



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS



<http://sudan.usembassy.gov/>

January 11, 2009

## **Al-Bashir addresses rally on Peace Day**

Last Friday, Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir addressed a huge rally in Malakal on Peace Day, commemorating the fourth anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Al-Bashir said that the CPA was “one of Sudan’s biggest accomplishments, recognizing self-autonomy for South Sudan and supporting a decentralized government system.” Al-Bashir further went on to add that peace could be sustained in Sudan through “national reconciliation and peaceful coexistence,” in addition to “finding a comprehensive solution for the Darfur issue.” He also stressed “the importance of providing the people (of southern Sudan) the choice to determine whether to secede or unite,” while “making unity an attractive option.” (*Sudan News Agency*)

## **NISS Director: “Ocampo is a political activist”**

The Director-General of the Sudanese National Security and Intelligence Service (NISS), Salah Abdallah Gosh, met with high-level press and media officials on Saturday. During the meeting, Gosh emphasized the effectiveness of the Sudanese judicial system, stating that it “is a trust-worthy and capable of carrying out justice.” Gosh continued to affirm that he had “no confidence in the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its rulings” and pointed out that if the ICC were to issue an arrest warrant against Al-Bashir there would be “no guarantees with regards to the level of security,” adding that “westerners residing in Sudan could become targets by radical groups.” Gosh went on to state that the ICC is “a tool to pressure and weaken the existing regime”. Concluded Gosh, [ICC Chief Prosecutor Louis Moreno] “Ocampo is a political activist with an agenda; he tours the world and engages in diplomatic and media activities. The

ICC decision is a political and not legal decision.” (*Al-Ayam, Al-Khartoum*)

## **Sudan to celebrate its relations with China**

Ibrahim Abdel Karim, the rapporteur for the Sudanese Higher Committee for Celebrations, said that Sudan and China will “celebrate a Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations between the two countries in Khartoum around mid-February.” Abdel Karim described the bilateral relationship between Khartoum and Beijing as “unique” and added that this celebration will “further boost the bilateral relations between the two countries in all aspects.” (*Sudan News Agency, Sudanese Media Centre*)

## **Sudanese economy still faces challenges**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has issued a report assessing Sudan’s economic performance. The IMF report has indicated good economic growth in development of the oil and non-oil sectors. However, the report has also indicated that Sudan is vulnerable to the risk of declining oil revenues because of the global financial crisis. IMF experts say that Sudan should expedite implementation of financial and taxation reforms to stabilize and preserve its economic growth. Moreover, the report stresses the importance of maintaining political and social stability in Sudan. (*Sudanese Media Centre*)

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