



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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June 2, 2008

Abyei crisis tops US-Sudan talks

US-Sudan talks are held amid a siege of secrecy and strict security measures, though indications from various sources allowed some predictions on what can come out from these talks. Dr. Mostafa Othman Ismail, the presidential advisor, said yesterday that the Government of Sudan (GOS) offered its proposals to normalize relations between the two countries to the US delegation, but he didn't offer any details. Ismail said that the participants in the talks are going to form two committees, one on Darfur, UNAMID, and humanitarian affairs; the second on the bilateral relations and the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

-- US Special Envoy Richard Williamson told the press after his meeting with SPLM leadership late Sunday that President Bush and the US are committed to the implementation of the peace agreement, and announced he is planning to offer today his own initiative to solve Abyei problem.

-- In another development, the Minister of Presidential Affairs in the Government of Southern Sudan Dr. Luka Biong said in an interview with a local radio station (Miraya FM) that he expects the partners to the Naivasha agreements to end their remaining disagreements on Abyei after they agreed on establishing a joint administration includes a chairman from the Sudan People's liberation Movement (SPLM) and a deputy chairman from the National Congress Party (NCP). (*Al-Ayyam, Al-Sharee Al-Siyassi, Khartoum Monitor et al*)

Bashir says no dialogue with JEM

In his speech to a women's conference held in Khartoum yesterday by the NCP, President El-Bashir reiterated his government's decision not to

have any dialogue with the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) after its recent attack on Omdurman in May. Bashir described JEM as a terrorist organization and said that the Sudanese military forces are able to provide security in Darfur, adding that peace can't be imposed by force. The president added that the only way to get power in Sudan is via elections. (*Al-Sahafa, Akhbar Al-Yom, Akher Lahza et al*)

DUP leader communicating with political powers

DUP leader Mohamed Othman Al-Mirghani revealed from his self-imposed exile in Cairo, Egypt that he is conducting intense communications with various Sudanese political powers as he prepares to hold the National Reconciliation Conference. Mirghani met yesterday with the Secretary General of the Arab League, Amr Moussa, and told the press after the meeting that the reconciliation conference aims at reaching a minimum agreement between the political powers to solve Sudan problems. He described his call to hold the conference as a personal initiative accepted by wise men in Sudan. Mirghani is also the president of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) a group of opposition political parties. (*Ray Al-Shaab, Al-Ayyam*)

Child soldiers in good health

After being given access to 89 children detained in connection with JEM's attack on Omdurman in May, the UNICEF acknowledged that the children appear to be in good health and are being detained away from adults in line with international standards. The children – aged 10 to 17- are held in two spacious buildings 60 miles north of Khartoum. (*The Citizen, Sudan Tribune, Al-Sudani*)

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service of the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. This summary does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.