

Sudan Domestic Media, November 29, 2010 (covering November 22 to November 28, 2010)

By Kristen Zbikowski, MIGS Reporter for Sudan

## **State-Owned Media**

### **November 22**

#### **(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 22 Nov 10)**

- President Omar al-Bashir plans to make a speech on November 24 at Friendship Hall during the opening session of the conference of the African Union ministers concerned with social development. A number of African countries will participate in the event along with local, regional and international organizations. Amirah al-Fadil, the minister of social welfare and security, confirmed that the preparations for holding the conference had been finalized and noted that the conference would address the comprehensive social policy as well as all other social issues.

#### **(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Nov 10)**

- President Omar al-Bashir left for Addis Ababa to lead Sudan's delegation in attending the extraordinary IGAD summit, scheduled for tomorrow in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The summit will address progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the South Sudan referendum. Sudan's radio report in Addis Ababa noted that the IGAD ministerial meeting which began this morning covered political issues in Sudan and efforts on the part of the ruling partners to implement the remaining CPA provisions.
- Vice President Ali Uthman Muhammad Tahamet met today with the UN delegation team responsible for monitoring the referendum and chaired by Benjamin Mkapa, the former president of Tanzania. During their meeting, they discussed the delegation's trip to Al-Jazeera, Central Equatoria, Bahr al-Ghazal and South Kurdufan States. The delegation indicated that it was monitoring the referendum by communicating with the South Sudan Referendum Commission and making visits to voter registration centers.

### **November 23**

#### **(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Nov 10)**

- President Omar al-Bashir will take part in the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) extraordinary summit which begins today in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and will address the situations in Sudan and Somalia. Dr. Mustafa Uthman Isma'il, the presidential advisor, indicated that President al-Bashir and

First Vice President Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit would present two separate reports on achievements in the South Sudan referendum process. Isma'il said that he expected the summit's final communiqué to support the referendum process and to ask the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), along with other parties, not to impede the referendum process.

- Vice President Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha met with the delegation of the international monitoring team for the South Sudan referendum on November 22 to discuss the outcomes of the visits made by the team to Al-Jazira, Middle Equatoria, Bahr a-Ghazal and Southern Kurdufan States. The head of the delegation is former President of Tanzania Benjamin Mkapa, who insisted that processes must be free and fair in order to be acceptable. Mkapa added that an organized campaign had been undertaken by certain southern leaders who were encouraging southerners not to register or to vote outside of South Sudan. During a news conference yesterday at UNMIS headquarters in Khartoum, Mkapa noted that he had paid a visit to nine registration centers in four states over the past few days and had met with officials from the government, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and voluntary organizations. He also observed that voter registration was moving at a slow pace in North Sudan and asked all parties to reduce tensions.

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Nov 10)**

- President Omar al-Bashir said that returning to war was not an option and that he would work with the SPLM if the referendum results in secession in order to establish distinguished and robust ties. Addressing the IGAD summit in Addis Ababa, al-Bashir reiterated the government's commitment to pledges made with the SPLM, whose members also promised to hold a transparent, free and responsible referendum. President al-Bashir reaffirmed his government's commitment to conducting the referendum on schedule. He also said that the presidency had made the necessary preparations to hold a free, fair and acceptable referendum. He noted the importance of border demarcation in holding the referendum and said that it would be another factor that would guarantee the attainment of sustainable peace and avoid a return to unnecessary conflicts. The president also confirmed his government's commitment to the international court of justice's verdict on Abyei and said that all people living in the region would be allowed to vote in the referendum without limiting one side from voting.

**November 24**

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Nov 10)**

- Lt-Col Khalid al-Sawarmi Sa'ad, spokesman for the armed forces, said that the SPLM is harboring Darfur rebels and providing them with material and moral support, which is considered an unequivocal violation of the CPA. He said that this would result in animosity and impede the referendum process.

