the uptake of loans in the construction sector where the CBK says net lending grew from Sh43.3 billion to Sh81.7 billion in the year to June faster than household lending that rose from Sh84.3 billion to Sh118 billion.

The manufacturing sector also expanded by 6.8 per cent in second quarter, supported by strong growth in the non-food segment including cement, galvanized sheet, and laundry soap.

Improved weather conditions significantly changed the fortunes of the key agricultural sector that employs more than 60 per cent of Kenya's workforce and lowering the cost of food that is estimated to take up 60 per cent of poor household incomes.

Agriculture accounts for more than 24 per cent of Kenya's GDP and a strong performance in the sector not only puts money in the pockets of the majority of ordinary folks, but also eases inflation, leaving enough money in the pockets of consumers to take in more from other sectors of the economy.

Its performance however remains tightly linked to the increasingly erratic rainfall pattern making it the most critical determinant of the country's economic fortunes.

Already, the weatherman has warned that a looming drought could set in as early as next month, and development that could easily reverse the current momentum.

The CBK has, however, shrugged off the La Nina effect on economic growth and maintained the growth target at 4.5 per cent, saying the impact will only be known early next year.

"Perceptions of growth are positive while inflation and exchange rates remain stable," said CBK's Monetary Policy Committee on Tuesday. "All indicators support the argument that the growth momentum in the first and second quarter was sustained and has not been held back by either domestic or foreign events."

During the first and second quarter of 2010, agricultural production increased by 70 per cent and 38 percent respectively, resulting in half year increase of 53 per cent.

This represents the highest output since 2007.

Better agricultural output points to stability in the national budget on reduced commitment towards food imports.

This is outlook is egging policy makers and economists to say that the country's soft economy is on the brink of take off and that the government growth target of 4.5 per cent will be attained.

"If the weatherman is right, the beginning of next year may be difficult, but you don't expect growth to be knocked down this year," said Terry Ryan a consultant economist at the CBK.

The impressive second half growth results have benefited from a new constitutional order, reduced crime and a general improvement in the investment climate that has lifted business leader's confidence in the economy in the past six months.

Improved agricultural output, a rebound in global commodity prices, strong second quarter corporate earnings and the changing investor fortunes at the Nairobi Stock Exchange (NSE) all supported growth in the second quarter and point to a possible reversal of the steep decline of the past two years, analysts said.

The financial sector expanded by 16 per cent in the second quarter compared to the same period in 2009, contributing 11.7 percent to the GDP growth.

Analysts said this high level of optimism offers the clearest signal yet of the positive developments ahead because consumer spending has traditionally driven economic growth.

The domestic economy is also expected to get a boost from ongoing global recovery that should change the fortunes of key sectors such as tourism and the global agricultural commodities market where Kenya sells tea, coffee and cut flowers.

In the tourism sector, hotels and restaurant activity maintained a positive growth recording a growth of one per cent growth partly attributed to the cancellation of travels due to the volcanic eruption experienced in Iceland during the month of April.

Total bed occupancy, one of the key indicators, increased from 1.33 million to 1.44 million during the period.

International trade indicators showed marked improvement in the first half of 2010 with volume of merchandise trade increasing by 16.8 per cent.

Overall balance of payments recorded a surplus of Sh3.5 billion in the first half of 2010 compared to a deficit of Sh26.8 billion in corresponding period of 2009.

Business leaders said the growth in the first half and optimism in the remaining quarter has helped remove cost cutting, freeze in capital spending and restructuring from their radar screens in favour of innovation and expansion into regional markets.

## **Ethiopia: At General Assembly, Ethiopia Accuses Eritrea of Spoiling Peace Efforts in Somalia**

29 September 2010: UN news service

Ethiopia today accused Eritrea of continuing to undermine efforts to restore peace and stability in Somalia by arming insurgents battling the transitional Government in Mogadishu and urged the Security Council to strictly enforce existing sanctions against Eritrea.

"Despite the sanctions, Eritrea is still the principal architect of the complicated situation in Somalia by training, arming and nurturing the extremist elements such as Al Shabaab and Hisbul Islam who are causing havoc in the country today," Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin said in his statement to the General Assembly's high-level debate.

In a resolution in January last year, the Council imposed an arms embargo on Eritrea and a travel ban and an assets freeze on Eritrean political and military leaders who violated the embargo or provided support to armed opposition groups destabilizing Somalia.

The resolution followed a request by the regional Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union (AU) for the Council to take such action.

"The time, therefore, is long overdue for the Security Council to take resolute action and see to it that its decisions are complied with if we are to maintain the integrity of the decisions of our organizations," Mr. Mesfin said.

Yesterday, Eritrea's Foreign Minister Osman Saleh told the General Assembly that the UN "continues to ignore" Ethiopia's failure to comply with the ruling of an international commission that delineated the border between the two countries after their 1998-2000 war.

