



## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN UNMIS

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(By Public Information Office)

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### **UN/ Agencies**

#### **EU calls upon the SC to penalize those hampering peace efforts in Darfur**

*al Rai AlAam Sudan Tribune:* The European Union called on the United Nations to consider tighter sanctions on Sudan over Darfur and pledged on Monday to find funds to help transform an African Union peace force into a joint mission with the U.N.

EU foreign ministers said in a statement they were "deeply concerned" about deteriorating security in Sudan's vast west and blamed all parties involved in the conflict.

"The Council underlines its support for urgent consideration by the (U.N.) Security Council of further measures" against those impeding the peace process, the ministers said.

Officials said the term "measures" in the statement referred to sanctions. Existing sanctions on Khartoum include an arms embargo and restrictions against individuals. The ministers did not say how the sanctions should be tightened.

#### **UN sends copter to evacuate relief workers from Tombora.**

*Al Ayaam* A helicopter and protection elements were sent yesterday morning by the UN to Tombora to evacuate four NGO staff to Juba following reports that LRA troops entered the town on 4 March. According to UN News Centre reports from the area indicate that gunshots were heard there.

**UN calls on the two partners to take action against the militias.**

*Al Ayaam* The routine meeting of the CPC called for further coordination between all parties of the DDR.

ASRSG urged both parties (NCP and SPLM) to expedite the implementation of merging other armed groups into their forces on a transparent manner and to undertake measures to hold these groups accountable including handing over of their arms and ammunitions.

**Jamous detained in UN military base in Kadugli. Sudan rebel becomes 'UN prisoner' A Darfur rebel leader says he has become a prisoner at the United Nations peacekeeping base in Kadugli in Sudan.**

*Al Intibaha, BBC Monitoring* UNMIS sources said that a Darfur rebel leader, Suliman Jamous, was detained in a peacekeeping base in Kadugli. In a report London radio said those Jamous 60 years old, is widely respected and had a good experience during the early days of Darfur crises for organizing humanitarian needs. However, during the past eight months, Jamous was imprisoned in the UN military base

Suleiman Jamous says he cannot leave for fear of being arrested by the Sudanese authorities.

Mr Jamous was airlifted out of Darfur eight months ago for medical treatment after he refused to sign a regional peace agreement.

The airlift prompted criticism from the Sudanese government, which then suspended UN activities for two days.

No visitors

The BBC's Jonah Fisher in the capital, Khartoum, says that in the murky, confused world of Darfur rebels, Suleiman Jamous is as respected and articulate as they come.

Aged 62, his experience was vital in the early days of the crisis as he co-ordinated humanitarian access for the vast aid operation, he says.

In May last year Mr Jamous rejected the Darfur peace agreement - and was promptly detained by those rebels who did sign.

After a month the UN intervened and flew Mr Jamous to Kadugli for medical treatment.

But our correspondent says the UN seems keen to forget their unwelcome guest, and their clinic is unable to find what is wrong with Mr Jamous's deteriorating condition.

The mission has refused to allow journalists to visit him.

"Because of the background to this problem, we're in sensitive discussions with the government [Sudanese]," the acting head of mission Taye Zerihoun explained.

### **Prior to the Discussion of Darfur on 16 March, Human Rights Council requests meeting of high level Sudanese officials.**

*Al Wihda* Human Rights Council will present its report on Darfur humanitarian situation on 16 March. Geneva diplomatic sources said that the committee presented a letter to Sudan mission in Geneva asking for meeting high level Sudanese officials through the phone. Sources added that the mission returned back from Chad without accomplishing its task and that's why it made the request.

### **UN SC holds session today to evaluate the situation in Darfur.**

*Al Wihda* UNSC will hold a session today to evaluate the situation in Darfur, Sudan UN ambassador told Omdurman radio. The session would be briefed by the UN SG Special Envoy, Eliasson on his recent visit to Khartoum and the political process needed for Darfur.

### **New UN humanitarian chief set to visit Sudan**

(*SudanTribune.com*) The top United Nations humanitarian official, whose tenure began on 1 March, said today that he is eager to see first-hand the dire humanitarian situation in western Sudan, as well as visit Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR), which are both hosting refugees who have fled the war-torn Darfur region.

"I want to get onto the ground soon to see for myself what is happening in some of the critical areas," John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, told reporters in his first press briefing since taking office.

