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“Darfur’s dispute to be solved by the Sudanese”

Secretary of African Union (AU) Affairs Abdel-Salaam Al-Teraiki said in a press statement that “the Darfur problem can only be solved through the joint efforts of the people of Sudan.” The statement came following the opening session of the AU Foreign Ministers Summit in Addis Ababa on Saturday, January 31. Al-Teraiki also added that “efforts were being made to reconcile the armed movements in Darfur in order to reach a peaceful solution.” (*Al-Ayam*)

Western peace efforts in Darfur not on par

Ali Al-Sadig, Spokesperson for the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that although “Sudan has accepted the appointment of Special Envoys to help resolve the Darfur dispute, the contribution of Western countries thus far has been way below expectations.” (*Sudanese Media Center*)

NCP: Upper Nile State incidents “a conspiracy”

The National Congress Party (NCP) said the “the recent tribal clashes in Upper Nile State are a plot aimed to create tension.” NCP Deputy Chairman in Upper Nile State, Anang Agau, has accused elements from the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) of “stirring up trouble” in an attempt to weaken the NCP’s popularity in the state. Agau predicts there will soon be a reshuffle in the state government that may result in the elimination of SPLM ministers. (*Sudanese Media Center, Al-Watan, Al-Khartoum*)

SPLM closer to separation than unity

Speaking at a press conference held in Khartoum recently, SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum

reiterated his previous statement that “according to public polls, 90% of southern Sudanese will vote for separation.” He stated that although the SPLM had no intention of announcing an “early secession,” the “current unfavorable environment in Sudan would make separation a more likely choice for the South rather than unity.” Amum urged the NCP to carry out its commitment towards the Abyei protocols and to cooperate with the International Criminal Court in order to avoid confrontations with the international community. (*Al-Watan, Al-Khartoum, Al-Rai-Al-Aam*)

U.S. relief organization expelled from Darfur

A U.S. relief organization known as “Thirst No More” was expelled from North Darfur State on Thursday for allegedly violating the Voluntary Work Act and for “not complying with regulations of organizations working in Sudan.” The Commissioner of Humanitarian Aid and Organizations Affairs in North Darfur State, Osman Hussein Abdalla, said that the organization was expelled after North Darfur State authorities discovered that the group had over 3,400 Arabic-language bibles, “which the organization failed to justify.” (*Sudan News Agency*)

AU to evaluate Sudan's special courts system

An African Union delegation headed by the South African president has arrived in Khartoum “to assess Sudanese special courts tasked with prosecuting perpetrators of war crimes in Darfur.” If found non-competent, a Sudanese-African court will be formed in order to conduct the trials. (*Al-Wifaq*)

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.