

Sudan Domestic Media, January 10, 2010 (covering January 3 to January 9, 2010)

By Kristen Zbikowski, MIGS Reporter for Sudan

### **State-Owned Media**

#### **January 3**

##### **(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jan 11)**

- President Omar al-Bashir noted the government's keenness to take care of the armed forces, support them and fulfill their needs in leading in the protection of Sudan's gains. During his visit today to the celebrations of the Air Defence Forces and the Marine Forces in the Fajr 3 Exercise in the Arus area north of Port Sudan, the president stated that peace that is not protected by force is a fragile peace. He also said that Darfur was both stable and secure. The president added that the Southern Sudanese government's support to certain Darfur rebels signified rebellion against the authority of the state. An unmanned reconnaissance plan manufactured by Sudan was successfully tested during the celebrations.

#### **January 4**

##### **(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 4 Jan 11)**

- Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, first vice president of Sudan and president of the government of Southern Sudan, welcomed Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's visit to Juba today. He stated that the visit of al-Bashir and his entourage in the days before the referendum reassured southerners before they head to the polls on January 9. Responding to those who said there was no need for the visit just five days before the referendum, Kiir noted that al-Bashir has the right to visit Juba and all areas in South Sudan any time before and after the referendum. He asked the Sudanese president to give political parties and entities in Juba messages that he perceives as important at this time. He also noted their happiness regarding the Sudanese president's visit and wished him and his entourage a pleasant stay in Juba.

##### **(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Jan 11)**

- President Omar al-Bashir arrived in Juba and was received by Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, the first vice president and president of the government of Southern Sudan, and members of Kiir's government. The president's visit sought to follow up the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and review the referendum arrangements that will allow registered southerners to vote on Sunday, January 9.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Jan 11)**

- President Omar al-Bashir accused the media of entering Sudan in large numbers in order to depict scenes of destruction, which he claimed the media expects to see during the referendum. In a speech to the ministers of the government of Southern Sudan at the Presidential Palace in Juba that was broadcast live on state-owned Sudan TV, al-Bashir said: “People thought that the outcome of the previous [general] elections would be the same as what happened in many countries, and our media brothers seated here gathered in large numbers, as they are now, just to describe the struggle, the killings, the destruction, the fires. However, the Sudanese people, in their civilized manner, disappointed them. Now, many of these people [of the media] are coming so that they can paint the same pictures. We want to disappoint them once more, so that we can give them the second lesson that we are a civilized people.” The president’s visit to Juba came five days before the referendum that could result in the split of Sudan into two countries.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0904 GMT 4 Jan 11)**

- In his address to the ministers of the government of Southern Sudan at the Presidential Palace in Juba, President Omar al-Bashir commented that it would be “sad” to see Sudan divided into two countries. The speech was broadcast live on state-owned Sudan TV. The president added, “It will be sad for Sudan to disintegrate, but we will be happy if through this referendum and the formation of the two states we will have achieved real peace and peace on both sides of Sudan.” He also said his most important message since he came to power pertained to peace. He noted that his government had tried to end the civil war with the South, which he said was the basis for the country’s “problems”. He said if people were to look back to speeches made by his government since it entered into power, peace was the primary goal.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0904 GMT 4 Jan 11)**

- President Omar al-Bashir indicated that he would support the development of South Sudan if the region chooses secession in the referendum on January 9. In his address to ministers from the Southern Sudanese government at the Presidential Palace in Juba, the president said he would support the south if it opts for independence. His speech, broadcast live on state-owned Sudan TV, said: “We are ready to offer anything that is required from us, in Khartoum: any technical, logistics, advice, expertise, training and so on. We know that if a new state is established in the south, it will need technical, logistical and all manner of support. Nobody in this world has more rights than us in providing this support.” He said that the southerners’ choice would be respected because “when we signed the [Comprehensive Peace] Agreement, we signed it so as to abide to it. Since we are people who respect agreements and covenants...we are committed [to the accord] and we will continue to call for unity...However, if the wish of the

southern citizens [is to secede] then they are welcome.” He added that the north and south will need to “minimize the negatives that could result from secession, and divert the benefits that we could have achieved through unity.”