"While the United Nations grapples with Sudan and Somalia, it continues to ignore grave consequences of Ethiopia's continued occupation of sovereign Eritrean territory, eight years after the ruling of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC), and three years after the Commission ended its work by depositing in the United Nations the demarcated boundary between the two countries," said Mr. Saleh.

To end the border war, both parties agreed to abide by the ruling of the border commission, which was reached in April 2002. However, Ethiopia's rejection of the decision stalled the physical demarcation of the border in 2003.

"Ethiopia's illegal occupation and the United Nations silence, which mean the continuation of the conflict, is exacting a heavy price on the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia and complicating the regional situation.

"I wish to remind the United Nations that Eritrea awaits responsible and urgent action to end Ethiopia's violation of international law and its threat to regional peace and security," Mr. Saleh told the General Assembly's high-level debate.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had a meeting yesterday with Mr. Mesfin during which they discussed regional peace and security, including the situations in Somalia and Sudan. They also discussed Ethiopia's support of UN climate change initiatives and the country's commendable progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to end extreme poverty by 2015.

## **Eritrea: Eritrea Alleges UN 'Ignoring' Ethiopian Occupation of Its Territory**

28 September 2010: UN news service

Osman Mohammed Saleh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Eritrea, addresses the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

28 September 2010 - Eritrea's Foreign Minister today told the General Assembly that the United Nations "continues to ignore" Ethiopia's failure to comply with the ruling of an international commission that delineated the border between the two countries after their 1998-2000 war.

"While the United Nations grapples with Sudan and Somalia, it continues to ignore grave consequences of Ethiopia's continued occupation of sovereign Eritrean territory, eight years after the ruling of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC), and three years after the Commission ended its work by depositing in the United Nations the demarcated boundary between the two countries," Osman Saleh told the Assembly's high-level segment.

To end the border war, both parties agreed to abide by the ruling of the border commission, which was reached in April 2002. However, Ethiopia's rejection of the decision stalled the physical demarcation of the border in 2003.

"Ethiopia's illegal occupation and the United Nations silence, which mean the continuation of the conflict, is exacting a heavy price on the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia and complicating the regional situation.

"I wish to remind the United Nations that Eritrea awaits responsible and urgent action to end Ethiopia's violation of international law and its threat to regional peace and security," Mr. Saleh told the General Assembly's high-level debate.

## **Tanzania: The Similarities in the Regional Elections**

30 September 2010: Jerry Okungu

### **OPINION**

Kampala — MY interest in Tanzania's impending elections is obvious. I am a Kenyan and an East African. I claim both nationalities by birth, inheritance and history. The reason Tanzania's elections this year interest me is because I can see many similarities with other elections held in Kenya and Uganda in the last two decades. The parallels are too real to be ignored.

In a recent article by Roger Luhwego in the Guardian of Tanzania, Dr. Wilbrood Slaa of Chadema is quoted as having hinted that once elected the President of Tanzania, he would provide equal opportunities for business to thrive unlike the current practice where businesspeople supported the CCM to safeguard their business interests.

This is the kind of promise that most popular opposition leaders usually give to a disgruntled electorate in order to convince the poor and the suffering masses that the opposition was keen to bridge the gap between the super-rich and the lowly members of society. The challenge here will be whether the voters will buy such a promise from any politician when they have come across such promises time and time again in their past with very little change in their lives.

Slaa's presidential ambition has been boosted by rumours circulating in Tanzania that a recent Synovate poll which is yet to be made public had indicated that Slaa's Chadema was leading with 45 per cent in the polls followed by CCM at 41 per cent. This claim was made by none other than the Chadema national chairman who strongly advised the Synovate Group to release the results. And to make it worse, the Chadema boss claimed that the failure by Synovate to release the opinion poll results was as a result of political intimidation by the ruling CCM.

Chadema claims aside, the history of political contests in East Africa have been with us for a long time. In Kenya, whenever an opinion poll result is released that ranks various parties and their candidates, the losers always claim bias and influence as the victors go into a celebration. We as the political class have never embraced opinion polling as part and parcel of the process to gauge political performance either by our parties or party leaders.

A few years ago, it looked like Dr. Bessigye of Uganda was the most popular presidential candidate after he fell out with Museveni's NRM in the early 2000s. When he finally lost the vote, there was a claim of a rigged election before he fled to South Africa claiming that his life was in danger only to return to Uganda in 2006 to contest another election. Ten years later, Besigye is still leading the opposition with no prospect of ever wresting power from the NRM leader.

Here in Kenya, we witnessed an epoch in our political history two decades ago when some of the most colorful and charismatic political icons teamed up to throw KANU out of power.

The opposition party FORD was a spectacle to behold when Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, Kenneth Matiba, Kijana Wamalwa and the then young Turks teamed up to dislodge KANU from power. The biggest rallies in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and other towns in Kenya were all pointers to the demise of Daniel arap Moi and KANU. It was not to be! Petty rivalries, individual greed and

ethnic chauvinism broke the FORD movement apart before KANU hanged them separately.

