



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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Khartoum criticizes Washington travel advisory

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali Al-Sadiq has dubbed an updated U.S. Department of State travel advisory as “isolated but expected.” He said that Sudan is a “totally safe country and foreigners enjoy full protection.” The January 1 killing of two USAID employees, he added, was an isolated incident that authorities in Khartoum dealt with efficiently. He pointed out that the case is now before the courts. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Sahafa, Al-Sudani*)

UN envoy says disturbed by situation in Sudan

In her report to the UN Human Rights Council on March 17, Sima Samar, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Sudan, said she was disturbed by the critical human rights situation in the region and particularly the ongoing major military offensive in West Darfur. Samar criticized the government and the rebel groups for failing in their responsibility to provide protection to the civilians in areas under their control and for violating international human rights and international humanitarian law. She also said that the Government of Southern Sudan should do more to strengthen the administration of justice. (*Rai Al-Shaab*)

\$12M for Darfur unaccounted for

Dr. Ibrahim Madibo, the head of the Darfur Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Fund, said more than SDG 23M (\$12M) used in the last seven months could not be accounted for by the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority (TDRA). He attributed the missing funds to a lack of monitoring. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Minister defends press monitoring committee

Justice Minister AbdelBasit Sabdarat told a local newspaper yesterday that the committee the ministry has proposed to form to monitor press reports will only do so in order to enable the ministry to monitor activities of the various state institutions based on information the press may disclose. He said that the ministry is proposing formation of the committee out of respect for what the press writes. He called on the press to show goodwill in interpreting government decisions and not to misunderstand such decisions. (*Akhir Lahza*)

Bashir urges increase in women’s participation

Addressing the opening session of the First Forum of Sudanese Women Parliamentarians held in Khartoum on March 18, President Bashir urged legislative assemblies of all 26 states of the country to implement the Local Government Act allocation of at least 25% of parliamentary seats to women. (*Akhir Lahza et al*)

Egypt pledges full support for Sudan oil industry

Visiting Egyptian Petroleum Minister, Sami Fahmi, told Sudan’s Minister for International Cooperation that Egypt pledges full support to Sudan in its activities to explore its oil, gas, petrochemical and mineral wealth. In statements to the press, he said that the two sides also discussed training and exchange in expertise. (*Al-Ayaam*)

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.