



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

Nashrat Al-Sabah



December 17, 2006

Darfur

- The African Union (AU) announced in a press release yesterday that the situation in Darfur is deteriorating, citing the ongoing arming of the Janjaweed militia and the military escalation by the government of Sudan in Darfur. (*Al-Ayaam*)

- The UN announced that it will start this week to implement the provision in the Addis Ababa agreement calling for a light support package to the AU peacekeeping force in Darfur. The plan includes dispatching 105 military experts, 33 UN police, and 45 civilian experts, all of them under AU command. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

- The President's Advisor Magzoub Al-Khalifa stated that the Sudanese government did not attend an AU Peace and Security Council meeting on a Darfur cease-fire in Addis yesterday because it felt that the session was a result of international pressure. Al-Khalifa also stated that the recent statement by British Prime Minister Tony Blair on a no-fly zone in Darfur is aimed at discouraging the government from implementing the Darfur Peace Agreement. He added that the Arab League has yet to fulfill its financial commitment to the AU per its pledge at the Arab League summit in Khartoum last March. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, Sudan Vision, et al*)

- Minister of Defense Abdulrahim Mohamed Hussein reported to the Security Committee of the National Assembly that the Sudan military's regular forces in El-Fasher, as well as the other armed groups based in El-Fasher, will be redeployed outside town after the recent clashes. (*Al-Sudani*)

- Most of the Arabic dailies carried the Reuters interview with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in which she stated that Sudan would be held accountable if it did not agree to allow UN forces in Darfur. (*Alwan, Al-Rai Al-Aam, et al*)

Miscellaneous

- The spokesman for the Sudan Armed Forces, Osman Mohamed Al-Aghbash, stated that Friday's incident in Juba during which Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers fired their weapons in the air was a result of a failure to pay their November wages and other arrears. He asserted that the Joint Forces Committee had transferred the November salaries to the SPLA command on time. Juba was calm on Saturday, according to today's dailies. (*Al-Adwa et al*)

- The General Secretary for the Northern Sector of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), Yasir Aarman, stated that the SPLM rejects any tribunals for Sudanese officials in the International Criminal Court in The Hague. (*Al-Adwa*)



© Akhir Lahza Arabic daily

Quote of the Day

"Sudan will be held accountable if it does not accept international troops into Darfur." – U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. Material reported here does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.