In the region, the problems regarding the safety of the displaced as well as of humanitarian workers "are increasing and unacceptable and the problems of access, if anything, are worsening," he added.

To this end, Holmes, who now heads the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), is currently in discussions with the authorities of the three countries regarding a trip scheduled for 20-31 March, during which he hopes to meet with Government officials, humanitarian workers and those living in camps.

In his new position, Holmes will wear "three separate hats," each with "various goals."

In his capacity as the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, he said that he believes he will play a significant advocacy role to emphasize such issues as the significance of access in humanitarian relief, highlighting neglected crises and the sexual violence in conflict.

As the Emergency Relief Coordinator, he hopes to build upon reforms and innovations initiated in recent years, such as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which helps countries cope with underfunded emergencies.

Finally, of the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction which he will lead, Mr. Holmes noted that he wants to increase the public's awareness that "money spent on prevention is a better investment than money spent on response after [a disaster]."

The new Under-Secretary-General, who replaces Norway's Jan Egeland, also described what he believes will be his dual approach to his position. "What I will try to do is combine a certain amount of quiet diplomacy if necessary... but also I will have absolutely no hesitation of speaking up in a striking and passionate way."

Aside from Sudan, Chad and the CAR, other countries high on his agency's agenda are Somalia, where OCHA hopes to increase its activities in the south and centre of the country, Uganda, where the government is currently in talks with the rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and Mozambique, which has been ravaged by both floods and a tropical cyclone.

Holmes also mentioned Iraq as a country whose humanitarian situation OCHA is closely monitoring. Approximately 1.8 million Iraqis have been internally displaced, while the same number of Iraqi refugees now reside outside the country's borders. OCHA is opening an office in Amman, Jordan, to help coordinate humanitarian efforts to assist the refugees.

Holmes, a veteran diplomat from the United Kingdom, most recently served as his country's ambassador to France prior to assuming his current position at the UN. In his career with the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, he has covered and been posted in many regions, including the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America. In 1999, he was awarded a knighthood, largely for the role he played in the Northern Ireland peace process and the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

## **GoNU**

### **Message from President Al-Bashir to Mubarak on efforts being exerted for purification of Arab atmospheres**

*All Press, SUNA*, Egyptian President Mubarak received at Sharm el Sheikh Monday Presidential Adviser Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail who conveyed to him a verbal message from President Bashir, dealing with the efforts which are being exerted for handling the Arab issues and for the success of the coming Arab summit in Riyadh .

The meeting discussed developments in Sudan in general and in Darfur in particular as well as the bilateral relations.

SUNA learnt that an agreement was reached during the meeting on holding the session of the higher joint committee between the two countries in Khartoum by the end of current March.

### **US special envoy plans to meet Sudanese leader**

*(SudanTribune.com)* U.S. special envoy to Sudan Andrew Natsios is set to meet Sudan's president on Wednesday to keep pressure on Khartoum to let an international force into Darfur, the State Department said on Monday.

Natsios was in Darfur over the weekend to see the situation on the ground in western Sudan and will make his case in a meeting with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir in Khartoum.

"He will, of course, focus on the importance of getting in this AU/U.N. hybrid force. I think the Sudanese government understands full well that it is well past due," said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack.

"We would encourage them to act on their acceptance of the hybrid AU/U.N. force. There are actions that they need to take; there are actions the U.N. need to take."

The United States and others have grown impatient with Sudan over its handling of Darfur and are considering a more robust response to put pressure on Khartoum.

Natsios was in the south Sudan capital of Juba on Monday and is expected back in Khartoum on Tuesday. He is set to return to Washington on Friday after a week-long visit to Sudan, his third since being appointed special envoy in September.

### **Pressure Sudan and it will bow on Darfur – Turabi**

*(SudanTribune.com)* Foreign pressure, including the threat of international justice, will force Sudan to finally allow United Nations intervention in Darfur, leading opposition figure Hassan al-Turabi said on Monday.

A military stalemate in Darfur, pressure from Sudan's southern politicians who share power in Khartoum and domestic political tensions will also drive the government of Omar al-Bashir to compromise, said Turabi.

"They want to say 'yes' a little bit (on Darfur) and 'no' to handing over any minister" to an international court said the lawyer and politician who was the Islamic ideologue behind Bashir's rise in 1989 but gradually pushed out by the general.

Turabi officially ostracised but still influential among Sudan's elites, forecast Bashir would agree to a negotiated settlement over Darfur's future in a national restructuring he gambles he could undertake and survive in office.

