

Sudan Domestic Media, August 2, 2010 (covering July 26 to August 1, 2010)

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State-Owned Media

July 26

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 26 Jul 10)

- The leaders of the Darfur native administration, the Zagawa mechanism and the consultative councils of Masalit and Fur tribes condemned the decision of the so-called International Criminal Court (ICC) against President Omar al-Bashir. The Darfur leaders denounced the ICC moves in a joint statement indicating that the court is a political tool that does not represent the values of justice. Al-Tijani Mustafa, head of Zagawa mechanism with the National Congress Party (NCP), condemned the allegations against the president and argued that the ICC decision sought to prevent progress, stability and the Doha peace process.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 26 Jul 10)

- H H Shaykh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar, received a written message from Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, the Vice-President of the Republic, addressing bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them. The message was given to Sayf Mukadam Al Buainain, the Assistant Foreign Minister of Qatar, on Sunday when he received the Ambassador of Sudan to Qatar, Ibrahim Abdallah Fagiri, in his office.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 26 Jul 10)

- Dr. Amin Hasan Umar, head of the government delegation to the Doha peace talks, emphasized that the Sudanese government would not tolerate the presence of Khalil Ibrahim, the head of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), or any movement leader who refuses to come to the negotiating table in Doha, inside any neighboring countries. He noted that Khalil's presence in Libya was discussed at the highest levels in the two countries during the recent Sahel-Sahara summit in Chad.

July 28

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 28 Jul 10)

- Muhammad Yusuf Abdallah, a leader of the popular authority for supporting unity, warned of steps being taken by those he branded as separatists, accusing them of aiming to create sedition and hatred. He also claimed that in the event of secession, peace in Sudan is threatened by a return to war and warned that such a war would spill over into neighboring countries. According to Abdallah, secession will lead to hunger and instability in South Sudan as it is expected to lack "economic competence and energy resources". He recommended raising public awareness of the dangers of secession by holding forums on this issue. Jalal Tawur, a member of the committee, warned that separation would have negative repercussions on security and the status of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and noted that if the secession question is not resolved before the upcoming referendum, it will affect the Darfur issue.

July 29

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 29 Jul 10)

- According to a Sudan Vision website editorial, the U.S. position on Sudan is becoming more and more unclear with each passing day, whether it be in relation to the ICC, Darfur or the CPA. The editorial also expressed satisfaction at Scott Gration's response to the new ICC charges brought against President Omar al-Bashir and commented that Gration "also put it frankly that there is no genocide in Darfur after he visited the region and met with officials and citizens in the IDPs camps". As a result, however, Gration received strong resistance from the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, who was "furious" when he said that Darfur was experiencing only the "remnants of genocide". The State Department subsequently affirmed that its official position is that genocide is still taking place. The editorial commented that Washington's Sudan policy is confusing and vague. As an example, the U.S. has signaled some support for South Sudan's secession, but has also expressed concern over the possibility of failed statehood for South Sudan due to ongoing conflicts in the region. This vague position is harming the U.S. strategy for Sudan, causing Khartoum to lose confidence in the American administration. The editorial concluded that American pressure on such issues "will definitely lead to stronger stances from Khartoum and gives more enmity that might blow up on the face of the pressing party sooner or later".

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

- President Omar al-Bashir praised Sudanese-Malaysian relations and called for more cooperation between the two countries. President al-Bashir received Dr. Ahmad Zayid Hammid, the Malaysian Minister of Defence, and expressed gratitude over Malaysian efforts to strengthen Sudan's development process, especially with respect to oil and the historical ties between the armed forces in the two countries. In a press statement, the Malaysian Defence Minister affirmed his country's readiness to enhance cooperation in military training with Sudan.

General Abd-al Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the Minister of National Defence, emphasized the importance of the visit in promoting cooperation between the two countries.

