

Sudan Domestic Media, January 3, 2010 (covering December 27 to January 2, 2010)

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## **State-Owned Media**

**December 27**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Dec 10)**

- Amr Musa, the Arab League's secretary-general, will make an official visit to Sudan beginning tomorrow. Musa will meet with President Omar al-Bashir and First Vice President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Lt-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit to go over the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and preparations for the January 9 South Sudan self-determination referendum. Musa will share the views of the Arab League's General Secretariat on issues in Sudan with the leaders in Khartoum and Juba. Such issues are currently one of the General Secretariat's priorities.
- President Omar al-Bashir lauded relations between Sudan and Iran and expressed appreciation over Iran's support to Sudan. Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinezhad wrote and delivered a letter to President al-Bashir indicating Iran's commitment to improving cooperation between the two countries. The Iranian president's envoy delivered the message and noted that it comes in the context of consultations between Sudan and Iran regarding issues that concern both countries in addition to issues that relate to the interests of the Arab and Islamic region.
- President Omar al-Bashir spoke over the telephone with Shaykh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al-Thani, the emir of Qatar, discussing relations between Sudan and Qatar and recent developments in the region. President al-Bashir also congratulated Saudi King Abdallah Bin Abd-al-Aziz al-Sa'ud over the telephone on his successful operation in the U.S. and his departure from the hospital. The president wished the king of Saudi Arabi good health and wished the Saudi people well for the coming period.

**December 28**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 28 Dec 10)**

- President Omar al-Bashir will begin a one-day trip today to Al-Jazirah State to join in the celebrations for 19 martyr festivals. The president will start by inaugurating Abd-al-Ilah Khojali Martyr Hospital east of Al-Jazirah State, Iqra Faculty in Fadasi locality and Al-Waalidayn Hospital in Wad al-Na'im locality. President al-Bashir will also inaugurate Hasan Alob Psychology Hospital and Medical Centre for heart surgery in Wad Madani town, in addition to the central

reserve centre, middle sector and Al-Jazirah's custom headquarters. The president will also give a speech to the masses in Al-Iraybad locality.

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Dec 10)**

- President Omar al-Bashir started his trip to Al-Jazirah State in central Sudan today with the inauguration of Abd-al-Illah Khojali Martyr Hospital in Al-Sharafah locality, Iqra Faculty for Sciences and Technology at Fadas-al-Halimab and Al-Walidayn Hospital in Wad-al-Na'im locality. The president will also inaugurate Hasan Allob Hospital for Psychology and Medical Centre for heart surgery in Madani as well as the reserve centre, middle sector and Al-Jazirah's custom headquarters and Al-Jaffah Port. He will give a speech at a rally in Wad-Madani at noon.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0946 GMT 28 Dec 10)**

- President Omar al-Bashir stated that he would accept the Southern Sudan referendum results regardless of whether the vote is for unity or secession. During a speech at a mass rally in Al-Jazirah State following the inauguration of several development projects, the president talked about the relationship between the north and the south, saying the ball was in the southerners' court and the decision was up to them with regard to the upcoming referendum. He said the north would welcome unity or separation and would not oppose the decision. He added that if southerners choose secession, the north wants the south to be a stable and secure country and is prepared to support security, stability and development in the south. The president said: "We will support their programmes and assist them until they stand on their own and become a country. We will exchange mutual benefits and interests." On January 9, the south will vote on whether to remain united or to separate and become an independent country. State-owned Sudan TV aired the mass rally.
- Addressing a mass rally after the inauguration of several development projects in Al-Jazirah State, President Omar al-Bashir criticized the erosion of Western moral values. The speech was aired live on state-owned Sudan TV and was preceded by an address from Prof Al-Zubayr Bashir Taha, the governor of Al-Jazirah State, who said yes to Shari'ah law and rejected secularism. The governor finished his address by thanking the president for developing Sudan's economy. In his critique of Western moral values, President al-Bashir said "May God protect us from them." He said that normally a man marries a woman, "But in the West it is a woman and woman and a man with another man." He went on to discuss health issues and the newly inaugurated health centres in the state as well as the martyrs who had died defending Islam and its good message. The crowds responded by shouting "We will redeem you with our soul and blood." Without directly mentioning it, the president also discussed the West's attempts to get rid of his government by supporting the southern rebellion during the years of war. Also without directly mentioning them, he attacked the northern opposition parties for supporting the formation of a national government if the south chooses separation.

He said his government would remain in power following southern secession because the interim constitution gives his government the legitimacy to remain in power for five years until the next elections. The president added that he would accept the southerners' choice in the referendum and would support the decision if the south were to secede. The president was in Al-Jazirah State to join in the celebrations in Wad-Madani marking the nineteenth anniversary of the National Martyrs Id.

