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U.S. pledges to improve situation in Darfur

The U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson held talks with Nafie Ali Nafie at the Republican Palace in Khartoum, following the Special Envoy's visits to Juba and Rumbek to discuss issues of mutual concern regarding the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Abyei and the Darfur political process. Ali Al-Sadig, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry's official spokesperson, affirmed Washington's keenness to support Khartoum in improving humanitarian conditions in Darfur. Al-Sadig mentioned that the U.S. envoy covered the current positive developments in Darfur and commended the Sudanese government's cooperation with UNAMID in the deployment of troops. (*Akhbar Al-Youm, Akhir Lahza, et-Al*)

Arab Steering Committee arrives in Khartoum

The Steering Committee of the Arab Initiative arrived in Khartoum this week to participate in talks with members of the Arab League, the AU-UN joint Mediator on Darfur, the Commissioner of the African Union Peace and Security Council, and a number of Sudanese political parties. The meetings will be chaired by Ahmed Bin Abdallah Al-Mahmoud, the Qatari Minister for Foreign Affairs, and will discuss arrangements for holding negotiations with armed movements in Darfur. (*Sudan Vision, Khartoum Monitor*)

Kiir orders probe over fashion police campaign

Salva Kiir Mayardit ordered the immediate release of the women arrested on Monday by police in Southern Sudan on the account of "inappropriate dress." Luka Biong Deng, Minister of Presidential Affairs in the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), told reporters in a press statement that

"President Kiir had ordered a serious investigation into the incident as to how the order had been issued." According to reports, a local county order was issued by Juba County Commissioner Albert Pitia, who was allegedly the authority behind the action. The legality of the order has been widely questioned and the GOSS Minister of Interior is currently heading the investigation into the incident. (*Al-Wifaq, Sudan Tribune*)

Journalists denied entry to prison in Omdurman

Authorities at the Omdurman Prison denied entry to members of the press accompanying a parliamentary delegation surveying prison conditions there. The report said that the reporters were treated "brashly" and were forced to leave the delegation. The "appalling treatment" by the prison authorities was described by journalists as a "violation of journalists' rights" and brought on a demand for an apology from the prison's administration. (*Al-Wifaq, Khartoum Monitor*)

Sudan benefits from global financial crisis

According to an article in *Sudan Vision*, the current global financial crisis affecting most of Europe and U.S. may have a positive effect on Sudanese economy as more foreign investors may come to Sudan to compensate their losses. Preliminary indications have shown that the loose link between the Sudanese and American economic markets has diminished the impact of this crisis on Sudan's national economy.

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.