



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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MFA denounces French statements

The Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has denounced France's remarks regarding the potential "hijacking" of President Al-Bashir's plane if he attends the upcoming Arab summit in Doha. MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadig told reporters "such acts are against the law and a violation of international law, even if the authority behind it was a superpower. Such hostile comments will be taken seriously by Sudan; however, we are not surprised by France's position." (*Akhir Lahza, Sudan Vision, Khartoum Monitor, et al*)

Government plans to nationalize aid agencies

Addressing forces from the army and police, President Al-Bashir stated that the government had plans to nationalize humanitarian aid in Sudan and would give foreign nongovernmental organizations one more year before ending their mandates in Sudan. Al-Bashir said that "some of these organizations have exploited the hospitality of the Sudanese people," and added that Sudan will "not hesitate in immediately expelling any organization that violates its mandate and threatens the security of the country." (*Akhir Lahza, Sudan Vision, Khartoum Monitor*)

Haroun denies being "interrogated" in probe

Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroun has strongly denied recent press reports that he had "undergone any interrogations" by the prosecutor assigned to probe alleged war crimes in Darfur. Haroun says that he does not consider himself "above the law" and is ready to stand before a court if it has anything against him. (*Ajras Al-Hurria, Al-Intibaha*)

"ICC legitimacy" threatened by AU withdrawal

According to *Al-Intibaha*, the president of the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights has stated that "if the thirty African countries who are state parties to the Rome Statute that created the International Criminal Court decided to pull out, as per strong speculation, this would threaten the virtual collapse of the court." The president of the group argues that "the court and some human rights groups think that the best strategy is to go after the easy targets that have less political power," adding that "this is a short-sighted strategy will de-legitimize the court."

JEM threatens withdrawal from Doha talks

A spokesperson for the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) has threatened that the movement will "withdraw from the Doha talks if Al-Bashir is allowed to participate in the Arab summit and not handed over to the ICC." The spokesperson told reporters that JEM is "waiting to see what the Qatari stance on the ICC request to apprehend Al-Bashir" will be. (*Radio MirayaFM*)

SPLM demands sacking of Suleiman and Akol

The National Secretariat of the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) recently made recommendations to sack both Gazi Sulieman and Lam Akol on grounds of "deviating from the movement's principles" and "cooperating with corruptive elements" that were attempting to "damage relations between the National Congress Party and the SPLM." (*Al-Ahdath*)

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.