

Sudan Domestic Media, March 8, 2010 (covering February 22 to March 7, 2010)

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State-owned Media

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

- The president of the republic, FM Umar al-Bashir, is leaving for Doha, the Qatari capital to head a high-level delegation participating in celebrations marking the signing ceremony of an agreement between the government and the Darfur rebel group, Justice and Equality Movement.
- The agreement is expected to be signed tomorrow in the presence of Chadian President, Idris Deby.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Feb 10)

- Arab Investment Conference begins in Juba. Secretary-General of the Arab League, Amr Musa, says that the conference “aimed at encouraging Arab investment for development in southern Sudan”.
- Delegation of National Elections Commission leaves for Juba, southern Sudan today to hold talks with the Ministry of Information of Government of Southern Sudan to discuss the demands of electoral campaigns.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 24 Feb 10)

- President Al-Bashir attends the signing ceremony of the cease-fire, framework agreement between the government, and the Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) led by Khalil Ibrahim in Doha. Qatari emir and Chadian, Eritrean presidents are also present at the signing
- Qatari emir pledges to support Darfur peace process with one billion dollars and asks that the international community contribute to pushing the stability process in Darfur region.
- The Joint Sudanese-Egyptian follow up committee continues meetings in Khartoum.
- Sudan-South Africa joint ministerial committee will be meeting this evening in Khartoum to evaluate the implementation of the agreements signed in 2008.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 24 Feb 10)

- President of the Republic FM Umar al-Bashir along with accompanying delegation came back to Sudan this morning among a “warm official and popular welcome”.
- Presidential advisor, Dr Ghazi Salah-al-Din, who is also in charge of the Darfur dossier, applauded the Doha agreement, Qatar, the Arab League, and AU efforts.
- He said: “By signing this agreement, we entered the final stage of the talks and we will reach a final agreement before 15 March.”

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 gmt 25 Feb 10)

- President of Republic Umar al-Bashir addresses a mass rally in Al-Fashir, the capital of Northern Darfur State. He welcomes members of the Justice and Equality Movement [JEM].
- The spokesman of Sudan Armed Forces asserts their commitment to the cease-fire in Darfur.
- The Chairman of the Committee of African Wisemen, Thabo Mbeki, approves the agreement between the government and the Darfur JEM, confirming its importance in pushing Darfur peace processes.
- The framework agreement between the government and JEM is welcomed both regionally and internationally.
- Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ahmad Bin-Abdalla al-Mahmud meets with the EU envoy to Sudan in Doha to discuss the Darfur peace process and the latest developments in the ongoing talks.
- Opposition Popular Congress Party [PCP] launches an electoral campaign for presidency of republic at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum.

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

- President of Republic Umar al-Bashir visits River Nile State in northern Sudan to inaugurate development and social services' projects.
- The Vice President of Republic Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha and the Vice-President of Government of Southern Sudan [GoSS] Dr Riek Machar are co-chairing the border-states consultative conference in Southern Kurdufan State, central Sudan.
- During the Doha talks, the head of the Justice and Equality Movement's [JEM] delegation says the framework agreement which was recently signed by JEM with government “affirms keenness of two sides to reaching a comprehensive peace in Darfur”.
- The Chinese envoy for peace to Sudan will arrive in Khartoum on Sunday 28 February to meet national and southern government officials and to become familiar with the situation in Darfur, the implementation of Comprehensive Peace Agreement as well as regional and international issues.
- The Muslim Brotherhood organization launches an electoral campaign in Al-Muhandisiin, Khartoum.

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

- The Chinese envoy for peace in Sudan is expected to arrive in the country today. He will be meeting with government officials during his stay.
- The Chinese ambassador to Sudan, Lee Yang, said the goal of the envoy's meetings with officials in the north and south is to “acquaint himself with the general situation especially the ongoing efforts to resolve the Darfur issue and implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as well as discuss various regional and international issues of joint concern”.

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

- President Al-Bashir expressed his appreciation over the supporting stances of the Coptic

community in “unity, stability and development of the country”. He repeated during his meeting at the presidential palace yesterday with a gathering of Coptic group in the country that the state is commitment to “promote tolerance, peaceful coexistence among the various components of the society”.

