

Sudan Domestic Media, September 20, 2010 (covering September 13 to September 19, 2010)

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State-Owned Media

September 13

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

- Vice-president Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha received Scott Gration, the U.S. envoy to Sudan, for a closed-door meeting to discuss issues that concern both Sudan and the U.S. The meeting took place ahead of Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha's departure for New York to lead Sudan's delegation to the UN General Assembly meetings. The meetings in New York are supposed to include a special meeting on Sudan that was called for by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
- The government stated its commitment to implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), including conducting the referendum and accepting the outcome. The government made known its desire to hold a free and fair referendum. Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Karti noted in a press statement following talks with Scott Gration, U.S. envoy for peace to Sudan, that the meetings dealt with preparing for Sudan's new strategy for securing peace in Darfur and issues related to implementing the CPA. Karti also expressed hope that preparations for the September 24 meeting in New York will be positive and promote peace in Sudan as well as South and North Darfur. Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the presidential advisor responsible for the Darfur file, also met with Gration to discuss Sudan's new strategy for bringing peace to Darfur.

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Sep 10)

- Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the presidential adviser responsible for the Darfur file, met with Scott Gration to discuss relations between Sudan and the U.S. and ways of improving bilateral ties. The two men also addressed government efforts being made to bring peace to Darfur and return IDPs to their villages.
- Presidential Adviser Lt-Gen Eng Salah Abdallah met with Scott Gration to discuss the implementation of the CPA, ways of resolving pending issues between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the period leading up to the referendum. Prof Bakri Uthman Sa'id from the National Security Advisory stated that the meetings are in preparation for the New York meeting scheduled for later in September.

September 14

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 14 Sep 10)

- A joint Sudanese-Chadian military committee wrapped up its visit to Um Jaras in Chad to assess the implementation of a security protocol agreement between Sudan and Chad. The committee expressed satisfaction with strengthened security, stability and peace along the border between the two countries and noted that it will continue efforts to prevent border violation such as smuggling and enhance cooperation to protect property. Col Fatah Rahim Abdallah, a Sudanese official from the committee, noted that arrangements had been completed for Sudanese forces to move to Abeche in Chad on September 20. He also praised cooperation with Chad in making the joint programme successful.

September 15

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Sep 10)

- Civil defence forces were able to rescue the 11 people onboard a small ferry that sank in the Blue Nile at the Al-Fatih Tower in Khartoum. Dr. Abd-al-Rahman al-Khidir, the governor of Khartoum State, stated that the incident was "unfortunate" and commented that a comprehensive investigation had been launched. Temporary directives were also issued by Dr. Al-Khidir to prevent vessels and small ferries from using the Blue Nile waters for the purposes of tourism. The governor sent his condolences to the affected families and assessed the emergency aid distributed to the survivors. Police Lt-Gen Hamdnallah Haj Adam, the director of the Civil Defence General Administration, remarked that swift action led to the avoidance of a catastrophe. Lt-Gen Adam asked youth and the owners of small ferries to avoid the waters due to flooding on the Nile.

September 16

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

- A traffic accident on September 16 on Kosti-Khartoum highway resulted in 37 deaths and 26 injuries when a minibus hit a bus 15 kilometres from southern Jebel Awlia locality in Khartoum State. Gen Police, Sa'd al-Din Idriss, White Nile State's Director of Police, noted that 30 passengers in the minibus and seven in the bus died while 16 survived. The accident was attributed to speeding. Civil Defence policemen extinguished the fire resulting from the accident and rescued the injured passengers.

September 17

(Sudan TV, Omdurman, in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Sep 10)

- A cleric from Sudan described the recent and widely publicized burning of the Koran by an American preacher as a "media ploy" since no copies of the Koran

were burned. On September 17, Shaykh Abd-al-Jalil Nazir Al-Karuri gave a sermon at the Al-Shahid Mosque in Khartoum which was broadcast live on state-owned Sudanese TV. The first sermon addressed religious matters including the end of Ramadan and criticized the media in Sudan for emphasizing entertainment programmes during and following Ramadan. He also cautioned against exaggerated recitation of the Koran to the point of singing. The second sermon dealt exclusively with the plan by American Christian preacher Terry Jones to burn the Koran in Florida.

September 18

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Sep 10)

- On September 20, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission will meet at its headquarters in Khartoum. The meeting will be chaired by Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, who told Sudan Radio that the meeting will conclude discussion on the programme for the referendum process. This process includes the opening of registration centres for voting during the referendum. He expected five million voters to be registered based on current statistics and available information. The final tally will be made once registration of eligible voters has been completed for the referendum. The state government of Khartoum and the popular body for supporting unity agreed today to implement joint programmes in order to support voluntary unity, especially for Southern Sudanese citizens in Khartoum state.

September 19

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Sep 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir will speak at the opening session of the Parliamentary meeting of the Great Lakes region at Friendship Hall in Khartoum on September 22. Prior to the conference, meetings of the fourth session for the executive committee of the first general assembly of the Great Lakes Region Parliaments will take place on Tuesday.

(Republic of Sudan Radio, Omdurman, in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Sep 10)

- President Omar al-Bashir met with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi during his stop-over in Khartoum on his way to New York and discussed bilateral ties and joint coordination of Sudan and Ethiopia's positions in the meetings of the UN General Assembly. President al-Bashir lauded ties between the positions of the two countries and the support for Sudan. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi noted that they had discussed the peace process in Sudan and arrangements for the upcoming referendum.
- Sudanese Vice-President Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha applauded Russia's positions in support of Sudan and the country's contribution to achieving peace in Darfur. During a meeting with the Russian Ambassador to Khartoum, Envarbic

Fazelyanov, he remarked on the need strengthen relations between Sudan and Russia. The meeting addressed implementation of the CPA, the upcoming referendum and the government's attempts at resolving problems in Darfur. Russian Ambassador Envarbic Fazelyanov emphasized Russia's support for negotiations between the Sudanese government and the armed movements in the region as well as coordination with mediators and partners in order to reach a successful outcome.