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Al-Bashir to meet with Deby in Addis Ababa

Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir will meet with Chadian President Idris Deby on the sidelines of the African Union Summit, scheduled for late January to early February in Addis Ababa.

(Al-Rai-Al-Aam)

Mediators meet with GoS and JEM in Doha

--Yesterday Doha Peace mediators held separate closed-door sessions in Doha with representatives of the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). Qatari Minister of State Ahmed Bin Abdallah Al-Mahmoud stated that the peace mediators aimed to reach a unified stance acceptable to all parties prior to official talks. Al-Mahmoud noted that the GoS and JEM had reached an agreement on some of the issues. Further deliberations on unresolved issues are still required.

(Al-Ahdath, MirayaFM)

--An article in *Al-Rai-Al-Aam* reports that the JEM delegation is refusing to participate in multiparty negotiations. The same article states that France gave Sudan Liberation Movement faction leader Abdelwahid Mohammed Nur (SLM/AW) the option of either joining the negotiations or leaving France within the next two days.

--*Sudantribune.com* cites that JEM has expressed its readiness to hold parallel consultations and to reach a unified stance with other Darfur movements before engaging in peace talks with GoS. Still, JEM has rejected the participation of some Darfur rebel movements in the talks, stating that these groups have no real presence on the ground in Darfur. "We are ready to consult here in Doha with other factions to establish a unified standpoint before concluding a peace agreement with the government [GoS]," said JEM's spokesperson Ahmed Hussein Adam. Adam

added that his party had no objection to negotiating with the GoS but that the movement first needed to determine which parties should participate in the peace talks. Initially, JEM had agreed to participate in the Doha peace talks with one other party, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Abdel Wahid Al-Nur faction.

Human Rights Watch calls for pre-election probe

The New York-based human rights watchdog called on international observers assigned to monitor Sudan's elections to look into violations carried out by Sudanese authorities during the pre-election phase. Human Rights Watch deputy Director of the Africa Division, Georgette Gagnon accused Sudanese security forces of "seriously undermining" the prospect for free and credible elections by carrying out arbitrary arrests of members of political parties opposed to the regime. "The Khartoum government is still using its security forces to harass and abuse those who speak out against the ruling National Congress Party," says Gagnon. *(The Citizen, Al-Sahafa)*

Political movement to boycott elections

Ibrahim Rashid, Deputy Chairperson of political movement Dignified Peace Forum announced today that it would boycott upcoming elections in Sudan. According to Rashid, the movement's participation in the elections contradicts its objectives. The Forum is lead by Al-Tayeb Mustafa [Sudanese President Al-Bashir's Uncle]. *(Al-Rai-Al-Aam, Al-Ahdath)*

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.