



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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## **Sima Samar's mandate renewed for six months**

The United Nations Human Rights Council has unanimously renewed Special Rapporteur Sima Samar's mandate in Sudan for another six months, despite Khartoum's intention to end Samar's mandate immediately. The EU pushed to extend her mandate for another year, but African, Arab and Islamic groups managed to oppose this step and to reach a midway solution to extend Samar's mandate for another six months. The Rapporteur of the Sudanese Council on Human Rights, Abdul Moneim Osman Mohamed Taha, said that the resolution was acceptable to all parties. He said that it was free of any reference to Sudan's cooperation with the International Criminal Court and that it recognized the Abuja Peace Agreement as a stepping stone for achieving justice in Darfur. (*Al-Watan, Al-Ayam, et-al*)

## **JEM welcomes Qatari initiative on Darfur**

-The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) announced yesterday its willingness to negotiate with Qatar a Darfur peace initiative, which Qatar had recently proposed. Qatar had expressed its willingness to host peace negotiations between the Sudanese government and rebel groups in Darfur. Djibril Ibrahim, head of the committee, said that a delegation would be heading for Qatar soon to discuss the issue. JEM's leader, Khalil Ibrahim, had previously announced his rejection to negotiate with an Arab ministerial committee that would meet in Doha, stating that "he would not deal with the Arab League because it had ignored the Darfur crisis for too long." (*Al-Khartoum*)

-Meanwhile, El-Tahir Adam Al-Faki, spokesperson for JEM's Legislative Council, welcomed Qatar's efforts and said that it had the "experience and

ability" to solve the crisis. The initiative was backed by France and a joint team to work out preparatory plans for the formation of a peace conference. (*Khartoum Monitor*)

## **21 refugees drown in river in Eastern Sudan**

The United Nations High Commission of Refugees (UNHCR) said that twenty-one refugees drowned after their boat capsized in eastern Sudan. Most of those on board were Eritrean refugees and a few Somalis who were smuggled through Sudan. Four out of the 26 Eritrean passengers managed to swim to shore safely. According to the UNHCR, the boat was meant to carry a maximum of 15 people and capsized several hundred kilometers from shore due to the overload. Local administration and security officials along with UNHCR rushed to investigate the scene. (*Al-Ayam, Al-Sahafa, Al-Khartoum, et al*)

## **Trachoma on the rise in Southern Sudan**

A recent report says that Trachoma, a contagious disease that may lead to blindness, is on the rise in Southern Sudan. According to a recently conducted survey, at least one person in every household in Southern Sudan has Trachoma. The survey reveals that the Ayod district in Jonglei State has one of the highest infection rates recorded around the world. The survey further highlights the urgent need for antibiotics and corrective surgery to treat the disease. (*Al-Ayam, Khartoum Monitor*)

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.