



SuNDE and SuGDE Statement on the Exhibition and Objections Process  
December 21, 2011

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The Sudanese Network for Democratic Elections (SuNDE) and the Sudanese Group for Democracy and Elections (SuGDE) observed a large number of administrative problems in the ten Southern States during the Exhibition and Objections process. Such problems could have compromised the ability of voters to verify information on the list and ultimately improve the Final Referendum Register. In the Referendum Centers affected, the administrative problems made the Provisional Referendum Register largely inaccessible to voters. The Exhibition and Objections process in the North was largely free from administrative problems.

SuNDE and SuGDE observers also reported that very few citizens came to check their details on the Referendum Register in the Referendum Centers observed on December 15, the day of observation. In many Centers in the North observers reported that no citizens at all came to check their details in the Register during the entire day of observation. This likely indicates that voters did not understand the purpose of the Exhibition and Objections process. SuNDE and SuGDE are concerned about the impact that the low level of citizen engagement in the process may have on the quality of the Final Referendum Register.

SuNDE found that a significant number of the Referendum Centers observed were not open in the South on the day observed. For example, in Unity State 38% of the Referendum Centers observed were not open. In Jonglei, many observers reported that Referendum Center officials refused to work because their salaries had not been paid. Of the Referendum Centers observed in the South which were open, some did not have the Provisional Referendum Register or did not have the Register prominently displayed.

SuNDE and SuGDE also note that the timeframe for the exhibition period was short which limited the ability of voters to verify their details on the Register or to object to the registration of other voters.

SuNDE and SuGDE encourage Referendum Officials to compile the Final Referendum Register for each Center as soon as possible so that voters have ample opportunity to confirm their voting locations. SuNDE and SuGDE also recommend that the SSRC and SSRB make the necessary financial arrangements to ensure Referendum Centers officials are paid in a timely manner..

SuNDE and the SuGDE deployed 700 observers in teams of two to observe the Exhibition and Objections period on December 15, 2010. Observers in Southern Sudan visited at least two Referendum Centers during the day while observers in the North observed at one Referendum Center for the entire day.