

Sudan Domestic Media, February 8, 2011(covering February 8 – February 14, 2011)
By Janis Grychowski

State Media

8 February 2011

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 gmt 8 Feb 11)

- President al-Bashir's advisor, Professor Ibrahim Ahmad Umar met with the opposition Democratic Unionist Party – Original in Mecca. Both parties agreed to create a committee for discussing the issues affecting Sudan's future.

10 February 2011

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 10 Feb 11)

- The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs of the Khartoum government has called on the international community to assist in the return of southern Sudanese to South Sudan. According to government sources, there are approximately 250,000 Southern Sudanese living in Khartoum and the government has called on the creation of a strong system of voluntary return.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 10 Feb 11)

- The Qatar Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ahmad Bin-Abdallah Al Mahmud begins a two-day joint-mediation visit for the final stage of Darfur peace talks with senior government officials in Sudan. He will meet with President al-Bashir, the Presidential Advisor for Darfur, and the head of the delegation for the negotiation in Doha.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 10 Feb 11)

- The National Congress Party and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement have agreed to start the negotiations on north-south border demarcation on 16 February. Discussion will focus on border demarcation, citizenship and the Abyei region.

11 February 2011

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 11 Feb 11)

- The Sudanese government has welcomed the resignation of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak

13 February 2011

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 gmt 13 Feb 11)

- President al-Bashir will inaugurate a number of development and service projects in Northern Sudan such as the Al-Shahid Al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih Medical Centre and the Al-Dabba Arji Bridge. Following this, he will speak at a mass rally commemorating the 13th anniversary of the former Sudanese president, martyrdom of Al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 13 Feb 11)

- The Foreign Minister of North Sudan has stated that the government will continue to work with South Sudan now and in the future. He stressed that this relationship will take precedence over all other foreign policy concerns.

14 February 2011

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 14 Feb 11)

- The French aid organization Doctors of the World (Medicins du Monde) was expelled from Darfur for allegations that is caring out intelligence activities with Abd-al-Wahid armed groups. The government has said that Doctors of the World have overstepped their mandate and not cooperating with the humanitarian commission in South Darfur

Private News Media

9 February 2011

(Al-Khartoum, Khartoum, in Arabic 9 Feb 11)

- Excerpt from report by opposition newspaper

“Washington welcomed the establishment of the South Sudan State. President Obama announced that his country will officially recognize the new State next July. The US Administration went to great lengths in congratulating the people of the South and praising their achievement. As for North Sudan, the partner of the South in ensuring a smooth referendum, the Obama administration limited itself to something of a declaration of intentions on what it intends to do on pending issues between Washington and Khartoum.

On the dossier of Sudan's inclusion on the list of terror-sponsoring States, Washington deliberately drags its feet on taking steps to remove Sudan's name. There is no explanation for this procrastination except that the US Administration wants to use this dossier to exert more pressures on Sudan on other issues.

We fear that Washington's intention is that the outstanding issues between the two partners should be solved according to the viewpoints of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] alone. Fairness requires that Washington should seek to find mutually satisfactory solutions on the basis of principles and established rights.

The US Administration also insists on placing the Darfur issue as a barricade on the road to normalization of relations. The US State Department statement said that attacks on civilians must stop, thus giving the impression that the government is responsible for these attacks. This at best is ignorance of the facts because it is proven that the attacks on civilians are the work of armed movements or highway robbers and outlaws.

The sum is that the Obama administration has not given the role of the Sudanese government in ensuring the success of the referendum the appreciation it deserves. What it stated after the announcement of the referendum result lacks the balance expected from a superpower like the United States.”

(Al-Ra'y al-Amm, Khartoum, in Arabic 9 Feb 11)

- Editorialized report

“The Alliance of Southern [Sudanese] Parties have called upon the concerned international committee to award President Umar al-Bashir the Nobel Peace Prize for his part in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement [CPA] and putting an end to the longest war in the continent.

The spokesperson for the alliance and official in the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Democratic Change, Peter Aduk, told the Sudanese Media Centre yesterday that the announcement of the birth of the state of Southern Sudan through a pure Sudanese spirit was considered a first step for sustaining peace and the integration of the two countries in the future as well as a true achievement for the Naivasha [CPA] partners.

