



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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### **NCP, SPLM agree to unify positions on Darfur**

At a meeting of their Joint Political Committee on January 28, the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) agreed to continue efforts to reach political consensus on the Elections bill. Committee member Al-Dirderi Mohamed Ahmed said that the parties also agreed that the Government of National Unity must have a unified position in the negotiations over Darfur and that the two sides should exert efforts to unify the armed groups in Darfur. (*Al-Ayaam*)

### **UNAMID force needs much of 2008 to deploy**

The deployment of the 26,000-strong UNAMID force will take most of the year to deploy, said Jean-Marie Guehenno, the United Nations under-secretary-general for peacekeeping operations, on January 28. Just 9,000 members of the proposed force, which will be the U.N.'s largest, have been deployed so far. The troops had been scheduled to be deployed by the end of 2007, but the Sudanese government set conditions — such as disabling their communications during security operations and banning night flights — which the U.N. said cast doubts on whether the force could be effective. (*Al-Sudani*)

### **Two MPs detained on the way to Atbara**

Two members of parliament who are members of the Eastern Front said security authorities detained them for a couple of hours in Atbara, River Nile State, while they were on their way to attend a ceremony in honor of victims of a violent incident of 2005 in Port Sudan. They said authorities claimed they had no travel permit and refused to release them even after they identified themselves. It was only through the intervention of Presidential Assistant and leader of the Eastern Front, Musa

Mohamed Ahmed, that they were released. (*Al-Ayaam*)

### **SPLA interim headquarters opened**

On January 28, the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) opened the General Interim Headquarters for the SPLA. The GoSS Minister for Police and Security, Paul Mayom, said that the United States gave assistance for the building but pointed out that U.S. assistance does not include the provision of combat capabilities or the donation of arms. He said he does not expect this step to inflame the NCP. Mayom also revealed that about 850 SPLA and police personnel are carrying out house searches in Rumbek to collect illegal arms and ammunition as part of SPLA disarmament efforts. (*Al-Sahafa*)

### **Five Darfur groups unite**

Five armed groups of Darfur have united to form the "The United Resistance Front" (URF). The URF will be headed by Bahar Abu-Garda and brings together the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the SLM (Field Command), the United National Revolution Front, the Group of 19, and the National Movement for Reform and Development. (*Rai Al-Shaab*)

### **Requests for investigations into Kajbar violence**

Over 40 lawyers have petitioned the Minister of Justice to reveal the outcome of investigations into the violence in June 19, 2007, around the Kajbar Dam construction site in which a number of people were killed or injured. A committee formed by the Ministry on August 27 to probe into the incident has yet to release its findings. (*Al-Ayaam*)

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.