

Sudan Domestic Media, April 12, 2010 (covering April 1 to April 11, 2010)

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State-owned Media

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Apr 10)

- Most Sudanese parties confirm their participation in the elections and emphasize the importance of keeping the elections on schedule.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 1 Apr 10)

- U.S. special envoy to Sudan Scott Gration is set to begin talks with the Government of National Unity on the development of situations in the country. Gration also plans to meet with a number of leaders and political parties to discuss the CPA, the conduct of the elections and the referendum and the development of the Darfur issue and ongoing talks in Doha.
- The SPLM announces the withdrawal of its presidential candidate, Yasir Sa'id Arman, from the upcoming elections. Arman bases the decision on the Darfur issue and election irregularities and adds that the SPLM resolves to participate in the elections outside of the Darfur region.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 1 Apr 10)

- The Sudanese government confirms the April 5 deadline to end negotiations between the government and JEM and LJM.
- An official source in the West Darfur state government reports that JEM is undertaking moves to destabilize security and stability, and hence the elections process in west Darfur. The source adds that during the past two days, JEM carried out "suspicious moves" around the Al-Junaynah area, suggesting that it was capable of distorting the ballot operation in the region.

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 1 Apr 10)

- Southern Sudan women address concerns that they are "the most marginalized in the marginalized South".
- Five people are killed and one person is injured in an attack carried out by a tribal group on Marial Ashak Village, to the east of Abyei. The SPLM strongly denounces the attack. The head of the Abyei Administration, Deng Arob ual, reports that 25 militias armed with machine guns attacked the village. The SPLM accuses members of the Misiriyyah tribe for the attack, noting that attackers surrounded some houses with the aim of terrorizing inhabitants. They describe

the attack as being organized by parties that seek to impede elections and the transition to democracy.

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 1 Apr 10)

- Southern Sudanese authorities deny responsibility over media reports that they are responsible for the arrest of SPLM-DC leader Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin in Wau.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Apr 10)

- The National Electoral Commission affirms that the period to withdraw nominations at the different election levels ended February 12. As a result, any candidate withdrawal since then does carry any legal meaning for the NEC and will remain on the ballots.

(Akhir Lahzah, Khartoum, in Arabic 2 Apr 10)

- The Sudan Armed Forces reaffirm that they do not possess cluster bombs and express their willingness to sign an international agreement to ban cluster bombs.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Apr 10)

- Omar al-Bashir states that elections will not be delayed in a rally at the Jamahiriyah Square in Kassala.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Apr 10)

- U.S. special envoy to Sudan Scott Gration reiterates his country's support for the holding of Sudanese elections according to schedule.

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 3 Apr 10)

- The SCP confirms that it will boycott all levels of the general elections.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 3 Apr 10)

- The PCP affirms that it will contest all levels of the elections despite reservations.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Apr 10)

- President of the republic and the presidential candidate of the NCP Omar al-Bashir reiterates rejection of the charges by the ICC regarding the Sudan issue. Addressing a mass rally in Al-Qadarif Stadium in eastern Sudan, al-Bashir says the charges are meant to disrupt the development process and stability in Sudan.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 4 Apr 10)

- Scott Gration, U.S. envoy to Sudan, meets the government delegation and JEM and the LJM as soon as he arrives in Doha, Qatar.

(Al-Ahram al-Yawm, Khartoum, in Arabic, in Arabic 4 Apr 10)

- The Alliance of Civil Organizations Working in Elections (TAMAM) warns of the danger of holding the elections on April 11 and confirms that the move to proceed with elections as scheduled is a call for violence and disorder. TAMAM accuses the NEC of failing in the election education process, which will deprive millions of illiterate citizens of the right to vote. It confirms that the printing of voter cards in government printing houses violates procedures and states that media outlets are biased.

(Akhir Lahzah, Khartoum, in Arabic 4 Apr 10)

- The SPLM-DC Southern Sudan presidential candidate Dr. Lam Akol's convoy is violently attacked by SPLM members while launching his campaign in Wau. A number of civilians and four police officers are injured and taken to hospital. SPLM-DC member Unuti Adigu states that the convoy was attacked after leaving the airport by 30 SPLM members who used stones and canes. He adds that the location of the ceremony was attacked by a group that destroyed the microphone system and mentions that they beat his party's supporters and attacked the elections committee.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 4 Apr 10)

- The Revolutionary Committees Movement in Sudan issues a statement stating that the position of some of the opposition parties to boycott the election was “dictated on them by foreign forces for the interest of Zionism”.

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 4 Apr 10)

- A religious sermon in a mosque in Umdurman leads to verbal and physical altercations between the mosque's imam and followers after the evening prayer. The altercations were provoked when the imam called on the audience to vote for the NCP's candidate, Omar al-Bashir. A group of prayers ask the elections commission to instruct imams not to promote the NCP's agenda, noting that mosques are not to be used as political forums and accusing the NCP of influencing political trends in mosques and universities.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Apr 10)

- Direct talks between the government and LJM are scheduled to begin on April 6. Umar Adam Rahma, spokesperson of the government delegation in Doha, says the government is ready to negotiate with all parties.

- Al-Zahawi Ibrahim Malik, the minister of information and communication, applauds efforts by Qatar to resolve the Darfur conflict, affirming that Qatar has played an important role in the negotiations.

