



Transcript of the remarks made by the U.S. Special Envoy General Scott Gration at the press-stake-out after the meeting with Presidential Advisor and official in charge of the Darfur Dossier Dr. Ghazi Salahuddin at the Friendship Hall

December 14, 2009

General Gration:

I'll give a brief statement then I'll take two questions

First of all, I would just like to say that we are very pleased with the efforts that the two parties are making to address the very difficult issues that they are confronting. We have seen significant progress in the last couple of days –We look forward to passage of the Referendum for self-determination in the South, for the Referendum on Abyei and for popular consultations and we urge that the other issues that remain like the National Security Act- that these get passed in an expeditious way.

We are also extremely pleased to learn of the release of the UNAMID hostages and we continue to work in any way we can to promote peace and security in Darfur and I would like to open it now to questions that you may have.

Questions:

1. (Reporter's question is inaudible, but it was concerned with what the U.S. Special Envoy has done with regards to convincing Abdulwahid and Khalil Ibrahim to come to the peace talks).

General Gration:

I understand that Djibril Bassole has reached out to Abdulwahid - and that would really be up to Abdulwahid to decide whether he is going to participate in those talks.

2. Reporter Lina Yaqoub-Akbar Al Youm

Mr. Envoy, as you may know that the opposition parties have organized for the second time, a peaceful demonstration and the government has arrested many members of them so what's your opinion?

General Gration:

Obviously, we condemn any act of violence, and we also encourage people from all parties to work through the normal procedures, the processes and discussions that will result in movement on these issues. What we have seen in the last couple of days it is really when the parties sit down with each other, talk about these issues –not in an atmosphere of pressure, but in an atmosphere of negotiation -working to a solution that is for the people of Sudan that's when real progress is made. So we encourage parties to take their issues through the normal processes that they have, that they embark on-real discussions-real efforts-that will result in real change for the Sudanese people.

Thank you very much

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