### **Natasios: US has no vested interests in Sudan**

*All press, Sudan vision*; US envoy to Sudan, Andrew Natsios affirmed that US has no economic aspirations whether relating to mining or otherwise nor has it any military aims in Darfur.

He delivered that speech during the meeting he held with North Darfur Governor, Osman Kibir and his government officials.

Affirming that his government's motives were exclusively humanitarian, Natsios denied the circulated accusations saying that US Administration has been planning to break away Darfur region.

He added that US has been keen to push forward the political solution efforts so as to extinguish this long conflict and help the IDPs return to their homes and enjoy their normal lives instead of relying on relief handouts.

### **Sudanese president to leave for Qatar on 6 March**

*Al Sahafa, BBC Monitoring* Bashir visits Doha today to hold talks with the Qatari Amir. During the visit, he will hold talks on bilateral relations between Qatar and Sudan, as well as the latest developments in Sudan.

Some sources expect talk to turn into a tripartite summit (Sudan, Eritrea and Qatar) to look into their relation and discuss issues of mutual interests.

### **GoS optimistic over Eliasson's report to the Security Council**

*Sudan Vision*, The Sudanese government has expressed cautious optimism over the report of the UN Special Envoy to Sudan Jan Eliasson will present today to the United Nations Security Council.

According to the Sudanese Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Ali AlSadiq, Eliasson report can be positive if it has been based on the out come of his visit to Sudan and his meetings with Sudanese officials and if it has been consistent with the picture of the conditions in Darfur as reflected by the envoy.

AlSadiq said a positive report will be in the interest of a peaceful solution to the Darfur issue.

### **Sudanese envoy, Egyptian president discuss Darfur, bilateral ties**

*(SudanTribune.com)* A Sudanese president envoy has informed today the Egyptian president of the latest development on Darfur region and the outcome of Tripoli summit, he also discussed the joint cooperation between the two countries.

President Hosni Mubarak received on Monday a message from Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir handed by Mustafa Osman Ismail, presidential advisor on developments in Sudan and the outcome of the four-way summit held in Tripoli on Darfur and Sudan's relations with Chad.

The message tackles efforts exerted by President Bashir, in his capacity as president of the previous Arab summit, to clear the Arab atmosphere and render the Riyadh summit a success.

In statements after meeting Mubarak, the Sudanese presidential envoy said the Egyptian-Sudanese higher committee will convene in Khartoum late in March under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Ahmad Nazif and Sudanese Second Vice-President Ali Osman Taha.

### **Sudan communists urge govt to hand over Darfur suspects to ICC**

*(SudanTribune.com)* Sudan's opposition Communist Party urged the government to hand over to the International Criminal Court two officials suspected of war crimes in Darfur.

A statement by the Sudanese Communist Party said Monday the government should cooperate with the ICC by surrendering the two officials and providing legal defence for them.

The international court's prosecution last week named Sudanese minister Ahmad Haroun and suspected government-backed Janjaweed militia leader Ali Abdul Rahman, better known as Ali Kushayb, as suspects in war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur in western Sudan.

The Sudanese government has vowed not to hand over the men or any other citizen for trial outside the country.

The communists said the naming of Sudanese officials was expected and the Khartoum government should have been legally and politically prepared, insisting the government bears full responsibility for the strife and escalation of the crisis in Darfur.

"We have repeatedly demanded an investigation into the crimes committed in Darfur and to punish the perpetrators inside or outside the country, but the government doesn't listen to reason," the leftist group said.

With this statement, the Communist Party has thus joined other major opposition Sudanese groups in supporting a call to hand over the two officials to the ICC for trial in The Hague.



## **Southern Sudan/ SPLM**

### **SPLM Security delegation in Khartoum today to merge SSDF.**

*Al Intibaha* A high SPLA military delegation is to arrive Khartoum today to negotiate with the SSDF the possibility of absorbing its troops in the SPLA prior to the date specified by the CPA regarding the settlement of the issue of southern militias.

### **South Sudan climate is conducive for investment – Salva Kiir**

(*SudanTribune.com*) First vice-president and president of the government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, has affirmed stability of security situation and that the climate is conducive for investment in Southern Sudan.

Addressing the inaugural sitting for Sudanese-German Businessmen Forum in Juba Monday, Kiir said the southern Sudan government is committed to protect the investments of businessmen and removing any obstacles impeding their works.

