



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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

March 3, 2009

GoS: ICC decision will “not affect” Al-Bashir

The Government of Sudan has asserted that “Al-Bashir will continue his legitimate role as head of state, even if the International Criminal Court (ICC) decides to issue an arrest warrant against him.” Kamal Al-Obeid, the Minister of Information and Communication, stated that the government has based its decision to oppose the ICC decision to indict Al-Bashir on the “united stance of the Sudanese people.” (*Al-Khartoum*)

Kiir calls for “self-restraint” after ICC decision

Addressing a political rally in Juba, First Vice-President of the Government of Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit urged Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) supporters in Khartoum to “refrain from rioting” and “maintain their calm” should the ICC issue an arrest warrant against President Al-Bashir on March 4. (*Sudan Vision*)

MFA Undersecretary receives Djibril Bassolé

Sudanese Undersecretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mutrif Siddig, received the AU-UN Joint Chief Mediator on Darfur, Djibril Bassolé, yesterday to “discuss the current status of the Darfur peace talks” following the recent signing of a good will and confidence-building agreement between the Sudanese Government and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in Doha. Siddig affirmed the government’s “commitment to the peaceful settlement of the Darfur conflict,” and added that “any decision by the ICC will not affect the Government’s endeavors.” (*Sudan News Agency*)

Journalists union demands ties be cut with West

In a statement released yesterday, the Sudanese Journalists Union requested that the Government of Sudan “sever its bilateral relations with the U.S., Britain, and France” for “attempting to undermine the stability of Sudan and hinder the progress of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).” The union also called on the government to “expel parties supporting the ICC,” such as the United Nation and its associated offices, “should the ICC issue a decision against Al-Bashir.” (*Al-Watan*)

GoS has “no intention” of expelling SRSQ Qazi

Ali Al-Sadig, Spokesperson for the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, confirmed that Sudan does “not intend to expel the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Sudan Ashraf Qazi” for allegedly telling an Egyptian publication that the UN Mission in Sudan had “provided the ICC with information about Sudan.” The United Nations Mission strongly denied the reports and held a press conference with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday. (*Al-Khartoum, The Citizen, et al*)

Upper Nile State requests arrest of Gabriel Tang

The Council of Ministers of Upper Nile State have called on the Government of National Unity to arrest General Gabriel Tang, who is allegedly responsible for the recent clashes in Malakal. (*MirayaFM*)

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.