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SUDAN

At the time of the 2010 MSI panel in Sudan, the people in the Southern Sudan, journalists included, were anxiously awaiting the outcome of a January 2011 referendum to determine the political future of Sudan. The MSI panelists predicted that when Southern Sudan becomes independent, as expected, the Sudanese in this region would enjoy greater freedom of speech and press than those in the North. The South will be politically and economically independent, thanks to oil lying beneath this part of Sudan.

That moment will be the climax of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the SPLA and the Khartoum government in 2005 to end Sudan's long-running civil war, in which it was agreed that the people of the South will determine self-governance through a referendum. However, some Sudanese fear that development in the Independent Southern Sudan may be affected by the corrupt leadership, which, unless checked, could lead to greater suffering for the people than under a united Sudan.

For now, the media, especially independent/private entities, continue to operate under difficult conditions in the North, while in the South there is relative media freedom. Acts by security agencies to intimidate, harass, and torture members of the media is the order of the day, more so in the North, but to a certain extent in South Sudan. As the year drew to a close in December, the authorities began stepping up their harassment and arrests of journalists and human-rights defenders ahead of the referendum.

While such acts persist, journalists do occasionally speak out against the intimidation, through media advocacy and professional organizations. Efforts by the media to fight for their rights have yielded little, but the struggle continues through several media organizations. In the South, consultation with journalists on the proposed new media bill is still undergoing review by the media associations.

On a practical level, the media in the North are generally far better off than their counterparts in South Sudan in terms of infrastructure, investment, pay levels, and training, but much needs to be done to organize the profession in the region.

SUDAN AT A GLANCE

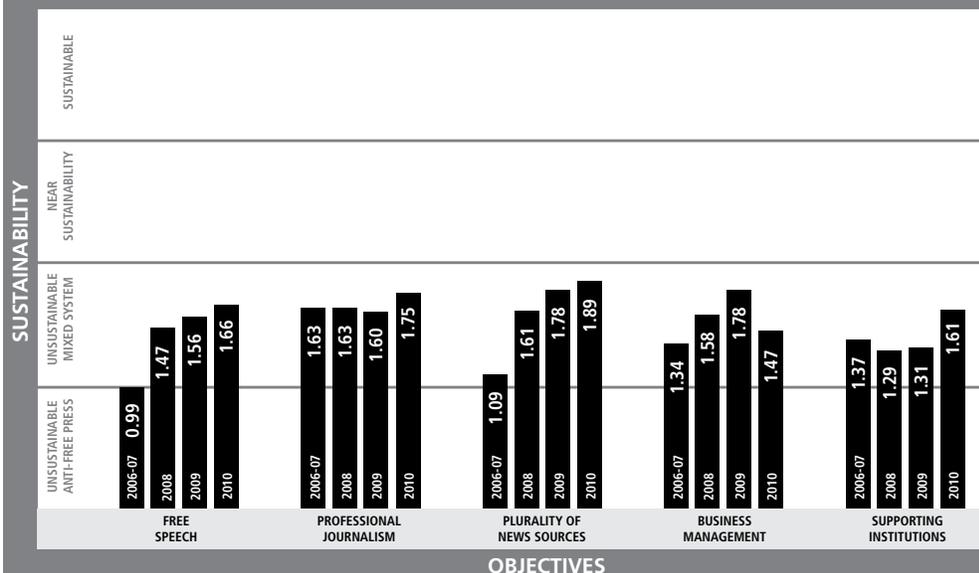
GENERAL

- > **Population:** 45,047,502 (July 2011 est., *CIA World Factbook*)
- > **Capital city:** Khartoum
- > **Ethnic groups:** Sudanese Arab (approximately 70%), Fur, Beja, Nuba, Fallata (*CIA World Factbook*)
- > **Religions (% of population):** Sunni Muslim 70%, Christian 5% (mostly in south and Khartoum), indigenous beliefs 25% (*CIA World Factbook*)
- > **Languages (% of population):** Arabic (official), English (official), Nubian, Ta Bedawie, diverse dialects of Nilotic, Nilo-Hamitic, Sudanic languages (*CIA World Factbook*)
- > **GNI (2010-Atlas):** \$55.28 billion (World Bank Development Indicators, 2011)
- > **GNI per capita (2010-PPP):** \$2,020 (World Bank Development Indicators, 2011)
- > **Literacy rate:** 61.1% (male 71.8%, female 50.5%) (2003 est., *CIA World Factbook*)
- > **President or top authority:** President Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir (since October 16, 1993)

