



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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November 18, 2008

Parliament approves commission nominees

The National Assembly approved the nominations of the nine members elected to the National Electoral Commission. The Parliamentary members also approved Abel Alier's appointment as the chairperson for the elections commission and Abdullah Ahmed Abdulla as his deputy. (*Al-Wifaq, Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Sudanese journalists detained

Eighty-five Sudanese journalists were detained yesterday as they were protesting against media censorship in front of the Parliament building. Those arrested included well-known columnists and senior editorial staff from nine Sudanese newspapers. Yasir Arman, a leading member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), condemned the arrest, describing it as a "barbaric act" and a "clear violation of the peace agreement and the constitution." Sudanese reporters at the scene said the protest had been organized by the recently formed Sudan Journalists' Network, set up to campaign against censorship and for a new media law to guarantee press freedom. (*Sudanese online*)

GoS hopes for Washington's support in ICC issue

The Government of Sudan (GoS) says it is "highly dependent on France and Britain to help convince Washington not to veto a decision by the UN Security Council to delay the issuance of a possible arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Sudanese President Al-Bashir." (*Al-Khartoum, Akhbar Al-Youm*)

JEM delegation to visit Qatar

A delegation from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) will head to Qatar soon to discuss the Qatari Initiative on achieving peace in Darfur. Jibril Ibrahim, a leading member from JEM, told MirayaFM that the delegation would convey the movement's vision toward the Qatari Initiative and the Arab League's mediation. (*Al-Wifaq, Khartoum Monitor*)

GoS, UN, and AU convene tripartite meeting

A tripartite meeting was held between the Government of Sudan, the United Nations, and the African Union to review logistical challenges affecting the deployment of UNAMID hybrid forces. (*Khartoum Monitor*)

Decree on humanitarian aid in Darfur

Yesterday, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Haroun Lual Ron, issued a decree to facilitate humanitarian aid in Darfur. (*SUNA*)

Drop in oil prices impacts Sudan's budget

The Minister of Finance and National Economy, Awad Al-Jaz, said that "the sharp decline in oil prices has greatly impacted the state's budget for 2009." The global drop in the price of oil has also affected the Government of Southern Sudan, which is also dependent on oil revenues for a significant portion of their annual budget. Sudan's budget also faces other challenges, such as security hazards and foreign debts. (*Sudan Vision, SMC*)

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