



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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## **Kiir says chances of a united Sudan are slim**

-President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) and also Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Salva Kiir Mayardit told reporters in Egypt that the "likelihood of a united Sudan is slim." According to Kiir, "unity can only be possible if the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) [Northern Party] commits to the peaceful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)." He continued to add that "it was up to the north to restore the lost trust and confidence of the southerners and to try to make unity an attractive option." (*Sudantribune.com*)

-Sudanese Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail responded to Kiir's remarks in Egypt about the secession by describing them "as a tactic to pressure the NCP to yield to the SPLM demands." Ismail stressed that the NCP's strategy for dealing with the SPLM was clear and focused on maintaining the country's security and stability. Ismail downplayed the SPLM Chairman's statements by saying they "were not serious." (*Sudan Vision, Al-Ayam*)

## **NCP: "SPLM officials are escalating problems"**

The NCP accused some officials within the SPLM of attempting to escalate problems between the two parties. NCP official Mandour Al-Mahdi said that the rejection of the Referendum law by some of Sudan People's Liberation Movement's (SPLM) members indicated the dissension between the movement's members. Al-Mahdi said that the bill had already been approved by SPLM's Deputy Chairman Riek Machar, who signed the bill on behalf of the movement's Chairman. "They are trying to hamper the upcoming elections," said Al-Mahdi (*Sudan Vision, Al-Wifaq*)

## **Kidnappers of ICRC worker demand ransom**

The abductors of a French aid worker from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) who was recently kidnapped in Darfur demanded a 1 million dollar ransom for his release. The Sudanese government refused to pay the ransom. ICRC Spokesperson, Tamara Al Rifai, said the organization's policy rejected paying any ransom and will seek other means to persuade the kidnappers to release the worker. (*MirayaFM, Al-Ayam, et al*)

## **JEM rejects AU Committee's report on Darfur**

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) strongly rejected a proposal made in the African Wisemen Committee's report on Darfur. JEM's official spokesperson Ahmed Hussain Adam said that the Committee's proposal of setting up a "hybrid" court in Darfur was not feasible and that the only court that could deal with the "atrocities" committed in Darfur was the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. (*Al-Ayam*)

## **Groups unwilling to admit progress in Darfur**

Chairperson of the African Union Commission Jean Ping revealed that even though the situation in Darfur has greatly improved, some western groups are still unwilling to admit that progress is being made. (*Al-Akhbar*)

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.