



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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## **AU Chief holds talks on Darfur with President**

Jakaya Kikwete, President of Tanzania and Chairman of the African Union, arrived in Khartoum yesterday to hold talks with Sudanese President Al-Bashir on “current developments in the Sudanese political arena.” The talks concentrated mainly on “finding a solution for the Darfur problem” and resolving “the crisis between the Sudanese government and the International Criminal Court.” (*Al-Khartoum, Al-Sahafa*)

## **France warns of exerting pressure on Sudan**

The French Foreign Minister, Bernard Kouchner, warned of “using policies that exerted pressure on Sudan.” Kouchner explained that “such policies would have a negative impact on the Darfur issue” and reminded that his country has “rejected attempts of intervention in Sudan’s internal affairs.” The statement came in the wake of a quartet summit held last Thursday in Damascus, Syria between France, Syria, Qatar, and Turkey. Kouchner told reporters from SUNA that “France would work with these countries as well as the Arab League and the African Union to help solve the Darfur problem.” He also affirmed his country’s support for the summit’s resolutions and backed Syrian President Al-Assad’s proposal to hold an international conference on Darfur in Qatar. He concluded that his country would exert “utmost efforts to urge all parties to the Darfur conflict to participate in the conference.” (*Al-Wifaq, Al-Watan*)

## **SAF denies attacking rebels in Darfur**

The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) has denied accusations made by Darfur armed movements that it has launched attacks against rebel locations in Northern Darfur. The announcement, made by SAF spokesperson Osman Mohammed Al-Agbash, asserted that “SAF’s current role in the region was limited to ensuring road security.” The announcement came after allegations were made by the Sudan Liberation Movement/Abdel Wahid Nur faction that accused SAF of attacking its locations in Darfur. (*Al-Watan*)

## **GOSS: AIDS rate above announced figures**

Amos Natorko, the head of an HIV/AIDS support group in Yambio, said that his group “needed more support and assistance from the Government of South Sudan (GOSS)” to help prevent the spread of AIDS-associated diseases among those afflicted with the virus. He also called for “specialized nurses and doctors and to enhance the available facilities in order to accommodate AIDS victims.” Felix Wani a representative of the World Health Organization cautioned that “there were not enough AIDS facilities in the region and that the existing five centers lacked the necessary equipment.” Meanwhile, the governor of Western Equatoria State, Nono Juma, said that it was “important to increase AIDS awareness in the area through educational programs, both for students and all other sectors of the community.” (*Al-Sahafa*)

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.