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Dec 10)**

- Amr Musa, the secretary-general of the Arab League, arrived in Khartoum for a three-day visit to Sudan. Musa will meet with President Omar al-Bashir and First Vice President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit to go over the implementation of the CPA and preparations for the January 9, 2011 Southern Sudan referendum. Musa will share the views of the Arab League's General Secretariat on Sudanese issues of significant concern with the Sudanese leaders.

**December 29**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Dec 10)**

- Today President Omar al-Bashir will attend the ceremonies marking the signing of the social honor charter for tribal leaders in Nyala, southern Darfur. During the visit, President al-Bashir will inaugurate the beginning of the continental road which will connect Sudan and Central African Republic by way of Nyala, Id-al-Fursan, Rihayd al-Birdi and Um Da fog. He will also inaugurate Western Salvation Road, Nyala - Al-Da'ayn road and lay the foundation for the construction of a Child and Maternity Hospital. Dr. Abd-al-Hamid Musa Kasha, Southern Darfur State's governor, told Sudan Radio that a \$1 billion reconstruction project for Darfur would be announced during the president's visit.

**(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 29 Dec 10)**

- Following the legal committee's completion of work related to appeals involving voter registration for the referendum last week, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) announced that December 29 will be the final day for making appeals to the special court. George Maker, the head of information at the SSRC, announced that the court would deliberate for five days and then publicize its verdicts on January 3, 2011. Maker told Suna that the SSRC is committed to the recently published timetable for the referendum process. The timetable identifies January 8, 2011 as the date for announcing the final voter lists and identifies January 9, 2011 as the beginning of the voting process. Maker said that January 15, 2011 would mark the end of the voting period unless it needed to be extended in accordance with the referendum law, which allows for a one-week extension of voting if it is necessary.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Dec 10)**

- At a mass rally in Nyala, South Darfur State, President Omar al-Bashir said that the government plans to put an end to tribal disputes in Darfur and develop the region. The president, who had inaugurated several development initiatives in South Darfur State, discussed the ongoing Darfur peace talks taking place in Doha and said the negotiations should be in Darfur and not in foreign countries. He said that if an agreement is not reached between the parties, the talks will be withdrawn from Doha. President al-Bashir said: “We are giving them tomorrow as the deadline. If an agreement is reached, praise be to God and this is what we want. If there is no agreement, we will withdraw our delegation from there and hold negotiations and talks in Darfur.” According to al-Bashir, “Peace should talks should be in Darfur because Darfurian [sic] are the ones who will make peace. Dialogue and negotiation should be among the Darfur people.” He criticized the rebels for fighting against the government and said they would not negotiate with every individual who bears arms and claims to be a freedom fighter and faction leader. Rather, the government will negotiate with individuals who go to Darfur, sign an agreement and make peace. The president also criticized the opposition over the secession of Southern Sudan, saying: “They said that NCP will take responsibility for south Sudan secession.” He also said that the government’s legitimacy to rule is based on Sharia law. He added that Sharia is stipulated in the CPA, which was signed by John Garang. He said, “Sharia was provided for in [the] peace agreement. We will preserve it.”

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Dec 10)**

- Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, the first vice president of Sudan and president of the government of Southern Sudan, met with Amr Musa, the secretary-general of the Arab League, at the State House in Juba today. They discussed ties between the Arab League and the Southern Sudan government, preparations for the upcoming self-determination referendum and the role of the Arab League in the referendum. At a joint news conference, Gen Salva Kiir said that Amr Musa’s visit was important and was in line with Musa’s pledge to support Southern Sudan. He praised the League’s support in establishing ten mobile health clinics and acknowledged the secretary-general’s ongoing efforts since the signing of the CPA. He noted that ties with the Arab League would persist regardless of the referendum results and announced the CPA partners’ agreement over the necessity of settling issues through negotiations rather than violence, particularly in terms of improving security and affirming the importance of a free, fair and transparent referendum that will reflect the will of southerners.

**December 30**

**(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 30 Dec 10)**

- President Omar al-Bashir will make an important speech to the Sudanese people on December 31 from the Republican Palace in honor of the 55th anniversary of independence and the sixth year of peace marked by the signing of the CPA. President al-Bashir will address the political and economic developments in Sudan, the implementation of the CPA and its final steps in the form of the South Sudan referendum. He will also discuss the Darfur peace talks, sponsored by Qatar, and developments and reconstruction in the east following the international donors conference, hosted by Kuwait. The president will also honor the people who contributed to Sudanese independence and hail the legacies they left behind to serve as a model for future generations.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Dec 10)**

- Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the presidential assistant responsible for the Darfur file, announced that the government delegation to the Doha negotiations will return on December 31. At a news conference in Doha today, Dr. Ghazi said that the two-year presence of the delegation in Doha was sufficient. He also said that the delegation's return to Khartoum did not signify withdrawal from the peace process. He attributed the failure to reach a final settlement to the lack of unity and political will on the part of the armed movements, the confinement of negotiations to armed groups without including the people of Darfur, and the support for the armed movements coming from inside and outside of Sudan.

