



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Sudan arrests SPLM officials Amum and Arman

Sudanese authorities have arrested Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Secretary General Pagan Amum and his deputy Yassir Arman during their participation in an organized opposition rally today to protest in front of the National Assembly. According to Reuters, 25 SPLM and opposition party supporters were gathered outside the parliament. Sudanese opposition groups had earlier vowed to stage a mass demonstration at the parliament despite a last-minute ban of the rally by authorities concerned about possible confrontation between the two sides. The Sudanese Interior Ministry issued a statement saying that the political parties had not obtained official permission to proceed with the mass protest. Police had warned that those intending to take part in this illegal demonstration would face legal action. The parties that had signed up to take part in the rally include signatories to the Juba Declaration in September at a conference hosted by the SPLM. The parties are protesting the delay in passing bills crucial to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), including the national security and referendum bills. (*Sudantribune.com*)

Al-Mahdi proposes "code of honor" for elections

Yesterday, Sudanese President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir met separately with opposition party leaders Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi (Umma Party) and Mohamed Osman Al-Mirghani Al-Mirghani (Democratic Unionist Party - DUP) to discuss their recommendations for the democratic transformation process in Sudan. Al-Mahdi told reporters that during his meeting with the President he proposed an "Elections Code of Honor," for the upcoming elections. Al-Mahdi stressed the necessity for dissemination to all political parties a draft code of

honor for their review and comments. (*Akhir Lahza, Sudantribune.com*)

UK Special Envoy arrives in Khartoum today

British Special Envoy to Sudan Michael O'Neal has arrived in Khartoum today to begin a five-day visit to consult with high-level officials from the Government of National Unity (GONU) and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS). The visit will discuss latest political developments in Sudan as well as the Darfur issue. (*Al-Rai-Al-Aam*)

Voter registration ends today, Minnawi calls for an extension

-Khartoum State Governor Abdelrahman Al-Khidir announced that voter registration for the upcoming elections would end today. The federal government announced late last night that today would be a public holiday for government offices, primary schools, and secondary schools to "enable all Sudanese nationals to register to vote for the 2010 elections." An article in *Akhir Lahza* attributes the declaration of today's public holiday to government precautionary measures on to mitigate the impact of the organized rally. (*Al-Rai-Al-Aam*)

-Sudanese Presidential Aide and leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM)/Minnawi faction strongly urged the National Elections Commission (NEC) to extend a second time the voter registration date to enable Darfur nationals to participate in the electoral process. Minnawi indicates that voter registration in Darfur face many challenges that would be rectified with an extended voter registration closing date. (*Akhir Lahza*)

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.