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AU: Doha talks “positive and qualitative”

Ramadan Al-Amamra, Commissioner of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council, described the Doha talks between the Government of Sudan and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) “as a positive step of qualitative nature, considering recent developments in Darfur.” (*Al-Watan*)

“Why does the UN speak on behalf of the ICC?”

-Speaking at a recent press conference in response to a comment by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, Sudanese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq labeled the UN representative’s comment as proof of “Sudan’s initial belief that the International Criminal Court (ICC) is merely a tool for implementing a political conspiracy against Sudan and has nothing to do with international justice. Ban Ki-Moon had requested that the Government of Sudan “act responsibly if the ICC were to issue an arrest warrant against Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir.” Al Sadiq asked why the UN Secretary-General speaks on behalf of the ICC, given that it is an independent institution with “its own spokesperson to voice its intentions.” Al-Sadiq, asserted, “Sudan has no plan to hand over any Sudanese citizen to the ICC, let alone a Head of State.” (*Sudan News Agency, Al-Wifaq, Al-Watan*)

-*RadioMirayaFM* mentioned that the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) backs the UN Secretary General’s remark with regard to Sudanese government cooperation with the ICC. Yen Mathew, SPLM Spokesperson, reaffirmed the movement’s position with regard to the ICC and stated that the Sudanese government should “co-operate with the court.”

Israel pressures Nur not to join in Doha talks

Israel has allegedly threatened to close the liaison office of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM)/Abdulwahid faction in Tel Aviv as well as to block Israeli military and logistical support to the movement, should the SLM faction leader Abdel Wahid Mohammed Nur decide to participate in the Doha talks for achieving peace in Darfur. However, SLM Spokesperson Yahya Bolad denies the allegations. (*Al-Wifaq, Al-Watan*)

Al-Mahdi: GoS Serious about resolving Darfur

Yesterday, Secretary-General of the National Congress Party Qutbi Al-Mahdi announced at a workshop in El Fasher that “the Government of Sudan (GoS) is serious about resolving the conflict in Darfur and is concerned with the implementation of the internally displaced person’s (IDP) repatriation program. He notes, however, that “some non-governmental organizations have exploited the IDP issue to suit their own political agenda.” (*Al-Wifaq*)

JEM accuses SAF of attacking its locations

JEM has accused the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) of launching further attacks on JEM locations in eastern Jebel Marra, West Darfur State. Sudanese officials stated that the “clashes in Jebel Marra will not affect the government’s position towards the ongoing negotiations in Doha, as a cease-fire has not been signed between both parties.” (*Radio MirayaFM, Al-Watan*)

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.