

Sudan Domestic Media, February 1, 20100 (covering January 25 – February 1, 2011) By Janis Grychowski

State Media

January 27, 2011

(Report of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Jan 2011)

- Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir sent a letter to United States President Barak Obama to reaffirm Sudan's commitment to develop good relations with the United States including strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries. Both countries' ministers of foreign affairs met to discuss ways of improving relations including an announcement that the US is planning to remove Sudan from the list of countries sponsoring terrorism.

January 28, 2011

(Report of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Jan 2011)

- Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir will be travelling to Ethiopia to address the African Union (AU) Summit on recent developments in the continent.

(Report on Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 28 Jan 2011)

- Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir affirmed commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) as it exists during the transition period. He confirmed that he will continue to monitor the border demarcation within the agreed regions of the CPA and resolved that the Joint Political Committee will begin to explore ways in which an agreement that will promote peace and security can be reached on the contested areas, specifically the Abyei region. Additionally, discussions with the Ministry of Education on the issues affecting Juba, Bahr-al-Ghazhal and Upper Nile universities will continue.

31 January 2011

(Suna Newspaper website, in English 31 Jan 11)

- Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir addressed the African Union Summit and stated that the emergence of 2 states in Sudan is a reality and that peace is a connected issue between the north and the south. He urged the international community allow Sudan to benefit from participation in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC).

(Suna newspaper website, in English 31 Jan 11)

- An agreement was formed between Sudan and Qatar on the opening of air space through operating joint unlimited flights and cargo

(Suna newspaper website, in English 31 Jan 11)

- A press conference was held in Khartoum on the adoption of new economic policies that will move away from dependence on petroleum and more towards production and export

(Suna newspaper website, in English 31 Jan 11)

- Sudan's Vice President Muhammad Taha announced that after the declaration of the final results of the south's referendum, the President will officially decree by the President. Further issues yet to be settled will include Southerners' participation in the military and public services, completing the peace process in Darfur and the demarcation of the border between north and south. The government will also address issues related to the potential and real rise of prices.

(Sudanese Vision, English, 31 Jan 11)

- The Sudanese government appealed for a deferment of the ICC file to an indefinite date. The government claims that the ICC has proven to be an impediment to the peace process in Darfur. There are indications that the French government is seeking an extension of 1 year of the arrest warrants for President al-Bashir.

01 February 2011

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 1 Feb 11)

- The UN Mission in Sudan has renewed commitment to assist CPA partners with logistical support following the South Sudan referendum. Assistance with the development of a participatory board, institutional building, transparency and accountability were noted as part of these challenges that will continue to be addressed. While peaceful administration of the referendum was praised by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, he showed concern for unresolved post-referendum issues such as the "border, security, citizenship, wealth sharing, public consultation and the status of Abyei region". He urged for a continued commitment in the peaceful resolution of Darfur situation.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200, 1 Feb 11)

- A press conference is scheduled for tomorrow to announce the complete preliminary findings of the referendum from both inside and outside of the country. The submission of appeals will begin on 3 February and will continue for three days and without the presence of appeals, the final referendum results will be announced on 7 February.

Private News Media

January 27, 2011

(Sudan Vision, editorial, in English, 27 January 2011)

- "There is an intensive talk on reviewing the structure of the state as one of the necessary measures to overcome the economic crisis of the country. It is good that the economical crisis came to awaken... We urge the government to review the whole system and... reduce the expenses which will definitely help in making healthy economy through controlling the flabbiness in the governmental institutions. Controlling the administrative flabbiness will save a lot of financial burdens and will contribute in the implementation of development projects for the benefit of the citizens."

(AFP News Agency, Paris, in English, 1155 GMT 27 January 2011)

- Two Sudanese journalists were charged with attacking the constitution – a crime punishable by death, following the publication of an article calling for self-determination in east Sudan. Editors Abuisha Kazem and Abdelgader Baqash from Bar'ut weekly newspaper were arrested on 9 January in Port Sudan, the same day as a referendum vote occurred in southern Sudan. Until 2006, resource-rich East Sudan has undergone a long rebellion between the central government and the ethnic minority over self-determination. The court is adjourned until 30 January 2011.

(Akhir Lahzah, Khartoum, in Arabic, 27 Jan 2011)

- The commander of the Popular Defence Forces paramilitary group, Adam Da'ud was killed by an unidentified group in Al-Rus area in southern Darfur. Member of Parliament Abd Al-Jabbar Abdallah has called for a reinforced police presence to the area.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 27 Jan 2011)

- The South Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) announced that the results of the referendum will be announced on 30 Jan 2011 in the presence of SSRC members.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 27 Jan 2011)

- The Sudanese Minister of Justice affirmed that Southern Sudanese MPs will continue to work until 09 July in accordance with Article 67 of the Referendum Act.

January 28, 2011

(Al-Ahram al-Yawm, Khartoum, in Arabic 28 Jan 2011)

- Reports that Southern Sudanese being burned for returning to the north have been deemed fictitious by the newspaper. A video originally posted to YouTube in October 2010 titled *Burning Witches* was deciphered by IT staff of the newspaper and reckoned to be of a dialect not native to Sudan.

(Sudan Tribune, editorial by Isaiah Abraham, in English, 28 Jan 2011)

- "After successful conduct of the referendum for the people of South Sudan, some groups and politicians are wasting no time but shift to post 9 July arrangements. One of which is the nature of the political structure for the new nation after independence... Time for political pluralism will sure be there... but for now, the new nation needs no more politicking but work, work and work (development). We have been in nowhere and we should all join hands and work together for the rebuilding of our home land. We can't spend time jostling for power."

31 January 2011

(UN-sponsored Miraya FM website, Juba, in English 31 Jan 11)

- The chairman of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement- Democratic Change (SPLM-DC) welcomed the results of the referendum in the south and called for the south to maintain strong relations with the north. While opposition parties are not involved in the review commission of the Constitution, he did contact the president of the Government of Sudan to review the composition of the Constitutional Review Commission.

(UN-sponsored Miraya FM website, Juba, in English 31 Jan 11)

- Following the results of the South Sudanese referendum, police in Khartoum arrested 43 university students from small demonstrations in the capital city.

(Al-Ayam newspaper, 31 January 2011)

- Classes at Al-Ahlia University in Omdurman have been suspended indefinitely resulting from anti-government protests. Riot police met anti-government demonstrators with tear gas and batons. According to a Facebook site, one student was killed in the protests.
- Two opposition and liberal newspapers, Ajas al-Hurriyah and Al-Sahafah that had reported on these protests were not for sale as presumably a result of reporting on this situation

(UN-sponsored Miraya FM website, Juba, in English 1 Feb 11)

- Many of Sudan's executive institutions will change following the end of the interim period of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Included in this will be the office of the president.