The alliance demanded that Al-Bashir should be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He stressed on the necessity of resolving the pending issues of Abyei, the borders and Darfur as well as all arrangements which follow secession so that the remainder of the CPA is implemented. He demanded from the Government of Southern Sudan to take the necessary constitutional measures after secession and respect the multiparty system.”

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 10 Feb 11)

- Editorialized report

“The current situation of armed gang masked in police and army uniforms attacking and killing civilians in cold blood without the government showing up, is actually appalling to the people who have been anxious of the new nation. Cases of people killed by criminals masquerading as officers protecting civilians with guns must be brought to an end with the help of the media and the public. The continuous loss of human lives has left citizens wondering whether the government is up to the job. In our previous comments we have called for beefing up of security to both government officials and the general public.

Just as tight security is offered to the men in top positions, likewise the future leaders who are the civilians must be protected. The government has to revise its security map as the over blown number of police officers has proved counterproductive. The government may opt for a lean well trained and disciplined force not only for easy management but also for easy control.

The allegations that night crimes are most conducted by robbers costumed in police or military uniforms are of concern. The organized government forces must work hard to ensure good management. Possibly the government should contract a tailoring firm that will solely rely on government work thus making it inaccessible to the general public. The police and the army should also consider doing all the laundry work at their operation base to avoid any misuse of uniforms.

The Minister of Interior in the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has done a great to improve on the security but there must be some enemies of peace who are trying to clamp down the efforts which has remarkably portrayed a bad image. The recent issue in which three people were killed in Tongping residential area last week and the killing of the two students in Jebel should actually be dealt with otherwise ignoring these issues will spark off more deadly cases.”

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 10 Feb 11)

- Editor-In-Chief Michael Koma and Journalist Deng Atem Kuol of Juba Post were detained at a police station on charges of defaming in Juba as a result of a story on Ivory Bank from January 31st. They were released on bail as the case is under investigation.

10 February 2011

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 10 Feb 11)

- The Vice-President of the Southern Sudanese government has appealed to the Workers' Trade Union Federation to protect the interests of Northern Sudanese living in South Sudan. He assured the union, on its inauguration day, that the government will support all of the Union's activities.

(Al-Ayyam, Khartoum, in Arabic 10 Feb 11)

- The Sudanese Doctors Committee has announced that they have presented a list of resignations as a result of their belief that the Ministry of Health and the worker's union has not lived up to the agreements that all parties initiated in 2010, including the improvement of doctor's working conditions.

(UN-sponsored Miraya FM website, Juba, in English 10 Feb 11)

- The President of Southern Sudan has announced a "war on corruption" and called on the international community to help South Sudan with development. The government has deemed border demarcation, popular consultations in Blue Nile State and Kurdufan State, security and corruption are its top priorities.

11 February 2011

(Al-Ra'y al-Amm website, Khartoum, in Arabic 11 Feb 11)

- Editorial

The Qatari mediator, Mr Ahmad Bin Abdallah Al Mahmud, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in the State of Qatar, had good omens immediately after his sudden arrival in Khartoum the day before yesterday. The surprise was that the Doha negotiations between the Government and the Darfur movements were nearing their final stages.

It appears that the visit was not known in advance because Dr Ghazi Salah-al-Din, who is in charge of the Darfur dossier, was on a working field visit to Darfur's cities and provinces. He hastened to return to meet the Qatari mediator. Here we must commend Qatar's patience in these arduous negotiations and its hosting of more than 1,000 representatives of these movements who came from all Darfur's areas. They came from camps of fighters, where the simplest human requirements are lacking, to seven-star hotels such as the Sheraton and the Four Seasons and other luxury hotels where they live the life of emperors.

The State of Qatar has accepted without complaint the presence of the representatives of the movements and shouldered their food, accommodation and pocket money expenses.

Sudan felt optimism since the Darfur dossier was assigned to Dr Ghazi Salah-al-Din, the intelligent negotiator who has a clear, objective, and convincing visualization for solving the Darfur crisis. Indeed Dr Ghazi has mapped a clear strategy to solve the crisis. His strategy received unprecedented acceptance from the Presidency of the Republic and the ruling party. After this strategy, which was in harmony with the Qatari visualization, the Qatari mediator brought the good news.

