



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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SAF clashes with tourist kidnappers

-In an escalation of events yesterday, units from the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) clashed with the six kidnappers involved in the abduction of a group of European tourists as they were spotted near the Egyptian border in a vehicle. Osman Al-Agbash, SAF's spokesperson, said that the forces killed six gunmen and arrested two others. Al-Agbash added that the hostages were being held in Chad. According to Al-Agbash, the kidnappers' leader, a Chadian, was among those killed in the clashes along with a Sudanese who is currently being held by the Sudanese authorities. Sudanese government reports said that the kidnappers' seized vehicle had documents belonging to the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM). (*Al-Ahdath, Al-Sahafa*)

-SLM dismissed their alleged participation in what they labeled a "terrorist operation" and accused Khartoum of fabricating the news to involve their groups in the kidnapping and in seeking to portray them as a criminal organization. Mahamat Hissene, a spokesperson for the Chadian government, said they had not noticed anything out of the ordinary on Chadian territory. (*SudanTribune online*)

SPLA denies connections with hijacked ship

Referring to the Ukrainian ship carrying weapons and hijacked off the Somali Coast on September 25, a Kenyan navigation official said the ship was on its way from Somalia to Southern Sudan through Mombasa Port. Meanwhile, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) denied any connection with the hijacked ship. Byor Ajang, a senior member of SPLA, told MirayaFM reporters that "according to the stipulations of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, SPLA holds the right to import weapons from anywhere in the world without coordinating to SAF." (*Al-Ahdath, Al-Sahafa*)

Aqar meets USAID development expert

Malik Aqar, the Wali (governor) of the Blue Nile State met with Robert Walker, USAID Human development expert, and affirmed his interest in receiving training and capacity-building assistance for staff working in service departments in the ministries, in order to meet international standards. Walker, on his part, briefed the Wali on the purpose of his visit and discussed a proposal for capacity development in the service sector of the ministries. (*Al-Sahafa*)

Group threatens to kill SPLM leaders

A group from the northern division of the Sudan Liberation's People Movement (SPLM) threatened to attack SPLM leaders in Khartoum and the North if their demands were not met. The threats came in a letter sent by the group to Salva Kir Marayadit, SPLM's leader. According to the publication, the group was protesting their legal rights in the movement and said that they were treated unfairly by the north wing of SPLM. (*Al-Wifaq*)

Politicians behind chaos in Wao District

Anthony Charles, governor of Wao District, accused politicians of being behind the current instability in the region of the Western Bahr El Ghazal State, stating they encouraged local gangsters to attack leading government officials and assisted them in looting operations. (*Al-Ahdath*)

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.