MEDIA-SPECIFIC

- > **Number of active print outlets, radio stations, television stations:**
Print: 7 daily newspapers; Radio Stations: 5 main stations; Television Stations: 2 main stations
- > **Newspaper circulation statistics:** Top three by circulation: *The Citizen Paper* (private), *The Sudan Tribune* (private), *The Juba Post* (private).
- > **Broadcast ratings:** Top radio stations: Miraya FM (UN-run, south), Bakhita FM (Catholic Church-run, south), Sudan National Radio Corporation (state-run, north), Mango 96 FM (private, north), Radio Juba (state-run, south); Television: Sudan National Broadcasting Corporation (state-run, north), Southern Sudan TV (state-run, south)
- > **News agencies:** Sudan News Agency (state-owned)
- > **Annual advertising revenue in media sector:** N/A
- > **Internet usage:** 4.2 million (2008 est., *CIA World Factbook*)

MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY INDEX: SUDAN



Unsustainable, Anti-Free Press (0-1):

Country does not meet or only minimally meets objectives. Government and laws actively hinder free media development, professionalism is low, and media-industry activity is minimal.

Unsustainable Mixed System (1-2):

Country minimally meets objectives, with segments of the legal system and government opposed to a free media system. Evident progress in free-press advocacy, increased professionalism, and new media businesses may be too recent to judge sustainability.

Near Sustainability (2-3):

Country has progressed in meeting multiple objectives, with legal norms, professionalism, and the business environment supportive of independent media. Advances have survived changes in government and have been codified in law and practice. However, more time may be needed to ensure that change is enduring and that increased professionalism and the media business environment are sustainable.

Sustainable (3-4):

Country has media that are considered generally professional, free, and sustainable, or to be approaching these objectives. Systems supporting independent media have survived multiple governments, economic fluctuations, and changes in public opinion or social conventions.

OBJECTIVE 1: FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Sudan Objective Score Score: 1.66

The interim constitution for South Sudan guarantees free speech and freedom of the press, but the parliament has not yet passed the media law, which is still in draft form. “We think that if the South becomes an independent country on its own after the referendum, things will be much better because we shall be in a position to make our own laws,” noted the panelists.

However, in North Sudan, the situation has not changed much; the current constitution calls for free speech, but, in practice, it has been violated many times. Existing media laws are very unfair to the profession, with a lot of intimidation and harassment directed at journalists, especially in the private independent media.

The panelists complained that in the northern part of the country, the judiciary lacks independence to deal with issues related to human-rights violations and the media; they speculated that government influence cannot be ruled out. However, they said that in the South, there are no penalties yet for such behavior, as many laws are still being worked on. What happens after the referendum will decide the future.

The licensing process for broadcast media is not competitive in Sudan; it is fully controlled by government, both in the North and South. Furthermore, panelists said, the process also

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Both the Ministry of Information and the postal services and telecommunications, which are charged with the responsibility of licensing broadcast media, and with official appointments, are in government hands, and the licensing process remains politically driven. It is easier for politicians in power and their allies to acquire licenses than those who are seen as not supporting government. This applies especially in the northern part of the country. The panel noted that in the South, though, the government is very selective; while issuing licenses to electronic media, classifying licenses depends on the areas each media house handles.

The government has also enacted a bond of SDG 150,000 (\$55,600) for anyone who wishes to open up a media house, a move the panelists see as prohibitive. They reported that taxes on media houses remain high in many parts of the country, and journalists are still required to pay individual taxes deducted from their salaries. However, in the southern part of the country, the panelists noted that taxes have been reduced to encourage people who are interested in investing in the media industry.

