



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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SLM/Unity rejects Qatari Initiative

The Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM)/Unity faction has announced its rejection of the Qatari Initiative for negotiating peace in Darfur and said it would not participate in any future negotiations hosted by Qatar. Issam Al-Haj, an official Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) spokesperson, said that "Qatar's position is biased in favor of the Sudanese government." (*Al-Wifaq*)

Joint Arab-African committee to meet in Doha

The Arab League General Secretariat announced a joint African-Arab ministerial committee meeting next month in Qatar for mediation with the Darfur armed movements. Arab League and African Union chairpersons will attend. (*Al-Ayam*)

Bassole meets with JEM delegation in London

Yesterday, Joint AU/UN Chief Mediator Djibril Bassole met with JEM's Political Advisor Al Tahir Al-Faki and accompanying JEM delegation in London to hold talks on how to accelerate negotiations for bringing peace to Darfur. Al Faki stated that his movement had not yet taken a final stance with regard to JEM's participation in upcoming Doha negotiations and declined further comments on his meeting. (*Al Khartoum*)

Security stepped up in Darfur to counter JEM

Darfur security organs announced that they have increased security measures to counter a rumored threat of a possible JEM attack. (*Al-Sudani*)

GoS: "Foreign sources behind unrest in Darfur"

The Government of Sudan (GoS) accused foreign intelligence elements and the SLM/Abdel Shafi

faction of stirring up tribal unrest [between the Habaniya and Fallata tribes] in South Darfur. Sudanese Presidential Advisor Ali Masar urged the tribes to attend the January 2009 reconciliation meeting "without preconditions." (*Al-Ayam*)

SLM accuses JEM of exploiting IDPs

Abdel Wahid Nur, head of the SLM/Abdel Wahid faction, has accused JEM of exploiting the conditions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) for the movement's own gain. An SLM spokesperson told the *Sudanese Media Centre* (SMC) that JEM elements were forcing IDP children into military service under gun threat and creating insecurity within IDP camps. (*Al- Wifaq*)

Minnawi urges commitment to ceasefire

Mini Arco Minnawi, Senior Presidential Aide and Head of SLM/Minnawi faction, called on the Darfur armed movements to commit to the recent ceasefire announcement by the Sudanese government and to stop tribal clashes. (*Al-Khartoum, Al-Sudani*)

UN refuses to send troops to Abyei

According to SMC, the United Nations has turned down a request by the Sudanese authorities to send peacekeeping troops to Abyei stating that its mandate does not provide for this. The request came in the wake of recent unrest between the Joint Integrated Units (JIU) in Abyei.

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