

Sudan Domestic Media, February 8, 2011(covering January 31 – February 7, 2011) By Janis Grychowski

State Media

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 be decreed 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.

02 February 2011

(Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 gmt 2 Feb 11)

- US Deputy Secretary of State will visit Sudan to discuss bilateral ties, the referendum in Southern Sudan, and discussions on cooperation and coordination between the north and the south.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 2 Feb 11)

- *An announcement was made by the South Sudan Referendum Commission today about the overall preliminary results for the south, north and overseas pollings. Deputy Head of the Commission Chan Reec Madut said that the process was serious, free and transparent, while head of the commission Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, said the percentage of those who voted for secession in south has exceeded 99 per cent while the percentage of those who voted for unity was 0.43 per cent.*

The percentage of those who voted for secession in the north stands 57.65 while 42.35% for unity. In the eight overseas countries, the percentage of those who voted for secession has reached 98.55 per cent while the percentage of those who voted for unity stood at 1.45. The overall percentage of those voted for secession is 98.83 per cent and 1.17 for unity respectively.

3 February 2011

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 gmt 3 Feb 11)

- *In a National Congress Party (NCP) meeting, President Umar al-Bashir stated that his party will continue to hold discussions with all political parties within the country and national non-governmental organizations to determine the constitutional amendments following the final results of the referendum.*

5 February 2011

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 gmt 5 Feb 11)

- The President of South Sudan, Lt-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, issued a presidential decree to form a ministerial committee to propose a capital city for South Sudan. This committee will include the Minister of Investment, and Ministers of Internal Affairs, Legal Affairs, Constitutional Development, Finance, Economic Planning, Health, Housing and Construction Planning, Environment, Cooperatives, Rural Development and Water and Irrigation. This committee will be tasked with identifying a suitable capital city that will have the capacity to expand to accommodate population increase and suitability as a government headquarters.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 5 Feb 11)

- Sudanese officials state that 85% of all uprising messages are coming from abroad.

6 February 2011

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 gmt 6 Feb 11)

- Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir met with police officials to reiterate the new Darfur strategy that includes new development programs and projects, and acknowledged Qatar's efforts in the peace process for the region. President al-Bashir stated that a final document for all factions will be signed soon.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 6 Feb 11)

- President al-Bashir announced that the secession of southern Sudan is not a result of Islamic Law but rather a stipulation as part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). President al-Bashir stated that there is no fear of an end of the oil flow after the secession, and explained that the North contains larger quantities of oil than the quantities now in the south. He promised more development projects and the establishment of new sugar and cement factories. This address took place at a public rally of Sufi sects in Khartoum.

7 February 2011

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 7 Feb 11)

- The Ministry of Oil stated that oil production will increase to 195,000 barrels per day by the end of 2012. This increase will see oil production rise from current levels of 60,000 barrels per day in the Balila and Kia oil fields in North Sudan.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 7 Feb 11)

- The government of Sudan has expressed dissatisfaction with the Joint Mediator of the Darfur Peace Process as he has rejected a Darfur-Darfur dialogue that the government argues is strategic within the agreement made by the international community including the African Union, UNAMID and the United Nations.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 7 Feb 11)

- The European Union reaffirmed its desire to boost the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and supported the actions of the actors in ensuring its fulfillment in a press statement issued February 6th.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1142 gmt 7 Feb 11)

- *"Sudanese President Umar Al-Bashir has accepted the results of Southern Sudan referendum 'wholeheartedly'. In a short speech broadcast live by state-owned Sudan TV after receiving the referendum results from the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission in Khartoum, Al-Bashir also pledged to work towards resolving the pending issues between south and north such as the administration of Abyei and the demarcation of the border between north and south. He expressed determination to achieve peace in Sudan. The following is an excerpt of the speech broadcast by state-owned Sudanese TV on 7 February"*

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1720 gmt 7 Feb 11)

- The South Sudanese Referendum Commission officially announced the results
- "The number of qualified registered voters were 3, 947, 676 whereas those who cast their vote were 3, 851, 994 - 97.58 per cent". He said the total number of valid votes was 3,837,406, which means 99.62 per cent of overall votes. Adding, "the number of those who voted for unity reached 44, 888 while those voted for secession 3, 792, 518 which means 1.17 per cent and 98.83 per cent respectively from the overall corrected number of votes".

Private News Media

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, Ajras 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.

02 February 2011

(USAID-funded Sudan Radio Service, Nairobi, 2 February 2011)

- *The president of South Sudan has stated that the United Nations, African Union, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development have accepted the independence of the south through the recent referendum, concluding that South Sudan is officially the 54th state in Africa. Full independence of South Sudan will be declared on 9 July, 2011.*

(USAID-funded Sudan Radio Service, Nairobi, 2 February 2011)

- *Sudanese Journalist Network issued a statement condemning the National Security Service for confiscating an independent newspaper belonging to the Communist Party. According to the Ministry of Information, this newspaper was confiscated due to a violation of media regulations. Quoting Rabi Abdullah of the Ministry of Information, "The issue is on how to practice the law and its implementation. The security authorities don't have power; it is the media law which regulates how newspapers are printed. What are the allowed boundaries particularly in tackling different issues and how to consider opposite views? Therefore any decision to be taken, or was taken against these newspapers are taken according to laws regulating media freedoms. Consequently, any violations in this regard are professional violations, and these professional violations are not related to politics or issues related to restrictions of freedom of expression, rather it is violations stipulated by the law, with reasonable punishments for violating these regulations.*