The panelists agreed that crimes against journalists continue and those behind the acts are neither prosecuted nor punished, indicating that the state may be behind these violations. IFEX reported that the government began arresting not only critical journalists but human-rights activists toward the end of 2010, ahead of the referendum. Additionally, IFEX reported, “The Sudanese regime has controlled media coverage of the political and humanitarian crisis in Darfur for years. Outraged by Radio Dabanga’s coverage of the Darfur conflict, authorities arrested Radio Dabanga director Abdelrahman Adam Abdelrahman and closed down its office on October 30, reports ANHRI. Radio Dabanga is broadcast from Holland, but 13 of its staff were arrested in Khartoum during the raid. Abdelrahman has been

LEGAL AND SOCIAL NORMS PROTECT AND PROMOTE FREE SPEECH AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION.

FREE-SPEECH INDICATORS:

- > Legal and social protections of free speech exist and are enforced.
- > Licensing of broadcast media is fair, competitive, and apolitical.
- > Market entry and tax structure for media are fair and comparable to other industries.
- > Crimes against journalists or media outlets are prosecuted vigorously, but occurrences of such crimes are rare.
- > State or public media do not receive preferential legal treatment, and law guarantees editorial independence.
- > Libel is a civil law issue; public officials are held to higher standards, and offended parties must prove falsity and malice.
- > Public information is easily accessible; right of access to information is equally enforced for all media and journalists.
- > Media outlets have unrestricted access to information; this is equally enforced for all media and journalists.
- > Entry into the journalism profession is free, and government imposes no licensing, restrictions, or special rights for journalists.

subjected to torture while in custody, reports the Writers in Prison Committee of PEN International (WiPC)."¹

"We have had cases where journalists are beaten or illegally arrested in ungazetted areas; we petition government, and no action is taken—only that sometimes our colleagues are released after hours or days," observed one member of the panel.

Threats of closure of media houses, especially those critical of government, still exist in the North and South. For example, in May 2010, Sudanese security forces raided Rai al-Shaab's offices in Khartoum, shut down printing of the opposition daily *Rai al-Shaab*, and arrested three of its journalists. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reported: "The daily's editor-in-chief, Yassin Omar al-Imam, told CPJ that the raid came after his paper published a report on May 14 alleging that Iran built some kind of weapons factory in Sudan to supply insurgents in Africa and the Middle East."² While such acts persist, panelists said that independent journalists do sometimes speak out against them through their organized groups. Furthermore, private media will report on them, although such reports do not cause any public outcry.

State/public media remain under complete control of the government, and as such there is no editorial independence, noted the panelists. They added that all top and middle managers and editors are government-appointed.

In the North and South, state media are given preferential treatment in all ways over private media. Those in the state media have more access to public information, are fully funded by the government, and, accordingly, end up doing whatever their employer dictates. State media have easy access to public information, and the government in the north uses the state media as a channel for propaganda.

The panelists, however, said that in the South, state media act in the same way; the only difference is when security operatives are harassing journalists from state and private media equally. Furthermore, powerful businesses often interfere with editorial content, as editors drop critical stories on request/instruction of these companies.

Not much has changed in the media laws; they remain the same across the board and favor neither state nor private media. However, in practice, the state media have advantages over private media in every respect.

The panelists noted that all sharia laws are applicable only in the North; they no longer apply to the South. However, the SPLM government is busy drafting media laws likely to be similar to those used by the Khartoum government—a point of concern for some panelists.

Panelists noted that libel remains both a civil and criminal offense throughout Sudan. Of late, a number of media houses in the southern part of the country have been sued. Some journalists have been arrested as well, with arrests often taking place on Fridays so that detention can last through the weekend, with a release-without-a-charge happening on Monday.

However, the panel members reported that in the North, cases of arrests of journalists over libel have been few. This is likely because most are part of the government system anyway and are forced to toe the government line while doing their work. Panelists agreed that in the North and the South, it is the journalists' burden to prove innocence in a libel case.

On the issue of corruption in the judiciary, the panelists noted that there is no proof; however, the matter of judicial independence is questioned, and many judgments go against the journalists.

There is no law that guarantees media access to public information, and access to information is not equal to all journalists, especially information from the government—in the North and the South. In the North, the government gives out information through its Ministry for Information, but it is mainly propaganda that is typically not useful to those in need of information.

In the South, the minister of information acts as the official spokesperson of the government, but when journalists approach, ministers often decide not to talk to them, especially if the journalist is from the private media.

