

Sudan Domestic Media, November 1, 2010 (covering October 25 to October 31, 2010)

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State-Owned Media

October 25

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Oct 10)

- The second round of Khartoum State legislative council meetings were broadcast live on Sudan TV. The first speech was given by speaker Muhammad al-Shaykh, who offered a welcome. Next there was a speech from Khartoum governor Dr. Abd-al-Rahman al-Khidir, who reported on the performance of the state's executive organs. Vice-President Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha subsequently spoke about developments in the country, governance at all levels and the upcoming referendum. According to Taha, "The interest of the south is mainly for it to remain within a united Sudan. The interest of Sudan in the north, east and west, is for the south to remain with them as part of a united Sudan. The interest of the region and its neighbours is for Sudan to remain united. The interest of the world is for Sudan to be united. This is the conviction with which we will continue working. Even if we lose a part of the battle, we wouldn't have lost the whole battle."

October 26

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

- Thabo Mbeki, head of the AU High-Level Panel on Sudan, announced that the meeting between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) scheduled for October 27 in Addis Ababa would be postponed until a later date. He added that the president of Sudan and his two deputies had agreed upon the postponement. Following a meeting with the president at the Guest House in Khartoum, Mbeki indicated that the postponement of the meeting aimed to achieve continued coordination and consultation in order to attain certain goals. He noted that consultations between the two partners were continuing in Khartoum and Juba and added that the meeting had been positive and fruitful.
- On October 25, a special session of the Council of Ministers chaired by President Omar al-Bashir approved the budget plan that was presented by Ali Mahmud, the minister of finance and national economy, for the upcoming year. The budget's general components included decreased government spending, reducing inflation and controlling exchange rates. The council called for continued economic stability and no new taxes. Ali Mahmud is set to hold a press conference at

Friendship Hall in Khartoum in order to review the general budget for the upcoming year as well as the current economic situation.

- The Sudanese government affirmed its commitment to implementing the remaining provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), including the holding of a transparent referendum that reflects the will of the people of the south without influence or interference. This statement was made during a speech by Dafa'allah al-Hajj, the Sudanese permanent envoy to the UN, at the UN Security Council meeting yesterday. This was in light of the UN Secretary-General's two reports on the situation in Darfur and the implementation of the CPA. He stated that the Secretary-General's report reflected the Sudanese government's determination and commitment to implementing to remaining CPA clauses. Regarding the Darfur issue, Sudan's envoy noted that internal and external efforts are being made, namely through the government's new peace strategy for Darfur and the Doha talks currently underway with support coming from Sudan's neighbors.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Oct 10)

- Philippe Lazzarini, the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, arrived in Nyala, South Darfur State. He looked into the general situation in the IDP camps and discussed humanitarian work in the state with the state government. In particular, the Assistant Secretary-General sought to discuss the situation in Kalma camp and the Al-Taqwa plan. Abd-al-Karim Musa Abd-al-Karim, the deputy governor, applauded the UN envoy's understanding of the state's view of the humanitarian situation in light of the new government strategy to resolve the Darfur issue. Lazzarini noted that the meeting with the state government had been fruitful and hailed the idea of an alternative plan for Kalma camp. He said that they would work to provide assistance to the affected people, wherever they are, and noted his support for development and infrastructure for voluntary return villages up until the time when returnees can reenter the cycle of production. The meeting also addressed special arrangements for 700 families to be returned to their original areas in Western Darfur State as well as several coordination issues between the government and UN agencies in south Darfur.

October 27

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

- President Omar al-Bashir applauded contributions from the Arab Bank for Economic Development aimed at enhancing growth programs in Africa and the Arab world. While meeting with Ibrahim al-Bassam, the bank's CEO at the headquarters of the council of ministers, the president noted that the bank is a main vehicle of communication between Africa and the Arab world. He also reviewed the bank's achievements and future plans. The bank's CEO noted the generous hospitality the Sudanese government had bestowed upon the bank.

- Salva Kiir Mayardit, first vice-president and president of the government of South Sudan, met with Thabo Mbeki, head of the AU High-Level Panel on Sudan at his home in Khartoum today. The meeting focused on the progress made on the implementation of the CPA and unsettled issues between the two ruling partners. Mbeki said that discussions will continue in order to resolve remaining issues, especially the Abyei issue, which will be addressed in Ethiopia by the two parties in a few days. Mbeki also highlighted the commitment of the NCP and the SPLM to discussing all of the possible solutions to the remaining issues in order to protect stability in Sudan. He added that efforts by the two partners would need to be doubled in the coming period in order to settle the unresolved issues and attain the desired peace and stability for the people of Sudan.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Oct 10)

- Lt-Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit, first vice-president and president of the government of South Sudan, confirmed that dialogue is ongoing between the two ruling partners in order to overcome remaining issues, particularly those related to the Abyei referendum and border demarcation. As part of this process, the first vice-president met with Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, chairman of the National Commission for the Referendum. According to Khalil, their talk covered obstacles to the referendum process, one of which is the constrained referendum time frame. He noted that the first vice-president has pledged to overcome all obstacles confronting the commission.

