



## Local News Headlines

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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### *USG for FS to visit Sudan mid November*

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports USG for Field Support Susana Malcorra and USG for PKO Le Roy have affirmed before the SC progress in hybrid deployment and commended the cooperation shown by the Sudan government. Malcorra said she would visit Sudan on 16 November to follow up outcomes of a tripartite mechanism.

### *Air transport complains against UN, demands withdrawal of UN privileges*

**Al-Ahdath** (29 Oct 08) reported the Air Transport Chambers accused UN of encroaching upon the rights of the national air companies by transporting peacekeepers to Darfur through foreign companies. The Chambers Deputy Secretary General Omer Ali Abdul Magid told the press on Tuesday that the international organization ignored national companies to hire and enter into contracts with hidden companies under the cover of UN to transport peacekeeping troops and relief to Darfur region, highlighting the seriousness of these transgressions and their impact on aviation industry in Sudan. He also indicated the losses suffered by national companies estimated to have reached nearly a billion dollars since the outbreak of the crisis in Darfur. He said the Civil Aviation Authority has lost revenues because of exemptions.

Magid said the Chambers made contacts with the authorities concerned, adding that the transgressions are supported by MFA letters. He said they met with the MFA State Minister Al-Samani Al-Waseela to inform him about UN aviation's impact on the national air transport. He said the civil aviation is being subjected to intense pressure from the international organization and from what he referred to as "beneficiaries" and owners of competing companies, and called on the state organs to address these violations and also called on the UN to apply the International Organization's Aviation Laws which provide protection to national companies. He has called for exclusion of foreign companies and halt of entering into contracts with them so that the work can be carried out by the national companies.

### *UN condemns use of violence for political purposes*

**Al-Ayyam/Akhir Lahza** report UN Mission issued a press release condemning the use of violence for political purposes and the kidnapping and killing of three Chinese oil workers. The press release demanded the immediate and unconditional release of the remaining hostages and called for bringing perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice and expressed condolences for the bereaved families.

### *CPC asks SPLM about arms from Ukraine*

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports SPLM CPC member Maj. Gen. Haj Paul said CPC meeting in Juba yesterday asked SPLA about the arms shipment from Ukraine and the Ethiopian plane. He said SPLA denied any connection with the arms shipment and explained that the arms aboard the Ethiopian plane were intended for display at a trade fair. He said the meeting also discussed redeployment of forces in the Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan and Abyei, adding CPC and JDB will hold a joint meeting early November.

### ***Government refutes US charges at UNSC***

**Local dailies** report the Sudanese government rejected US envoy charges leveled at the Security Council, accusing Sudan of breaching the arms embargo and carrying out air attacks in Darfur in addition to camouflaging aircraft as UN planes and harboring persons indicted by the International Criminal Court. MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq refutes these charges yesterday, adding the issue of alleged painted planes has been cleared up with the UN a month ago. With regard to the indicted person, he affirmed that they are being tried without any international interference. Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem has also dismissed these charges, adding Sudan government is doing its best to remove all difficulties encountering peacekeepers deployment.

### ***Doha Talks on Darfur Peace in December***

**Sudan Vision** reports Doha negotiations for Darfur peace will take place in December. Spokesperson of Sudan People Initiative Jalal Yousif Aldegair said a tripartite mechanism has started contacts with all the concerned parties - representatives of countries, Arab League, and UN. He said Government delegation is ready for the talks.

### ***Sudan wants Chinese oil workers killers condemned by SC***

**local dailies** report Sudan Ambassador to UN Abdul Mahmoudl Abdul Haleem said Sudan government wants SC to take measure to punish rebels responsible for killing the Chinese engineers. He said Sudan would raise this issue when the SC meets to discuss deployment of the hybrid force. "SC has spent long time focusing on Sudan government and its actions and turning a blind eye to what Darfur rebels do," he said.

### ***First Vice-President Leads Sudan Delegation to IGAD Summit in Nairobi***

**SUNA** reports FVP Kiir led a high-level delegation to take part in IGAD summit, which started session Wednesday in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. The State Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Al-Samani Al-Wasila, arrived in Nairobi Tuesday and represented Sudan in the meeting of IGAD's foreign ministers. The delegation participated in the first closed-door meeting of the IGAD's heads of state and government and then in open session that followed it. The Summit concluded session Wednesday afternoon and issued its final communiqué in which it affirmed its support to the Djibouti agreement signed by the transitional government of Somalia and the alliance for liberation of Somalia. The Kenyan media highlighted the arrival of the Sudanese delegation to the Summit The government delegation included the Minister of International Cooperation, Dr. Al-Tigani Salih Fedail, and the Minister of Regional Cooperation in the Government of Southern Sudan, Barnaba Marial, Niyal Deng, and the Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mutrif Siddiq. The delegation was received upon arrival Wednesday morning at Jomo Kenyatta Airport by the Kenyan State Minister for Foreign Affairs and other officials besides Sudan Ambassador to Kenya, Majok Guandong and members of the Sudan Embassy in Kenya. The government delegation was then received at Kenyatta Conference Hall by the Kenyan Minister of Foreign Affairs, Moses Wetang'ula.

