

Sudan Domestic Media, January 24, 2010 (covering January 17 to January 23, 2010)

By Kristen Zbikowski, MIGS Reporter for Sudan

## **State-Owned Media**

**January 17**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Jan 11)**

- Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the presidential assistant in charge of the Darfur file, reiterated the government's commitment to enhancing mechanisms for dialogue in order to achieve peace in Darfur. He met yesterday with Djibril Bassole, the joint AU-UN mediator for Darfur. Dr. Ghazi addressed the steps of the Darfur peace process. Bassole said that the mediation team was presenting the Darfur peace document to all the parties and trying to get them to sign an agreement to end hostile actions. He also indicated that the document would be announced in the days to come and noted that the document would allow the Khalil and Abd-al-Wahid rebel movements to join the peace negotiations.
- Yesterday contracts of donations granted by Saudi Arabia through the Saudi Development Fund were signed at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in order to support humanitarian efforts in the Darfur states. The establishment of 21 complexes to serve voluntary return villages will cost U.S. \$ 15 million. Dr. Sulayman Abd-al-Rahman, the commissioner of Humanitarian Aid, praised the Saudi role in the construction and development of the voluntary return villages. He noted that the Darfur states have begun a phase a reconstruction and development and added that the commission would make efforts to help the returnees enter a cycle of production.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jan 11)**

- Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, the presidential assistant and deputy chairman of the National Congress Party (NCP) for party affairs, said the government completely rejects the presence of any kind of secularism in the north. Dr. Nafi told Sudan TV in an interview that he supported to NCP's efforts to maintain unity. He said that he did not accept secularism to be forced upon all Sudanese citizens. He also said that all of the development in the south was implemented by the federal government prior to the after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).
- Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, the NCP's presidential assistant and deputy chairman for party affairs, announced that there would be no suppression of freedoms, but added that no one would be permitted to undermine security. He said that individuals who violate the law will be held responsible, but freedoms will be preserved rather than suppressed.

## **January 18**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jan 11)**

- Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir recently arrived in Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt, leading a Sudanese delegation that will participate in tomorrow's second Arab economic, social and development summit in Sharm al-Shaykh. Egyptian leader Husni Mubarak and the secretary-general of the Arab League, Amr Musa, received President al-Bashir. Ali al-Mahmud, the minister of finance, announced that the summit would address issues related to Arab food security.

## **January 19**

**(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 19 Jan 11)**

- Dr. Abdallah Tiya Jum'aa, the minister of health, talked to Uthman Nafi, Sudan's ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, about ways of improving ties between Sudan and Jordan in all areas, especially tourism, capacity building and training and using Jordan's medical expertise in settling treatment and medical investment in Sudan. At the meeting, Sudan's minister of health lauded the cooperation between the two countries in the areas of health and emphasized the need to coordinate efforts with the Sudanese embassy in Jordan in order to benefit from this experience, focusing particularly on medical engineering.

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jan 11)**

- The second Arab economic and social development summit kicked off today in Sharm al-Shaykh. In his address, President Omar al-Bashir noted that the summit was taking place during a time of difficult historic conditions and was being observed around the globe in various international political and economic arenas. He noted that sincerity was needed in implementing the summit outcome in order to address the hopes of Arab people. The president also made remarks on the global financial crisis and its social and political impact on Arab people. Using the Arab electricity project and the Arab railway project as examples, he said that planned projects should be implemented and given special attention. The president also said that Sudan hoped the summit would present an opportunity to cancel Sudan's debt and help the country maintain peace and reconstruction initiatives. He informed summit participants of recent developments in Sudan and noted that the CPA was in its final stages of implementation, with the southern referendum process being the last cause and preparations being made to announce the outcome. He said that respecting the results would mark the end of the historic agreement. President al-Bashir also discussed Darfur and steps being taken to implement the government's strategy and ongoing cooperation with Arab nations and the Arab League. He asked those Darfuris who have avoided the peace talks to join the negotiations and try to settle remaining issues. The president thanked Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al-Thani, the emir of Qatar, for his

government's sincere efforts to achieve peace in Darfur and thanked Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the emir of Kuwait, for hosting the conference for development in East Sudan last month. He said Sudan would continue to support its brothers in Palestine in protecting their identity and heritage. He also welcomed the change in Tunisia, saying it represented the will of the people of Tunisia. He called on Tunisians and the transitional government to make efforts to restore peace in their country.

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jan 11)**

- President Omar al-Bashir met with his Egyptian counterpart, Husni Mubarak, on the sidelines of the second Arab economic and social development summit in Sharm al-Shaykh. The leaders talked about the importance of cooperation between Egypt and Sudan to move past the global financial crisis and the need to support Sudan's food security capabilities in light of the decrease in food in the Arab world. Mubarak said Egypt supports Sudan and its government's efforts to realize peace in Darfur and restore relations with international institutions and the West. President al-Bashir also met with Jalal Talabani, the president of Iraq, and Shaykh Shariff Shaykh Ahmad, the president of Somalia.

**January 20**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 11)**

- Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, the chairman of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC), held a meeting with the commission's higher media committee, headed by Mahjub Muhammad Salih, at SSRC headquarters this morning. The meeting went over the report presented by George Maker, the commission's head of information, with respect to its evaluations of the pre-voting period and its assessment of the pros and cons of the recent period. Maker said the referendum's preliminary results from the north and the Diaspora countries had reached the commission. He added that the SSRC is preparing to announce the results at the end of the month. He also said that the commission was still receiving reports from referendum monitoring organizations and noted that most of them had said that voting took place in a peaceful and smooth atmosphere.