"We have had cases where journalists from some media houses have been blocked from covering certain state functions. In one recent example, the former president of the U.S., Jimmy Carter, visited Juba, and reporters from *The Post* and *Citizen* were blocked from entering the VIP lounge. Another time, when the president of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir, organized a state dinner, all of us from the private media were chased away, and our colleagues from the state media alone were allowed access to it," noted one panelist.

Panelists added that through their different associations, they are lobbying the government to enact laws that will ease access to public information.

¹ "Activists and journalists arrested ahead of the referendum." IFEX website, December 22, 2010.

² "Sudan shuts opposition paper, arrests three journalists." Committee to Protect Journalists website, May 17, 2010. Available at: <http://cpj.org/2010/05/sudan-shutters-opposition-paper-arrests-three-jour.php>

As last year's MSI reported, the government does not officially restrict access to foreign news, and Internet access remains free throughout the country. However, the panelists reported that the government blocks some websites, especially in the North. And yet, the panelists pointed out that while Internet access is easy in the North, at fair rates, in the South it is too expensive for journalists. Some foreign publications, especially those deemed pornographic, are restricted in both parts of the country. All others are allowed, and the only impediment is the cost to import.

At times, foreign news is also screened. In the South, however, Southern Sudan Television holds agreements with foreign television stations. A panelist last year commented that she believes the government does not interfere with foreign news out of fear for the international community.

The panelists agreed that entry into the journalism profession is free in the South and, with some academic restrictions, in the North. Anyone wishing to become a journalist must sit for an Islamic exam set by the national body after successful completion of an accreditation follows from government. They noted, however, that much as there has been no restriction on entry into the profession in the South, the government is considering measures through which it will be able to control entry into the media. The government has approached a NGO dealing in press freedom advocacy and media development, AIM, about taking charge of accrediting journalists, an action that is likely to be concluded after the national referendum in 2011.

OBJECTIVE 2: PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

Sudan Objective Score: 1.75

The panelists agreed that most journalists in Sudan are well trained, especially those working in the northern part of the country, and they do their work professionally—with stories that are not related to politics and security. Journalists working for the state or public media write stories favorable to the government, true or not, while their colleagues in the private media work objectively, but in fear.

In the South, however, few journalists, even when qualified, do their work objectively, but there are efforts by different media associations and NGOs to train those who are interested in improving their skills. As in the North, journalists working with government media in the South tend to concentrate on reporting about the state and rarely find time and space to write about issues that concern the public.

The panelists agreed that ethical standards developed by journalists' associations exist; however, they are not followed

Most journalists are still poorly paid, especially in the South, where some journalists earn less than \$100 a month. However, panelists added that in the northern part of the country, the situation is much better for both state and private media.

by many, especially those who work for small media houses. Poorly paid, they end up taking bribes from sources.

Without giving specific cases, the panelists noted that there have been incidents where journalists are paid to run certain stories. Other stories are killed for money. This habit is rampant among freelancers working for both print and electronic media.

Self-censorship is a common practice across Sudan's media, and it is done at all levels for many reasons—fear of losing jobs, policies in the media houses they work for, the business interests of owners, personal security, and personal interests of a reporter or an editor. For example, two journalists working for Southern Sudan TV lost their jobs because of a story they filed that displeased their employer. And, when a reporter with the *Southern Eye* wrote a story about the plane mishap of the Southern Sudan President Salva Kiir, it was blocked by his bosses and he was asked to leave.

While it is true that most Sudanese news comes from key events and issues across the country, panelists said that security issues are very sensitive, and covering such stories

JOURNALISM MEETS PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF QUALITY.

PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM INDICATORS:

- > Reporting is fair, objective, and well sourced.
- > Journalists follow recognized and accepted ethical standards.
- > Journalists and editors do not practice self-censorship.
- > Journalists cover key events and issues.
- > Pay levels for journalists and other media professionals are sufficiently high to discourage corruption.
- > Entertainment programming does not eclipse news and information programming.
- > Technical facilities and equipment for gathering, producing, and distributing news are modern and efficient.
- > Quality niche reporting and programming exists (investigative, economics/business, local, political).

Most private broadcast media produce their own news programs, and they are high-quality when compared with state media, which are laden with government propaganda.

can bring trouble upon reporters and editors. There are cases where editors stop a reporter from covering a story, but this depends on issues that include a reporter's capacity and competency to handle such a topic. At other times, some issues are a deliberate effort to frustrate a reporter.

