

**Sudan Domestic Media, March 8, 2011 (covering March 01 –March 07, 2011)**  
**By Janis Grychowski**

**State Media**

*(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 gmt 6 Mar 11)*

- Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir has restated his country's support for Palestinian rights in Jerusalem at the eighth International Al-Quds Conference in Khartoum. He declared that, "Sudan stands as a protective wall to Jerusalem, and would fight and reject all kinds of [attempts] to turn it into a Jewish [city] led by the Israeli occupation, who always try to erase the city's Islamic and Arab identities." In this address, he asked the participants to take clear positions on the support of Palestinians.

*(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 7 Mar 11)*

- The Government of Sudan in Khartoum has affirmed its total rejection of the plan to impose new conditions on lifting Sudan from their terrorism list that is being championed by some USA Congressmen. A representative from the government stated that this stance is inconsistent with the announced agreement. He said,
- "US Administration and Congress know quite well that Sudan has no relationship with Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) that acts on borders between Conga (South of Sudan) and Republic of Central Africa". He also cited a US Stated Department report on patterns of anti-terrorism for the year 2009 that suggests that "there is no authenticated information to justify claims and allegations against Sudan and that Sudan backs LRA". He added that Ministry of Foreign Affairs is closely following up on this issue and announced that such statements will not prevent Sudan from fulfilling its commitments towards completing the implementation of whole provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

*(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 gmt 7 Mar 11)*

- The meeting of the higher committee for Darfur has approved the recommendations for the creation of two more states in Darfur in response to the recommendations put forth by the technical committee that was formed to study the situation in Darfur states. The President's Advisor said that this recommendation is aligned with the will of the people of Darfur and that the government is committed to the Abuja Peace Agreement.

## Private News Media

*(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 7 Mar 11)*

- According to UN Public Information, the United Nations has increased its presence in the Abyei region as a response to recent violence in Todach village. Heavy fighting between armed groups has said to have been caused by territorial rivalry between two neighboring tribes.

*(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 7 Mar 11)*

- A land dispute between Dachuek and Ayual clans in Nyuak Payam, South Sudan has claimed 13 lives and an additional 37 wounded civilians. The state minister for local government said that the case was tabled before the state high court in 2010 when the dispute first appeared. Originally this case was settled in court however hotly contested by one of the clans. The governor appealed to people inside Sudan and in the Diaspora not to escalate the conflict. He stated that the government is capable of handling the situation and pledged to deploy more police and Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] soldiers to the area to prevent more violence.

*(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 7 Mar 11)*

- The UK has determined Sudan a priority of International Assistance Funding and will focus its activities to include basic services such as health care, education, security and clean drinking water. Sudanese women will be of particular focus of donor assistance with access to education, access to health services and access to justice figuring prominently in these activities.

*(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 7 Mar 11)*

- The leader of the Southern Sudanese official opposition compared the armed rebellion against the government of Southern Sudan with the 1955 Torit uprising. He urged the SPLM to involve the Dinka Padang in resolving matters that are keeping the government and the rebels and asked that the AU mediate a settlement to this conflict.

*(Miraya FM website, Juba, in English 0000 gmt 7 Mar 11)*

- Following an agreement to withdraw all non-Joint Integrated Unit forces, the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), tensions in the Abyei region have settled. As a result, five SPLA camps were closed down. The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) welcomed the agreement signed between the SPLM and NCP on Friday at the UNMIS office in Abyei.

*(Miraya FM website, Juba, in English 7 Mar 11)*

- The Dinka Ngok Chief in Abyei has advocated the government and international organizations to offer internally displaced people urgent humanitarian assistance. Most of the displaced people have recently arrived to the area from the north during the voluntary repatriation programme.

*(Al-Ahram al-Yawm, Khartoum, in Arabic, in Arabic 7 Mar 11)*

- Editorial titled, "*How can this Regime Fall?*"

There are "opposition" people in the alliance of the parties and activist Facebook youths who demand change, threatening to move to the street and organize protests on the pattern of Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya to overthrow the regime ruling Sudan for 21 years.

What they must understand is that The National Congress Party [NCP] and the Islamic Movement led by Mr Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha do not resemble in any way - whether in organization or in the real number of the membership let alone the mass support from outside the membership - the ruling parties in those Arab countries such as the Constitutional Rally which was ruling in Tunisia, the National Democratic Party which was headed by President Husni Mubarak and the imaginary Revolutionary Committees in Al-Qadhafi's Libya!

