

Sudan Domestic Media, November 22, 2010 (covering November 15 to November 21, 2010)

By Kristen Zbikowski, MIGS Reporter for Sudan

State-Owned Media

November 15

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Nov 10)

- Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, chairman of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, announced that voter registration for the referendum was set to begin today and to continue for 17 days, including during the Id al-Adha festival, in all of Sudan's states as well as outside the country. At a November 14 news conference at the commission's headquarters in Khartoum, he said that 2,623 registration centers had been set up in the south and 165 had been set up in the north. Eight registration centers had also been set up in Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Egypt, Australia, the U.S., the UK and Canada.
- Dr. Abd-al-Baqi al-Jaylani, Sudan's minister for minerals, will be heading the Sudanese delegation at the International Mining Conference, to be held in Beijing from November 16 to 18. The minister, who arrived in Beijing on November 14, told a radio correspondent in Beijing that the delegation will address several topics related to the future of mining in Sudan at the conference. Dr. al-Jaylani highlighted the relationship between Sudan and China, particularly in the area of mining, and expressed hope that Sudan would attract several Chinese companies specializing in this field.

November 16

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 10)

- Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader and preacher of the Ansar supporters, called for a free and fair referendum and asked that everyone accept the outcome. He also called for guaranteeing freedoms in order to create an atmosphere conducive to the referendum environment. At a congregation during Id al-Adha prayers at Al-Hijra Mosques in Wad Nubawi, Al-Mahdi said that the Ummah party will organize a large local and international campaign program focused on supporting national agendas. He said that the shedding of blood and anything that might spark conflict or dispute should be avoided. Instead, a spirit of coexistence and cohesion should be promoted to keep Sudan from disintegrating.

November 17

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Nov 10)

- Kamal Hasan, the state minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that Sudan was committed to conducting the referendum according to schedule and noted the process of voter registration that is currently taking place in the country. Kamal also told Sudan Radio that the referendum was a means rather than an end leading to sustainable peace in Sudan.
- Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Karti addressed the UN Security Council ministerial meeting yesterday on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the situation in Darfur. He said that peace was a priority for Darfur and a current strategic objective of the government of Sudan and asked the UN Security Council to send a strong message compelling those unwilling to negotiate for peace to join the Doha talks.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Nov 10)

- In a speech to southerners at the Wad al-Bashir and Salam Janub centers in Khartoum, Nafi Ali Nafi, the presidential advisor, promised that all obstacles impeding South Sudan voter registration would be overcome at the registration centers. He reiterated that southerners were guaranteed full freedom regardless of their choice and added that the destiny of the country was in the hands of citizens without fear or favor and not in the hands of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the National Congress Party (NCP).

November 18

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Nov 10)

- Sudan's referendum commission, chaired by Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil and its members, met today and discussed problems in the process of voter registration. George Maker, the commission's communication secretary, noted that urgent issues were addressed based on reports that had come in from the north, the south and outside the country. He added that the commission was contemplating taking steps to deal with the situation and move past the issues impeding voter registration. He also pointed out that there had been a high turnout for registration over the past two days in both the north and the south and yesterday 8,000 voters had already registered.
- While receiving Id Al-Adha's messages of congratulations from the armed forces, police and security officers, Vice-President Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha lauded the regular forces for their role in maintaining peace and security in Sudan. In addition, Taha received messages of congratulations from presidential advisors, ministers, parliamentarians, constitutional officeholders, the diplomatic corps, academics, Christian leaders and political party leaders.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Nov 10)

- Foreign Minister Ali Ahmad Karti returned today from New York following his participation in the UN Security Council ministerial meeting on Sudan. Karti said that Sudan rejects U.S. incentives and is committed to conducting the referendum.
- Presidential Assistant Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi accused the SPLM of making efforts to impede voter registration in Khartoum State and noted that the NCP is currently submitting the issue to the referendum commission.

