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Al-Bashir “strengthened” by ICC decision

President Omer Al-Bashir confirmed in a press conference held on the sidelines of the summit held in Turkey that Sudan would “expel the peacekeeping forces in Darfur if an arrest warrant were to be issued” against him by the International Criminal Court. “I will even resort to war if I have to,” said Al-Bashir, who was talking to Reuters. “The decision of ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo is already solidifying our internal front, and that is the source of our power.” Bashir mentioned that he would continue to go overseas and did not fear following in the footsteps of leaders arrested and charged by other international courts. (*Al-Ahdath, Rai Al-Shaab, Al-Watan*)

NCP accuses Turabi of trying to oust President

The National Congress Party (NCP) has accused Hassan Al-Turabi, leader of the Popular Congress Party (PCP), of “collaborating with the U.S. and U.K. to overthrow President Al-Bashir.” Al-Raeid, NCP’s official daily, had published an article that attacked Al-Turabi and alleged that he was “executing a U.S. plan through the Darfur Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) to overthrow the government.” The accusations came in the wake of Al-Turabi’s recent meetings in Uganda with former U.S. National Security Advisor Robert Mcfarlane and British intelligence counterpart James Henry, in addition to conducting a current tour to Europe. Al-Mahboob Abd Al-Salam, a leading figure of the PCP, denied any “hidden agenda” behind Al-Turabi’s tour in Europe. (*Khartoum Monitor*)

Khartoum continues to sentence JEM rebels

Twelve more rebels involved in the Omdurman attack were sentenced to death while four were acquitted by the court and four others were

transferred to juvenile court, bringing the total number of sentences to 50. The verdict mentioned that the defendants were found guilty under articles of the Terrorism Combating Act, Criminal Law Act, and Weapons and Ammunition Act. (*Al Intibaha, Rai Al Shaab*)

Al Mahdi suggests hybrid arbitrators for Darfur

Al-Sadig Al-Mahdi, leader of the Umma party, has suggested bringing in a “hybrid” group of arbitrators to handle the war crimes in Darfur instead of a national judicial body. Al-Mahdi was addressing the Popular Committee for Freedom rights where he stressed “the importance of finding a peaceful resolution to solve the International Criminal Court issue and address war crimes in Darfur.” (*Rai Al-Shaab, Al-Watan*)

Turkish Lawyers demand probe over ICC

A number of Turkish human rights lawyers filed an application with the Turkish Ministry of Justice demanding an immediate investigation of the allegations of genocide made against Sudanese president Al-Bashir. The lawyers said that Article 13 of the Turkish penal code empowers the general prosecutor to launch a probe against any foreigner who is suspected of committing genocide and crimes against humanity. “Whether it is the Turkish president or the U.S. president, anyone who commits these heinous crimes must be prosecuted,” said Orcun Ulusoy, a member of the Human Rights Agenda Association. “This is not a request to arrest Al-Bashir. It is simply demanding an investigation in light of the allegations brought against him by the International Criminal Court.” (*Sudan Tribune*)

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.