

Sudan Domestic Media, November 15, 2010 (covering November 8 to November 14, 2010)

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State-Owned Media

November 8

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 Nov 10)

- At a November 7 special meeting for creating the Popular Organization for Supporting Unity President Omar al-Bashir called on political parties, other political groups and leaders of public opinion to mobilize their capabilities in order to achieve unity. According to Sudan Radio, President al-Bashir reaffirmed his government's commitment to holding the referendum as scheduled and implementing all of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement's (CPA) provisions. Al-Bashir said that the organization would be chaired by the president and would consist of a general secretariat. It will meet on a monthly basis. He added that the recommended deputies of the organization are: Lt-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, Mr. Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, Mr. Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani, FM Abd-al-Rahman Siwar al-Dahab and Mr. Bona Malwal. The secretary-generals are Mr. Muhammad Yusuf Abdallah and Ibrahim Ghandur. The president's proposed committees are: the Committee of National Unity, to be headed by Mr. Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani; the Committee for Foreign Affairs; the Committee for Registration and Referendum in the Southern States; the Committee of Referendum in the North; the Committee for Coordination of Popular Initiatives; the Committee for Civil Society Organizations; the Committee of Information and Mobilization; the Committee for Women; the Committee for Youth; the Committee for Students; and the Committee for Financial and Administrative Affairs, to be headed by Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar Hasan, who will oversee the committee's provision of budgets and administrative work. President al-Bashir stated that the organization will communicate directly with voters in the south, so most of the committees' work will be in the south. According to al-Bashir: "Indeed, we will go, and we are obliged to talk to the voter who will vote, the majority of whom are now in the south, now he may only hear one-sided story because he listens to the Southern Sudan Government's TV and the radio there, and all of these are mobilizing for secession. We will move quickly so that we reach the voter."
- The referendum media campaign began on November 7 in Khartoum. Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission's chairman, reaffirmed the commission's commitment to holding a free and fair referendum that will reflect the will of voters in the south. Prof Ali Muhammad Shumu, acting chairman of the High Media Committee for Referendum,

addressed the need to hold a meeting between the commission, newspaper editors-in-chief and media outlets in order to train them on the media campaign rules. UN representative Denis Kadima reiterated UN support for Sudan's peace process and noted the need to make clear the dangers of separation and emphasize the advantages of unity. He also said that South Sudan has the right to self-determination.

- The National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) resumed meetings in Khartoum today to discuss several issues, particularly Abyei, the referendum process, border demarcation between north and south, the popular consultation in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile region and relations between north and south regardless of the referendum results. The meetings began on November 7 and will end on November 11.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Nov 10)

- Speaking at the first regional conference on motherhood and childhood, President al-Bashir said that Sudan would remain sentimentally united regardless of the outcome of the referendum. According to al-Bashir, "...whatever referendum result will be, whether it is secession or unity, Sudan will remain united in our heart, Sudan will remain united in our mind, Sudan will remain united in our culture." He added that in terms of relations, the north would not treat southerners like foreigners and would keep channels of communication open.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Nov 10)

- Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the presidential advisor responsible for the Darfur file, briefed Andrew Mitchell, the UK's secretary for international development and cooperation, on developments in the peace process and the new strategy for achieving peace in Darfur. He noted the importance of support from the international and regional communities in reaching stability in Darfur. Mitchell reiterated his country's support for efforts being made by the Sudanese government, the mediators and the negotiating partners in order to enhance peace and stability.
- During a meeting with UK International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell, Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, Sudan's vice-president, reaffirmed the government's commitment to holding a transparent, free and fair referendum, as stipulated in the CPA. He added that citizens would be guaranteed their civil rights regardless of the referendum's outcome. Mitchell lauded the government's efforts in implementing the CPA and making headway in the Darfur states.