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 5 Apr 10)

- Dr. Anne Itto, SPLM Deputy Secretary-General for the Southern Sector, states that roughly 2,000 voters are missing from the voters' register in one county of Warrap state. Ms. Jersa Kide Barsaba, Coordinator of Southern Sudan High Elections Committee (SSHEC), states that a total of 8,000 names were dropped from the register, but claims that the issue will be cleared up by April 5.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 6 Apr 10)

- Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor affirms the political will in both the Sudanese and Chadian leaderships to normalize and enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Apr 10)

- Abdallah Deng Nhial, the presidential candidate of the PCP, criticizes government policies at a press conference, stating that Sudan is suffering from an economic crisis.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 6 Apr 10)

- Elements of the SPLA detain NCP nominee for the post of Upper Nile State Governor, Dak Doub Bishop, and his entourage for over three hours while he is on his way to the area of Jerbent to launch his campaign. The source of this information expects more obstruction on the part of the SPLA.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Apr 10)

- While addressing a huge rally, NCP presidential candidate Omar al-Bashir refutes claims of rigging elections. al-Bashir promises that he will bring about peace in Darfur. He also states that his government is committed to building ties based on common interests with the U.S. and Europe.
- The Armed Forces issue an official statement condemning a JEM cease-fire violation, claiming it consists of 36 breaches. The Armed Forces affirm their commitment to the cease-fire as long as JEM honours the agreement.

(Sudanese Media Centre website, Khartoum, in Arabic 0000 GMT 7 Apr 10)

- Ali Uthman Taha, vice-president of the republic, welcomes international and local elections observers and issues the following statement: "We challenge any one or any party to record any kind of irregularities in the elections". Taha also

welcomes foreign investment that respects the sovereignty of Sudan, stresses the importance of offering services equally and indicates that the government's strategy is to provide clean drinking water to all Sudanese by 2015.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 7 Apr 10)

- According to the opinion of a political science lecturer at Al Nilayn University, Darfur talks will be more serious if the NCP wins the ballot.

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 7 Apr 10)

- SPLA Col Abeny Nathaniel argues that more women in government will work toward the reduction of high levels of corruption in Sudan.
- More than 700 women will contest the polls in Sudan.

(Al-Ayyam, Khartoum, in Arabic 8 Apr 10)

- The DUP accuses the Popular Defence Forces of attacking its candidate's campaign convoy in Western Al-Kamlin at Al-Mayilig area on April 7, stating that a group of the PDF attacked the candidate's convoy during the inauguration of the NCP's campaign for the position of Al-Jazirah state governor. The DUP notes that it was odd that the police did not step in to protect supporters and claims that the perpetrators forced them to stop the campaign and attacked DUP supporters, amidst them women.

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 8 Apr 10)

- The Director General for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the government of Southern Sudan, Mustafa Biong, states that the media should not incite tension or conflict by publishing inaccurate information during the elections. The media, however, remains concerned about the absence of a media law in the semi-autonomous region of Southern Sudan. Legislators are to pass a media law after the elections. Mustafa Biong admits that journalists remain the victims of harassment.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Apr 10)

- SPLM's Secretary-General Pagan Amum announced on April 6 that the movement would boycott the elections in the entire northern region except in two states (Blue Nile State in southeastern Sudan and Southern Kurdufan in central Sudan).

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 9 Apr 10)

- Khartoum's governor, Dr. Abd-al-Rahman al-Khidir, denies rumours suggesting the imposition of curfews during the elections. The governor asked citizens not to pay attention to rumours.

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 10 Apr 10)

- The National Consensus Forces, which have boycotted the elections in the north, call on the masses to boycott voting. They accuse the NCP of rigging the elections.
- Yasir Arman, the withdrawn SPLM presidential candidate, says in a press conference on April 9 that the elections are not based on democratic transformation. Arman renews the SPLM's boycott of the elections in the north and accuses the NCP of seeking to cause a split within the SPLM. Arman claims that the elections will give rise to the third Salvation Revolution and states that "we have given the NCP a hard hit not a deal". He also warns security services against detentions.

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 10 Apr 10)

- Head of SPLM Northern Sector Yasir Arman accuses the NCP of bribing some parties to participate in the elections.
- Head of the Ummah Party for Reform and Renewal, Mubarak al-Fadil, accuses the National Election Commission of being involved in rigging the elections. Al-Fadil also accuses the NCP of threatening to expel UN workers if they submit reports on the transgressions in the electoral registry and the overall electoral process.

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 11 Apr 10)

- Police arrest 14 people on charges of spreading rumours among citizens in Darfur. They are officially charged with disturbance of public safety.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 11140 GMT 11 Apr 10, Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Apr 10)

- Sudan's state radio reports that voting is going smoothly.

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

- The NEC issues a statement acknowledging the existence of a technical mistake related to the distribution of voting cards of one national constituency and another state constituency. The NEC states that it informed the UN mission about the technical error. The commission also notes that citizens responded to technical mistakes in the distribution of voting cards in 26 out of 821 voting centers in Khartoum state. The NEC indicates that the time lost due to errors will be

compensated by an increase in the number of hours of voting over the next two days.

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 11 Apr 10)

- Maj-Gen Fath-al-Rahman Uthman, the chief of south Darfur police, prohibits firearms and cold steel as well as gatherings inside and outside polling stations. He states that the security situation is stable.

(The Citizen, Khartoum, in English 11 Apr 10)

- Police arrested a man with 21 voters' slips on the Yei-Juba road on April 9 and released him on April 10. Details about the incident are unknown, but police justify his release, stating that the man has not committed any crime.