He pointed to health, education, infrastructure, roads and water as important investment opportunities available for businessmen in South Sudan, stressing importance of utilizing the German technologies in development of agriculture in Southern Sudan. He invited the German investors to tour some southern Sudan towns like Yei, Kapoita and Nimule.

Minister of Investment Malik Agar called upon businessmen to invest in fields of telecommunications, air transport and roads and health.

### **Ugandan LRA rebels shun Acholi peace conference in South Sudan**

*New Vision*: The Lord's Resistance Army [LRA] rebels did not show up for the Acholi peace conference, Wang Oo, held in the South Sudan capital of Juba.

Gulu chairman Norbert Mao said the rebels were invited but they did not turn up and never communicated why.

The conference that was scheduled to end yesterday was organized in an attempt to restore talks between the Government of Uganda and the LRA rebels as a way of ending the northern Uganda conflict.

About 150 people, who included elders, MPs, and opinion leaders from the Acholi districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Amuru and Pader, attended the conference, which was funded by DANIDA and the Canadian government. It was organized by the Acholi cultural leader, Rwot David Onen Achana.

The leader of the opposition in parliament, who is also the Agago County MP, Prof Ogenga Latigo, pleaded with Dr Riek Machar to continue mediating in the talks. Ogenga

asked the LRA rebels to resume the talks as the team tries to solve the issues they raised. He said the conflict had greatly affected the people of South Sudan and northern Uganda.

### **South Sudan government reportedly not supporting returnees**

*SRS*: The government of Southern Sudan is not providing food to returnees who have been voluntarily repatriated to southern Sudan by the UNHCR.

That claim from the chairman of the Sudanese community at Kakuma refugee camp, Matueny Mayen, who says some refugees who have been repatriated to Sudan have gone back to Kenya because of the lack of food and basic services.

Mr. Mayen said that returnees, when they arrive in southern Sudan, receive food from the World Food Programme for the first three months. But after that, no food is provided. Blaming the Government of Southern Sudan, many of them choose to go back to Kenya. He said insecurity in some parts of southern Sudan also encourages some repatriated people to go back to Kakuma.

Under the tripartite agreement signed between the Government of National Unity, the Kenyan government and the UNHCR last year, any Sudanese refugee repatriated by UNHCR cannot be granted refugee status again unless there are strong reasons to support the claims.

UNHCR said this decision was designed to make the Government of Southern Sudan do more to reintegrate returnees into communities in southern Sudan.

### **Kenyan refugee camp facing health concerns - relief agency**

*SRS*: The International Rescue Committee, IRC, says the repatriation of Sudanese refugees to southern Sudan has prompted donors to reduce their funding for programmes at Kakuma Refugee Camp in northern Kenya.

Reacting to refugees' concerns that the health situation has deteriorated at the camp, acting IRC Field Coordinator Stephen Bosire told Sudan Radio Service that donors have shifted most of their attention away from refugees to supporting humanitarian programmes in southern Sudan.

### **Five reportedly killed at Kenyan refugee camp**

*SRS*: At least five people have been killed and five others wounded in attacks against refugees in Kakuma by armed men.

Speaking to Sudan Radio Service in Kakuma on Wednesday [28 February], the Sudanese community chairman at the refugee camp, Mr Matueny Mayen, said the incidence of armed attacks against refugees at the camp has increased over the last two months.

Mr Mayen says three people from the Sudanese community and two people from the Somali community have been killed since the beginning of 2007.

He attributed the insecurity to the ongoing repatriation of Sudanese refugees, who receive food from the UNHCR as they prepare to return to Sudan. Bandits, believed mostly to be from the host Kenyan community, allegedly carry out the attacks in order to loot food items from the refugees.

Sources at UNHCR say there has been incidents of armed attacks against refugees but could not confirm the number of people who have died in these attacks.

The Kenyan police at the camp said they could not comment on the issue.

## **SHILLUK INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IS NOT A CREATION OF LAM AKOL**

( SouthSudan.Net)

Public Statement

Shilluk International Congress (SIC)

March, 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007

In response to our public statement issued on Feb, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007, Senator Dr. Peter Adwok Nyaba wrote an article in the daily newspaper *the Citizen* denying the existence of our organization and accused Dr. Lam Akol, the Foreign Minister of Sudan, as being the one who wrote the statement fictitiously. There are a lot of allegations he raised in his article against our organization. However, we are in a position to answer the relevant ones. The SIC does not want to assume the position of Lam Akol and would not answer the attacks labeled against him personally by Senator Nyaba. What we are concerned with is the denial of the existence of the SIC.