November 9

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Nov 10)

- An armed group which called itself Sudan Liberation-Popular Command belonging to the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) announced that it

had split from the movement and become part of the peace process. Adam Ali Showgar, the group's secretary-general, said in a press conference held in Addis Ababa that the movement joined the peace process with the aim of attaining peace and stability. He added that the movement sought comprehensive peace and justice in Darfur as well as the return of refugees and IDPs to their homes. He called on Sudan's neighbors and the international community to provide assistance with the aim of maintaining unity in Sudan. He said that the split from the JEM resulted from the movement's lack of an institutionalized and transparent system as well as the movement's assaults against innocent people and its employment of a hidden agenda for non-Sudanese forces. Showgar also called on the SPLM to work toward the unity option for Sudan. Showgar remarked: "We are against any one who does not want peace."

November 10

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

- A media campaign to support the unity option was inaugurated by the high council for peace yesterday in Khartoum state. The campaign's slogan is 'Together for Unity and Peace'. At the inauguration, Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, the presidential assistant and deputy chairman of the NCP, said that the CPA made it mandatory for the two ruling parties to work toward Sudanese unity. He also said that the referendum concerned all Sudanese citizens and he noted that beginning next week, committees would be formed to head to the south and campaign for unity. He called on the SPLM not to obstruct the committees in carrying out their programs. Dr. Nafi also said that the SPLM has three choices with regard to the possibility of conducting a referendum for Abyei: 1) finding a solution before January 9, 2011; 2) accepting a postponement of the Abyei referendum; or 3) giving up all of Abyei.

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

- President Omar al-Bashir expressed appreciation regarding Kenya's interest in Sudan's peace process and lauded Kenya for hosting the Naivasha talks, which ultimately led to the peace agreement between the government of Sudan and the SPLM. During a meeting between President al-Bashir and George Saitoti, a special representative of Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki, Saitoti shared a personal message from the Kenyan president regarding the next Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) summit, which would center on the CPA in Sudan. President al-Bashir promised that he would accept the invitation to the summit and considered that there would be numerous activities taking place over the next two weeks under the auspices of the higher African Union committee headed by Thabo Mbeki. It was expected that agreements would be reached through the committee on issues such as post-referendum arrangements, Abyei and border demarcation so that Sudanese representatives could attend the summit

with better information for leaders about the upcoming referendum and its outcome and implications for Sudan and the wider region.

November 11

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Nov 10)

- At a joint press conference, the Sudanese armed forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) announced their commitment to respecting the terms of the CPA and desisting from the resumption of war by maintaining peace and security throughout the country regardless of the referendum outcome. Lt-Gen Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, Sudan's minister of defence, said that the armed forces and the SPLA had reached an agreement that would support the peace process in Sudan. SPLA minister Niyal Deng said that talks would remain the sole means of resolving issues between the north and the south and added that both sides were capable of maintaining peace in Sudan.
- President Omar al-Bashir met today with Thabo Mbeki, chairman of the AU High Level Implementation Panel on Sudan (AUHIP), at the Guest House in Khartoum. Mbeki filled the Sudanese president in on the resolution reached between the NCP and the SPLM regarding referendum issues, Abyei and demarcation of the north-south-border. Mbeki noted that the talks were going well and had made positive strides. President al-Bashir called for continuation of the talks in order for the two sides to reach agreement on remaining issues. Mbeki added that he would meet today and brief First Vice-President and President of the Government of South Sudan Salva Kiir on the ongoing talks.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Nov 10)

- A civilian passenger plane carrying 35 people veered off the runway at Zalenge Airport in Western Darfur State this evening, killing four people and injuring six others. All crew members on board were safe. The plane left Khartoum Airport at 1:27 p.m. and landed at Zalenge Airport at 4:18 p.m.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Nov 10)

- The partners of the CPA (the NCP and the SPLM) met in Vienna, Austria, to discuss the best ways to settle unresolved issues ahead of the referendum. Both partners reiterated their commitment to peace and their determination to avoid war regardless of the referendum results. According to Ali Karti, the minister of foreign affairs, the meeting would focus on issues other than the referendum such as citizenship, north-south borders and benefiting from joint resources between the north and the south. SPLM official Deng Alor noted the importance of this meeting and mentioned that Austria is a member of the EU and a member of the Security Council. He added that Austria has experience, particularly in numerous countries that had similar experiences to those taking place in Sudan.

