

Sudan Domestic Media, August 16, 2010 (covering August 9 to August 15, 2010)

By Kristen Zbikowski, MIGS Reporter for Sudan

State-Owned Media

August 9

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Aug 10)

- A meeting was held between the parliamentary bloc of Darfur MPs in the National Assembly and Prof Ibrahim Gambari, the head of UNAMID. The meeting discussed the peace process in Darfur, the need for consultations with activists in Darfur and disarmament in IDP camps. The MPs noted the importance of support and services in IDP camps and stated that they would cooperate with UNAMID on disarmament-related issues in order to promote peace internally. Gambari commented that UNAMID would support political dialogue and called on armed groups in Darfur to negotiate and eventually secure peace in Darfur.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0730 GMT 9 Aug 10)

- The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) stated that it does not support groups calling for separation. The SPLM noted that the civil society groups that recently emerged in the south are not part of the government and do not receive its support. SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum also commented in a press conference that the SPLM did not agree to postpone the referendum and would not accept a delay. He added that the National Congress Party (NCP) and the SPLM recently agreed in Cairo to hold the referendum as scheduled and to accept the results of the referendum.

August 10

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

- Sudan and Eritrea reached an agreement on the cross-border movement of their respective citizens that will involve the use of national identity cards. The decision was reached with the goal of strengthening ties between the two countries. The president of Sudan was filled in on efforts being made to implement the bilateral agreement and the governor of Kassala State briefed the Sudanese president on his meeting with Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki in Eritrea.

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

- Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din, presidential advisor and the individual responsible for the Darfur dossier, held a press conference to explain the new strategy for achieving peace, security and development in Darfur. He stated that the strategy sought to combine the views of all official political and popular forces that can contribute to resolving the problems in Darfur. He also noted that the Doha talks had progressed well and indicated that the new strategy would focus on achieving political compromise, voluntary return of IDPs, working on development projects and consulting with various actors.

August 11

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0000 GMT 11 Aug 10)

- Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, the president of Southern Sudan, left for Uganda on Wednesday following an invitation from Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni. The visit was meant to discuss and promote bilateral ties and to talk about the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and preparations for the Southern Sudan referendum.

August 12

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0000 GMT 12 Aug 10)

- The initial conference for joint Sudanese-Chadian forces took place in Khartoum at the Defence Ministry's headquarters. Sudan's Defence Minister Maj Gen Abdirahim Muhammad Husayn, Chad's Defence Minister, Gen Kamougue Wadal Abdelkadir, and armed forces commanders from both countries attended the conference. Sudan's joint forces commander, Brig Gen Fath-al-Rahman, read the conference's recommendations which centered on the completion of an electrification project on the border and an increase in development projects. The recommendations also covered the creation of educational institutions and service centers for the joint forces to complete land mine clearance along the border between Sudan and Chad. The conference also recommended seeking out support for governmental and non-governmental organizations in implementing infrastructure development projects. It was also announced that command of the joint forces would now be based in Abeche city in Chad.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 12 Aug 10)

- Bishop Gabriel Rorek, the Secretary of the Greater Bahr-al-Ghazal Secretariat at the NCP, condemned the arrest of William Lual, the NCP Chairman in Bahr-al-Ghazal State, and the confiscation of the NCP's plan to promote voluntary unity. Rorek considered this act by the SPLM to be a declaration of war and in a press statement he denounced the SPLM's attempt to silence voices calling for national unity. He also called on citizens of South Sudan to vote for unity in the upcoming January referendum. Furthermore, he asked governors in the south to allow for

political freedom in promoting unity and permitting citizens to exercise their rights in the referendum in accordance with the CPA.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Aug 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir received a handwritten message from Chadian President Idriss Deby over ties between Sudan and Chad. Chadian Defence Minister Kamougue Wadal Abdelkadeer handed the letter over to President al-Bashir. The Sudanese president remarked during his meeting with Chad's defence minister that joint forces were essential in building confidence and strengthening relations between the two countries.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Aug 10)

- Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad called President Omar al-Bashir in order to congratulate him on the start of the holy month of Ramadan. The two leaders also talked about relations between the two countries and ways of further improving ties. Other issues of mutual concern were also discussed.

(Source: Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Aug 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir stated that an agreement was made with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya that Khalil Ibrahim, the head of the Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), will leave Libya in the coming days. President al-Bashir noted that his visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was meant to work with neighbouring countries to gain support on the issue of Darfur and to resolve the crisis and secure peaceful settlement and a permanent solution. The upcoming referendum and the Doha talks were also discussed. President al-Bashir affirmed that the government sought to ensure that relations are maintained between the north and south regardless of the situation and he asked for support for unity.

August 13

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1030 gmt 13 Aug 10)

- The August 13 sermon by Shaykh Abd-al-Jalil Nazir Al-Karuri at the Al-Rayan Mosque in Khartoum, broadcast live on Sudan TV, covered religious matters in general and Ramadan in particular. A second sermon discussed the exploitation of Sudan's resources by former colonialists. The preacher stated that the West was responsible for colonizing the country and had now returned to exploit its resources, oil in particular. He also claimed that the U.S. supported secession of South Sudan and Germany was preparing to develop South Sudan's infrastructure. He urged the government of Sudan to maintain dialogue with the south in order to reach an acceptable solution.

August 15

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Aug 10)

- Vice President Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha met with the chairman of the African Union Panel on Darfur and former South African president, Thabo Mbeki in Khartoum. The minister of foreign affairs, Ali Karti, Prof Ibrahim Ghandur, the NCP's political secretary and the special envoy of the UN Secretary-General in Sudan Haile Menkerios also attended the meeting. Vice President Taha affirmed the government's commitment to holding the South Sudan referendum on time.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Aug 10)

- The NCP reiterated its firm commitment to holding the South Sudan referendum on January 9. In an interview with Sudan radio, Fatah Rahman Shila, NCP information secretary and official spokesman, requested that discouraging opinions be avoided as they imply that the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission cannot complete its work.