



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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## GoS rejects UN call for banning weapons

The Government of Sudan (GoS) strongly rejected the recommendations of a UN panel of experts to impose an arms embargo on weapons to Sudan, saying “no source is able to dictate Sudan’s rights to owning weapons from any place it wants.” A senior government official accused sources he refused to identify as being “behind a plot to unsettle Sudan’s relationship with the United Nations.” The official stressed “the right of independent nations to purchase weapons without having to refer to a UN panel of experts” and that “the market is open to everyone.” The government official also stated that “Sudan had the ability to ‘thwart the plot’ if a panel of experts went so far as to submit its report to the UN Security Council to call for a wider arms embargo on Sudan. (*Al-Ahdath*)

## “ICC procedures will not resolve Darfur”

Britain's Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, has said in an interview with the *Sudan News Agency* (SUNA) that his country supports a UN Security Council postponement of the possible arrest warrant against Sudanese President Al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court for at least one year. According to SUNA, Miliband said that the UK was aware of the “repercussions of the ICC move on the future of peace in Sudan.” The British official also pointed out that his country was currently coordinating with France over the issue in order to give the Sudanese government time to achieve peace in Darfur and to end the crisis. (*SUNA*)

## GoS rejects EU proposal to ban death sentence

The Government of Sudan rejected a proposal by European Union ambassadors to ban the death sentence in Sudan as a condition for suspending the

possible ICC arrest warrant on Al-Bashir. The government’s response followed consultations with Southern officials in Juba. Mutrif Siddig, the Undersecretary of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, said that the death penalty “was not debatable” since it is not part of Sharia law. (*Sudan Vision*)

## Gosh defends press censorship

Salah Gosh, the head of Sudan’s National Intelligence and Security Service, defended the enforcement of press censorship rules saying “it is necessary to protect the interests of the country.” Gosh continued, stating “measures imposed on newspapers are a result of the press’s irresponsible practices affect the nation’s higher and strategic interests.” Gosh described press censorship in Sudan as “legal and constitutional” before adding that it is also “approved by the Presidency.” Gosh’s statements came in the wake of the recent arrests of over 70 journalists who demonstrated outside the national parliament to protest against press censorship. (*Al Intibaha, Al-Watan*)

## Crackdown on smuggling attempt on border

Yesterday, Sudanese police authorities cracked down on a weapon smuggling operation between a group of unidentified Sudanese and foreign weapon merchants on the border of northern Sudan. The weapons were discovered buried under the ground and consisted of 1,547 pistols. An informed source disclosed that the area had been under police surveillance for some time but the security authorities were unable to apprehend the smugglers because they sped away in a vehicle. (*Rai-Al-Shaab, 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