

Sudan Domestic Media, December 6, 2010 (covering November 29 to December 5, 2010)

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State-Owned Media

November 29

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

- Sudan asked for the AU Peace and Security Council meeting to be cancelled and rescheduled at a later date. The meeting was initially set to be held in Tripoli alongside the African-EU summit. Mr. Mu'awiya Uthman, spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Ministry, told the press that Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Karti had expected to go from Tripoli to Kuwait for an official visit and meetings with Kuwaiti officials pertaining to bilateral relations and the upcoming donors conference on the reconstruction of eastern Sudan scheduled for early December in Kuwait.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Nov 10)

- The Sudanese presidency announced the country's withdrawal from the Afro-European summit scheduled to take place on November 29 in Tripoli, Libya. The statement issued said that Sudan reserved the right to take the necessary steps to protect its rights and sovereignty. The statement also attributed Sudan's withdrawal from the summit to pressure from Europe on Libya and the AU with respect to reservations regarding the Sudanese president's participation in the summit. The statement added that President al-Bashir had received an invitation to participate in the summit from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi in July and said that the European position belittled the legal authority of the AU and its decision-making independence. The statement also hailed the African position which showed solidarity with Sudan in response to efforts to force hegemony on Africa.

November 30

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 30 Nov 10)

- Ambassador Muhammad Salah al-Din, acting undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, met with the Assistant Secretary of the Indian Ministry of Oil and Gas on November 30 to discuss the development of activities being carried out by Indian companies working in Sudan's areas of exploration. The talks also addressed historic relations between India and Sudan and ways to further improve ties, as well as the referendum process and ongoing Darfur peace talks in Doha.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Nov 10)

- On December 1, the Donors' Conference for reconstruction of eastern Sudan will begin in Kuwait and will include over 30 countries and 80 international organizations. The government of Sudan plans to present a group of projects amounting to over four billion U.S. dollars at the conference. The radio correspondent noted that preparations for the conference's first sessions were complete and that the government's delegation, led by Musa Muhammad Ahmad, the presidential assistant and head of the eastern front, had arrived in Kuwait.

December 2

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Dec 10)

- The second session of meetings of the National Shura of the National Congress Party's Consultative Council began at the General Secretariat on December 2. President Omar al-Bashir spoke at the opening session of the meetings about several internal Sudanese political issues. Of southern citizens living in the north, the president said: "By their presence among us, they are brothers and are dear [to us]." The president also addressed the issue of Abyei, saying: "The border of Abyei has been defined, but the Abyei citizen is defined by the [Abyei] Protocol, and we agree with the [Sudan] People's [Liberation] Movement that the agreement is more binding than any other clause." President al-Bashir also said the following in his address: "In the Comprehensive Peace Agreement [CPA], even if there is contradiction - contradiction between the constitution and the agreement - the reference is the [CPA] agreement. And [in case of] any other decision, the basic reference is the agreement. The [Abyei] Protocol said that the people who were eligible to vote in the Abyei Referendum, yes, it said the Ngok Dinka, but also included all the Sudanese residing in Abyei. We will not accept and we will never allow the conduct of a referendum in the Abyei Area which will exclude the Missiriyah [Arabs], and we will not allow the Missiriyah to be treated as second class citizens in their land and in their home. So this is where we stand and this will remain our position. And the mediation itself, whether the USA with all its bias for the SPLM and its prejudice - in fact against us - the African mediation, which is present with us and the African [Union] High-Level Committee which is present, are all convinced that it was not possible to bypass the Missiriyah in their land and in their home."

December 3

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 3 Dec 10)

- President of Sudan and National Congress Party (NCP) Chairman Omar al-Bashir announced that the NCP would respect the choice of southerners in the referendum and would work toward enhancing peace and unity in Sudan. In his address during the National Consultative Council's closing session at the NCP

general center on December 2, he noted that secession and border demarcation would not affect economic, cultural and social relations between northerners and southerners and called on NCP officials to promote unity. According to President al-Bashir, the NCP will hold its activity conferences regardless of the results of the referendum in order to prepare for Sudan's future and implement the NCP election program in combating poverty and developing services. The president stated that Sudan's foreign policy is founded on mutual respect for the interests of nations and he called on humanitarian organizations carrying out work in Sudan to respect the principles of the sovereignty and the dignity of states. He said that the agreement on the Darfur issue to be signed in Doha before the end of 2010 will be the final agreement and he asked the governments of the three Darfur states to make sure villages were secured in order to speed up the return of refugees and IDPs and to address the root causes of the conflict. President al-Bashir noted that Sudan faces serious challenges that call for unity and looking past differences. He applauded Kuwait's contributions in support of development initiatives in eastern Sudan and the holding of donor conference sessions in Kuwait, which concluded successfully. The National Consultative Council made economic, political and social recommendations.

