



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Trial resumes for attackers in USAID murders

Yesterday, judges resumed the case of the two murdered United States Agency for International Development employees and heard reports from investigators in the case. According to Abdel-Rahim Ahmed Abdel-Rahim, a police general, the investigation revealed that four suspects were part of a “jihadist cell” who had met in Darfur to “launch attacks against western targets.” Their mission in western Sudan failed because of “limited funds” so the group decided to return to Khartoum to “continue its mission,” targeting Westerners. The attackers chose New Year’s Eve as a tactical date because they supposed large groups of Westerners would be out celebrating the event. The suspects posted their confessions on the internet, which helped lead to their arrest. The trial also revealed that the suspects had been planning a second attack when they were arrested. (*Al-Watan, Al-Khartoum, Al-Rai Al-Aam, Akhir Lahza*)

Al-Mahdi accuses NCP of “exclusion politics”

- Umma party leader Al-Sadig al-Mahdi criticized the NCP of “excluding other social and political parties.” Al-Mahdi’s statement was made in an Islamic forum where he was quoted as saying that the “NCP’s policies will lead to extensive polarization within Sudanese Society.” (*Khartoum Monitor, Sudan Tribune*)

- Meanwhile, *Akhir Lahza* ran an article quoting Al-Mahdi speaking at the same forum, saying “the obstacles facing Darfur and the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement will not be resolved unless all political forces are united.”

NCP to mediate between eastern Sudan factions

A “power struggle” among the different factions of the former rebel Eastern Front movement has “cause the NCP to form a committee to mediate between them.” Amna Dirar, Presidential Advisor and a senior member of the Eastern Front, expressed “optimism” for the success of the mediation committee in its “efforts to reunite the parties.” Observers have accused groups in Eastern Sudan of “waging a tribal war” and say “every faction tries to strengthen its positions, a matter that gives the NCP wide latitude to manipulate them.” (*SudanTribune.com*)

Southern Sudanese refugees repatriated

The United Nations High Commission on Refugees announced that a large number of southern Sudanese refugees living in Ethiopia “would be sent home next year.” The repatriation will be conducted jointly by UNCHR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which will transport the refugees across the border after carrying out medical screening. Last March, the UN refugee agency closed down two Sudanese camps where 7,500 Sudanese refugees were sheltered. (*Sudan Tribune, Sudan Vision*)

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.