



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Bashir Calls On Parties to Prepare for Elections

Addressing the opening session of the National Assembly's seventh round, Al-Bashir pledged that the upcoming elections would be held under a "transparent atmosphere" and urged all the political parties to prepare for elections by strengthening their internal organs. President Omer Al-Bashir reaffirmed his commitment to form an election board soon, as well. He also said that elections would be "conducted in accordance to the interim constitution" and added that there were "technical demands" brought on by the results of the population census as well as the demarcation of the administrative border between the northern and southern regions of the country. (*Al Ray Al Aam, Akhir Lahza, Al Sudani, Khartoum Monitor*)

Minister of Defense Affirms Koshayb's Arrest

The State Minister of Justice, Abdel Basit Sabdrat, affirmed Ali Koshayb's arrest. Koshayb, a militia leader in Darfur, has been interrogated for committing war crimes in Darfur and the investigation is about to finish. (*Al Sahafa, Al Khartoum, Sudan Vision*)

RWB Calls for Release of Sudanese Editor

Reporters Without Borders (RWB) has called for the release of Nihal Bol, the editor of *The Citizen* newspaper, who was arrested on October 10 for "libel and disseminating false information." RWB said authorities "acted in an illegal and unscrupulous fashion by arresting this journalist just before the weekend, so that he would not be able to request release on bail," and that "if the government thought it was libeled by an article in the newspaper, it should have respected the law and justice by bringing a civil lawsuit." (*Sudantribune.com*)

Arab Justice Ministers Back Sudan vs. ICC

The Secretary General of the Arab League, Amr Mussa, has called on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to "discard political leanings and to give Sudanese political efforts the top priority" in finding a solution to the Darfur crisis. Addressing a meeting of Arab League Ministers of Justice, Mussa urged the body to "take a unified stance on the issue of the ICC indictment against President Bashir." (*Sudan Tribune*)

MFA summons Kenyan and Ethiopian Ambs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the ambassadors of the Kenyan and Ethiopian embassies in Khartoum separately and "requested they to inform their government about Sudan's protest to their violations" over shipments of weapons "destined for southern Sudan." The Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported that the Ministry "expressed its disappointment" over violations made by the two countries. (*Al-Khartoum*)

180+ Envoys at Sudan People's Initiative Launch

Dr. Mandour Al-Mahdi, of the National Congress Party, revealed that the Sudan's People Initiative will be launched next Thursday at Friendship Hall in Khartoum. According to Al-Mahdi, over 180 "prominent figures" from across the Sudan, together with the envoys of countries including Libya, Egypt, Mauritania, Tanzania, and Qatar, will attend the launching of the initiative. (*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.