The Shilluk International Congress (SIC) was founded on Dec, 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006, by the intellectuals of Collo community living in Europe, North America and Australia. It was created to address economic and political problems facing Shilluk community in Upper Nile State. There are so many socio-economic problems members of Collo community need to address after the conclusion of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). One of them is political marginalization. Although the South Sudanese in general are victims of minority Arab clique marginalization, each community has a natural right to fight for itself in a country like Sudan which has more than one hundred and sixteen tribal groupings. We feel that one way to address marginalization of South Sudan from national cake in Khartoum is not to fill all positions with Nuer or Dinka, but with all ethnic groups from the South. However, the idea of New Sudan the SPLM has been fighting would become another form of domination by privileged ethnic groups from the North and South if, for instance, the Government of National Unity (GoNU) is dominated by Jali

and Dinka ethnic groups without regard to national diversity. This may ignite a lot of questions from other ethnic groups of Sudan and question the legitimacy of the New Sudan the SPLM is claiming to champion.

Senator Dr. Nyaba might have made a leap of logic by arguing that there is no organization called the SIC because it never issued any statement before accusations were brought against Dr. Lam Akol. However, we would remind him that the SIC existed even before Dr. Lam was falsely accused at Yie meeting of SPLM Leadership Council of Feb, 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Since political marginalization is one of the problems the SIC must address, our organization had to react to false accusations brought against a Southern icon who hailed from Collo Kingdom. Dr. Lam is a Southern leader who is subject to false accusations like any politician in Sudan. But tribal conspiracy against him because of his ethnic background may even force his adversaries from Collo community to come to his defense cheaply because an attack on Lam because he is a Shilluk is also an attack on all Shilluks including Collos who are his political enemies. We know where the false accusations against him originated from. The fact that Pagan Amum was used as an errand boy to speed up smear campaign against him does not mean that there are no anti-Collo in the shadow who planned false accusations against Lam. Members of Collo community find it difficult to fathom why the Dinka elites attack Lam repeatedly because of 1991 Nasir Declaration without mentioning Riek Machar. If the reason is that Lam Akol is the intellectual father of the revolution, what about those who accepted his call and assumed leadership of the SPLM/A—Nasir faction? Does being the intellectual father of the revolution absolve Riek Machar, Gordon Koang and the rest from blame if the Dinka militants mistakenly belief that the 1991 declaration was a disaster? Why did the Dinka elites single out one person from the group that made the declaration?

The reason why the names of the leaders of Shilluk International Congress are not made public should not tempt an intellectual like Senator Dr. Nyaba to jump to conclusion that the public statement of the SIC was authored by Dr. Lam Akol. The executive leadership of the SIC is fully aware of the security risks by questioning false accusations emanating from Garang's boys like Pagan Amum. Some of our members were there when Lokurnyang Lado was executed in Bonga by the SPLA in 1984. The role of Pagan Amum in the killing is well documented. Besides, Pagan Amum warned Southerners in a party in Juba last year that "any body who disagrees with the leadership of the SPLM would be followed up to village". What this statement means is that somebody marked by Garang's boys is not only subject to physical and mental harm but also his family members in the village may fall victims. Therefore, the SIC has legal responsibility to protect its members from potential harm in South Sudan.

The Collo community is also aware of the personal animosities between Dr. Nyaba and Dr. Lam Akol. The former was arrested in December, 1994 in Tonga by Lam Akol's forces of SPLM/A—United. Dr. Nyaba was then sent by Riek Machar to persuade Shilluk officers to arrest Lam Akol and hand him over. However, things did not go the way he planned and Nyaba ended up in jail instead. Prior to that, Nyaba was one of the conspirators who convinced Riek Machar to dismiss Lam Akol from the SPLM/A—United without conducting a trial or following the administrative procedures to establish his guilt before dismissing him. There is no question that Senator Nyaba would easily jump to conclusion and accuse Lam falsely of being the inventor of the SIC to settle personal grudges.

The personal animosities between the Senator and the Foreign Minister have caused a lot of concerns among the Shilluk community and the SIC would like to appeal to both men to seek counseling from Shilluk's Reth (King) who has spiritual powers to exorcise hatred and ill-feelings against one another. Dr. Nyaba's article of accusation against Lam was prompted by personal vendetta rather than expression of personal opinion. If his hatred against Lam is not cured by the spiritual powers of Collo King, people may wonder whether the Senator is not going to enact a law in the national parliament that would target only Lam Akol in the country.

