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Moon urges JEM to withdraw from Muhajiriya

Speaking at the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) forces to withdraw from Muhajiriya in order to “prevent further escalation of events in Darfur.” The UN Secretary General pledged to work with the African Union to realize development on the continent. (*Sudan News Agency*)

Taha: regime change cannot be imposed by force

Ali Osman Mohammed Taha, Sudan’s Vice-President, has “called upon internally displaced persons (IDP) camp leaders in Darfur to encourage them to return to their villages.” Taha was speaking at a meeting held in Khartoum yesterday with IDP camp leaders where he stated “the government cannot be changed by force but only through serious and wise dialogue.” (*Sudanese Media Centre*)

UNAMID refuses to leave Muhajiriya

The United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) is reportedly “adamant on rejecting a request by the Sudanese government to pull out its hybrid forces from Muhajiriya” because UNAMID “has a mandate to protect civilians still residing in the region.” The Government of Sudan considers the area a “combat zone.” (*Al-Ahdath*)

Qaddafi elected as AU Chairperson

The African Heads of States have appointed Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qaddafi to the position of Chairman of the African Union. Qaddafi accepted the position in a short speech where he vowed to establish “a government for the United States of Africa.” (*Al-Sahafa*)

Sudan rejects hybrid court to probe war crimes

- Mandoor Al-Mahdi, a senior official from the National Congress Party (NCP) in Sudan, has “rejected any idea of a hybrid court to probe the war crimes in Darfur.” Al-Mahdi told the Qatari-based *Al-Jazeera* that “a non-Sudanese panel will undermine the credibility of the Sudanese judiciary system.” (*SudanTribune.com*)

- A conflicting article in *The Citizen* quotes the Sudanese Deputy Envoy to the African Union, Ambassador Akoy Bona Malwal, as telling reporters that Sudan was willing to accept a hybrid court to look into the war crimes committed in Darfur.

DDR programs in Blue Nile and Kordofan states

The Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration for the northern sector has announced that it will start registration for Blue Nile State and South Kordofan State by mid- February. DDR commissioner Sulaf Al Dein Salih said his commission plans to “send a delegation to Arab and Islamic countries, as well as China, to campaign for funds to implement the DDR program.” He also added that a “shortage of funds threatens the peace process in the country, particularly in the regions of Kordofan and Darfur.” (*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.