

Sudan Domestic Media, October 18, 2010 (covering October 11 to October 17, 2010)

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State-Owned Media

October 11

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 11 Oct 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir will address the opening session of the National Legislative Assembly's second sitting on October 12. In an October 10 press conference, National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir stated that the president's speech would cover the South Sudan referendum, Darfur and recent executive functions of the Sudanese government.
- Sudan made known its gratitude for the decisions made at the Arab Extraordinary Summit and the second Arab-African Summit in Sirte, Libya. The Sudanese delegation for both summits was headed by President Omar al-Bashir. Kamal Hasan Ali, the minister of state in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said in a statement at Khartoum airport that the summits produced decisions showing solidarity with Sudan in order to safeguard its unity, stability, peace and sovereignty. The president indicated that the decisions reached at the two summits with respect to Sudan were positive and he told the Qatar News Agency that he was pleased with the outcome of the summits, particularly in terms of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and Darfur. The final communiqué that resulted from the second Arab-African Summit included the approval of the African-Arab partnership strategy and the joint work plan for 2011-2016. The summit also showed support for the Arab-African ministerial committee concerned with resolving the Darfur crisis and lauded efforts made by Qatar in sponsoring the Darfur peace talks. It also expressed appreciation for regional and international support for the peace negotiations and encouraged armed groups to join the Doha peace talks right away in order to reach a comprehensive agreement as quickly as possible. The summit's final communiqué also expressed thanks to an initiative of Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatar's emir, regarding the establishment of a development bank in Darfur with an estimated \$2 billion U.S. capital. A decision was also issued at the summit in support of peace efforts in Sudan and respect for the country's sovereignty and independence. African and Arab leaders at the summit also expressed their commitment to implementing the CPA and holding the South Sudan referendum. The summit also revealed similar Arab and African positions with regard to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and their rejection of the court's actions against President al-Bashir, stressing the importance of peace, justice and reconciliation in the country. President al-Bashir asked Arab and African leaders to conduct work between the Arab League and the African Union in order to hold a free and transparent referendum that will

- reflect the real desire of southerners. He also asked the leaders to communicate and coordinate with the AU and the AL in order to enhance the voluntary unity option in the upcoming referendum. He noted that Sudan believes that these leaders will make efforts to support Sudanese unity because this will support peace and stability in Sudan as well as the broader Arab and African worlds.
- The International Observers Group established to monitor the referendum in South Sudan and headed by Benjamin Mkapa, former president of Tanzania, arrived in Sudan yesterday evening. In an interview with Sudanese radio, Mkapa referred to the referendum as a turning point for the CPA in the country and expressed hope that the observers group would carry out its role as it was supposed to and hold an impartial, transparent and free referendum. Haile Menkerios, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Sudan, welcomed the International Observers Group and noted the UN mission's readiness to help and enable the group to carry out its role transparently. Ambassador Husayn al-Amin, Sudan's Foreign Ministry representative, welcomed the South Sudan monitoring group and pointed out the government's commitment to the referendum law, which calls for an environment conducive to the group's role.
 - Dr. Umar Adam Rahma, the Sudanese government delegation's official spokesman at the Doha peace negotiations on Darfur, noted that 70 percent of issues related to justice, reconciliation, displaced persons, refugees and compensations have been agreed upon and emphasized the positive developments that have taken place in the peace talks. Progress was also made on the issue of security arrangements. A final report from the five committees will come out on October 17. Dr. Rahma remarked that most of the remaining issues would be resolved if the talks continue at the current pace. A meeting of the high committee for the negotiations is scheduled for October 19 to prepare the final peace negotiation documents.

October 12

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0843 GMT 12 Oct 10)

- In an October 12 speech during the National Legislative Assembly in Khartoum broadcast live by Sudanese TV, President Omar al-Bashir affirmed his commitment to holding the South Sudan referendum on time and noted that the ruling partners in the country were working toward a solution to satisfy warring parties in Sudan's disputed Abyei region.
- President Omar al-Bashir commented on the progress of the Darfur peace talks and noted that this year would see the conclusion of talks in Qatar.