November 19

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 Nov 10)

- According to Ali Ahmad Karti, Sudan's foreign minister, the UN Security Council ministerial meeting hailed the progress made in Sudan in the implementation of the CPA, particularly in terms of the South Sudan referendum process and the commitment of the NCP and the SPLM to avoid returning to war. On November 18, he told a news conference at Khartoum Airport that the meeting had praised the government's efforts at resolving the issue of Darfur. He also said that the meeting had aimed to implement the claims of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and Sudan's refusal to deal with it and to mobilize countries to oppose the Court's accusations regarding Sudan. In his address at the meeting, Karti said that the government was determined to improve the stability and security situation in Darfur through a strategy that was being carried out with the cooperation of UNAMID in Darfur and it was prioritizing development and reconstruction efforts. Karti added that he hoped to see the Security Council support development projects and asked donors and partners to prepare for suitable conditions for the return of displaced people to their homes.

November 20

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Nov 10)

- Some officials at voter registration centers for the upcoming South Sudan referendum asked the referendum commission to appoint local guides and traditional leaders to guarantee a smooth registration process at the centers. Some of the officials at the centers suggested that the low turnout for registration was due to poor popular media coverage, particularly in Khartoum State, in local dialects. They did, however, suggest that turnout might improve once the Muslim Id al-Adha holidays end.
- In a session chaired by Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, the NCP's referendum committee reviewed the voter registration process for southern citizens in all of Sudan's states and the challenges that have emerged in the process. According to Al-Shaykh Baysh, the presidential advisor, some violations in the registration process were witnessed, particularly in Malakal town in South Sudan, where 400 citizens were not permitted to register. He said that the referendum law sets out who has the right to vote and asked the SPLM to put an end to its policies of terrorizing and instilling fear in the people and to avoid any activities that could

impede voter registration. He asked that southern citizens be left to exercise their constitutional right and added that certain actions would influence the credibility of voter registration and result in a rejection of the referendum results. Helen Oler, head of the NCP in the greater Equatoria, urged southern citizens to exercise their legal and constitutionally guaranteed right and head to the registration centers and make the referendum a success.

November 21

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 Nov 10)

- The NCP affirmed that fairness and transparency were the basic conditions for accepting the referendum in South Sudan and asked the national referendum commission to look into the enormous violations happening in the voter registration process. At a press conference at Sudan Media Services yesterday, Dr. Mandur al-Mahdi, the NCP's deputy leader in Khartoum, said that the SPLM had violated the registration process in Khartoum state and was using methods of fear and favor with southerners. He added that certain SPLM elements at all of the centers were obstructing the process of registration. Dr. al-Mahdi noted that the NCP had documented the violations and passed them on to the referendum commission in order to correct the process of voter registration.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Nov 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir plans to head the Sudanese delegation to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to take part in the special summit of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) on November 23. The summit will take stock of recent developments in Sudan and the implementation of the CPA, particularly the South Sudan referendum process. Ambassador Muhammad Yusuf Hasan, the deputy head of mission and head of bilateral and regional relations at the Sudanese embassy in Addis Ababa, said that Kenya had convened the special summit. Kenya has headed a special committee on Sudan following the UN General Assembly's recent session. The ambassador told the radio that Sudan will brief the summit participants on CPA implementation and the obstacles faced in the implementation process.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Nov 10)

- According to Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, serious irregularities have been observed in the voter registration process in South Sudan. He stated that many southerners in the south have not been permitted to register their names for illogical reasons. He said that the issues had been reported to the national referendum commission. He also said that "groups of people, large blocks of people" were denied the right to vote on the pretext that they were not southerners. He said that many members of the Al-Malakiyah tribe were not permitted to register and that entire tribes in Upper Nile State were blocked from registering. Dr. Nafi added that the Al-

Fallata tribe in Wau was blocked from registration on grounds that its members were not from the south.

- During a visit by an NCP delegation led by deputy chairman for party affairs Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, the NCP submitted complaints to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission regarding problems in southern voter registration in both the north and the south. Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, head of the commission, listened to numerous grievances and protests coming from the NCP regarding concerns over the fairness and freedom of the referendum process. He stated that the commission would take the necessary steps to investigate all of the complaints according to the referendum law. Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi said that complaints would be submitted according to the legal processes and threatened to sue anyone who obstructs the referendum process at the highest levels of legal proceedings.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Nov 10)

- The ruling NCP condemned the arrest of Zuhayr Hamid, an NCP official, by the SPLM's intelligence service during his visit to Juba. Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi indicated that the NCP would take all necessary legal and political action against the arbitrary arrest.