



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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US Special Envoy to arrive Khartoum soon

Special Envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson is due to arrive in Khartoum on August 8 for a mission that will include talks with government officials and visits to the South and Darfur. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, Ambassador Ali Al-Saddiq, said in a statement to SUNA that the Sudanese-American talks will focus on outstanding issues, progress of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the situation in Abyei, as well as the Darfur issue. Abdul-Bassit Badawi Al-Sanosi, the Director of the American Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told SUNA that the visit would be a good opportunity for the two sides to discuss their mutual stances regarding the International Criminal Court, which has accused the Sudanese president of committing genocide and war crimes in Darfur. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Legal teams for Darfur crimes

- Following the visit to Khartoum by Jean Ping, the Chairman of the African Union Commission, the Sudanese government has agreed to a proposal made by the AU delegation to recruit a panel of seven to ten African Lawyers to investigate violations and war crimes committed in Darfur. Ping said the lawyers would conduct investigations similar to those at The Hague. "We are going to investigate for ourselves and work closely with the Sudanese government," he said (*Khartoum Monitor*)

- Minister of Justice, Abdul-Bassit Sabdarat, has issued a decree assigning the general counselor Nimer Ibrahim Mohamed as chief prosecutor for the crimes that took place in Darfur after 2003. The decree further appointed a committee of senior counselors, including Kamal Mahjoub Ahmed, Al-Hadi Mahjoub Makawi and Mamoun Mekki, to assist the chief prosecutor. The Minister of Justice

authorized the prosecution team to investigate crimes in Darfur. (*SUNA*)

US Charge denies connection with Ocampo

US Charge d'Affaires Alberto Fernandez told *Sudan Vision* that Sudan has made progress with regard to religious tolerance and pluralism, describing the progress as positive and that it would further aid the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The Charge said that Washington is focused primarily on the implementation of the CPA and he rejected accusations that the United States was impeding efforts to achieve peace in Darfur. Fernandez pointed out that Washington was the greatest supporter of the agreement both in essence and at a personal level. While affirming Washington's efforts in the Darfur peace process, he indicated that the US Administration had no connection with the International Criminal Court Prosecutor General, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, and the US does not aid or support the rebel factions in Darfur.

GOSS Governor dismisses high-level staff

The Governor of West Bahr El Ghazal State, Mak Naboj, sacked seven of his assigned staff members and put them in custody, accusing them of conspiring against him. Meanwhile, the President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit has formed a committee to investigate. According to *Rai-Al-Shaab*, those dismissed include several cabinet members and senior officials. The ministers see this as an act of vengeance on the Governor's part.

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.