



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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## **NCP: remarkable breakthrough in Sudan-Chad ties**

--National Congress Party (NCP) senior official Qutbi Al-Mahdi indicated in a press statement that Sudan and Chad's bilateral ties would undergo a remarkable breakthrough due to Chadian President Idris Deby's current visit to Khartoum. Al-Mahdi expressed hopes that the two countries would reach a long-standing solution for the existing differences at the root of the rift between the two countries. Al-Mahdi commended Deby's initiative to visit Sudan and said that the Chadian President "is making practical efforts to solve the dispute in Darfur." Al-Mahdi disclosed that a Chadian parliamentary delegation would visit Khartoum shortly. Commissioner of the African Union, Jean Ping, welcomed the Chadian President's visit to Sudan and the resumption of dialogue between Sudan and Chad. Ping asserted that this summit meeting between the leaders of Sudan and Chad will facilitate recent border security arrangements and hoped the spirit of reconciliation, mutual respect and brotherhood would prevail. (*Sudan News Agency, et al*)

## **Supreme Court rejects case refuting Al-Bashir and Kiir's candidacy, cancels NEC decision to eliminate 2 presidential candidates**

--A National Supreme Court rejected two cases refuting the candidacy of both incumbent President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir and Southern Sudan President Salva Kiir Mayardit. (*Al-Wifaq, Sudan Vision*)

--The court also refuted and cancelled a decision by the National Elections Commission (NEC) to eliminate two presidential nominees from the list of presidential candidates running for the upcoming April elections. The two disqualified candidates are Fatma Abdel Mahmoud (Democratic Socialist

Union) and independent Munir Sheikheldin, whom the NEC had recently declared as not meeting its requirements. Both candidates will be re-enlisted to the NEC list of presidential candidates. The rulings by the Supreme Court are final and binding. (*Al-Akhbar, Al-Midan. Al-Wifaq*)

## **Darfur rebel leader cleared of war crimes charges**

The judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC) cleared Darfur rebel leader Bahar Idris Abu Qarda on charges of launching an attack on African Union Peacekeepers in Darfur in 2007. The ICC judges said there was insufficient evidence to send Abu Qarda to trial and that the prosecution failed to prove that Bahr Idriss Abu Garda, leader of Darfur United Resistance Front (URF), played a role in the deadly assault that left 12 soldiers dead and wounded 8 others. The Sudanese government called Abu Qarda's appearance before the ICC judges as a "theatrical play" orchestrated by ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo to show his impartiality and pressure Sudan into cooperating with the court. (*Sudantribune.com*)

## **Mbeki holds talks in Kenya on Sudan peace**

Former South African president Thabo Mbeki and the head of the African Union Panel on Darfur (AUPD) met today with senior Kenyan officials to brief them on the work of his panel and garner their support. (*Sudantribune.com*)

## **Misseriya leader says border demarcation in Abyei necessary to end clashes between forces from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and Misseriya. (Al-Wifaq)**

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.