



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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### **Trial for JEM rebels begins**

On June 18, the trial of rebels from the Justice and Equality Movement started. Trials began simultaneously in Omdurman, Khartoum North, and Khartoum for 39 individuals captured in the May 10 JEM attack on Omdurman. The trials have been open to the public, though intensive security measures were put in place at all three locations. Judge Mu'atim Taj As-Sir stated that although the trials were currently open to journalists and the public, there may be closed sessions in the future if sensitive security information is brought into the courtroom. Three days of hearings have been scheduled per week. (*As-Sahafa, Al-Ayaam, et al.*)

### **Taha and Kiir to meet in Juba tomorrow**

President of the GoSS Salva Kiir and Vice President Ali Osman Taha are scheduled to meet in Juba tomorrow, June 20, to discuss the national election law "in order to avoid postponement of the next election." (*Al-Ayaam, As-Sudani, et al.*)

### **U.S. reportedly withdraws money from UN in the South**

*Al-Intibaha* reported that the U.S. declared its intention to cancel its financial commitments to the UN in the south. According to this report, Washington attributed this plan to the weak role of the UN Mission in the Abyei issue and its failure to live up to its responsibilities there. *Al-Intibaha* reported that Government of Sudan described this as a move designed to gain votes in the U.S. presidential elections. This article also reported that Sudan's representative to the UN Abdul-Mahmoud Abdul-Halim stated that Mia Farrow's activism is the sign of an old actress trying to get attention as she had lost her audience long ago. (*Al-Intibaha*)

### **Government source denies ethnic detentions**

A source from the Sudanese Government's National Council for Human Rights responded to a June 18 press release by the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum expressing concern over "reports of ethnically-based arrests, detentions, and torture of Darfuris in Khartoum and Omdurman in the wake of the May 10th attacks by the Justice and Equality Movement Darfur rebels on Omdurman." The source from the Government "denied any detention on ethnic basis in Sudan" stating that his center has not received any complaints. (*As-Sahafa*)

### **Joint Forces to Deploy to Abyei today**

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) will transport 320 soldiers from Wau to Abyei while the Sudanese Armed Forces will transport 300 from Muglad to Abyei today. The Spokesman of the Joint Defense Board Major Bior Ajang stated that the battalion of 620 soldiers will complete its deployment to Abyei by the end of this month. (*Al-Intibaha*).

### **Sampling of Editorial Headlines**

- Sudan and France and the Silent Crisis (*Al-Ayaam*)
- Darfur... Anxiety over food and the season of the fall (*Al Rai' Al-Aam*)
- Does the SPLM gain from LRA attacks in Western Equatoria State? (*The Advocate*)
- SPLM's Vision: Scenarios and Strategies for the New Sudan's Evolution (*The Citizen*)

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.