



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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JEM prisoners set free after signing of deal

Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir, by way of a decree, ordered the release of 57 prisoners belonging to the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) held in custody for their attack on Omdurman in March 2008. The release came after the February 20 signing of the framework agreement, between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and JEM in N'Djamena, Chad. According to Sudanese Minister of Justice, Abdul Basit Sabdarat, those released represent more than half of the JEM prisoners being held in custody. Another leading NCP official, Ghazi Salahuddin, said the remaining detainees will be freed at the earliest opportunity. Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) Al-Sawarmi Khalid Saad, affirmed SAF's full commitment to the ceasefire in Darfur. (*Sudantribune.com, Al-Gwat-Al-Mslha, et al*)

SLM-AW denounces GoS pact with JEM

Faction leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement Abdulwahid Mohammed Nur (SLM-AW) denounced the framework agreement signed between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Justice and Equality Movement describing it as a "ritual procedure" practiced by Khartoum but not a genuine peace procedure. He claimed that the government in Khartoum "is very good in signing agreements but very bad in implementing them." Nur said that his movement is seeking genuine peace and that they are taking the needs of the people of Dafur into consideration. "We want Khartoum to fully satisfy their demands. That is the peace we want," he said. The SLM leader said that he was only ready to hold talks with the GoS if they disarmed the Janjaweed and stopped the genocide in Darfur. (*Sudantribune.com*)

JEM calls for election postponement

JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim called for a postponement of the upcoming April 11 elections, stating that many of the people of Darfur will not be able to participate in the elections because they are displaced. Khalil added that his movement will not participate in the elections unless a "comprehensive peace is realized in Darfur first." (*Al-Ayam*)

Opposition Popular Congress Party (PCP) Secretary, General Hassan Al-Turabi, announced that his party agrees with JEM's proposal to postpone the elections and proposes an interim government run the State's Affairs during the transition. (*The Citizen, Khartoum Monitor, Al-Intibaha*)

NCP asked to give-up Al-Bashir's candidacy

The SPLM reportedly demanded the National Congress Party (NCP) withdraw President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir's candidacy for the upcoming elections. The announcement was made by the SPLM Deputy Secretary General, Yasser Arman, who is also running for president. (*Al-Akhbar*)

Sudan-Chad monitoring committee start duties today

A Sudanese-Chadian border monitoring committee started its duties in Al-Jeniena today, based on the stipulations of a recently re-activated military Protocol Agreement signed between Khartoum and N'Djamena. (*Al-Ayam*)

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.