



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

Nashrat Al-Sabah



January 15, 2008

Wau hosts 3rd anniversary celebrations for CPA

Speaking at a mass rally in Wau on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), First Vice President Salva Kiir urged all political forces in the country to prepare for the 2009 general elections to avoid an experience similar to this year's elections in Kenya. He urged for solutions to the issues of Abyei and border demarcation, as they are both related to the population census which is an integral part of the election process. He assured nomadic Arab tribes that they will still be able to travel the grazing routes through Southern Sudan even if the people opt for secession. Addressing the same rally, Vice President Taha reiterated commitment of the National Congress Party (NCP) to the CPA. He called for reconciliation and asked the governors of the areas along the 1.1.'56 boundaries to facilitate the work of the technical committee for demarcation of the north-south borders that will launch its operations next month. (*Al-Ayaam et al*)

Committee to monitor situation in S. Kordofan

In a closed-door meeting in Wau yesterday, Vice Presidents Kiir and Taha agreed to the formation of a joint military committee to monitor the disengagement of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in South Kordofan. They said the Presidency will soon issue a decree to that end. (*Al-Sahafa*)

SPLA figure says SAF have not fully redeployed

James Houth, the Acting Spokesman for the SPLA, says the SAF has not fully redeployed north of the 1.1.'56 line. He noted that about 500 SAF soldiers remain in the south while those who have redeployed north are not far from the 1.1.'56 line. He said that the agreement stipulates that the SAF

and the SPLA redeploy at least 20km on their respective sides of the 1.1.'56 line. (*Rai Al-Shaab*)

MPs "disappointed" over reports on Chad

Parliamentarians from West Darfur State describe the defense minister's report on the recent Chadian incursions into Sudan as "disappointing." The lawmakers pointed out that the report made no mention of whether or not Sudan harbored Chadian opposition groups. They said West Darfur should not be turned into a battleground for the "generals from Sudan and Chad." (*Al-Ayaam*)

Communist Party suspends talks with NCP

The Communist Party of the Sudan has suspended talks with the NCP in protest over the murder of a student supporter in Gazeera University. Al-Shafei Khidir, a prominent member of the party, said that the party blames the NCP for the murder. He pointed out that it was difficult to talk of an accord while the ruling party practices such violence. The police are intensifying the search for the murderers. (*Al-Sahafa*)

Spouse says Sami Al-Haj may soon be freed

Asma Ismailov told Al-Jazeera TV that she has received pledges that her husband, Al-Jazeera cameraman Sami Al-Haj, will be released from the Guantanamo Bay detention center in March 2008. Her statements come against the backdrop of a January 7 statement by Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman who told Al-Jazeera TV that Sami Al-Haj will feature in his talks with a U.S. delegation expected in the country. (*Al-Hayat*)

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.