



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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

October 14, 2009

NCP accuses SPLM of hindering democratic process

The Sudanese ruling National Congress Party (NCP) accused its ruling partner, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), of attempting to "thwart the democratic process in Sudan." Yesterday the SPLM had given the NCP a one-week ultimatum to approve two outstanding bills or the SPLM would boycott the parliament's sessions. The NCP members of parliament said any boycott of the sessions would impact the ongoing deliberations of these bills. NCP's political bureau officer, Mandoor Al-Mahdi, disclosed that a joint committee of NCP and SPLM officials was currently reviewing the bills. (*Al-Tayar, Al-Ayam, Sudantribune.com*)

Political parties to sign Juba Declaration today

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) announced that a "Juba Declaration" would be signed in Khartoum today by all of the political parties in Sudan. The Declaration includes recommendations by the parties that participated in the Juba Conference. (*Al-Tayar, Khartoum Monitor*)

JEM: Sudan elections are "a danger and disaster"

Senior member of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), Ahmed Nugud, described Sudan's upcoming April elections as a threat to the solidarity of the Sudanese people. Nugud says the current political and security situation is not conducive for free and fair elections. He attributes these conditions to the absence of peace in Sudan and "fabricated" census results. (*The Democrat*)

Beja Congress: Elections in Halaib not possible

-Salah Barukin, spokesperson from the Beja Congress, stated that elections could not be carried

out in the disputed Halaib area on the Sudanese-Egyptian border. Barukin told reporters that the area was under the total control of Egyptian authorities and could not be considered a constituency for the elections, contrary to what had earlier been announced by the National Elections Commission (NEC). (*Khartoum Monitor*)

-*Al-Wifaq* ran an article today reporting that there were signs of tension between Khartoum and Cairo regarding the NEC's confirmation of Halaib as an election constituency.

Sudan removes Israel travel ban from new passport

Sudantribune.com reported that the stamp that validated travel to all countries except Israel in the old Sudanese passport no longer appears in the new passports. Authorities in Khartoum confirmed that this was "a technical decision related to the size of the stamp on the passport." He emphasized that Sudan was still committed to the 1958 Arab embargo on Israel and that the removal of the stamp should not be interpreted as an endorsement for Sudanese citizens to travel to Israel. Sudanese citizens can use the passport to travel to Israel if they reside outside Sudan but Khartoum authorities will not grant exit visas to citizens in Khartoum planning to travel to Israel.

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.