



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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

December 17, 2009

President Al-Bashir Meets Mbeki

Yesterday, Sudanese President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir met with Thabo Mbeki, Chairman of the African Union “Wise-man” panel for boosting peace in Darfur in Khartoum. During the meeting Mbeki briefed Al-Bashir on the efforts being exerted by the African Panel to implement the approved recommendations by the African Peace and Security Council during the recent summit in Abuja. Mbeki told the press that the panel’s visit to Sudan aims to holding consultations with Sudanese senior government officials and other concerned parties to map out a plan to expedite the peace process in Darfur and ensuring the implementation of the Comprehensive peace Agreement (CPA).

(Sudan Official News Agency, Al-Rai-Al-Aam)

Beja Conference welcomes arbitration on Halaib

Sudanese Beja Conference [A Sudanese political party from the eastern region of Sudan] announced that it welcomed the transfer of the dispute on Halaib between Egypt and Sudan to the International Court of Arbitration, in order to settle the issue. Chairman of the Party, Abdullah Mousa commended Egypt on accepting to address the issue through legal channels. He also urged the Sudanese government to respect political and geographical borders. *(The Democrat)*

Abuja signatories threaten to go back to war

The armed movements who signed on the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) in Abuja are threatening to go back to war as a result of the reduced number of geographical constituencies’ assigned by the National Elections Commission (NEC) to the South Darfur State. Provisions in the DPA stipulate that the South Darfur shall be assigned 78 geographical constituencies for the 2010 elections as opposed to

the 48 constituencies announced by the NEC. *(Al-Tayar)*

GoS denies plan to expel French Ambassador

The Government of Sudan (GoS) denied that it had any intention to expel the French Ambassador to Sudan on grounds of “France’s position towards Al-Bashir’s presence at the African-Summit, which is now to be held in France instead of Egypt. However, the GoS strongly criticized France’s stance and requested that France stop its “patronizing attitude towards Khartoum.” *(Akhir Lahza, The Democrat)*

National Security Act still pending

Chairman of the Sudan National Assembly, Ibrahim Al-Tahir postponed a parliamentary session yesterday meant for endorsing the National Security Act due to a lack of quorum. Several members from the National Congress Party (NCP) parliamentary bloc had failed to show up for the session. Parliament members from the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the National Democratic Alliance caucuses strongly denounced the act describing it as “intentional” on the part of the NCP. *(The Citizen, Al-Rai-Al -Aam)*

NCP assesses SLM/Minnawi faction stance

The NCP said that it will re-assess its position towards the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM)/Minnawi faction as a result of the faction’s participation in the peaceful demonstration organized by the Juba Alliance opposition parties last week. Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail called the faction’s involvement “an unwise step on the movement’s part.” *(Al-Tayar)*

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.