**November 26**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Nov 10)**

- The government considers the hosting of armed movements that have rejected peace in Darfur by the SPLM and the South Sudan government a violation of the agreement to cease hostilities and a breach of the CPA. The office of the minister of information stated in a press release that hosting the armed movements should be regarded as a violation of the agreement to end hostilities and the CPA and added that any pretexts offered up to provide justification for such activities should be viewed as meaningless and understood to be playing with fire. The statement went on to say that apologies, clarifications and corrections are called for from those who have committed the violations lest their breaches become an obstacle to securing peace. This would create an environment conducive to achieving peace.
- In a regular session of the Council of Ministers yesterday chaired by President al-Bashir, the president briefed the council on his trip to Qatar and his expression of the Sudanese government and the Sudanese people's appreciation of Qatar's sponsorship of the Darfur peace negotiations. The president also filled the council in on his participation at the IGAD summit in Ethiopia and its discussion of peace process dividends, the South Sudan referendum and security arrangements associated with voting. He noted that the summit called on the Sudanese to hold a free and fair referendum.
- Ahmad Bin-Abdallah Al Mahmud, Qatar's minister of state in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Djibril Bassole, the joint mediator of the AU-UN, were set to begin a visit to Sudan today that would last until December 2 and would be related to the implementation of a timetable for settling the Darfur issue. The delegation planned to visit Khartoum and the Darfur state in order to hold intensive talks about the Doha peace process with the Sudanese government, political leaders and members of civil society.
- Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the presidential advisor in charge of the Darfur file, asked the SPLM to stay out of the Darfur issue, stating that the SPLM's actions vis-à-vis the armed movements in Darfur have been negative. During a November 25 meeting of the NCP General Secretariat in South Darfur State in Nyala, Dr. Ghazi said that the SPLM had played a negative role since the Darfur crisis began, supporting the armed groups in Darfur militarily and politically. He added that this was perceived to be hostile action.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Nov 10)**

- A sermon by Shaykh Assam Al-Bashir was broadcast live on Sudan TV on November 26. In the first sermon, the preacher addressed Islamic values such as trustworthiness, honesty and living up to promises. He called on the faithful to live by such values in order to prosper. The second sermon also covered religious issues.

**(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Nov 10)**

- The South Sudan Referendum Commission announced that changes would be made in the registration timetable, which will be extended for an additional week. The commission said that this extension was the result of obstacles involved in the registration process and would give citizens ample time to register. According to an unidentified commission official, the commission held an extraordinary meeting to discuss referendum-related issues in general and the registration process in particular. Because of low turnout in numerous registration centers in northern Sudan, in addition to logistical problems, the commission decided to review the registration timetable and extend the registration period. The changes are administrative and should not have an effect on the January 9 referendum voting period.
- At the fourth marketing and tourism festival in Red Sea State, presidential advisor Nafi Ali Nafi said that Sudan will stay on course and has the potential to excel politically, economically and militarily. He also said that the country would pursue its course as a united Sudan regardless of the SPLM's unwillingness to give people of the south free will. With respect to the possibility of southern secession, he said that the north would be even more economically, politically and militarily powerful than it is now and that the north would establish ties with southerners and that history would eventually see the Sudanese people unite, even if it is only after some time passes.

**November 27**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Nov 10)**

- President Omar al-Bashir affirmed the Sudanese government's commitment to achieving peace in Darfur during a meeting in Khartoum with the delegation of the joint mediation for the Darfur talks. The delegation was led by Ahmad Bin-Abdallah Al Mahmud, Qatar's minister of foreign affairs, and Djibril Bassole, the UN-AU joint mediator. President al-Bashir expressed his complete support for the mediation efforts as well as the Doha platform which aim to bring peace to Darfur. After the meeting, Ahmad Bin-Abdallah Al Mahmud said that the visit was made in the context of attempts at realizing a just and comprehensive peace in Darfur and in order to consult with the government and political party leaders. He added that the delegation would be visiting the Darfur states in order to meet community leaders, refugees, IDPs and nomads to hear their views on settling the Darfur issue and noted that President al-Bashir had been briefed on mediation efforts and achievements thus far.

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Nov 10)**

- Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, the South Sudan government's official spokesman, denied the presence of armed movements from Darfur in South Sudan, stating that the information alleging a presence in the region was baseless.

**November 28**

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Nov 10)**

- A Sudanese delegation headed by President Omar al-Bashir will participate in the third Afro-European summit session set to commence on November 29 in Tripoli, Libya. The summit will address two documents, namely the Tripoli Declaration and the 2011-2013 workplan. The latter document is most important due to the fact that it discusses eight issues related to European and African cooperation.

**(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Nov 10)**

- Delegations from the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission are heading to Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Egypt, Australia, the UK, the U.S. and Canada to study voter registration. The commission's official spokesperson stated that the delegations would strive to overcome obstacles and resolve issues related to the referendum's registration process.