- Dr. Mustafa Uthman Ismai'l, the presidential adviser, called the International Conference of Donors and Investors for eastern Sudan Development a success. At a December 2 news conference with the director of the Kuwait Development Fund following the conclusion of the conference he stated that the conference was successful because of the turnout, participation and the financial pledges that were announced. He also said that those who committed pledges for financial assistance were known to honor promises and thus they were confident about the level of implementation. The total amount of pledges from donors at the conference in Kuwait amounted to over US\$3.5 billion.
- Ahmad Bin-Abdallah Al Mahmud, Qatar's minister of state in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, confirmed that the joint mediation is determined to realize comprehensive peace in Darfur. At a December 2 briefing to members of the Darfur parliamentary group in the National Assembly at the Salam Rotana Hotel he went over joint mediation efforts to reach a political settlement for Darfur and remarked that consultations in the Darfur states have led to the understanding that there is wide acceptance of the Darfur peace document. Djibril Bassole, the joint UN-AU mediator, emphasized that collective efforts were extremely important for achieving peace in Darfur and asked parliamentarians from the region to support the final peace document. The mediation delegation held a news conference at the end of the conference yesterday to go over the results of the visit to Sudan, which carried on for a number of days.
- President Omar al-Bashir talked to Emir Al-Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani of Qatar on the phone and congratulated him on the news that Qatar will host the 2022 World Cup. President al-Bashir remarked that Qatar deserves this victory because it is a special country and the achievement is one for all of the countries in the region. He also indicated his confidence that Qatar will organize the event in a manner that honors the Middle East. Qatar's emir thanked

President al-Bashir, the Sudanese government and the Sudanese people for their congratulatory gestures.

- While addressing a congregation praying for a peaceful referendum, Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), announced that the southern Sudan political parties' body will meet in Juba on December 14 to oversee the final arrangements for the South Sudan referendum process. Kiir noted that the meeting will address South Sudan's future and the necessary arrangements for the coming period as well as organizing and strengthening political parties in order for them to enhance citizen unity. He also affirmed his commitment to allowing freedom of expression for both options (unity and secession) during the lead-up to the referendum and called for the initiation of dialogue between people of the north and south regarding the options of unity or secession in a democratic and brotherly environment free of restrictions.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Dec 10)

- A December 3 sermon by Shaykh Abd-al-Jalil Nazir Al-Karuri was broadcast live on Sudan TV from the Al-Shahid Mosque in Khartoum. The first sermon discussed religious issues in general and the second sermon addressed the assassination of an Iranian nuclear scientist as well as Sudan's exclusion from participating in the African-EU summit in Libya. The preacher also said that Israel is attempting to impede the scientific, technological and military development of Islamic countries. The preacher condemned the assassination of Majid Shahriari, the Iranian nuclear scientist, blaming enemies of Islam for his murder, and questioned the West's unwillingness to allow Iran to have nuclear energy when other countries have been permitted to have it. Al-Karuri likened the assassination of the scientist by his enemies to the attempted isolation of Sudan and the attempts to block Sudan from attending international meetings such as the Africa-EU summit in Libya.

December 4

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Dec 10)

- The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission affirmed its commitment to conducting the South Sudan referendum on time. Dr. Su'ad Ibrahim, the commission's official spokesperson, informed the press that newspaper and media reports claiming that the referendum commission asked the Sudanese presidency to postpone the referendum were false. He urged all media outlets to acquire information from valid sources. Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, the referendum commission's chairman, met with a delegation from the U.S. embassy in Khartoum and with a delegation of the South Sudan government. The talks addressed preparations for holding the referendum.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Dec 10)

- George Maker Benjamin, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission's head of information, noted that over two million southern citizens have registered to vote in the south and over 91,000 have registered to vote in the north. He provided this information following a meeting between the referendum commission and Kreston Lymond, the U.S. referendum envoy, in the presence of Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, chairman of the commission. Prof Khalil was briefed on visits made to the registration centers in the south by the U.S. envoy. The U.S. envoy praised the ongoing efforts at all of the registration centers except Jonglei State, which began registration late. According to the commission, the extension of the registration period will allow numerous difficulties to be overcome in several areas.
- John Tab, the former speaker of Unity State's legislative council, commented that South Sudan has become a prison because of the terror tactics being carried out by the SPLM. In a speech at the voluntary return forum, he also noted that states in the south are not equipped with basic essentials and are not capable of carrying out voluntary return. He added that the SPLM is trying to successfully return southerners so that they can support the secession of South Sudan.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Dec 10)

- President of Sudan and chairman of the ruling NCP Omar al-Bashir emphasized the NCP's staunch position regarding the rights of the Missiriyah tribe to vote in the Abyei referendum. In the opening session of the meeting of the NCP's National Consultative Council, the president said that his party would never accept or permit an Abyei referendum that excludes the Missiriyah or that deals with them as second-class citizens in their own country and on their own land. The president noted that all mediators agreed that the Missiriyah could not be overlooked and added that dialogue is ongoing in order to find a peaceful, just and fair solution.

December 5

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Dec 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir received a letter from President Rupiah Banda of Zambia inviting him to play a role in the December 15 Great Lakes Region summit to be held in Lusaka. President al-Bashir met with Simon Kasimba, the Zambian president's envoy and the minister of labor and social security. Kasimba issued a statement following the meeting noting that the summit will address issues related to minerals in Africa and remarking that the summit had originally been scheduled to take place in November. He also said that President al-Bashir responded positively to the Zambian president's invitation.
- President Omar al-Bashir lauded relations between Sudan and Ethiopia as well as improvements visible in all spheres. Ali Abdu Suleiman, Ethiopia's ambassador

to Sudan, was meeting the Sudanese president to mark the end of his mission to the country. President al-Bashir presented the Ethiopian ambassador with the award of Nilayn Order, First Class in honor of his work in strengthening bilateral ties. The Ethiopian ambassador praised the special relations between the two countries as well as the political, economic and cultural improvements that had been observed.