



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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

January 21, 2009

JEM meets EU Special Envoy

Yesterday, a delegation from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) met with Torben Bryllie, the European Union (EU) Special Envoy to Sudan and Chad, to discuss “how to counteract the impact” of the International Criminal Court (ICC) decision surrounding Sudanese president Al-Bashir and the Darfur peace process. The JEM delegation is scheduled to meet with Joint UN-UN Chief Mediator for Darfur Djibril Bassole today. According to JEM, Bassole is expected to deliver a proposal from the Sudanese government setting a date for the resumption of talks between the two parties. (*Radio MirayaFM*)

ICC members threaten to withdraw from court

Al Sammani Al-Wasila, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated that “some ICC member states have threatened to withdraw their membership from the ICC if it decides to continue with its decision to issue an arrest warrant against Al-Bashir.” Al-Wasila continued his statement, warning that “the indictment of Al-Bashir will halt development projects in Sudan and may lead to war in the central region of Sudan.”(*Sudan Vision, MirayaFM*)

GoS optimistic about new U.S. administration

The Government of Sudan (GoS) has expressed its “optimism” about the new Obama administration in the United States and said that it hoped that the newly elected president would “restrain hard-line Republicans within the administration with negative agendas toward Sudan.” Ali Al-Sadig, spokesperson at the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, affirmed “Sudan’s wish” for the new administration that it “adopt a more rational approach” with regard to American foreign policy.

He continued that Sudan was “expecting the new U.S. administration to demonstrate good intentions towards Khartoum,” particularly since President Obama’s campaign with the motto of “change.” (*Al-Ahdath*)

Ministry steps up oil production for 2009

The Minister of Energy and Mining, Al-Zubair Ahmed Al-Hassan, announced that his ministry was planning to increase Sudan’s oil production to reach 700,000 barrels per day in the third quarter of this year. The announcement was made at an inauguration ceremony of an oil field in Upper Nile State. (*Sudan News Agency*)

UNAMID to use Darfur Airport

Yesterday, the United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding with the Sudanese Civil Aviation Authority. The agreement allows UNAMID to use the airports in the three states of Darfur and focuses on the development of the facilities as well. (*Khartoum Monitor*)

Sea ports union rejects privatization of harbor

The central committee of the Sea Ports Trade Union has declared its rejection to a “privatization proposal” [by the government] of Port Sudan Harbor. The rejection came in a statement issued yesterday by the union that asserted “a privatization scheme is not in the best interest of the workers at the port.” The executive office of the Sudanese Workers Trade Union affirmed its support to the committee’s decision. (*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.