October 28

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0849 GMT 28 Oct 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir stated that his government will “respect the will” of the South Sudan people in the upcoming January 2011 referendum, but added that it still has a “desire for voluntary unity” between the north and south. He noted that the referendum results would be respected if “if the referendum is held in a transparent, fair and free manner”. He also addressed his government’s full commitment to holding the referendum at the Fifth Organization of Islamic Conference’s Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development during the opening session at Friendship Hall in Khartoum. The president also called for the “adoption of special policies on the development of agriculture” in villages in order to improve food security and the establishment of a permanent committee in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) that would guarantee food security in member states. The president also showed Sudan’s solidarity with Pakistan and Indonesia regarding recent natural disasters that have affected the two countries. President al-Bashir did not mention the ICC arrest warrant against him, Sudan’s foreign policy or the Darfur issue at any time during his 11-minute speech.

October 30

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Oct 10)

- Sudan's Referendum Commission affirmed once again that it will carry on planning for the January 9, 2011 referendum despite the challenges, particularly those of time and donor financial support. In the presence of U.S. envoy Scott Gration and partners from the UN and the international community, Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, the commission's chairman, said that training has begun for more than 30,000 employees who will be responsible for the registration process on November 14. Scott Gration applauded the efforts of the commission and reiteration U.S. support for the commission with the aim of holding a referendum that is free, fair and transparent. Joseph Maker Benjamin, the acting chairman of the information department of the Referendum Commission's Secretariat, stated that the commission was continuing with efforts to carry out its responsibilities according to the CPA, the interim constitution and the referendum law.
- According to Dr. Lual Achuel Deng, Sudan's Minister of Oil, the country has good oil production, estimated at 460,000 barrels per day, which was the country's general budget goal for 2010. He added that oil production would be increased by 20,000 barrels per day next year and noted oil exploration taking place, particularly in the north. He denied allegations that the South Sudan government had conducted a survey to uncover the amount of oil in the south and noted that the National Oil Commission is in charge of issuing exploration certifications.

October 31

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Oct 10)

- Mr. Ali Karti, Sudan's minister of foreign affairs, ended a tour of Spain, Portugal and Egypt yesterday evening. Karti met with Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt in Cairo to discuss bilateral ties and issues concerning both Sudan and Egypt. Karti noted Egypt's effectiveness in international affairs and affirmed Sudan's commitment to holding the South Sudan referendum as scheduled.
- Dr. Awad Al-Jaz, Sudan's minister of industry, will continue his visit to China today. According to Sudan TV, Al-Jaz met with several business officials in the sugar, skin, shoe and textile industries. He discussed potential partnerships with these officials in order to develop Sudanese products. Al-Jaz also met with Li Yizhong, his Chinese counterpart.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Oct 10)

- During a meeting at the republican palace with Dr. Al-Amin Dafa'allah, the secretary-general of the Supreme Council for Decentralization, President Omar al-Bashir expressed satisfaction with the council and its efforts in developing decentralization in Sudan, noting that the process of decentralization sought to empower the people. The president commented on the need to review by

examining the locality's role. Dr. Al-Amin Dafa'allah briefed the president on agreements reached during the council's first sessional meeting and noted that the meeting recommended reviewing remaining joint legislations between the government and the states. The meeting also addressed past experiences with decentralization and ways of improving the practice of decentralization.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Oct 10)

- The final paper on the peace agreement is currently being prepared by the joint Arab-African mediation team for the Darfur peace talks in Doha and has been forwarded to the Sudanese government, the Liberation and Justice Movement, the international and regional communities and the people of Darfur. An agreement between the two negotiating parties is expected to be initialized next week. The final signing of the agreement is expected to take place by the end of the month with the involvement of governmental and non-governmental representatives. Dr. Umar Adam Rahma, the official government delegation spokesman to the talks, noted that the formerly unsettled issues of wealth, power, IDPs, refugees, justice and reconciliation had been resolved. He added that some security issues were still pending, but they represent the five percent that will be settled over the next two days. Dr. Rahma commended the developments in the negotiation process and praised the role of the Arab-African mediation team in moving the talks forward and settling outstanding issues between the two parties.