



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Sudan rejects Arab League amendment proposal

The Sudanese government has announced that it rejected a proposal by the Arab League's Secretary General, Amr Moussa, to change Sudan's criminal law. Sudanese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq told the UN's Miraya FM radio that Moussa has "requested incorporation of provisions from the Rome Statute into Sudanese laws." However, Al-Sadiq did not detail when the request was made and what changes were proposed. Last month, Sudan adopted a new criminal law that added war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide into its penal code. The changes were made in wake of the International Criminal Court (ICC) case against Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, which was initiated last year. (*SudanTribune.com*)

Sudanese parliament passes press law

After months of controversy and protests, on Monday the Sudanese federal parliament approved a new press law removing heavy sanctions on journalists but maintaining censorship. The final version of the press law, voted on unanimously by Sudanese legislators, removes the contested fines of 50,000 Sudanese pounds (~USD 21,000) on journalists and also restricts the power of the Press Council to close newspapers. The initial version allowed the regulatory body to impose the heavy fines for unspecified offences. Also, the Press Council had the power to definitively close newspapers. (*Al-Ray Alaam*)

Lam Akol intends to resign from parliament

Following the formation of a new party, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and leading member of

the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) said that he will resign, in two days time, from his SPLM seat in the national parliament.

(*Ajras Al-Hurriya, Al-Sahafa, Al-Sudani*)

Ghazi begins to assume the Darfur portfolio

Tomorrow, Presidential Advisor Ghazi Salah Eddin will formally commence his duties as the chief holder of Darfur portfolio on behalf of the Government of Sudan. He will start an exploratory visit to Darfur's three states. In a statement to the press, he said he "has a vision for the region" and will "disclose it in the near future." He added that his vision "will include Darfur inside and outside the country." (*Ajras Al-Hurriya, Al-Ahdath*)

Republic of Sudan Radio headlines this morning

- President Al-Bashir has returned home after attending the COMESA summit in Zimbabwe.
- Vice-President Ali Osman Taha is set to chair meetings aimed at discussing water shortages through Sudan.
- Foreign Minister Deng Alor is visiting Damascus, Syria where he met his counterpart yesterday. Today he is expected to hold talks with Syrian President Bashar al-Asad.
- Governor of Northern Darfur state Yusuf Mohammed Kibir says that his state "is ready to bring about democratic transformation in the region."

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.