As things stand now, Dr. Slaa's Chadema may be doing well in terms of popularity and all that. All he needs to remember is that an old party like the CCM may be having a number of tricks up its sleeve. As a party that has been used to power for close to 50 years, with state resources and machinery at its disposal, it will take more than rhetoric to defeat it at national elections. When a ruling party faces a real threat of losing an election in this part of the world, it will stop at nothing to win the contest.

In Tanzania, just like in Kenya and Uganda, the business community may not be overtly visible in determining the outcome of an election; but because they are a crucial part of the establishment, any development that may seem to disturb the equilibrium of things will not sit well with them. Remember, they are already in the comfort zone and would rather things remain the way they are. This is the group that Slaa should be convincing to see the light as he woos the masses to vote for him because again, this small group has the wherewithal to finance his campaign.

## **Uganda: Ugandan Official Rejects U.N. Report Alleging Army Atrocities**

30 September 2010: VOA news

A top official with Uganda's foreign ministry told VOA Kampala has rejected as "highly flawed" a leaked U.N. report that is scheduled to be released Friday that accuses the Ugandan army of committing atrocities in neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo.

Uganda's Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary, Ambassador James Mugume, said the report demonizes the country's national army, which he said undermines its ability to participate in peacekeeping operations on behalf of both the African Union, as well as the United Nations.

"We have rejected that report because it contained a lot of falsehoods. One, the method of gathering information on human rights, they got out there (and) talked to some NGO's (non-governmental organizations) and never talked to the government. Secondly, they themselves admit that the standard of proof is low. Thirdly, they made a lot of falsehoods. They attribute UPDF (Uganda People's Defense Force) (of) being in places where it was never deployed."

Ambassador Mugume also questioned the timing of the report. "What is the intention of the report?" he said, "After the Pact on (Security) Stability and Development of Great Lakes of (2006) 06, (we) have opened diplomatic relations at (a) higher level in each other's capital. We are working together to deal with negative forces. They come out with a report which says that, actually, it was

the allied forces that committed genocide and not the Interahamwe (Rwandan Hutu rebels).”

The leaked U.N report alleges that, in 1997, Uganda’s army committed war crimes and crimes against humanity after it supported Congolese rebels to topple the late (Zairean) President Mobuto Sese Seko.

The allegations include massacres of unarmed Congolese, torture, as well as destroyed infrastructure during Congo’s conflict from 1993-2003.

But, Ambassador Mugume said U.N. investigators who wrote the report failed to ascertain the truth by “flagrantly” abdicating their responsibility to interview Uganda’s government about what transpired in the neighboring DRC.

## **Uganda: New Revelations about 2006 Ugandan Presidential Election**

04 October 2010: VOA news

### **Justice George Kanyeihamba says two of four judges who voted against a petition challenging the 2006 results have had second thought.**

A retired Ugandan Supreme Court judge said two of the four Supreme Court justices who voted in favor of dismissing the 2006 presidential election petition brought by opposition leader Kizza Besigye have changed their minds and now believe the elections results should have been overturned.

In a split decision, the Supreme Court ruled in 2006 that there was non-compliance with the election laws.

But the judges disagreed on whether the non-compliance and other reported malpractices substantially affected the results in which President Yoweri Museveni was re-elected.

Retired Justice George Kanyeihamba said he hopes the justices would vote differently if another petition were to be brought before them, especially as Uganda prepares for another presidential election in 2011.

“I have said that the decision to have upheld the election was held by a majority of four to three, but since then, two of the four have had second thought about their judgment,” he said.

Justice Kanyeihamba would not name the judges, but said people can read about their opinions.

On why the judges are now having a second thought, Kanyeihamba said there was nothing they could do about their ruling in the 2006 petition.

“In Uganda, as in most countries, once you make the decision you cannot change it. You can only change your opinion in a different case which could be

different later whatever, but the one that was decided in 2006 stands, its consequences stand. You cannot change that,” Justice Kanyeihamba said. As Uganda prepares for another presidential election next year, Kanyeihamba hopes that in the event a similar situation occurs, his fellow Supreme Court justices would think about their 2006 decision and rule differently.

“One would hope that if a similar situation were to occur, their Lordship in the higher court would reflect on what we did in 2006 and I may say in this case judge differently,” Kanyeihamba said.

He called Uganda’s proposed Public Order Management Bill of 2009 as the worst piece of legislation.

Justice Kanyeihamba appealed to civil society organizations to protest against the bill.

“Under the Ugandan Constitution, if anyone feels that somebody’s rights are threatened or about to be violated, they can bring a petition in the court. So I say that civil society organizations could do now, without waiting any further, challenge this bill in a constitutional court and that article by saying that the rights of Ugandans – the right of assembly, the rights of speech – are now threatened and a court will entertain the petition,” Kanyeihamba said.

He said civil society groups should go ahead and challenge the bill before it becomes law.