



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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January 5, 2009

## **Taha says Sudan elections will face real test**

Yesterday, Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Sudanese Vice-President of the Government of National Unity (GONU), said that Sudan would face “a real political test” during the upcoming general elections of 2009. Taha stressed the importance of preparing for the challenge in order to make the elections “a model experience.” Taha’s made the statement at a meeting held by the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers. Taha note that Sudan is being targeted by the “unjust” International Criminal Court (ICC) and its prosecutor, who “seeks to create disorder and chaos in Sudan.” He added that the ICC aims to “destabilize the country and stop the development process in Sudan.” (*SUNA*)

## **SPLM urges Al-Bashir to step down**

According to London-based *Al Sharq Al-Awsat*, unidentified sources from the Southern Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) urged Sudanese President Al-Bashir to step down in the event that the ICC issues an arrest warrant against him. According to the newspaper, the SPLM recommendation has triggered divisions between the two main partners of GONU that could lead to the dissolution of the government and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). National Congress Party (NCP) officials have sternly criticized the SPLM for calling on Sudan to cooperate with the ICC. (*Sudantribune.com*)

## **Sudan denies formation of emergency cabinet**

The Sudanese government denied reports that it will form an emergency cabinet should a possible arrest warrant be issued by the ICC against Al-Bashir. Nafie Ali Nafie, Sudanese Presidential Advisor, stated that this was “a day-dream that would never

come true.” Nafie was speaking at the National Congress Party’s assembly center in Khartoum and further stressed that the ICC’s possible indictment of Al-Bashir was a “national challenge that required the participation of all political parties in Sudan.” (*Akher Lahza, Al-Rai-Al-Aam*)

## **Rebels wanted by ICC for war crimes in Darfur**

According to diplomatic sources, ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo has informed Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Commander Idris Abu Qarda and Sudan Liberation Movement/Unity faction Commander Ali “Karbino” Abdallah that they are both wanted for committing war crimes in Darfur and has requested that they both turn themselves in. According to Ocampo, the request demonstrates the equitable consideration that the ICC gives to all sides who may be held accountable for the crimes committed in Darfur. (*Akhbar- Al-Youm, Al-Rai-Al-Aam*)

## **Chinese Special Envoy expected in Sudan**

The Chinese Special Envoy Liu Guijin to Sudan is expected to arrive in Sudan tomorrow on a four-day visit to meet with Sudanese government officials. Ali Al-Sadiq, Sudanese Foreign Ministry’s Spokesperson, told *Sudan News Agency (SUNA)* that the Chinese official would meet with Nafie Ali Nafie and other high-level State officials. Al-Sadiq said that Khartoum considered the visit to be of “major importance” to the Government. During his visit to Sudan, Guijin is expected to meet with African Union Chairman Jean Ping. (*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