October 13

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 Oct 10)

- Lt-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, first vice-president of Sudan and president of South Sudan, held a broad meeting in Juba with Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, vice-president of Sudan, to discuss the implementation of the CPA and pending issues. Salva Kiir directed the joint defence committee to increase the number and intensity of their meetings from once or twice a month and called on the cease-fire committee to visit the places where there were suspected movements of forces and the potential for clashes and other problems. Ali Uthman Taha called on public opinion and Abyei society to protect peace. The meeting also affirmed that the two CPA partners have reiterated their commitment to avoid military confrontation and to deal with issues using dialogue and political understanding.

October 14

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

- President Omar al-Bashir received a letter from Chad's Idriss Deby during his meeting with the director of Chadian intelligence and envoy of Chad's president yesterday evening. Also present at the meeting was Gen Muhammad Atta al-Mawla, the director of National Intelligence and Security Service. Deby's letter dealt with relations between Chad and Sudan and ways of supporting and developing them in order to benefit both countries.
- The secretariat of the Arab League announced that it is consulting the African Union, UNAMIS and concerned Sudanese actors in order to create a team to monitor the South Sudan referendum process. The Arab League secretariat noted that the Juba Two Conference on development and investment in South Sudan scheduled for November 25 in Manama, Bahrain was postponed following a request from Bahrain. The secretariat also affirmed that it was determined to continue supporting development in South Sudan.
- President Omar al-Bashir sent a letter to Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the leader of the UAE, regarding relations between Sudan and the UAE and issues affecting both countries. Mustafa Uthman Isma'il, presidential adviser, went to Abu Dhabi yesterday and was expected to visit Qatar and Italy as well in order to organize efforts supporting the international donor conference for the development of eastern Sudan scheduled for December in Kuwait. Dr. Mustafa indicated that he would be handing over letters from the Sudanese president to the leaders of these countries dealing with bilateral ties and including an invitation to the conference in Kuwait.
- Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir, speaker of the National Assembly, confirmed that parliament is ready for the referendum period and working toward peace in Darfur. During an October 13 meeting with the delegation of the French Senate, he discussed parliamentary relations between Sudan and France and means of improving ties. He emphasized the role of the French in the region and recommended enhanced French efforts in improving Sudanese ties with neighboring countries. He also recommended visits between the parliaments of Sudan and France in terms of developing cultural and economic fields in a mutually beneficial way. The head of the French delegation noted that there

would be developments in parliamentary relations between the two countries in the coming period.

- On October 13, the Ministry of Science and Technology along with the Transitional Regional Authority for Darfur states and the French Solar Euro-Mid Company signed a detailed memorandum of understanding in Khartoum dealing with a project to produce 250 megawatts of electricity for Darfur states using solar energy that will cost 1.3 billion Euros. Dr. Isa Bashari, the minister of science and technology, indicated at the signing ceremony that the project would be implemented at the level of Darfur states and would be one of the biggest projects involving clean energy production in the world.
- A news conference to be held by the Sudanese government's delegation to the Abyei talks in Addis Ababa was scheduled for the afternoon of October 14 in the Information Ministry in Khartoum. Media outlets, newspapers and all interested parties were invited to attend.

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

- The Sudanese government announced its strong position in resolving the issue of Abyei peacefully while respecting the rights of the parties involved, including the Al-Misiriyyah and Denka Ngok tribes. During a press conference held at the Ministry of Information headquarters, the presidential advisor and Gen Salah Abdallah Gosh, the head of the government and the National Congress Party's (NCP) negotiating team on the Abyei referendum, stated that U.S. mediator Scott Gration and Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi had made valuable strides in bringing opposing views closer together, noting that all issues had been settled save the issue of voter eligibility and deciding who can vote in the Abyei referendum. According to Gen Gosh, the two vice-presidents will participate in the next round of talks at the end of the month. He remarked that the vision for Abyei is one that will create a link between the north and the south and allow these populations to peacefully coexist.

October 15

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Oct 10)

- An October 15 sermon by Shaykh Abd-al-Jalil Nazir Al-Karuri at the Al-Shahid Mosque in Khartoum broadcast live on Sudan TV dealt generally with religious issues. A second sermon discussed religious issues as well, specifically dialogue between Christians and Muslims. The preacher spoke in favor of cooperation between Iran and Turkey in order to help Palestinians defend their land. The preacher added that the visit by the president of Iran to Beirut "might reach out and get support from Turkey. Then Islam from Turkey, Iran and Beirut, which represent different Islamic sects, will converge. If Palestinians are besieged by talks being held with Arabic world, the talks that forbid the region from supporting Jihad, then there is a chance for Islam from the non-Arab world to prevail."

