



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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PCP Boycotts Sudan People's Initiative

In a press conference held at the the Popular Congress Party's (PCP) headquarters in Khartoum yesterday, the Secretary General of the PCP, Dr. Hassan al-Turabi, declared that his party has boycotted the Sudan People's Initiative. Turabi mentioned that "most political parties" and the Darfur opposition were not included in the initiative. Turabi slammed the National Congress Party (NCP) for excluding other political parties and armed Darfur groups in the creation of the proposal, and noting that the "Sudan People's Initiative expresses the views of the ruling party rather than those of the people of Sudan." He described the initiative as "social, political gathering." (*Al-Watan, Ray Al-Shaab, Al-Sudani*)

20 Political Parties Object to Initiative

In a written statement yesterday, twenty opposition political parties asserted that President Al Bashir and the NCP "should not be in a leading position on the Sudan People's Initiative." The statement noted the "importance of issuing presidential decrees concerning the rights of people of Darfur instead of organizing initiatives." It also said that a number of political parties opposed the initiative and were unaware of its content. (*The Citizen, Al-Sahafa*)

Sudan Seeks U.K. Support for Initiative

Yesterday, the NCP Secretary General of Communication, Mohammed Mandour Al Mahdi, "mentioned the importance of the support of the British administration to the Sudan People's Initiative" at a meeting. He added that "the British government could pressure armed factions" and "urge them to participate in peace efforts." In addition, he claimed the Sudanese government had "contacted the political parties who confirmed their

participation in the initiative" and also said that the NCP had "sent an official invitation to the PCP's leadership" and that the NCP is "optimistic" regarding the PCP's response. (*Al-Ray Al-Aam*)

Southern Sudanese Authorities Release Editor

Nhial Bol, editor of *The Citizen* newspaper, was released this week after being arrested last Friday after publishing an article discussing high salaries paid to officials in the Government of Southern Sudan's Ministry of Legal Affairs. (*SudanTribune.com*)

Ethiopia Denies Sending Weapons to S. Sudan

The government of Ethiopia has denied charges of sending weapons to the Government of Southern Sudan by air during the past week. Ethiopia's ambassador to Sudan, Ali Abdu, said in a press conference that the plane has "transported samples for a trade fair scheduled to be held in Juba for Ethiopian companies." These samples, he said, included "military gears, spare parts, firearms, and military uniforms" but would be repatriated to Ethiopia at the end of the exhibition on October 16. He insisted that the purpose of the shipment was to "show the capacity and industrial potential of the concerned companies" and "not to supply the Sudan People's Liberation Army." (*SudanTribune.com*)

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.