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State-Owned Media

November 2

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 2 Nov 10)

- Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the presidential advisor taking care of the Darfur file, was set to leave for Doha today to give a boost to negotiations and settle the issue of Darfur. Dr. Ghazi said that he would meet the joint mediation team and review the latest developments related to the peace agreement. He planned to add in his briefing to the States' Council that the strategy for Darfur seeks to restore peace, security and stability in Darfur. He also said that this strategy supports the Doha negotiations and is not an alternative to the Doha platform. The States' Council indicated that it supports the strategy and aims to work through its committee to implement the strategy.

November 3

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Nov 10)

- Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, first vice-president and president of the government of South Sudan, met with U.S. envoy to Sudan Scott Gration in Juba yesterday. Gration remarked that they had discussed border demarcation between the north and the south, finding acceptable solutions to issues of contention and resolving the issue of Abyei as quickly as possible.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Nov 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir met with Abdoulaye Wade, the president of Senegal, who was visiting Sudan. The meeting addressed ties between the two countries and issues of mutual concern. Following the talks, Mr. Ali Karti, Sudan's minister of foreign affairs, noted that the visit by the Senegalese president sought to consult President al-Bashir on resolutions made at the Afro-Arab summits.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Nov 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir met with Abdoulaye Wade, the president of Senegal, yesterday at the Guest House. The two men discussed bilateral ties between Sudan and Senegal, issues of mutual concern, the situation in Sudan and Darfur, the Doha negotiations and ongoing referendum preparations. President al-Bashir

expressed gratitude over President Wade's efforts to support Sudan regionally and internationally. He also welcomed the committee that was recommended recently at the Sirte summit on Sudan. The talk between the two men also addressed upcoming African cultural festivals in Dakar in which Sudan will participate. President Wade also expressed his support for Sudanese unity.

November 5

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Nov 10)

- Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the presidential advisor in charge of the Darfur file, commented that he expects to see the final Darfur peace document signed this year. Upon his return from Doha yesterday, he announced at Khartoum Airport that the mediation team will prepare the final Darfur peace document ahead of its signing between December 7 and 13. He noted the importance of consultations in light of the fact that the final document is supposed to contain the solutions to Darfur's problems. Dr. Amin Hasan Umar, the head of the government delegation to the Doha talks, remarked that the document will be open for all issues, both those that have been resolved and those that have not been resolved, in order to gain acceptance and approval of the document from the people of Darfur.
- Eng Ibrahim Mahmud Hamid, the interior minister, announced his ministry's plan for the Darfur states which seeks to enhance the new strategy for peace in Darfur. At a November 4 meeting with the Darfur parliamentary group, he indicated that the plan involves increased security, achieving justice, the legalization and collection of weapons and the deployment of police in order to secure Darfur towns and protect Darfur's citizens. The members of parliament showed their staunch support for the plan and its success.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Nov 10)

- The November 5 sermon by Shaykh Abd-al-Jalil Nazir Al-Karuri was broadcast live on Sudan TV from the Al-Shahid Mosque. The first sermon dealt with religious issues in general and the second sermon discussed religious issues as well, particularly the principles of pilgrimage.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Nov 10)

- The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission began establishing regulations for media coverage of the campaigns for the South Sudan referendum. George Maker Benjamin, the commission's head of information, told Sudan TV that the commission will make sure that all sides have an opportunity to present their message and will punish those who disrupt others. George Maker said that the commission has publicly identified the names of national media personalities who will manage this task. They are: Prof Ali Shumu, Prof Al-Tayib Hajj Attiyah, Prof Akol Daman Teng and other leaders from both the north and the south.

According to the timetable established by the commission, the actual referendum process begins on November 7. A group has been approved by the referendum commission to deal with the start of the campaigns on November 7. The high committee for information, which contains national media officials from the north and the south, will subsequently identify the media regulations that will guide the campaign according to law. The law and the constitution allow all citizens, groups or entities to propagate and advocate their choice, whether it be unity or secession. Any person who impedes people from exercising their democratic right will be punished as this is against the law. According to Sudan TV, it will be a major task for political parties and civil society groups to educate southerners on the choices they have regarding the referendum. The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission is waiting to hear back from the Sudanese presidency with respect to a memorandum it submitted regarding a lack of time. Currently, the commission must implement the South Sudan referendum arrangements.

November 6

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Nov 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir left for Doha, Qatar, for an official two-day visit with Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah al Thani, the emir of Qatar, to discuss developments in Sudan. President al-Bashir was seen off at the airport in Khartoum by Vice-President Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha and several government officials. President al-Bashir's visit comes in the context of ongoing consultations between Qatar and Sudan on the upcoming South Sudan referendum and achieving peace in Darfur.

November 7

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Nov 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir returned to Sudan following his visit to Doha, Qatar, where he met with Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah al Thani, Qatar's emir. The talks in Doha addressed growing bilateral ties between the two countries as well as the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and conducting the referendum. Earlier today President al-Bashir met in Doha with Djibril Bassole, the joint UN-AU mediator, and Ahmad Bin-Abdallah Al Mahmud, Qatar's minister of state for foreign affairs. Mr. Bassole briefed al-Bashir on developments in the Doha talks and expressed optimism regarding the likelihood that the process would result in the final signing of the Darfur peace document by the end of December. President al-Bashir expressed satisfaction over the joint mediation efforts and the determination to reach an agreement between the two negotiating parties in order to bring peace to the region. He also lauded Qatar's role in the process and its unlimited support to the mediation and the negotiators.
- The Sudanese government, represented by its ministry of minerals, signed 10 agreements with national and international companies over the exploration of gold and minerals in the Northern and Northern Kurdufan, Red Sea and River Nile

states. At a ceremony celebrating the agreements, Dr. Abd-al-Baqi al-Jaylani, Sudan's minister of minerals, indicated that there was evidence that Sudan has large capabilities in the area of gold production. He added that in the past 10 months, Sudan's gold production had reached 23 tonnes through private mining alone and noted plans for new developments in Sudan's mining sector next year. The governors in Northern and Northern Kurdufan states and the minister of investment for the River Nile state described the agreements as a significant step that would benefit Sudan's foreign trade balance.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 10)

- Salva Kiir Mayardit, first vice-president of Sudan and president of the government of Southern Sudan, expressed appreciation over America's support for the peace process in Sudan. This came in the context of his meeting with Senator John Kerry, chairman of the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee. Following the meeting, Kerry told the press that he had delivered a letter from U.S. President Barrack Obama to the first vice-president. In the letter, Obama expressed his desire to see the referendum held on time. A similar letter was delivered to the government of Sudan and included several suggestions for pushing the talks between the two ruling partners forward. Kerry noted that President Obama was certain that the referendum would be held on schedule and that the American administration is committed to supporting the conduct of a free and fair referendum.
- The West Darfur state government and the rebel Liberals and Reform Movement (LRM) signed a peace deal today in the presence of Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the presidential advisor, Al-Shartai Ja'far Abd-al-Hakam, the governor of West Darfur state, and several other leaders. At the ceremony celebrating the agreement, Dr. Ghazi noted that the deal was a step toward improving security and stability in the Jabal Mun region. He expressed satisfaction with the nationalist positions of the movement's leaders and their efforts at establishing peace. He also affirmed the government's commitment to the agreement and said it was the key to other agreements that would improve security in Darfur.