**December 31**

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Dec 10)**

- On December 31, a sermon by Shaykh Abd-al-Jalil Nazir al-Karuri focusing on religious issues was broadcast live from the Al-Shahid Mosque in Khartoum on Sudan TV. The sermon condemned the closure of Omdurman Islamic University, Juba Campus, by the South Sudan government, saying it had many courses to offer and noting that 500 to 600 South Sudanese students graduated from different courses last year. He said that Salva Kiir, the president of the government of Southern Sudan, had informed Muslims that the reasons for the university's closure should be withdrawn, leading the preacher to question whether they were political. He said the same courses would be offered to students from Southern Sudan who will travel from Juba to the Khartoum Campus. The preacher also addressed the imminent separation of South Sudan, blaming the West for the division of Islamic countries, citing Singapore, East Timor and Bangladesh as examples. He said that Western support for secession is aimed at weakening the north rather than doing justice for southerners. He also said that the return of the Sudanese government delegation to the Doha peace talks was because the armed groups had made impossible demands, giving the Darfur demand that Darfur be made into one region as an example. The preacher added that the goal is to prepare for eventual secession. He also stated that if the south becomes a new country it could establish ties with Israel, making the south a platform for Israel.

He also claimed that Israel's minister of defence issued a "manifesto of Sudan's destruction" last year warning that a united Sudan would be a danger to Israel.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Dec 10)**

- In an address at the Republican Palace in Khartoum marking Sudan's 55<sup>th</sup> independence anniversary, President Omar al-Bashir said Sudan was ready for the January 9, 2011 Southern Sudan referendum and would accept the outcome. The president, whose speech was broadcast live on Sudan TV, said: "Our acceptance of the final outcome [of the referendum] is something that we will not retreat on or have any doubt about." With respect to Abyei, he said: "We are going to prepare a conducive environment to negotiate the post-referendum issues and Abyei, hoping to reach a sustainable peace that will benefit the citizens so as to realize their aspirations in a stable country that we long to see united with its people and neighbours enjoying the fruits of its diversity." He also indicated that he would work toward continuing ties and enhancing mutual interests following secession, saying that the government would protect the lives and properties of southerners. Regarding Darfur, the president said that the government would establish peace for the region and doors were open for negotiations. He also defended his government's legitimacy in response to the opposition's calls for constitutional reforms.

**January 1**

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Jan 11)**

- The Sudanese government condemned the attack against a church in Alexandria, Egypt. Mu'awiyah Uthman Khalid, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman, said that Sudan's government supports the government of Egypt in defending its national security and protecting its citizens. He added that the Sudanese government offered its condolences to the Egyptian government, people and the victims of the attack in particular.

**January 2**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 2 Jan 11)**

- The Political Organizations and Parties Board highlighted the importance of the coming period for Sudan's history, saying that President al-Bashir's speech marking the 55th anniversary of independence addressed the challenges that will bring about significant opportunities for political cooperation. Abud Jabir, the organization's chairman, told the radio that the speech touched upon the most important matters, confirming the government's commitment to stability, peace and political consensus. Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Salim, a legal expert, highlighted the importance of creating a new constitution for the country if the

south separates and amending the 2005 transitional constitution, which was established in line with the CPA, if the country remains unified.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jan 11)**

- Following a briefing by Eng Ibrahim Mahmud Hamid, the minister of the interior, on the security and crime rate in Sudan, President Omar al-Bashir emphasized the need to abide by police priorities and projects in order to promote the police force. The minister stated that he had informed the president on ways to secure the referendum at various stages and the police plans to protect the Darfur states in accordance with the new Darfur peace strategy and program for voluntary returns. He also briefed the president on the strategic priorities of the ministry, including training, the provision of general equipment to the police and civil registration, set to start this year. The two men also discussed road safety and other issues.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jan 11)**

- President Omar al-Bashir confirmed Sudan's keenness to brief its Arab brothers and leaders on developments in the country and efforts being made to conduct the Southern Sudan referendum. The president met with Dr. Uthman Muhammad Isma'il, the presidential advisor, and affirmed the government's commitment to conducting the referendum on schedule and accepting the outcome.