November 12

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Nov 10)

- In a November 11 address during the opening session of the coordinative meeting of the Greater Bahr al-Ghazal States, Lt-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, Sudan's first vice-president and president of the government of South Sudan, said that the fact that border demarcation between the north and the south had not been completed was not an obstacle to holding the referendum on time. He added that the SPLM did not accept a postponement of the referendum because of the incomplete border demarcation. He also called on the Greater Bahr al-Ghazal State governors to work toward peace, stability and unity for people in the region. He noted the South Sudan government's support for the Referendum Commission in order for it to carry out its duties as required and directed the governors of southern states to maintain security and stability and protect northern citizens in the south.
- A November 11 meeting between Information Minister Dr. Kamal Ubayd, the chairman of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, and members of the commission at the information ministry buildings focused on the role of the state and private media outlets in educating citizens on referendum-related issues. At the meeting it was decided that a joint meeting should be held between the commission's media committee and various media outlets. It was also decided that the commission would coordinate with the ministry to allow for coverage of the referendum process by foreign journalists. Prof Khali noted the importance of the media campaign in educating citizens about the referendum at this critical period in Sudan's history.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Nov 10)

- The EU mission in Sudan announced that next week 16 European observers would be arriving in Khartoum to oversee the process of voter registration ahead of the referendum. This came as a result of a request from the South Sudan Referendum Commission. In a press statement, the EU mission said that the observers would be sent out on the ground to evaluate the registration process, which is set to take place from November to December. The experts will submit a report to the EU Electoral Monitoring Mission on the results of their work.

November 13

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Nov 10)

- At a mass rally in Wau yesterday, Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, first vice-president of Sudan and president of the government of South Sudan, emphasized the importance of residents of Western Bahr al-Ghazal State registering to vote in the upcoming referendum. He thanked the citizens of the state for their support and position on the referendum and called on state authorities and security forces to

refrain from harassing supporters of Sudanese unity during referendum mobilization campaigns.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Nov 10)

- An Arab League delegation is set to arrive in Sudan in the next few days to monitor the referendum. Ambassador Salah Halimah, the Arab League's envoy to Sudan, said in an interview with Sudan Radio that the delegation will include 50 monitors to begin with. They will be sent to all of the southern states as well as voting centers in the northern states. He said that the Arab League would be participating because of its role as a witness to the CPA and in order to guarantee a free, fair and transparent referendum process. He added that Amr Musa, the Arab League's secretary-general, will visit Sudan after the delegation to hold talks with officials from the federal government and the South Sudan government. Ambassador Halimah stressed the Arab League's firm position regarding unity in Sudan, but also noted its respect for the choice of the people of South Sudan for independence.

November 14

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 14 Nov 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir arrived in Saudi Arabia to go on the hajj pilgrimage, along with 35,000 other Sudanese pilgrims.
- The Sudanese armed forces confirmed that they took control of the Wadi Hawar region in Northern Darfur, expelling JEM remnants. The Sudanese forces have now also entered the Kadyari region. Lt-Col Al-Sawarmi Khalid Sa'ad, the official spokesman for the armed forces, confirmed their entry into the Wadi Hawar and Kadyari regions and acknowledged that JEM elements had escaped, leaving behind a large number of dead as well as weapons and ammunition. The armed forces are searching the regions for JEM escapees. Al-Sawarmi accused the SPLM of supporting the JEM and evacuating members of the JEM, acts which violated the CPA and work against the peace process in Darfur. In a briefing, Al-Sawarmi discussed attempts by JEM-affiliated groups to trespass the 56 borders in the south and said that the armed forces had clashed with them in the southwestern part of Al-Mayram city, causing huge losses. Seventy-six wounded JEM members were received by the SPLM at Jad Airport in Bahr al-Gazal State.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Nov 10)

- At a meeting today in Khartoum, Lt-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, first vice-president of Sudan and president of the government of South Sudan, and Vice-President Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha talked about remaining issues related to the CPA. After the meeting, Thabo Mbeki said that consultations were made on the referendum and ways of making it successful and enabling citizens of the south to express their views. He also said that the Abyei referendum was addressed with

the vice-presidents and that they concluded that the executive mechanism should submit proposals on Abyei to the presidency's meeting. Mbeki added that the NCP and the SPLM agreed to continue talks in order to settle all remaining issues and overcome any obstacles. He noted that the meeting of the presidency would take place following the president's return from the Holy Lands in order to find acceptable solutions to the remaining issues.

