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GoS official describes Gration's remarks on Doha talks as "contradicting"

An unnamed official from the Government of Sudan (GoS) downplayed recent remarks made by U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan Scott Gration, in Adis Ababa, on the progress of the Doha talks. According to the source, Gration had allegedly described the Doha talks as "public relations negotiations" and had stated that "the political process in Darfur was stalled." The GoS official pointed out that the Special Envoy's remarks on Sudan contradicts the current "improved [GoS-defined] situation in Darfur," adding that Gration's remarks are "poorly chosen" and run contrary to the progress being made in the Doha talks. (*Al-Wifaq, Al-Khartoum*)

Criticism on SPLM presidential nomination

--A Southern member of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and ex-National Assembly Chairman of the SPLM bloc, Manawa Aligo, criticized his party's selection of SPLM Northern Sector Secretary General Yasir Arman as a presidential candidate for the upcoming elections. Aligo argues that this nomination will have "negative implications" on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the South Sudan Referendum for self-determination." Manawa Aligo stated that it would have been preferable that his party form a coalition with the National Congress Party (NCP) in order to support the candidacy of incumbents Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir and President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) Salva Kiir Mayardit. (*Al-Raed*)

-- London-based Al-Sharq Al-Awsat quoted senior NCP official Ali Karti as saying that the SPLM's selection of Arman is merely an expression of gratitude towards a northern political figure by the

ex-Southern rebel group. Karti is quoted as saying that he hoped that he Arman "is burned politically" and that his "political career comes to an end." (*Sudantribune.com*)

Kiir and Taha deliberate over outstanding issues

The two Sudanese Vice-Presidents of the Government of National Unity met in Juba yesterday in a closed-door session to discuss outstanding issues pertaining to the CPA, border demarcation and the census results. The two officials agreed to further deliberate on border demarcation and the census results in another high-level meeting, in Khartoum and in the presence of President Al-Bashir. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Kiir indicated that his meeting with Taha was "fruitful." In response to would become of the partnership between SPLM and NCP and of the controversial Acts still under discussion, Kiir stated that these issues would be dealt with by the newly elected National Assembly. He said that the future of SPLM-NCP partnership would be determined by the progress achieved now. (*Al-Wifaq*)

Moon appoints new Special Envoy to Sudan

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon announced that he will appoint former Eritrean diplomat Haile Menkerios as the UN Special Envoy to Sudan. Moon made this announcement at a meeting on the sidelines of the African Union summit, currently taking place in Addis Ababa. (*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.