October 16

(Suna news agency website, Khartoum, in Arabic 16 Oct 10)

- Sudan rejected a UN Security Council proposal to deploy peacekeepers along the north-south border. The Council decision to deploy troops along the disputed border came after an appeal from South Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit. The UN has over 10,000 troops in South Sudan. Their primary mandate is to supervise the implementation of the 2005 peace agreement signed between the SPLM and the NCP in Kenya. According to Suna-sd.net, an army spokesman was quoted to have said that “the UN troops in southern Sudan have a specific mandate and deploying troops at the border is not one of them, but to supervise implementation of the peace agreement”. The spokesman went on to state that “There is nothing that threatens the security and safety of southerners after the announcement by President Al-Bashir that the government will protect the southerners and their property in southern and northern Sudan”. The NCP criticized the U.S. for siding with the SPLM on the deployment of peacekeeping troops to the border. According to Ibrahim Ahmad Umar, a senior NCP official, “the USA was expressing the views of the SPLM on what has not been agreed upon by the peace partners”. He went on to say that “The US approach was detrimental to Sudan politics and regional and international relations” and added: “If war breaks out...It will be due to such irresponsible acts by some quarters in the USA”.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Oct 10)

- The ruling NCP and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) will resume talks on the Abyei problem on October 30 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as per the CPA. The two parties to the talks will be led by First Vice-President and SPLM President Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit and Vice-President and NCP Vice-President al-Ustaz Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha. Thabo Mbeki, former president of South Africa and current chairman of the AU High Mechanism on the follow-up of the implementation of the CPA and peace in Darfur will chair the talks along with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan Scott Gration. Lt-Gen Salah Abdullah, presidential adviser and head of the government delegation to the last round of talks, told the radio that the next round of talks will focus on citizenship qualifications for voting in the Abyei referendum as well as proposed solutions coming from African and American mediators with the objective of reaching a solution to the problems in the region.

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

- Maj Al-Sawarmi Khalid Sa'ad, the official spokesman for the armed forces, stated that the forces are capable of dealing with any event that could affect citizen safety or security in both the north and south. He also indicated that UN

peacekeeping forces in South Sudan are not mandated to deploy along the border. Their limited mandate is to monitor the CPA's implementation.

October 17

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Oct 10)

- The south-south dialogue conference will conclude its sessions, which included 25 parties, in Juba today. Dr. Mario Awit, the secretary-general of the Southern Parties' Alliance, told the radio that the conference was extended for an extra day in order to assimilate several recommendations regarding the referendum, the role of parties in making it successful, the period after the referendum and the role of parties and the reconciliation committee.
- The Sudanese government affirmed its view of the Doha talks as the only platform for bringing an end to the crisis in Darfur. Kamal Hasan Ali, the minister of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the coming days would see intense lobbying by internal and external parties to achieve peace in Darfur before the end of the year. This was based on statements made by the president in his most recent address before the National Assembly. Ali added that the new Darfur strategy will not include anyone who fails to work toward peace in Darfur.
- The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission asked the international community and the South Sudan government to honor financial commitments in line with the general budget in order to make the referendum a success. Ambassador Jamal Muhammad Ibrahim, the commission's spokesman, said that meetings chaired by Ibrahim Muhammad Khalil, the commission's chairman, focused on donor positions, the referendum budget and issues obstructing the implementation of several programs. He said that the government had fulfilled its budget commitments vis-à-vis the referendum, but that some parties had not yet lived up to their commitments.

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

- President Omar al-Bashir insisted that justice and rule of law must be implemented and impunity must be put to an end in Darfur. During an October 17 meeting with Mawlana Muhammad Bushara Dosa, the minister of justice, at the Republican Palace in Khartoum, the president reiterated his support for the ministry during this important period. The justice minister indicated that the president had been briefed on ministry of justice activities in Darfur as well as efforts being made to review and draft laws and present them to parliament. The president was also briefed on the outcomes of the Arab justice ministers' conference which was recently held in Doha. The justice minister also stated that he had decided to dismiss the former prosecutor-general for crimes in Darfur. He appointed the ministry's undersecretary Abd-al-Da'im Zumrawi as the prosecutor-general for crimes in Darfur with the aim of upgrading the committee charged with investigating such crimes.