**January 21**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 Jan 11)**

- President Omar al-Bashir received a letter from Idriss Deby, the president of Chad, discussing bilateral relations and ways of improving joint cooperation. The letter also addressed the people and government of Chad's appreciation of Sudan's participation in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chad's independence. During his meeting with Chadian presidential envoy and foreign minister Musa Faki

Muhammad, al-Bashir promised that Nyala-N'djamena railway line would be included in financial studies in order to connect Chad to ports at the Red Sea in Eastern Sudan. Foreign Minister Ali Karti remarked that the Chadian president's letter arrived as a follow-up to projects announced by al-Bashir during his last visit to N'djamena. Border areas are being developed in efforts to connect N'djamena to the Red Sea so it can export products. Karti noted that Chad planned to include Sudan in several development projects including agriculture and irrigation. He said the president's acceptance of such projects would be handed over to concerned parties to be studied and implemented.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Jan 11)**

- The January 21 sermon by Shaykh Ali Jum'ah, the grand mufti of Egypt, was broadcast live on Sudan TV from the Al-Nur Islamic Complex in the Khartoum Bahri area. The sermons covered religious issues and called on Muslims to maintain unity and good morals.

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 11)**

- President Omar al-Bashir will visit River Nile State in the north on January 25 to inaugurate several development and service projects. He will speak at a public rally in Al-Damar town and attend the final night of the National Festival for the Holy Koran at the Nile Theater in Atbarah.

**January 22**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 Jan 11)**

- The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) killed 13 members of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army forces (Mani Arkoi Minawi Faction) and wounded several others yesterday during a battle that lasted for four hours in the Munawasi and Kidinir areas along Nyala-Al-Fashir road. Three vehicles were destroyed during the fighting. Lt-Col Al-Sawarmi Khalid Sa'd, the SAF's spokesman, said in a radio interview that a small SAF force was ambushed by the JEM in solidarity with the SLA Minawi Faction at Munawasi station en route to Kidinir station. He said that the SAF lost eight martyrs and sent a force out to in wide-scale search of the attacking force. He added that the SAF seeks to eradicate all outlawed groups operating in the area between Al-Fashir and Nyala.
- Judge Muhammad Bushara Dusa, the minister of justice, confirmed that Sudan's executive institutions find their legitimacy in the interim constitution. After his interview with the radio yesterday, he said that southern membership in the National Assembly would be revoked once Southern Sudan declared secession. He said southern participation in other state institutions is under President al-Bashir's authority. He also noted that pending issues between the north and the south would be settled during the interim period between now and July 9, 2011. The minister of justice noted that the Popular Consultation Law for the Blue Nile and Southern Kordufan states did not signify referendum for citizens of the two

states. Rather, the opinions of parliamentary legislators from the two states regarding implementation of the concerned protocol on the two areas should be adopted.

### **January 23**

#### **(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Jan 11)**

- President Omar al-Bashir talked to Libyan President Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi over the phone about ongoing coordination and consultation between Sudan and Libyan on issues of common concern. According to Libyan sources, President al-Bashir briefed the Libyan president on general developments taking place in Sudan.
- Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, the chairman of the SSRC, along with his deputy and commission members will hold a press conference on the morning of January 24 at the Al-Salam Rotana Hotel in Khartoum. The SSRC chairman will go over information pertaining to the referendum process, vote counting and announcement of the results in Sudan and abroad.

#### **(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jan 11)**

- Lt-Col Al-Sawarmi Khalid Sa'ad, the official spokesman of the SAF, said the armed forces gained control of all Darfur areas and that rebel movements had lost control of the so-called liberated areas. He said that wide SAF combing searches are currently underway to find remnants of the rebels who withdrew to the January 1, 1956 borders. The clashes that took place in Menwashi Kednir area were the result of a small JEM group composed of six vehicles with support from the Sudan Liberation Movement Minawi Faction in addition to some outlaws. The SAF were searching for things that concerned them when they encountered the armed forces, who confronted them and are now combing for small armed groups and criminals.
- Political officials from the JEM sent an urgent memorandum to Khalil Ibrahim, the group's chairman, complaining of their military leadership's refusal to cooperate, resulting in mismanagement of military operations. This led to greater ethnic divisions and failure in the field. The Sudanese Media Centre said a document submitted by Muhammad Khalil, the movement's leader to the field, to Khalil Ibrahim noted profound differences among JEM leaders. The document said the group managing political work called for the resignation of the deputy general leader with someone else to reduce his power and influence. It also noted that his group's actions reduced morale among fighters, decreased food supplies and fuel and compelled fighters to sell their weapons and machinery. The document also indicated that a decision had been reached to let go Ali Wafi, a member of the Arab tribes, to appoint one of Khalil Ibrahim's relatives named Muhammed Adam as his replacement. This upset Wafi loyalists, causing them to boycott the movement's meetings and causing many fighters to escape the camps.

The memorandum called on Khalil to come to the field to put an end in splits in the movement.

- Scott Gration, the U.S. envoy for peace in Sudan, told representatives of a number of armed movements in Darfur that they would not be able to change the federal government even if they continued fighting for 10 years. Newspapers reported that Gration emphasized the need for the movements to realize peace in Darfur. The reports also promoted the signing of a peace agreement between Khartoum and a number of armed groups in Sudan in the days to come.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs again rejected U.S. conditions for normalizing relations between Sudan and the U.S. following the implementation of the CPA. Foreign minister Ali Ahmad Karti criticized negative remarks made by certain U.S. Administration officials regarding developments in Sudan to Sudan TV. He said that adding Sudan to the list of countries that sponsor terrorism was a grave mistake. He said that Sudan would resist new conditions put forth by American officials following the implementation of the CPA and attributed the presence of certain American voices to the success of the Republican party in the most recent U.S. mid-term elections.