

Sudan Domestic Media, August 23, 2010 (covering August 16 to August 22, 2010)

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State-Owned Media

August 17

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Aug 10)

- Southern Darfur security authorities released the two Jordanians who were recently abducted and taken hostage. Abd-al-Karim Musa, southern Darfur's deputy governor, told Sudan Radio that both hostages were in good health and he praised the security forces who secured their release. He also called on the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and all other humanitarian actors to respect the security rules and regulations in order to avoid future kidnappings.

August 18

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0000 GMT 18 Aug 10)

- Gen Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, Sudan's minister of defence, met with Prof Ibrahim Gambari, the Joint Special Representative of UNAMID, to discuss coordination between UNAMID and the Sudanese government in relation to recent events at Kalma camp. Both UNAMID and the government emphasized respect for the regulations, disarmament and continuing humanitarian relief efforts at IDP camps.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Aug 10)

- On August 19, President Omar al-Bashir will consult with political party leaders at the Guest House in Khartoum over current issues in Sudan, particularly the South Sudan referendum issue. Prof Ibrahim Ghandur, the National Congress Party's (NCP) secretary of the political secretariat relations, stated that all political parties were invited to be part of this consultative meeting.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Aug 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir reiterated his government's commitment to holding the South Sudan referendum on January 9, 2011. During a meeting at Friendship Hall in Khartoum with the chairman of the AU panel on Darfur and former President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki, President al-Bashir stressed that the referendum would be free and fair and would reflect the will of South Sudan's

- people. He announced his intention to cooperate with all Sudanese political actors for the unity option. He also briefed Mbeki on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and affirmed the government's commitment to its implementation and to resolving remaining issues with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in order to avoid a return to war.
- During a meeting with Prof Ibrahim Gambari, the head of UNAMID, Ali Ahmad Karti, Sudan's minister of foreign affairs, reiterated the government's commitment to implementing an agreement with UNAMID. Karti indicated that the government would provide the support necessary for UNAMID execute its operations. He also expressed gratitude for the presence of the UN mission in Darfur. Prof Gambari stressed UNAMID's commitment to cooperating with the government in terms of disarmament in IDPs camps and securing comprehensive peace in Darfur. He emphasized UNAMID's support of the peace process in the region.
 - Eng Ibrahim Mahmud Hamid, Sudan's minister of interior, met with Abdikadir Ali Umar, his Somali counterpart, to discuss joint security cooperation between the two countries. The minister of interior highlighted Sudan's support to Somalia and noted its training of Somalia's police force in order to improve its ability to achieve stability and security. The Somali minister praised Sudan's efforts to bring about reconciliation in his country.

August 19

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Aug 10)

- Dr Nafi Ali Nafi, Sudan's presidential assistant, emphasized the government's commitment to holding the referendum in South Sudan as per the terms of the CPA during a meeting with Nicholas Kay, the British ambassador in Khartoum. He also applauded the general improvement in Sudanese-British relations. Kay noted Britain's support for holding the referendum as scheduled as this is an important part of the CPA. He also made known his happiness over improving relations between the two countries.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Aug 10)

- Nafi Ali Nafi, presidential aide and vice chairman of the NCP, affirmed at a news conference on national unity that the South Sudan referendum will be held on time. Nafi emphasized the necessity of a free and fair environment for referendum and of accepting the results if they reflect the choice of South Sudan's people. Nafi also addressed the dialogue taking place between political parties regarding ways of coordinating, consulting and holding a free and fair referendum as scheduled. He noted that the SPLM is bound to work towards unity in accordance with the CPA's Machakos Protocol and that its calls against unity violated the CPA.

August 22

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 Aug 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir called on political groups to be a good example and make the upcoming referendum a success. He also asked the people of the south to vote for voluntary unity.