### ***Kiir, Khalil and Abdul Wahid to meet in Chad next week***

**Al-Ayyam** reports JEM foreign relations official Beshara Sulaiman Nimir said preparations underway to arrange a meeting between FVP Kiir and JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim in N'djamena early next week. According to the paper's sources, SLM leader Abdul Wahid Nur agreed to meet Kiir as GoSS President in N'djamena early next week under the auspices of Chadian President Idriss Deby. The sources said Kiir, who left yesterday heading Sudan delegation for IGAD meetings, will travel to Chad to join SPLM delegation already in N'djamena.

## Websites/International News Coverage

### *UN peacekeeper killed in Darfur attack*

**(AFP)** Gunmen killed a South African peacekeeper with the UN-led mission in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region and seriously wounded a female soldier, a spokesman said today.

The latest death brings to a dozen the number of peacekeepers for the understaffed joint African Union-United Nations force to have died since the mission launched operations on December 31, spokesman Nouredine Mezni said.

Unknown attackers opened fire on the two South African soldiers about a kilometre (half a mile) from a military base for mission in northern Darfur on Wednesday.

A male South African peacekeeper died and the woman soldier, who was shot in the chest, was evacuated for medical treatment in El Fasher, UNAMID headquarters and the state capital of North Darfur, officials said.

"Unknown armed men opened fire yesterday afternoon at a water point near UNAMID camp in Kutum. They were evacuated to our base in Kutum. The man died and the female soldier is still alive," Mezni told AFP.

UN officials said reports varied on the number of attackers, with some describing them as a "group of men" and others "two men".

"The attackers fled. The wounded soldier is in a stable condition and we're trying to find out who did this and why. Apparently nothing was taken. The details were still very foggy," said public information director Kemal Saiki.

It was the second deadly shooting this month against peacekeepers in Darfur, where the Sudanese government has been fighting an insurgency by "ethnic" rebels for nearly six years.

A Nigerian sergeant was killed on October 7 when up to 60 gunmen ambushed a patrol in South Darfur.

The Darfur conflict broke out in 2003 when ethnic minority rebels took up arms against the Arab-dominated regime in Khartoum and state-backed militias.

Since then, the conflict has disintegrated into a maze of fraying rebel groups, banditry, tribal conflict and flip-flopping militias.

### *Local journalists complete UN-backed media course in Sudan*

**(UN News)** 27 October 2008 – Some 35 Sudanese media professionals have completed a United Nations-sponsored journalism training programme in the eastern city of Kassala to improve their skills in such areas as reporting, interviewing, covering elections and operating in hostile environments.

The 10-day course, organized by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), began earlier this month with a discussion of Sudan's media landscape and then focused on enhancing practical

skills for journalists.

The course also covered issues ranging from the coverage of disasters and HIV/AIDS, the management of media institutions and voice delivery training for radio and television staff.

This month's course is part of the UNDP project known as Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriates, which has sponsored 32 highly qualified and professional Sudanese emigrants to return to their homeland to share knowledge and expertise with local institutions.

The returning expatriates include Mohammed Khaled, who works for the BBC Arabic Radio service in London and led this month's course.

### ***Ethiopia condemns suicide attacks in Somalia***

**(Sudan Tribune website)** October 29, 2008 (ADDIS ABABA) — Ethiopia's ministry of foreign affairs on Wednesday condemned the suicide attacks which rock targets across northern Somalia on Wednesday, including the Ethiopian consulate, presidential palace and a UN compound which has killed at least 26 people.

A wave of suicide attacks killed at least 28 people across northern Somalia on Wednesday. The five synchronized blasts killed some 25 people in Hargeisa and another three in Bosasso.

"It is the usual work of the "terrorists" who are desperately trying to create instability" Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin told reporters today.

"I assure you they will not be left to get away with it. They will be brought to justice" He added

A statement by the Ministry issued later on the day didn't say if any Ethiopian nationals were among the casualties but has conveyed condolences

No one immediately has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's attacks, but Ethiopia believes that it the usual Islamist rebels who are launching such strikes to disrupt the U.N.-led efforts to end the turmoil in the nation.

The attacks come after IGAD leaders in an informal meeting come together in the neighboring Kenya for talks to bring an end to the chaos for the war torn Somalia, A nation which has been without a functioning government since 1991

### ***Sudanese president tries to improve image***

**(AP)** KHARTOUM, Sudan: Facing genocide charges from an international tribunal, Sudan's president has taken several steps recently to shore up his image. But some say the gestures are "too little, too late."

President Omar Al-Bashir's latest moves include holding a high-profile Darfur peace conference — which his opponents called a farce — and speeding up deployment of international peacekeepers in Darfur.

He also arrested an Arab militia leader charged with war crimes by the International Criminal Court — the same court that charged al-Bashir with genocide in Darfur. The government says the militia leader will be tried in a domestic court, but hasn't set a date or outlined the charges.

Many are dubious that al-Bashir's moves are more than an attempt to head off an ICC arrest

warrant. The head prosecutor requested the warrant in July, and judges are expected to make a decision within weeks.