- President Al-Bashir met the state minister for foreign affairs, Ali Ahmad Karti, who said the conference of the Sudanese Ambassadors across Asia, which is the 2nd conference to be held during the last four years, would “focus on boosting of economic relations and attracting investment as part of Sudan's policy to go east”.
- The Higher Islamic Council foundation conference of South Sudan begins today. The Secretary-general of the Islamic Committee for South Sudan, Munir Awad Somit, said all the preparations were completed for the meeting and that the conference will be addressed by First Vice-President Kiir.
- The visiting Chinese envoy will hold talks with officials in Khartoum and will meet with Presidential adviser Dr Ghazi Salah al-Din, National Elections Commission chairman Abel Aler, Foreign Affairs Ministry Secretary Mutrif Siddiq. The envoy will visit Juba tomorrow to meet its government officials.
- The Minister for Internal Affairs, Eng Ibrahim Mahmud Hamid, confirms the police’s readiness for the election process; its responsibility is in safeguarding security and ensuring stability in the country.
- First Deliberations Conference of the Bordering States was held in the town of Kadugli from 27-28 February. Recommendations were issued. The conference was held under the supervision of First Vice-President Kiir, and co- chaired by Vice President of the Republic Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, and Vice-President of Government of Southern Sudan, Dr Riek Machar.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 2 Mar 10)

- The Chinese envoy to Sudan, Liu Guijin confirmed China's support to the upcoming election in Sudan. The envoy said that the election should take place as planned saying that the current period in Sudan is “crucial and complicated”.
- Foreign Ministry Undersecretary, Mutrif Sidiq, expressed Sudan's admiration of the role China has undertaken in supporting chief development projects in the country. He urged China to “double its efforts to achieve reconstruction projects in Darfur”.

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

- The Alliance of National Consensus Forces announced its withdrawal from the Joint Mechanism for Usage of Mass Media during the elections. The Alliance accused the media body of conspiring with the [ruling] National Congress Party [NCP] and that “its arbitrary measures are designed to hinder parties competing against the NCP”.
- The Alliance also decided to organize a peaceful march Thursday the 4th of March. Candidates running for the presidential elections as well as the elections for governor positions and geographical constituencies will participate “in order to submit a protest note to the National Election Commission [NEC]”.
- In a press conference held yesterday at the National Ummah Party's [NUP] headquarters in Omdurman, the Alliance stated that it would withdraw after it decided that “reforming

the media body into the body that the alliance demands is impossible for the time being [and] that the media body's integrity and fairness were hopelessly questionable”.

- NUP's representative at the media body, Rabah al-Sadiq, stated that the Alliance “affirmed it would continue to demand the Sudanese people's right in a fair and impartial media that leads to free elections”.

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

- FM Umar al-Bashir on Wednesday the 3rd of March said that “youth have been all along mankind history the tools for change, construction and development and they were the ones who supported Islam by backing the prophet peace and blessing of Allah be Upon Him”.
- He told a youth gathering that they should “stick to the lofty values and principles. He said youth should be strong in principles, spirit and physics so as to protect and preserve the gains of the homeland”.
- Bashir said “the enemies of Sudan who were witnesses to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement were in fact against the realization of peace and stability in the Sudan, based on their support and provision of weapons to the rebel movements that have refused to sign the Abuja peace agreement on Darfur”.
- He said “they wanted to bring Sudan to its knees through pressuring it by withholding food and that they wanted to bargain the Sudan and its people using the International Criminal Court but they have their plot unwoven and that nothing that Allah has not dictated would happen at all”.

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

- The president of the republic, FM Umar Al-Bashir, arrived in Asmara this afternoon, is meeting with the Eritrean president Isayas Afewerki.
- They will be discussing bilateral ties and the situation in Horn of Africa.

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

- At a forum in remembrance of the assassination of the American civil rights activities, Martin Luther King, a group of Southern citizens called for “equality in civil rights as views at the forum diverged over the existence of discrimination because of Color in the Sudanese society”.
- Member of Democratic Salvation Front (DSF) Farouk Jat Koth, said the late Dr John Garang and William Deng were killed when “they pushed for civil rights in the way king was assassinated”.
- At the speech he made at the forum organized by the American Embassy in Al-Fatih Tower day before yesterday, Jat Koth also said that “the wars that erupted in Sudan were triggered by the colour discrimination in the country”.
- Jat Koth statements were contradicted at the forum by Prof Khalid Sirr al- Khatim who stated: “I come from the Nuba tribe; my people speak a non - Arabic language, but I have felt any repression in Sudan.”
- On the other hand, Amy Grsil indicated the “presence of a certain mentality” that does

“not wish freedom for the people of Southern Sudan”

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the forum denied any colour discrimination in Sudan, stressing that “all states of Sudan are co - existing peacefully”.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Mar 10)

- In a meeting with Senior Presidential Assistant Mani Arkoi Minawi at the Republican Palace, the president of the republic, FM Umar al-Bashir, talked about the signing of the framework agreement with the Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement and how to make the other groups that did not participate in the Doha Forum do so.
- The senior presidential assistant said that they also discussed the earlier agreements that were signed in regards to Darfur the possibility of accommodating them with the recent ones.