July 30

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Jul 10)

- The July 30 sermon was broadcast live on Sudan TV from the Al-Shad Mosque in Khartoum. The preacher, Shaykh Mahdi Rizqallah, discussed religious matters in his first sermon as well as his second sermon.

July 31

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 31 Jul 10)

- Last week Southern Sudan's Vice President Riek Machar criticized the NCP over the delay in demarcating the borders in the oil-rich region of Abyei. The NCP and the SPLM brought the Abyei border issue to the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) which defined the borders in a decision accepted by both parties one year ago. The SPLM complained that members of its joint demarcation team feel threatened by armed militia elements, which the SPLM says are being sponsored by Khartoum. For the referendum to take place an agreement on borders is required, lest "conflicts and war will ignite and all signed conventions and agreements between the CPA partners will blow up". The NCP position is that no referendum can take place without completed border demarcation. The SPLM rejects this requirement, arguing that the referendum must be held as planned. The UN and the international community generally confirmed that border demarcation is essential for holding the scheduled referendum.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 31 Jul 10)

- The ruling NCP and the Alliance of Southern Sudan Political Parties have bridged their views on the upcoming South Sudan self-determination referendum. According to statements by Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, presidential assistant, deputy chairman of the NCP, and Dr. Lam Akol, chairman of the SPLM-DC, following a meeting the two sides, noted the legitimacy of the referendum, but indicated that the atmosphere in South Sudan prohibits free political exercise. Dr. Nafi claimed that brutal harassment is being used to curb political activities in the south.

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in English 31 Jul 10)

- The governor of South Darfur State, Dr. Abd-al-Hamid Musa Kasha, affirmed that a group loyal to the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), the Abd-al-Wahid wing, attacked the Kalma IDP Camp in South Darfur State using heavy gunfire

that resulted in several casualties and damage to property. The governor stated that the rebels attacked IDP representatives who participated in Doha negotiations and responded favorably to calls for peace, adding that the attack was part of a plot being hatched by Abd-al-Wahid Group inside the camp.

August 1

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

- Sudan has decided to send three planes carrying urgent humanitarian support to Chad following heavy rains and floods that hit much of Chad's northern region. Eng Ibrahim Mahmud Hamid, the minister of internal affairs, held an emergency meeting with Lt-Gen Hashim Uthman al-Husayn, the commander of the police force, and several individuals from the higher committee of civil defence to discuss ways to send support to Chad. Eng Hamidnallah Adam Ali, the rapporteur of the higher committee for civil defence, said that this support results from the president's instructions to assist Chad in light of the ties between the two brotherly countries.

(Sudan Vision website, Khartoum, in English 1 Aug 10)

- Abd-al-Hamid Musa Kasha, the Governor of Southern Darfur, accused UNAMID of permitting arms to enter Kalma camp in Southern Darfur, providing assistance to members of the Abd-al-Wahid's rebel movement. In a meeting with UNAMID in Nyala, the governor instructed executive and security bodies to increase supervision and inspection of UNAMID personnel and foreign nationals traveling through airports. The governor also prohibited UNAMID vehicles from passing through public roads within the city. Should these directives be ignored, the governor indicated that violators would be apprehended. According to the governor, members of the Abdel Wahid movement are wreaking havoc in the camp, murdering civilians and forcing many to leave. He claimed that "They even participated in plots to assassinate the camp's sheikhs who participated in the Doha Peace Negotiations." The state government has decided to establish an emergency committee to contain the situation and to persuade those who left the camp to return. The government of Southern Darfur gave UNAMID hours to hand over members of the Abd-al-Wahid Mohammed Nur' movement and threatened to enter the camp by force if UNAMID did not comply. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon asked all actors to practice self-restraint and refrain from using violence within the camp. UNAMID indicated that thousands of the displaced sought protection in the mission's camp police station as a result of growing violence. UNAMID also reported that violence broke out between supporters and opponents of the Doha peace negotiations, noting that many of them had sticks and blades. Gunshots were also heard within the camp.