



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Sudan rejects Egypt's proposal for a conference

Sudan has "strongly rejected" an Egyptian proposal to convene an international conference to "solve the conflict in Darfur." State Minister for the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ali Karti stated that the government rejected the conference "called for by France, Britain, and the United States" because of their "influential presence." Egypt said that it "understood Sudan's stance" in not participating in the conference, but would continue to "seek peace in Darfur" through joint Arab, Sudanese, and African efforts. (*Al-Rai-Al-Aam, Sudan Vision, Al-Watan*)

Sudan/Syria start talks on ICC tomorrow

The State Minister for the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ali Karti, is scheduled to leave to Damascus tomorrow to meet with high-level Syrian officials. Karti will meet with Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad in his capacity as Chairperson of the Arab League in order to brief him on "recent developments in the Sudanese political arena" regarding the "current International Criminal Court (ICC) crisis." (*Al-Watan*)

A new cult behind abduction of MSF staff

According to an article published in *Al-Rai-Al-Aam*, a newly organized cult known as the "Al-Bashir Hawks" were behind the abduction of the Medecins Sans Frontieres aid workers. The workers have been safely released and are on their way home. Speaking to reporters at a press conference, the Governor of North Darfur, Osman Kabar, stated that "the cult represents an anti-ICC movement in support of Sudanese President Al-Bashir and agreed to release the foreign workers after they were told of the harm their act would cause to the homeland." (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Sudan threatens to expel more aid groups

Sudanese Minister of Interior Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid said that the government was "ready to expel more foreign aid groups if they violated regulations." He also stated that "any aid group that deviated from its humanitarian mandate would be expelled in accordance with the law, a legitimate right of the government." (*Khartoum Monitor, Sudan Vision*)

Expelled NGOs destroy documents

Expelled foreign NGOs have allegedly "destroyed all the documents pertaining to their stay in Sudan," according to the Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroun. Haroun said that the destruction of these documents "confirms the government's allegations that the NGOs were spies." Haroun claimed that "this is a procedure normally done by intelligence services when their plans are uncovered." (*Sudanese Media Centre*)

Darfur probe still underway

Nimer Ibrahim, the Prosecutor-General for Sudan's Special Court assigned to investigate war crimes in Darfur has confirmed that investigations into the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroun are "still ongoing" but that so far "no charges have been pressed against him." He added that the leader of the Popular Defense Forces, Ali Kosheib, is still in the custody of the authorities due to his alleged involvement in the 2003 Deleig incidents in West Darfur State. (*Al-Sudani*)

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.