



Sudanese Group for Democracy and Elections (SuGDE) South Kordofan Elections Observation

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SuGDE would like to congratulate the people of South Kordofan for their high levels of participation and their peaceful conduct during the observed polling and counting processes. SuGDE is concerned about rising tensions in the State, the Group urges all parties to continue to observe the counting and tabulation process peacefully and to deal with all disputes through appropriate legal mechanisms.

SuGDE acknowledges that polling process represented an improvement over previous elections in some areas, specifically; 1) active participation by political parties, 2) improved management of materials and polling committees, and 3) the absence of violence and voter intimidation. However, certain deficiencies remained in other aspects of the election, including late dissemination of voter information and inadequate management of the voter registration process. SuGDE also expresses its concern over incidents of vote buying and campaigning at the polling committees.

SuGDE conducted non-partisan election monitoring of the South Kordofan 2011 elections from May 2nd through to May 5th, deploying 90 observers to 90 polling committees in 27 of the 32 constituencies.

SuGDE expresses its most sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the volunteers who dedicated their time to improving the transparency of the electoral process. SuGDE would also like to extend thanks to the elections officials in the National Election Commission (NEC) and the State High Elections Committee of South Kordofan for their cooperation and accreditation of SuGDE observers. In addition SuGDE would like to thank members of the South Kordofan Civic Education Forum (SKCEF) for offering volunteers for observation.

SuGDE is a joint effort of six independent, non-partisan civil society organizations working with community based organizations throughout northern Sudan to encourage free, fair and non-violent elections. These include: AZZA Women Association, The Babikr Badri Scientific Association for Women's Studies, The Group for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Studies (GESCERS), HELA HELP organization, The Human Security Initiative (MAMAN) Institute for Development of Civil Society (IDCS).

SuGDE has issued a full statement on its observation findings.