I demanded more than once in this column that the State, the ruling party, and the advisers should give Dr Ghazi Salah-al-Din the opportunity to map the steps that lead to solving the problem. Dr Ghazi has made great successes, for he is a man who knows how to make success. The government and the ruling party acknowledged the man's great capabilities as a thinker and a politician with knowledge and imagination who is known for his sincere principles, rare truthfulness, and great transparency.

When they allowed Dr Ghazi the opportunity to search for solutions to the Darfur crisis the man succeeded. We hope that the movements of Khalil and Abd-al-Wahid will be involved in the solution expected by the Qatari mediator so that we would reach a radical solution for this problem and cut off all conspirators who seek to fragment and divide Sudan and sow sedition among its people.

The conspirators will not rest until they implement all their designs against Sudan and its struggling people. But solving the Darfur problem will close the breaches through which foreign conspirators can infiltrate our country.

The American Administration has started thinking about worsening the Darfur crisis since one of its envoys visited the province. Gration asked to visit Port Sudan to explore himself the importance of that strategic city and sow among its people the seeds for demands for separation. The Sudanese people were angry at their government because it allowed him to visit Port Sudan even though it knows his real, mischievous intentions against our country. But it did well in making his visit one of tourism and not of politics, preventing him from meeting the people of the city and parties there which are controlled by some people opposed to the government who work day and night to conspire against it. They make no distinction between hostility to the homeland and hostility to the government.

We call on the government to suspend visits by American envoys to Sudan, especially to Darfur and East Sudan. Do deprive them of opportunities to spy on our country.

Allah is the Supporter and the Backer.

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 11 Feb 11)

- The UN Mission in Sudan has announced its continued support of the two partners within the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). He urged the two parties to continue to work to a solution over the critical Abyei region.

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 11 Feb 11)

- A South Sudanese woman and her seven children were found burned to death in their home outside Khartoum. The police have confirmed that there were suspicions of criminal involvement and an investigation has begin to determine and apprehend the criminals.

12 February 2011

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 12 Feb 11)

- Fighting has erupted in the towns of Fangak and Dor after a former military faction captured Fangak following a breakdown in a cease fire occurred between the faction and the Government of South Sudan. The Government of South Sudan retook the town after two days of fighting however 89 civilians and 20 South Sudanese soldiers and police officers were killed. In addition, more than 60 Southern Sudanese soldiers who were members of the

northern Sudanese army died in a revolt related to the referendum results last week. The United Nations has voiced concern that "ongoing insecurity, the widespread presence of small arms, and severe underdevelopment due to decades of civil war are just some of the problems facing Southern Sudan in the run - up to its independence declaration."

13 February 2011

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 13 Feb 11)

- Sudanese opposition leader urges "soft power" approach to resolve Darfur issue. Chief of the National Umma Party (NUP) has announced that his party's participation in the government will depend upon the implementation of the national agenda which includes a new constitution, resolution of the Darfur dispute, the adoption of a new economic policy and a "realistic handling of the ICC case".

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 13 Feb 11)

- The National Consensus Forces Alliance has continued its call for the release of 160 detainees arrested during the 30 January demonstrations. The Alliance Chairman stated that "The regime should understand the lesson before it is too late and that April and October have not yet faded away and we have rehearsals for an even bigger revolution," adding: "We have given the regime a chance for dialogue but it refused for it wanted to talk with each force or party separately and if it goes on refusing the collective dialogue, we will have to get rid of it"

14 February 2011

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 14 Feb 11)

- The National Consensus Forces in the Al-Qadarif region in eastern Sudan was angered as a result of the government's refusal of permission to make a public address on the current political situation. The refusal is said to be a result of the de-stabilizing effect that the speech could have on the area.

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 14 Feb 11)

- The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is preparing for the return of approximately 800,000 from various parts of Sudan to Southern Sudan. Many Southern Sudanese have stated that their reason for leaving is based on insecurities over their citizenship status. President Umar al-Bashir has said that he will not allow joint citizenship once the country has officially split. In preparation for the move, UNHCR is preparing return stations and transit points for Southern Sudanese returning to the south.