If the number of those using the Facebook and all social networking sites in Sudan does not exceed 30,000 - that is less than the readers of Al-Ahram al-Yawm - those committed to the NCP can be counted in the hundreds of thousands, not to mention the millions of supporters cited by NCP leaders.

Look at your neighbours any way you want and you will doubtlessly find among them members in the NCP and the Sudanese Islamic Movement who are prepared to take up arms again and again to support their ruling regime.

The membership of the parties that were ruling in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya was made up by authorities but they had no ideological commitment or stern organizational allegiance. When those regimes collapsed, they resorted to the use of 'thugs' in Egypt and African 'mercenaries' in Libya. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fled to Saudi Arabia and handed over the rule without resistance or delay, in contrast to what Colonel Al-Qadhafi has been doing for weeks amidst silence and connivance by the so-called international community, especially after circulated news about Israel's entry on the line with security aid to rescue the killer.

The Facebook participants in Egypt are more than three million. Half this number is enough to topple a government through a demonstration that lasts for some weeks. But the number of users in the Sudan does not exceed a few thousand!

Hundreds of demonstrations have been staged on the streets in Khartoum, Merowe, Madani, Port Sudan, Al-Ubayd and other Sudanese cities against the

Salvation regime over the past years. Universities were shut down, martyrs fell and hundreds were wounded. Armed Forces pensioners blocked bridges in Khartoum several times because of delays in cashing their payments. But the regime did not fall! Why?

Prior to that the regime fought for 16 long years against the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and three African States that were assisted by the United States in a bloody war that claimed thousands of youth in South Sudan. Then the 'opposition' fought against the regime through the Eritrean front, entered the outskirts of Kassala and blocked the Khartoum-Port Sudan road. But the regime did not fall!

Darfur was burnt by the rebel militias crossing the borders from Chad and Libya with intensive international backing and assistance. This has continued since 2003. The Justice and Equality Movement was able to storm the capital and to enter the centre of Omdurman, and it bombed the minarets of Hush al-Khalifah next to the governorate headquarters. Tens were martyred or injured. But the regime did not fall!

Thousands of physicians organized a successful open strike last year. The authorities arrested only three members of the doctors' committee and the demand of the 'revolution' became that they be released. The government succeeded in continuing to operate the hospitals which offered poor services anyway whether the doctors worked or went on strike! The strike succeeded but the regime did not fall!

Those who want to change this regime must fully understand the reasons underlying its strength and the weak points of its adversaries before they grow reckless and call for going out in protests and organizing sit-ins that end in a scandal and further contribute to strengthen the regime and its tyranny.

This is what must be understood well by the respected opposition gentlemen. As for what the respected rulers must understand, it is that rule is for Allah alone who raises high whom He wishes and humiliates whom He wishes. He gives thrones to whoever He wishes and topples whoever He wishes at a preordained time that is neither brought forward nor delayed by the Facebook, military coups or anything else.

What the ruling gentlemen must also understand well is that the balance of justice in our country has been upset. There are hundreds - let us say hundreds - who have sowed corruption in the earth and became filthy rich by illegal means as they ride on the authority's carpet, exploiting its prestige and official seals. So corruption spread and filled urban and rural areas. The remedy cannot be through establishment of a 'commission' to combat corruption but by eliminating anyone about whom there is any suspicion, even a mere foul smell. There must be insistence on appointing those of pure reputation and transparent actions who

do not dip their hands to the public funds or exploit power by directing tenders to their friends and the companies of their brethren and their sons and cousins, asserting all the time that 'this is business'!

A few days ago, I was struck by a decree issued in one organization to re-appoint an intermediary official who had been removed some months earlier after it was proven to all that he was involved in financial and administrative corruption and had squandered hundreds of millions of pounds while producing no worthwhile success! I asked one of the employees in the establishment 'why did they re-institute that man? Did they not say that he had 'eaten' a lot of money?' The poor employee laughed and said to me: 'They returned him so that he can eat more'!

I am convinced fully that neither the Facebook youths nor the 'opposition' parties such as the [Islamist] Popular Congress Party can bring down this regime at present.

But I see that its downfall can result from a collapse within as the number of "departures" and "disgruntled" increases among its members and sympathisers. That number is spiraling every day because of economic pressures, injustice, mounting corruption, the monopoly by 'cliques' over official positions, and the control of 'a small group' in decision-making centres.

Ask any former minister or director privately and you will find him angry and disgruntled as he repeats 'we told them don't do that but they do not listen!' Those who do not hear and do not listen are the ones who will cause the collapse of this regime.