



## Local News Headlines

- Return of IDPs and providing security are our priorities – Rahma (Sudan Vision)
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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### *Return of IDPs and providing security are our priorities - Rahma*

**Sudan Vision** reports Abyei Area Administration and its Legislative Council members were sworn-in yesterday. Abyei Deputy Chief Administrator Rahma Abdul Rahamn told the paper that IDPs return and security would be their priorities so that citizens can live in peace. Rahma pointed out that his administration would work for re-knitting social fabric and remove bitterness. He added that judges from Mujlad monitored the oath taking process for both executive and legislative organs for Abyei Administration. He explained that the administration received adequate resources from the Presidency to implement such priorities.

He concluded by stating that the new administration received a warm welcome from citizens who represent Misseriya and Dinka tribes in addition to all political forces in the area.

### *50 SAF and PDF demobilized*

**Al-Watan** reports NSDDRC demobilized 50 personnel from SAF, PDF and other factions, based on a permanent contract to serve as drivers in Saudi Arabia during the Haj (pilgrimage) season. 50 others from SAF, PDF and other factions would also be integrated during the coming days.

According to **Akhir Lahza** newspaper, NSDDRC embarked on preparations to reintegrate a group of 2900 of the remaining demobilized Eastern Front's elements by the end of the current year. Eastern Front's forces have been integrated into the SAF and NISS. Director of the DRR Suaad Abul Raziq told **SMC** that authorities concerned have actually began integrating 1700 of the Eastern Front's combatants in addition to 1200 SAF and PDF. The process is funded by various sources including UN. She said so far 1060 combatants have been integrated and the remaining target is 640. The second stage will target 1200 SAF and PDF elements.

### *We do not know what America wants – Nafie*

**Al-Sahafa** states Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie said his party would hand over power through elections only. With regard to relations with US he said, "we do not know what the Americans want from us. But we will not do all that they want us to do and we will not give them Sudan's oil at a cheap price". "Sudan is interested in good relations with America and Europe. If the Americans are interested in Sudan's oil then they should come and compete with others," he added.

### *VP affirms government commitment to elections on schedule*

**Al-Watan** reports VP Taha has reiterated Sudan Government's rejection to ICC Prosecutor's claims against President Bashir. Taha told **Telesud TV** which broadcast from France that Government is committed to hold elections on schedule. The interview also focused on regional and international issues, CPA, Abyei and ongoing efforts to achieve peace in Darfur.

### *Government rejects bilateral talks with JEM*

**Sudan Vision** reports Sudanese government declared its rejection of bilateral talks with JEM to avoid the repetition of Abuja talks. NCP official Qutbi Al-Mahdi affirmed that the government would not accept JEM request for bilateral talks. "We will not accept because we had bad experiences in such kind of talks, and we will not repeat what happened in Abuja in creating

new opponents" he added. Qutbi stated that the government is looking for a comprehensive solution and will not respond to a particular party because it is an endless process. He called on UN and the international community to isolate anyone who distances himself from the peace process.

### ***SPLA deploys military equipment along north-south border***

**Al-Wifaq** states it has learnt from sources that SPLA transported most of its sophisticated military equipment to a north-south border area. Although the sources have ruled out the step could be an attempt to fight a war for early separation but they did not rule out that it has something to do with north-south border demarcation.

### ***NCP to protest exclusion from south-south dialogue***

**Local dailies** report NCP (Southern Sector) decided to formally protest to SPLM because of not being invited to participate in the south-south dialogue which kicked off in Juba on Saturday.

### ***Sudan to boost oil production to 600,000 bpd in 2009***

**Sudan Vision** reports Sudan says its daily oil production will be increased next year, going from 500,000 million barrels a day this year to 600,000 million barrels in 2009, an increase of 20 per cent. Sudanese mining and energy minister who made the statement in Beijing did not say how Sudan would boost the production. Further he said that Sudan has no plan to join OPEC, saying that Sudanese production is too small.

Sudan's exports of crude to China in the first nine months this year were around 205,000 bpd, steady to 2007 levels when they more than doubled from the previous year after the East African nation brought on-stream heavy, highly acidic crude Dar Blend crude. Despite the minister's projections of higher production next year, output on the Greater Nile project, where the key Nile Blend grade is produced, has fallen below 250,000 bpd, well off the 325,000-bpd peak.

## **Websites/International News Coverage**

### ***Sudan rejects one-on-one Darfur rebel talks***

**(Reuters)** - Sudan today rejected a Darfur rebel group's calls for one-on-one negotiations, creating a stalemate in the early stages of a new peace push. The powerful rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) demanded direct talks with Khartoum on Friday and said it would not go to a planned peace conference in Qatar, involving a large number of Darfur's fractured insurgent movements.

But government officials on Sunday told state media they would not hold individual negotiations with separate groups and said they were determined to find a "comprehensive" solution to the five-year conflict. "We will not accept because we had bad experiences in such kind of talks," said Gutbi Al-Mahdi, a senior official from the ruling National Congress Party.

JEM officials met a high-level Qatari delegation on the Sudan-Chad border on Thursday to discuss the plan. They rejected any Arab League involvement, saying the organization was biased, and said they would not go to a planned Doha conference because talks involving all Darfur's movements would be too cumbersome. But the rebel negotiators said they were still open to Qatar independently mediating negotiations with Khartoum.

### ***JEM still to determine its stance on Qatari initiative for peace in Darfur***

**(Sudan Tribune website)** — JEM reiterated it has not taken yet a definitive position on the

Qatari initiative to hold peace talks between the Sudanese parties in the six year conflict. However the rebel group said studying it.

Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Bin Abdalla Al-Mahmoud met with JEM chairman Khalil Ibrahim, in a location close to the border with Chad on November 6. The meeting discussed the initiative and JEM point of view over the talks.

"Peace is our strategic choice but we should admit that the National Congress Party is not serious or ready to reach a political agreement on the issue," said Ahmed Hussein Adam, JEM spokesperson, who added that a Sudan's People Forum is best illustration of this lack of determination.

The rebel spokesperson said JEM leadership had informed the Qatari minister of its support for the role that the joint chief mediator, Dijbril Bassolé, has to play in the peace process.

Despite the international and regional support, the Qatari government has failed to convince the rebel groups of its neutrality.

Minister Al-Mahmoud informed the rebel chief that Qatar plans to organize a general conference for civil society and tribal chiefs. Khalil Ibrahim told the visiting official that JEM would not attend this first step of the talks but would consider its conclusions.

However he insisted that the final and decisive talks should involve only the warring parties, Adam said.

### ***SPLM withdraws officers from Sudan press censorship unit***

**(Sudan Tribune website)** — The Sudan People's Liberation Movement has withdrawn its officers in the National Security Service who work in the press department because it claims the activities of the section are anti-constitutional.

In accordance with a peace agreement signed in 2005, the SPLM has appointed a number of its members in the National Security and Intelligence Services. The national security law is not upgraded to match with the interim constitution of July 2005 which calls for democratic transition in the country.

The Vice President of Administration Board of Ajaras Al-Huriya Deng Kock who is also an SPLM Member of Parliament told in a press conference yesterday in Khartoum that the SPLM had decided to withdraw its staff from the press and publications unit in the security service.

The decision had been taken because the crackdown of the press and journalists is opposed to the spirit and the text of a peace deal concluded for peace and democracy in Sudan.

Five daily newspapers are to organize a protest at the constitutional court next Tuesday to demand the abrogation of unconstitutional provisions in the national security and press laws.

### ***Egypt deports 23 Darfuri to Sudan***

**(Sudan Tribune website)** Egyptian authorities deported 23 Sudanese to Khartoum where they arrived handcuffed on Friday said a Darfuri rights organization today. The deportees, all from western Sudan region of Darfur, were arrested in El Arish of the Sinai Peninsula, not far from the Israeli border on August 26 this year.

According to the Darfur Democratic Forum, they were transported to Cairo where they had been

interrogated, beaten and tortured before being handed over to the Sudanese embassy which organized their departure to Sudan.

### ***Kenya says Sudan and Egypt want to monopolize Nile water***

**(Sudan Tribune website)** Kenya on Friday accused Sudan and Egypt of attempt to monopolize Nile water resources and urged them to reconsider their position. Egypt and Sudan hold absolute rights to use 100 per cent of the river's water under agreements reached in 1929 between Egypt and Britain and in 1959 between Egypt and Sudan. The agreements prohibit Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan and Ethiopia from implementing projects utilizing Nile water without prior permission from Egypt.

Kenyan Water Minister, Charity Ngilu, criticized the rejection by Egypt and Sudan to endorse a Nile Water Basin Cooperative Framework (NWBCF) because it aims at guaranteeing water security for the upper riparian countries of the Nile basin. "We are being held back by Egypt and Sudan, but we are talking to them to reconsider their position," she said.

The two countries refuse to sign the new agreement saying the NWBCF should not affect the rights given by the previous agreements to Egypt.

Egypt and Sudan reject article 4 of the NWBCF which reads "Nile Basin states therefore agree, in a spirit of cooperation, not to significantly affect the water security of any other Nile Basin State".

They propose to replace it with another disposition reading "Nile Basin States therefore agree, in a spirit of cooperation, not to adversely affect the water security and current uses and rights of any other Nile Basin States".

The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was launched in 1999 to provide a framework to fight poverty and promote socio-economic development in the entire region. Its members are Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

### ***South-South Sudan dialogue begins in Juba***

**(Sudan Tribune website)** SPLM and eight southern parties today began political dialogue on efforts to consolidate southern unity.

The four-day meeting initially scheduled for 20 October, brings together the SPLM and all the member of the Alliance of South Sudan Political Parties (ASSPP) which was set up last June in Juba.

The meeting is expected to discuss ways to combat tribalism and corruption and to address insecurity in the southern Sudan. Other issues on the agenda include the promotion of human rights, the protection of minority tribes in the South, empowerment of women in regional and national institutions, as well as the ICC indictment of the Sudanese president and its impact of CPA implementation.

### ***Sudanese authorities bar two newspapers for one day***

**(Sudan Tribune website)**— The Sudanese authorities banned Saturday the publication of two daily newspapers after a three-day strike to protest against press censorship and the arrest of journalists. Security said they were banned from publishing on Saturday because they didn't inform the security apparatus of the move.

"They told us 'you didn't inform us about your strike and... we're taking the measure of stopping you for one day'," said Murtada Al-Ghali, the editor in chief of Ajras Al-Hurriya. Al-Ghali further said that the ban had initially decided for three days but the sanction was reduced for one day.

On Tuesday November 4, Sudanese journalists began a 24-hour hunger strike and the Ajras Al-Hurriya, Al-Maidan and Rayal Al-Shab newspapers halted production for three days, saying they could no longer accept government restrictions over editorial content.

Al-Maidan and Ray Al-Shab newspapers are respectively belonging to the opposition Sudanese Communist Party and the Popular Congress Party.

The three dailies plus two English language papers -- the Khartoum Monitor and the Citizen -- are to stage a protest next Tuesday in front of the Constitutional Court requesting the revision of the press bill.

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