



# SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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## Sudanese Plane Hijacked

- A Sudanese domestic flight was hijacked yesterday on its way from Khartoum to El-Fashir. The hijacker demanded to go to Italy or the U.K, but when the crew informed him that the plane did not have sufficient fuel, he agreed to go to Chad. The hijacker reportedly sought political asylum in the UK, arguing that he was “trying to escape degrading and humiliating treatment at home in Darfur.” He insisted that he was neither a terrorist nor a rebel. Sudan’s Interior Minister, Al-Zubeir Bashir Taha, stated that a committee would investigate the incident, and revealed that certain employees at Khartoum’s international airport were involved in the hijacking of the Air West flight and would be brought to trial soon. In addition, the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Chadian and French ambassadors to Khartoum requesting that the hijacker be handed over for trial. (*Al-Hayat, Alwan, et al*)

## Darfur Crisis

- An international aid worker was raped in Darfur, according to the NGO Action Contre La Faim, which fights malnutrition in Darfur. The NGO has reported that one of its employees was raped, others were sexually assaulted, and there was a mock execution during an attack on the NGO’s compound in rebel-controlled Gereida town in December. It is still not clear who attacked the aid agency, but sources in the aid community in Khartoum suspect a breakaway faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement (Minawi). (*Al-Sudani, Al-Ayaam, et al*)

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon protested the arrests and beatings of U.N. and other relief staff in Darfur. Ban also criticized the recent Sudanese bombardment of Darfur towns during his meeting in New York with Mutrif Siddig, Khartoum’s undersecretary at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

## NCP- SPLM Controversy

- While in Doha, Qatar, yesterday, Sudan’s Vice President Salva Kiir refuted reports of a controversy between him and President Al-Bashir. Kiir explained that the row between the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudanese People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) is only a difference of views. Kiir also said that the SPLM has no intention of toppling the NCP as this would signal the SPLM’s backing away from Sudanese unity. Regarding the controversy surrounding the Abyei region, Kiir hinted that the SPLM might seek the assistance of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to resolve the crisis. (*Al-Sahafa*)

- Sudan’s Parliament Speaker, Ahmed Al-Tahir, blamed the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) for allowing expired medicine, drugs, and weapons to enter Sudan across South Sudan’s borders. Al-Tahir called for cooperation between GOSS and the Interior Ministry to stop this phenomenon. (*Al-Adwaa*)

## Quote of the Day

“I call on the international community to put pressure on Sudan to find a definitive solution to the crisis in Darfur.” Sudanese hijacker Mohamed Abdel Latif at N’Djamena airport.

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.