



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Delay in USAID employees' murder trial

- The trial of five suspects accused of murdering USAID employees John Granville and Abdel Rahman Abbas on New Year's Eve has been delayed for another two weeks because the court determined that the courtroom lacked sufficient space to hold the proceedings. (*Khartoum Monitor, Sudan Vision, et al*)

-According to *Al-Ahdath*, there was a strong exchange of words between the family of slain Sudanese driver Abdel Rahman Abbas and the families of the five suspected murderers. The latter repeated anti-American slogans in the presence of the victim's family. According to the newspaper report, the suspects, who came from the town of Atbara, had randomly picked their targets after meeting among themselves and agreeing to strike Western subjects on New Year's Eve. They drove their car around Khartoum on that day looking for their prey before they actually came across the victims' car and fired a shower of bullets at the vehicle, the prosecution said. The assailants posted a statement on the internet claiming responsibility for the attack.

Sudan rejects renewal of mandate for UN envoy

The Sudanese Ambassador in Geneva, Omar Dahab, reaffirmed Sudan's opposition to the extension of Sima Samar's mandate as UN Special Envoy to Darfur. Dahab stated that positive steps concerning the implementation of the Comprehensive and Darfur Peace Agreements, as well as the improvement of humanitarian conditions, have rendered the renewal of the mandate unnecessary. Samar is expected to submit a report to the Human Rights Council in Geneva that will reflect these positive indicators. The report will be presented on September 15. (*Sudan Vision*)

Chinese Envoy in Sudan to discuss Darfur

The Chinese Envoy to Sudan, Li Chen Wen, met with Mutrif Siddiq, the Undersecretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on Saturday to discuss the current developments in Darfur as well as means of boosting the peace process in the region. The meeting also focused on the International Criminal Court (ICC) issue and how to avoid the steps taken against President Al-Bashir by the ICC Prosecutor General Luis Moreno-Ocampo. The Chinese Envoy will meet with several Sudanese government officials, including President Al-Bashir and the AU/UN Joint Mediator Djibril Bassole. The Chinese Envoy hailed the efforts of Bassole with regards to Darfur. (*The Citizen, Al-Intibaha*)

IDP's angered by AU/UN mediator tour

The Darfur displaced reacted angrily to a meeting held by the newly appointed AU/UN mediator with some IDP's in North Darfur, stating that the people he had met with were not their "legitimate representatives." Hussein Abu Sharati, the official spokesperson of the Darfur refugees and IDPs, said that mediator Djibril Bassole had met with "alleged Darfur IPDs representatives" in Abu Shouk camp. The local population has blamed foreign NGO's for promoting people who do not represent them. (*Sudan Tribune*)

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.