## **January 5**

### **(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Jan 11)**

- Southern Sudan’s government announced that it had expelled all Darfur armed groups from Juba. President Omar al-Bashir noted at a January 4 press conference in Juba that the government of Southern Sudan is committed to keep northern opposition out of the south. He said that both sides agreed to maintain security and stability in the region and protect southerners in the north and northerners in the south. Al-Bashir commented that his discussion with Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, the president of the government of Southern Sudan, covered ways of implementing the remaining part of the CPA provisions such as the Southern Sudan referendum and other pending issues. Kiir announced that measures have been taken to expel armed Darfur groups from Juba and confirmed that no northern opposition is based in Juba. Both sides indicated their commitment to implementing the remaining part of the CPA.

### **(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jan 11)**

- President Omar al-Bashir will attend the graduation ceremony of the 62nd unit of the College of Police Sciences and Law students today at Al-Marikh stadium in Khartoum. Ibrahim Mahmud Hamid, the interior minister, will also attend the event. Gen Dr. Al-Hadi al-Nur al-Shahir, the college dean, said that this unit was believed to be an important addition to the police forces because of the police sciences, military and academic training it received.

### **(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jan 11)**

- During a meeting with John Kerry, the chairman of the U.S. Senate's External Relations Committee, Sudan’s Vice President Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha repeated that the government is fully committed to holding the referendum on schedule and accepting the results in accordance with the CPA. The meeting addressed ongoing arrangements for the referendum voting period and future north-south relations. Kerry said he was pleased with the president’s visit to Juba on January 4. He also affirmed his country’s commitment to sustainable peace and stability in Sudan and added that the U.S. aims to have positive communications with Sudan in order to cultivate special ties that will benefit both countries.

## **January 6**

### **(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jan 11)**

- President Omar al-Bashir met with Thabo Mbeki, the head of the AU High Level Panel on Darfur, at the Republican Palace today to discuss the ongoing referendum preparations. Mbeki praised the positive results from the president's recent visit to Juba at the national, regional and international levels and remarked on the spirit of reassurance and peace that the visit brought to northerners and southerners. Mbeki also briefed the president on workplans for the coming period, particularly in terms of post-referendum arrangements and the Darfur issue. President al-Bashir lauded Mbeki's important lecture yesterday at Friendship Hall, which emphasized Sudan's regional and international cultural role. The president also hailed the efforts the AU panel had made regarding Sudan's issues.

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jan 11)**

- Gen Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the minister of national defence, and Eng Ibrahim Mahmud Hamid, the minister of the interior, arrived today in Al-Fashir, North Darfur State's capital, accompanied by senior police, security body and intelligence officials. The delegation headed directly to the western military brigade headquarters upon their arrival to meet with the leader of the brigade. The delegation plans to visit Dar al-Salam locality to assess the situation there.

**January 7**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 7 Jan 11)**

- President Omar al-Bashir received a written message from President Isayas Afewerki of Eritrea on relations between the two countries and ways of improving bilateral ties and strengthening cooperation in various fields. Uthman Salih, Eritrea's foreign minister, presented the message conveying Eritrea's support to Sudanese efforts to realize comprehensive stability to President al-Bashir at the Presidential Palace. Presidential Aide Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi expressed appreciation regarding Eritrea's concern over developments in the country. He met with the Eritrean foreign minister to discuss the latest political developments in Sudan, particularly the referendum arrangements.
- Lt-Gen Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the defence minister, announced the true beginning of conflict resolution for Darfur through internal dialogue. He said that following a visit to north and south Darfur called for by the president of Sudan, they made security arrangements in order to resolve the conflict in Darfur through direct internal dialogue with Darfuris. He indicated that they were satisfied with the situation for citizens in several villages and areas of Darfur. The defence minister was with the interior minister and military commanders.
- President Omar al-Bashir plans to open Halfaya-Hatana Bridge today in celebration of Sudan's and Khartoum State's celebrations marking the country's 55<sup>th</sup> independence anniversary. The bridge, which has six lanes, cost roughly 130 million Euros. The planning minister for Khartoum State said that the bridge was important for economic and social interaction in the state and noted that the

coming period will involve the inauguration of additional projects of importance in the state.

- The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) will hold a press conference on January 8 at Al-Salam Rotana Hotel to go over the most recent arrangements for the referendum that is set to begin on January 9.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Jan 11)**

- A January 7 sermon by Shaykh Abd-al-Jalil Nadir Al-Karuri was broadcast live from the Al-Shahid Ibrahim Shams al-Din Mosque in Khartoum on Sudan TV. The mosque was inaugurated today by Abd-al-Rahman al-Khadr, the governor of Khartoum. The first sermon dealt with religious issues, particularly the importance of mosques in Muslim societies. The second sermon discussed the upcoming January 9 Southern Sudan referendum. The preacher praised the president's speech in Juba wherein he said he would accept the referendum results. He called on the people to remain calm, saying "the referendum will pass the same way as the elections". He added that although the north had failed to attract southerners on a political basis, it nevertheless had a social influence. He said that Arabic was the primary language of southerners and that "the difference with the southerners was a political one and not religious".