Pay levels remain a serious concern in the Sudanese media. Most journalists are still poorly paid, especially in the South, where some journalists earn less than \$100 a month. However, panelists added that in the northern part of the country, the situation is much better for both state and private media.

The panelists attributed the gains in the North to a strong journalists' union that has strong ties with the ruling government. They recommended one for the South, but independent of the government. The panel reported that due to poor pay, corruption in the media is rampant, where reporters and editors solicit bribes from sources to report positively or kill stories.

"Journalists working for the public service in the North and South earn the same as other professionals; however, when it comes to the journalists working for private media, their situation is worse than for people working in the private sector in the South," observed one panelist.

In terms of the balance between news and entertainment, little has changed since previous MSI studies. The electronic media allocate more space to entertainment over news, while the print media allocate more space to news than entertainment. Newspapers give more than 50 percent of space to news, while electronic media allocate about 75 percent of airtime to entertainment, arguing that their audiences are more interested in that.

The situation regarding equipment and facilities for gathering, producing, and distributing news remains bad in the South. Most of the journalists and the few media houses in existence go without or use obsolete equipment. The panelists reported that they are lacking some very basic equipment, such as digital still and video cameras, audio recorders, computers, and laptops. This has made their work difficult, especially for freelancers. Lacking facilities and equipment has negatively affected the quality of news and programming.

The situation is better in the North, as many of the media houses have become more modern, changing to digital equipment and broadcast.

The panel commended AIM for helping supply a few journalists with laptops but highlighted the need to help journalists in the South by providing assistance in the form of equipment and training to help media houses build capacity. Panelists named AIM as one of the few trusted organizations through which aid can be channeled.

The panel agreed that quality niche reporting exists in the North, but it is still in its infancy in the South, where only a few journalists are specialized.

OBJECTIVE 3: PLURALITY OF NEWS

Sudan Objective Score: 1.89

There are several news sources for people to compare, but many are not considered reliable as they appear to be publishers of propaganda. The panelists noted that as much as there are many news sources, some, especially the print media, are not affordable to most people. Private media cover local and national issues, and community media have expanded due to community residents coming together and starting radio stations for information and as a mobilization tool.

The panelists noted that Internet use for information has increased, especially in the North, where the rates are relatively low. In the South, it is mainly available in the city

MULTIPLE NEWS SOURCES PROVIDE CITIZENS WITH RELIABLE AND OBJECTIVE NEWS.

PLURALITY OF NEWS SOURCES INDICATORS:

- > A plurality of affordable public and private news sources (e.g., print, broadcast, Internet) exists.
- > Citizens' access to domestic or international media is not restricted.
- > State or public media reflect the views of the entire political spectrum, are nonpartisan, and serve the public interest.
- > Independent news agencies gather and distribute news for print and broadcast media.
- > Independent broadcast media produce their own news programs.
- > Transparency of media ownership allows consumers to judge objectivity of news; media ownership is not concentrated in a few conglomerates.
- > A broad spectrum of social interests are reflected and represented in the media, including minority-language information sources.

and big towns, and the cost is prohibitive. Other news and information sources, like blogs, SMS platforms for news alerts, Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook, exist in Sudan—and people depend on them.

As in the previous surveys, people in large cities and towns have more access to media sources than those in rural areas and small towns; radio is the main source of information for the rural areas.

Panelists reported that there is no official government restriction on access to domestic and international media; however, the government in the North blocks some Internet news sites. Also in the North, the government has imposed restrictions on importation of some foreign print editions that are seen as contradicting sharia laws and Islamic values.

Access to the Internet for information is likewise not restricted, but as mentioned earlier, the cost of media prevents people from using it.

Public media in Sudan are fully controlled by the state/ruling party in the North and South. Although by law public media are supposed to be independent, in truth they spend much time promoting government programs and propaganda. Views of the opposition can hardly find space on public media, according to the panelists.

Opposition views are tolerated only during election season, when the national elections committee issues guidelines to all media houses, including state media, on how they should cover elections with fair and equal coverage to all parties.

Top managers and editors are appointed by the government, and by virtue of that they concentrate on covering their benefactors—the government. On a positive note, the panelists commended public media for going an extra mile to provide extensive coverage of culture, education, health, etc.

