



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Tourists still held hostage on Sudanese border

-A group of German [as per source] tourists kidnapped near the Sudanese-Egyptian border last week is still being held captive by an unknown group. Security authorities are still negotiating with the kidnapers, who were most recently detected heading toward the Egyptian border, east of Awainat, in the north-western region of Sudan. Ali Yousif, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry Chief of Protocol, said that hostages appear to be safe. The daily reports said that the group entered Libyan territory to obtain food and fuel. According to an Egyptian daily, *Al Shaab*, the kidnapers were asking for a large ransom in addition to pressuring the Egyptian government to release Islamists detained in Egyptian prisons. This led to speculation that the kidnapers may be cell members from Al-Qaeda. According to some sources, the German government criticized the Egyptian government's handling of the case and said that the Egyptians "were jeopardizing the lives of the hostages." Germany stated it would handle the case alone. On the other hand, the Italian press slammed the Egyptian government and accused it of "lying and being evasive." (*Al-Khartoum*)

-Meanwhile, Libya has denied any connection with the hostages in its territory following reports from Sudan and Egypt. A source from the Libyan foreign office said that investigations proved that the hostages were not in Libyan territory and that Libya was surprised to see its name linked to the issue. (*Radio MirayaFM*)

Ocampo oblivious to international efforts

Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), said that he would submit further evidence to the ICC judges in order to indict Sudanese President Al-Bashir in the first week of October, regardless of Arab, African and international efforts to counter the prosecutor's move. (*Al-Watan*)

Messairiya and Rezaigat tribes in agreement

Messairiya and Rezaigat tribes agreed to convene yesterday in El-Obeid to defuse the tension between the two tribes that recently resulted in bloody clashes between them. Rezaigat leader Abdel Hamid Kasha called on the government to demarcate the border between South Darfur and Kordofan states and to provide basic health and education services. (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Sudani, Khartoum Monitor*)

Sudan to chair Group of 77 plus China

Sudan was unanimously elected to chair the Group of 77 plus China coalition. The decision took place during United Nations General Assembly meetings, in New York, last week. The Sudanese government welcomed the outcome and said that it would exert all possible efforts to achieve the objectives of group. (*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.