- Salah Abdallah Gosh, the presidential advisor, stated that the referendum will be held in accordance with the stipulations of the CPA and added that the government can protect southern citizens in the north irrespective of the outcome of the referendum. In a press statement, he remarked that unity is deeply ingrained in people in the north and south and added that Sudanese people are one and should remain united by promoting the value of unity.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Nov 10)

- Staff Lt-Gen Muhammad Ahmad Mustafa al-Dabi, the official in charge of the security arrangements dossier for the Abuja Agreement, confirmed that November 16 will mark the beginning of the implementation of the Abuja Agreement's security arrangements phase between the government and the Darfur rebel group. He noted the agreement between the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and the committee for security arrangements which was signed recently in order to implement the work plans for both groups. At a news conference at the Sudanese Media Services Centre, al-Dabi said that the signing of the agreement was witnessed by field commanders and that the security arrangements are meant to absorb and integrate SLM fighters who signed the agreement.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Nov 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir issued a decree to form the National Authority for the Support of Unity and Referendum of South Sudan. He will chair the authority. The president appointed L-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, al-Ustaz Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, Mr. Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani, FM Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Hasan Siwar al-Dahab, Mr. Bona Malwal and Prof Fatimah Abd-al-Mahmud as the authority's vice-chairpersons. The authority's general secretariat was created and will be chaired by Prof Al-Tayyib Haj Atiyah. Muhammad Yusuf Abdullah and Prof Ibrahim Ghandur will be members. The president's decree also called for the formation of the following 12 specialized sub-committees: 1) the National Unity Committee, chaired by Mr. Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani with Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi and Makki Ali Balayil as members; 2) the Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Dr. Lam Akol Ajawin with Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, Dr. Jalal Yusuf al-Duqayr and Dr. Mustafa Mahmud as members; 3) the Registration and Referendum of Southern States Committee, chaired by Eng Joseph Malwal with Ali Hamid and Munir Shaykh al-Din as members; 4) the Referendum in the North Committee, chaired by Teresa Sersio Ero with Prof al-Amin Dafa'allah and Prof Abnigo Akog as members; 5) the Coordination Committee for Popular Initiatives, chaired by Dr. Sadiq al-Hadi al-

Mahdi with Dr. Thabita Butrus, Dr. al-Tijani Mustafa Yasin and Eng Abd-al-Mun'im al-Sunni as members; 6) the Civil Society Organizations Committee, chaired by Dr. Ahmad Babikir Nahar with Dr. Isma'il Uthman and Amin Banani as members and Eng Yusuf Ali Abd-al-Karim as rapporteur; 7) the Information and Mobilization Committee, chaired by Musa Muhammad Ahmad with Zahawi Ibrahim Malik and Dr. Yusuf al-Kodo as members and Dr. Musa Taha as rapporteur; 8) the Women's Committee, chaired by Sarah Elijah with Dr. Aminah Dirar and Tereza Achol as members; 9) the Native Administration and Religious Personalities Committee, chaired by Prof Al-Hibr Yusuf Nur-al-Daim with al-Amir Abd-al-Qadir Mun'im Mansur and Muhammad al-Fatih Hasan Ghariballah as members; 10) the Youth Committee, chaired by Zuhayr Hamid Sulayman with Abd-al-Qadir Ibrahim as a member and the youth committee of political parties as a core member; 11) the Students Committee with the Students Committee for the Support of Unity as its core member and chaired by Munir Nasir al-Khanjan with Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Abd-al-Rahman as a member; 12) the Financial and Administrative Affairs Committee, chaired by Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar Hasan Husayn with others as members.