The only independent news agencies in Sudan are foreign, and the two local agencies, the Sudan news agency (SUNA), based in Khartoum, and Southern Sudan News agency, based in Juba, are government-owned with little editorial independence to speak of. The two provide information to any media house that may need it, at no cost, but most of the content toes the state line.

The panelists commended foreign news agencies AFP, Reuters, and others operating in Sudan, saying that they are the most reliable when it comes to providing news and information.

Most private broadcast media produce their own news programs, and they are high-quality when compared with state media, which are laden with government propaganda. It was reported that this does little to stop some media houses from sourcing out to websites or news agencies, which

In the North, the government does not officially subsidize independent media houses, but friendly outlets—those owned by politicians belonging to the ruling party—get significant funding through government advertising. The panel noted that the situation is different in the South, as no independent media house gets government money in any form.

are willing to provide such programs. The news programs produced by private media cover a wide range of issues of concern to the public.

The panelists said that community media lack the capacity to be self-supporting and must depend on programs produced by other national media houses. This applies to bloggers, as well, who lift news stories from other sources.

On media ownership, panelists agreed that the situation varies; some media owners are known, while others prefer to remain hidden. There is no law governing disclosure of media ownership. There are some people associated with certain media houses who are not concerned if the public knows that they own them. Regardless, the panelists agreed that those media owners interfere a lot with the editorial content of their media, influencing the outcome of news to favor certain people and positions.

Panelists agreed that most media give fair coverage to social issues. However, there are some issues that contradict the highly respected sharia laws; thus, they are not covered. In last year's MSI, several panelists reported no resistance to the inclusion of social issues in the media and noted that the government has also delivered radio programs to improve coverage of local issues in all the regions. They said that minority-language media are not an issue in Sudan; however, the electronic media tend to cover social issues more than their counterparts in print. A panelist last year reported that journalists writing about issues affecting minorities are sometimes harassed indirectly.

OBJECTIVE 4: BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Sudan Objective Score: 1.47

In Khartoum, most media houses and supporting firms are managed professionally and efficiently as profit-making ventures, noted the panel, adding that they have proper structures in place with good plans to follow. However, the panelists noted that in the South most media houses are poorly managed and usually closed. Some of them employ relatives with no qualifications, and no management or editorial structures and policies exist.

As for state media, the panelists noted that they are fully funded by government, but cannot account fully for the funds appropriated to them.

Many of the media houses in Sudan pull revenue from different sources, including advertisers, sale of copies, and supplements; however, these alternative revenue streams do little to prevent powerful sources from interfering with the editorial content of the media house of their choice. Influence on the editorial content by advertisers is a common practice in Sudan, but some media houses have stood firm and have performed better.

Media outlets have multiple sources of revenue, the major one being advertising. This has pushed some editors and media managers in some cases to favor ads even over news stories.

True advertising is well developed in Sudan, especially in the cities of the North. This has attracted many new companies to advertise. Many of the big media houses have full-fledged

advertising departments that have attracted a great deal of revenue.

There are also big advertising firms that handle advertising business and have worked hand in hand with all media. In small cities, however, this business is still in its infancy, noted the panelists. They also said that in South Sudan, advertising remains low, but signs point to a growing appreciation.

In the North, the government does not officially subsidize independent media houses, but friendly outlets—those owned by politicians belonging to the ruling party—get significant funding through government advertising. The panel noted that the situation is different in the South, as no independent media house gets government money in any form.

The panelists noted that few media houses in the South carry out market research; many of them do not want to devote money to it, and there are no professional bodies or companies available to handle such work. However, the panel reported that in the North, marketing agencies are controlled by the state, and they do research that the media houses use to improve services.

There are few sources for broadcast ratings and circulation figures. At least one independent company conducts surveys and publishes results, but in most cases they are not recognized by media houses. Some media houses have engaged their own surveys to determine their position in the market in order to, truthfully or not, declare themselves leaders in the market.