The Shilluk International Congress therefore advises Senator Adwok Nyaba to distinguish between a legitimate civil society organization and a political adversary. Besides, being a Senator is a respectable position which demands care before one should jump to conclusion.

Signed,

**Shilluk International Congress**

Contact: **[Shillukinternationalcongress@yahoo.com](mailto:Shillukinternationalcongress@yahoo.com)**

## **Darfur/ Darfur Peace Agreement**

### **Darfur militia leader to go on trial 7 March**

*BBC Mon* Khartoum, 5 March: Sudan news agency has learnt that three suspects will be arraigned in the special criminal court in Al-Jenaina court in the Delaij incidents in western Darfur State.

The court proceedings will begin the day after tomorrow, Wednesday [7 March]. The accused are Ali Abd-al-Rahman Kushayb [suspected Janjaweed militia leader and one of the suspects named by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity in Darfur], Hamdi Sharaf al-Din, and Add-al-Rahman Da'ud Humaydah.

The proceedings will be chaired by High Court Judge Ahmad Abu Zayd and appeal court Judge Al-Sayuti Ibrahim and Fakhr-al-Din Hassan.

The court will study reports presented to it by the special investigation committee that was investigating the Delaij incidents. The undersecretary at the ministry, Abd-al-Dayim Zamrawi, had said that suspects from the armed forces and popular defence forces would be arraigned before the special criminal court in Al-Jenaina.

### **SLM/ MM Calls AU to rescue Abuja.**

*Alwan* SLM/MM denounced the government behaviour and refusal to hand over the suspects of crimes in Darfur identified by the ICC. SLM renewed its confirmation of the importance of upholding the international justice towards the war crimes. SLM/MM spokesperson demanded the AU to put the DPA into place and to intervene speedily to settle violations of the DPA.

### **Sudanese defence minister, Western Darfur governor discuss security**

*SUNA*: National defence minister, Gen-Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Hussein, met at his office Monday [5 March] with the Wali (Governor) of Western Darfur State, Abd-alQasim Imam.

The meeting discussed means of boosting security and stability and return of the citizens to their areas within the framework of the Darfur Peace Agreement. The meeting also

underscored importance of supporting the development programmes in the state in all domains.

### **South Darfur police refutes arrest of two of its personnel by SLM.**

*Al Hayyat* South Darfur police denied media reports that SLM arrested two of its members over disagreement describing the report as groundless.

### **Human Rights Watch: Sudanese officials have impunity in Darfur.**

*Rai Alshaab* Rights group Human Rights Watch criticised the EU sanctions call as insufficient and said the 27-nation bloc should itself impose immediate travel bans and asset freezes on senior Sudanese officials over the conflict in western Sudan.

"Sudanese officials are getting away with murder in Darfur, but continue to face no significant consequences for their actions," said Lotte Leicht, of Human Rights Watch.

"EU leaders should place senior Sudanese officials under immediate travel bans and asset freezes."

### **Qutbi Al Mahdi: ICC Battle is illegal, but is one of destiny.**

*Sudan Vision*, All speakers in the forum held by the Sudanese Centre for Strategic Researches said the ICC battle is political rather than legal or aiming at achieving justice. They also agreed that it is a case of clear political targeting with aim of imposing pressure on Sudan.

Dr. Qutbi Al-Mahdi asserted that the battle is not just a legal battle but is a number of fabricated battles that lead towards the real battle related to Sudan's fate and destiny.

The basic battle is one of destiny, Qutbi said. He pointed that America does not care whether the court is specialized or not. It just wants to achieve its objectives in Sudan.

## **Other Developments**

### **42 killed and injured in granite explosion in Abu Jebaiha.**

*All press*: A celebration of naming new traditional chiefs in Abu Jebaiha turned into a catastrophe resulting in the death and injury of 42 persons when the SPLA soldiers threw granite on the crowd.

A group of Omdas and Mekks (tribal chiefs) who were to be sworn in before Abu Jebaiha commissioner were accompanied by SPLA military guards. The Police force in the celebration tried to disarm them as per the state security committee instructions. However, SPLA soldiers refused to hand over their arms and one of them threw a bomb on the crowd.