



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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MFA: GoS “open to dialogue” with the U.S.

The Sudanese government described the next Doha negotiations as “difficult,” due to the “split of the rebel groups in Darfur, numbering more than 30 groups.” The Undersecretary at the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mutriff Siddiq, accused a number of Darfur groups of being “reluctant” to join negotiations despite external pressures. (*Al-Ray Al-aam, Akhir Lahza*)

Agreement on National Intelligence Law soon

Vice President Ali Osman Taha and Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan Riak Machar discussed amendments to the National Intelligence Law in a meeting in Khartoum. Machar said that the subcommittee will add the final touches to the law and that it will be ready in two days time. (*Al-Khartoum*)

Bassole: ICC decision issued at the “wrong time”

The Joint AU/UN Chief Mediator on Darfur, Djibril Bassole, described the ICC indictment of President Al-Bashir as having “no big effect on the security situation in Darfur.” He added that the expulsion of NGOs “left a vacuum which the UN is trying to fill with the cooperation of the Government of Sudan.” Bassole reiterated his criticism for the ICC decision and invited the international community to “stop sending wrong messages to the rebels,” which “hinder negotiation efforts.” (*Al-Sahafa*)

Special Envoy meets Kiir in Juba

Yesterday, U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan General Scott Gration discussed the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement with the President of Southern Sudan Silva Kiir. Gration said that the United States is pushing to assist in implementation of the CPA and hopes to help in reaching an acceptable resolution to the Darfur issue. He added that the U.S. will “provide support and aid for the conduct of presidential and parliamentary elections.” (*Akhbar Alyoum*)

Turabi asks to meet Electoral Commission

The National Electoral Commission has received a request from Hassan Al-Turabi, leader of the Popular Congress Party, to meet the committee along with members from his party. The meeting is scheduled to take place in the next few days. (*Akhbar Alyoum*)

National Parliament urges extension of mandate

The Sudanese Parliament has called on the government and its partners to amend the constitution in order to extend its mandate until February 2010, the new date of the general elections. Last week, the Deputy Chairman of Sudan’s National Electoral Commission announced the delay of the general elections for more than seven months. Initially, the elections were to be held before July 2009. (*Khartoum Monitor*)

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.