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1405 GMT 7 Jan 11)**

- Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir downplayed the impact of the secession of the south on the north. In his address at the inauguration of Halfaya-Karari Bridge, which will connect Bahri with other parts of Khartoum, the president said that southern secession will result in a new northern revolution. The event, which was broadcast live on state-owned Sudan TV, had al-Bashir saying: "This is our response to anyone who is waiting to ambush Sudan. To those people who think that the separation of the south will mark the end of the Salvation [Front] and the fall of the Salvation [Front government]. We tell them that the separation of the south will be the beginning of a new revolution". This was said amid people chanting "March, march al-Bashir" and "God is great". The president vowed to stick to Islamic Shari'ah as the basis of the country's law and stated that punishments would continue to include flogging and chopping off hands and legs. Saying that his government is composed of the sons of farmers and peasants, the president reminded the crowd that he is the son of a farmer. He added that their positions would not change them, making them forget where they came from, amid people chanting "The response is dams and bridges".

**January 8**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jan 11)**

- President Omar al-Bashir met today with former American President Jimmy Carter and was briefed on Carter's role in monitoring the southern independence

referendum. Carter told al-Bashir that he had seen tangible steps toward conducting the referendum in a calm environment and he hailed the government's efforts in that respect. President al-Bashir reaffirmed that he would accept the referendum results.

- The SSRC announced at a press conference today that all arrangements for holding the referendum tomorrow in the north and the south had been completed. Ambassador Muhammad Uthman al-Nujumi, the SSRC's secretary-general, went on an inspection tour to reassure the commission of this. The final voters' register was also published by the commission today, tallying a total of approximately four million voters.
- Vice President Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha met with Uthman Salih, the Eritrean foreign minister, today, who led a delegation to Sudan to discuss ways to develop ties between Sudan and Eritrea. They also talked about post-referendum arrangements and future cooperation between the two countries. The Eritrean foreign minister noted his country's support for Sudanese unity, but also said his government respected the choice of southerners. He expressed hope for a new era of peace and stability in Africa.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jan 11)**

- According to newspapers, just hours before the beginning of the Southern Sudan referendum, clashes broke out between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and those who oppose it in Mayom region in Unity State. The BBC reported that according to Gir Shung Alung, the minister of interior of the South Sudan government, between 200 and 300 militias attacked a military post belonging to the SPLA in Mayom county today. The SPLA managed to arrest some of the aggressors and a member of the group said that six elements of a South Sudan rebel faction were killed while fighting with the SPLA forces. SPLA Spokesman Philip Aguer also told AFP that rebels attacked the SPLA in Mayom, leading to the deaths and arrests of several of the rebel group's members. Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, the president of the Southern Sudan government, stated that no SPLA casualties were reported.

**January 9**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 9 Jan 11)**

- Roughly four million registered southern voters in Sudan and in the Diaspora will head to the polls today for the Southern Sudan referendum, as per the CPA. Three thousand polling centers have been set up for voters and the SSRC announced that arrangements have been made for the referendum voting period, which will end on January 15. Prof Ibrahim Muhammad Khalil, the head of the SSRC, stated at a press conference yesterday at Al-Salam Rotana Hotel that all preparations had been made and the commission had implemented most of the tasks in its mandate. What remains is the voting, vote counting and announcement of the results. He said that the commission was to implement the

referendum law in a free, fair and transparent fashion and was not concerned with its outcome.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jan 11)**

- Lt-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, the government of South Sudan's president and chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), cast his vote at the late John Garang (founder of the SPLM) polling centre in Juba. Kiir told the media that he was committed to the preservation of peace and congratulated Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on his courage in implementing the CPA. He called on southerners registered in Sudan and abroad to head to the polling centers and vote in a calm and peaceful atmosphere. Kiir also called on the international community to accept the referendum outcome in order to maintain the peace that had been realized.
- Voting for the Southern Sudan self-determination referendum began on January 9 at 8:00 a.m. local time. Four million registered southerners are expected to vote in Sudan and abroad for the next seven days for either unity or separation. There has been a low turnout at northern polling stations since polling started. The turnout is expected to rise steadily over the coming hours.