OBJECTIVE 5: SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS

Sudan Objective Score: 1.61

INDEPENDENT MEDIA ARE WELL-MANAGED BUSINESSES, ALLOWING EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT INDICATORS:

- > Media outlets and supporting firms operate as efficient, professional, and profit-generating businesses.
- > Media receive revenue from a multitude of sources.
- > Advertising agencies and related industries support an advertising market.
- > Advertising revenue as a percentage of total revenue is in line with accepted standards at commercial outlets.
- > Independent media do not receive government subsidies.
- > Market research is used to formulate strategic plans, enhance advertising revenue, and tailor products to the needs and interests of audiences.
- > Broadcast ratings and circulation figures are reliably and independently produced.

Media associations representing both broadcast and print owners exist both in the North and South but have not been of much help to members. Private independent media owners have had many problems, similarly with little help from lobbying by their associations.

The panelists noted that a number of professional associations have claimed to advocate for journalists' rights. Some have helped a great deal in training, advocating for journalists' rights, and lobbying for strong media laws. These associations include the Media Development Agency, Independent Media for Women, AMIDDIS, and others.

While several NGOs support the media, they mainly engage in training and press-freedom advocacy work. Panelists emphasized the need for more organizations that can extend support to the media, mostly in the South, where many

journalists lack training and work in poor conditions and facilities. “We also need NGOs that can help us develop good media laws, now that the government of South Sudan is busy working on new laws,” appealed one of the panelists.

Quality degree programs exist in many of the universities in the North, with proper practical training, but they are in Arabic. There are also media training institutions offering diploma courses in journalism.

In the South, the situation is not as positive; only Juba University offers a degree in mass communication, but again in Arabic—even though the southerners prefer English to Arabic. Efforts to set up a private media training institution failed after funding agents pulled out, accusing some of the directors of corruption, reported the panelists.

The panelists expressed their hope that investors from Uganda and Kenya are growing interested in media training institutions in South Sudan. This, they feel, will improve journalistic standards in the South. The panelists also reported that training opportunities are available, but few of those who get such training return to Sudan to train others.

Short-term trainings are available at all levels. There are also in-house training opportunities at big media houses. Most of these target practicing journalists without formal training. The panelists recommended that there is a need for more training courses, especially in the South. The courses most needed include basic training, writing and reporting skills, investigative skills, photography, and ethics.

Some printing facilities are state-owned, while others are in private hands. Government, however, maintains indirect control of all these facilities, and no single newspaper,

magazine, or document can be printed or released without security scrutiny in the North.

Private printing and distribution facilities are managed as profit-making ventures and help to support media in the North. In the South, however, there are no printing facilities, and many newspapers are printed in neighboring countries, including Uganda and Kenya.

The panelists noted that the promised South Sudan government printer has never been installed, and printing costs of newspapers remain high, making it difficult for the private media to compete with the state.

Media distribution channels remain in private hands, and a number of media houses employ vendors on a commission basis and have outlets and agents in small towns who sell their products.

As in the previous survey, the panel noted that broadcast transmitters are owned by both government and private individuals, but the state monitors their operation—for both security reasons and area of reach or coverage of a particular transmitter.

List of Panel Participants

Finella Agnes, journalist, Juba

Paul Jimbo, editor, *The Journal*, Juba

Marvis Byeza, reporter, Bakhita Radio, Kaya

Melania Celestino Suleiman Itto, radio presenter, Bakhita FM Radio, New Site

Simon Boboya, journalist, *Juba Post*, Juba

Jeremiah Otieno Siera, journalist and finance office, Agency for Independent Media, Juba City

Julius Uma, journalist, *Sudan Tribune*, Juba

Diing Deng Koch, journalist, *Khartoum Monitor*, Khartoum

Mugume Rwakaringi, journalist, Juba

Moderator and Author

David Aruai de Dau, chairman, Agency for Independent Media, Juba

SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS FUNCTION IN THE PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OF INDEPENDENT MEDIA.

SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS INDICATORS:

- > Trade associations represent the interests of private media owners and provide member services.
- > Professional associations work to protect journalists' rights.
- > NGOs support free speech and independent media.
- > Quality journalism degree programs that provide substantial practical experience exist.
- > Short-term training and in-service training programs allow journalists to upgrade skills or acquire new skills.
- > Sources of newsprint and printing facilities are in private hands, apolitical, and unrestricted.
- > Channels of media distribution (kiosks, transmitters, Internet) are private, apolitical, and unrestricted.