The most concrete step the president has taken is to speed up the deployment of a joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur that took up its mission in January but has failed to get close to its full strength of 26,000 — partly because of bureaucratic stalling by the Sudanese government.

Since the ICC charged al-Bashir in July, the government has cleared a backlog of paperwork and allowed some peacekeepers to travel to Darfur by air, according to the mission. Those actions have helped increase the peacekeepers in Darfur to about 11,500, after stagnating at about 9,000 for most of the year.

But the Sudanese military also launched a new offensive in August against rebel-held areas in northern Darfur that the U.N. estimates has displaced some 40,000 civilians. The government says it is targeting bandits in the area who have attacked aid groups, but rebels have called the offensive a declaration of war.

Rebels say the recent military offensive conflicted with al-Bashir's call for peace at a high-profile conference in Sudan earlier this month. The meeting was attended by international and domestic supporters of the president, including Arab militia leaders suspected of carrying out much of the Darfur killing.

But rebels, key to any peace deal, boycotted the conference and said al-Bashir was not serious. They called the meeting a stunt to head off an arrest warrant.

"If mediators are serious about it, they have to force the regime to stop the killings and rape," said Abdulwahid Elnur, the exiled leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement. "The regime is ready to sign any agreement and then implement nothing."

Many in the West doubt al-Bashir will deliver a peace deal in time to head off the ICC, because he is surrounded by hard-liners who do not believe concessions would deter prosecution.

"You can't bring peace in two months, but you can change the reality in Darfur tremendously in two months," said a Western diplomat in Khartoum, speaking on condition of anonymity because it was not an official government statement. "To be willing to discuss things is very weak at this late stage. It is too little, too late."

But Sudanese officials insist they are serious about peace and are working to revise a 2006 peace agreement signed by one rebel group to make it more palatable to others.

The aim of the draft agreement is to bring the government and the fractured rebels together in negotiations the Gulf nation of Qatar has offered to host, said Mahjoub Fadul, a presidential spokesman. On Wednesday, the final draft was delayed for another week.

### ***SPLM meets Chad's Deby and travels to JEM chairman***

**(Sudan Tribune)** October 29, 2008 – Senior party leaders of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) met this week in the Chadian capital with President Idriss Déby to discuss the resolution of the Darfur crisis resolution and improve bilateral ties. They will meet today with Khalil Ibrahim, the leader of a Darfur rebel movement.

SPLM, the ruling party of Southern Sudan and a partner in the Government of National Unity, was invited to Chad by President Idriss Déby.

The SPLM delegation, headed by Secretary General Pagan Amum, traveled to N'Djamena on Sunday to take part in a "party-to-party initiative" with the ruling party of Chad. The deputy leader of Sudan's ruling National Congress Party, Nafi Ali Nafi, agreed that SPLM could play a role in normalizing relations between Sudan and Chad and helping resolve the Darfur conflict.

The party leaders will travel to eastern Chad to meet with Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Chairman Khalil Ibrahim and visit refugee camps. It will be the first time that Ibrahim meets with the SPLM leadership since before a rebel raid on Khartoum in May.

JEM spokesman Ahmed Hussein confirmed that the meeting will take place.

Ezekiel Lol Gatkuoth, a member of the SPLM delegation, told Sudan Tribune, "We have met President Déby and other officials in Chad. The meeting went extremely well." Gatkuoth is the head of the Government of Southern Sudan mission to the United States and a member of the SPLM National Liberation Council. "We are going to meet Khalil Ibrahim of JEM," he added

They also met with Sharif Harir and Suleiman Jamous. Both are leading members of the Darfur rebel group SLM-Unity.

President Déby told the delegation he welcomes the efforts of the SPLM. He is confident that SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir can and must play a key role in the resolution of the Darfur issue and the normalization of Sudan-Chad relations.

Yasir Arman, the deputy secretary general of the SPLM, said the meeting with Khalil will address the current political situation and the need to expedite a peaceful and negotiated solution between the parties to the conflict.

Both Sudan and Chad have accused each other of supporting rebel armies and broke ties after the May assault on Khartoum by JEM. The two countries will re-exchange ambassadors from the Nov. 7-10.

### ***Foreigners can obtain Sudanese citizenship after 5 years of residence***

**(Sudan Tribune)** October 29, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Interior Ministry has begun the implementation of new changes in the nationality law that grants Sudanese nationality for every foreigner legally resident in the country for more than five years.

The change comes amid the increasing demand for the Sudanese nationality. Previously the nationality law granted citizenship after ten years.

Director of the General Administration of Civil Registry explained that the law after the new revision grants citizenship by birth through the mother, and not only through the father as it was the case in the past.

In the nineties, Sudan granted for its citizens the right for dual nationality.

In the past, foreigners who apply for the Sudanese nationality are mostly from western Africa countries. However, recent immigrations are from Mali and Chad due to the drought, also recent

flow of foreigners to the country for economic reasons includes Eritrea and Ethiopia.

The latest massive naturalization in the history of the country was conducted by the government of Ismail Al-Azhary at the end of the sixties before the legislative elections.

Next year the country will witness for the first time since 1989, the first general free elections for the presidency and parliaments at the national and states levels.