(USAID-funded Sudan Radio Service, Nairobi, 2 February 2011)

- *The coalition of opposition political forces and anti government groups in Darfur strongly rejected a statement by Vice President, Ali Uthman Taha that the current state constitution will not be changed after southern Sudan attains independence. A coalition of the Democratic Union Party, UMMA National Party, PCP, the Communists and the Ba'th Party and the Darfur Liberation and Justice Movement responded to the Vice President's statement. Quoting Abdallah Mursal, "With this statement it becomes clear the reality of the new face of the Sudanese politics in the coming period. In fact it is very ugly face. For sure it will lead Sudan to bad consequences. They are talking about not dismantling these institutions but we are talking about overthrowing this regime. Generally, the reality will come when they will either be forced to change these policies or they will be overthrown by a new state that will come in on a new basis and a new constitution where all political forces will participate."*

03 February 2011

(UN-sponsored Miraya FM, Juba, in English 3 Feb 11)

- *Reports of a Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) attack in Tombura County, Western Equatorial State led to 1 person killed, one wounded and two woman abducted by the rebel forces. According to County Commissioner Badiro Charles Gwamci, the fleeing rebels are being pursued by the army.*

(USAID-funded Sudan Radio Service, Nairobi, in English 3 Feb 11)

- *According to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Secretary General, Pagan Amum, the SPLM will host an all-party conference to determine the formation of the "broad-based" government. Items to be discussed include "shape and constitution of the constitutional development process". He also stated that the Government of South Sudan will form a coalition government after the interim period stated within the Comprehensive Peace Agreement ends in July. Mr Amum has also stated that many embassies in Juba, have begun transforming their consulates into embassies in preparation for this event.*

(USAID-funded Sudan Radio Service, Nairobi, in English 3 Feb 11)

- *Due to the Chairman of the Border Commission, Professor Abdullah al Saddip's insistence that all areas are agreed upon by all parties before a border declaration can take place, talks between North Sudan and South Sudan talks have stalled. The commission met with African Union High Panel for Sudan, Thabo Mbeki to discuss the way forward in order to resume the border operations.*

(USAID-funded Sudan Radio Service, Nairobi, in English 3 Feb 11)

- *The President of the Government of South Sudan has stated that the United Nations, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development have accepted the referendum results for an independent Sudan.*

05 February 2011

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 5 Feb 11)

- *The Sudanese Communist Party is denying allegations that it is planning to topple the government. The SCP has stated that it wishes to engage in dialogue with the government in Khartoum provided that the issue of Darfur, Abyei, permanent constitution, and economic situation are addressed.*

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 5 Feb 11)

- Sudanese writer says that opposition parties are being overtaken by youth protesters in a commentary entitled, "Everything is OK, Skipper!"

06 February 2011

(UN-sponsored Miraya FM website, Juba, in English 6 Feb 11)

- Fifteen people in Rumbek County, South Sudan were found guilty of cattle raiding and sentenced to both seven years in prison and a fine of 3000 Sudanese Pounds.

(UN-sponsored Miraya FM website, Juba, in English 6 Feb 11)

- A fire in Juba's Jebel Market cost \$35 million USD in damages. The fire destroyed 24 market stalls and was caused when an electric cable caught fire. Market vendors are requesting the government ensure that fire trucks be made available to large market centres.

(UN-sponsored Miraya FM, Juba, in English 0000 gmt 6 Feb 11)

- Sixteen soldiers were killed and fourteen others wounded in recent clashes in Malakal, Upper Nile State, South Sudan. Sudanese People's Liberation Army spokesperson indicated that these clashes resulted from the refusal to obey orders by some soldiers. Eleven civilians were killed in the clash between Sudanese Armed Forces.

(Al-Sahafah, Khartoum, in Arabic 6 Feb 11)

- Sources from the Sudanese Government in Khartoum have stated that there is an indication that the United States will issue a statement on lifting Sudan from the list of states sponsoring territories and a partial lifting of economic sanctions it has in place for Sudan. This announcement is thought to take place following President al-Bashir's formal acceptance of the Referendum Results in an official ceremony on 7 February.

(UN-sponsored Miraya FM website, Juba, in English 6 Feb 11)

- 580 Sudanese living in Egypt have been flown back to Sudan in response to their desire to return home during the recent uprisings in Cairo and across the country.

7 February 2011

(Editorialized Report from Juba Post, Khartoum in English 7 Feb 11)

- Referendum results were unveiled by the South Sudanese Referendum Commission and agreed to by both the North Sudan and South Sudan governments. It was reported that the process was free and fair and conducted in a transparent manner. Currently there is debate over the new name of South Sudan.

(Juba Post, Khartoum in English 7 Feb 11)

- There is a land dispute between the John Garang International School and the Employees of Justice Chamber and Human Rights Commission in Equatoria State, South Sudan. The disputed area involves a playing area for the school erected on land claimed to be held by the Ministry of Justice. Land disputes are a tangible and difficult dilemma in South Sudan as a result of potential negligence in the allocation of land plots throughout the area.