



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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President Bashir on Al-Jazeera TV

President Omar Al-Bashir told Al-Jazeera TV recently that “Western countries” are attempting to send U.S. and Israeli intelligence officers to Sudan. Bashir also said he was skeptical about First Vice President Salva Kiir’s visit to Washington. He said this visit was arranged by the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) office in Washington without consultation with Sudan’s Embassy. Bashir also observed that officials in South Sudan behave as though they are independent from the central government in Khartoum. He denied that the Government of Sudan placed any obstacles in the way of the deployment of the AU-UN hybrid force in Darfur. (*Al-Sahafa*)

SPLM defends Kiir visit to Washington

In a press conference November 11, SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amun said Salva Kiir’s visit to Washington was discussed in a presidential meeting recently. He added that the SPLM does not need to obtain permission from others and is free to act to achieve freedom and maintain peace and democracy. Amun said some sources are attempting to restart an ethnic war between North and South. He pointed to the recent economic blockade against South Sudan, referring to steamers being prevented from delivering commodities via the river. He warned that such steps could result in a collapse of relations between North and South Sudan. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Sahafa, Al-Sudani, et al*)

Initiative to resolve Abyei and border dispute

South Sudan’s presidential affairs minister Luka Biong reportedly has unveiled an initiative to resolve the crisis between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the SPLM. In a statement to *Al-Sudani*, he said the initiative will call on the UN to

monitor the Abyei region. It also calls for the redeployment of northern and southern forces to the 1956 borders starting November 15. All forces would be required to retreat at least 20 kilometers away from the border. In addition, there would be joint forces established by the beginning of January 2008. A committee composed of representatives from the U.S., Saudi Arabia and China would be formed to reach a possible solution to the Abyei and border demarcation issues, and to find mechanisms for rebuilding confidence between the parties. The Sudan People’s Liberation Army has some reservations about this initiative because it believes the mediation should take place within the context of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. (*Al-Sudani*)

NCP consulting with political parties

The NCP intends to hold meetings with Sudan’s various political parties to discuss the current political situation. The NCP was expected to meet today with the National Democratic Alliance. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Turabi fears South Sudan secession

People’s Congress Party leader Dr. Hassan Al-Turabi told *Al-Intibaha* that he is concerned South Sudan may unilaterally secede from the North. He said Abyei is the most complex problem in Sudan. He said the SPLM ministers’ withdrawal from the Government of National Unity did not surprise him. He suggested that Abyei area should be considered a buffer region with freedom of trade and movement.

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