



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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SPLM seeks U.S. help to administer Abyei

- Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) Secretary General Bagan Amum declared yesterday at a press conference at SPLM headquarters in Khartoum that the SPLM will reach out to the U.S. for help with the issue of Abyei's administration. He noted that there has been a complete failure by the SPLM and the National Congress Party (NCP) to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement. Amum stated that resorting to the Supreme Court to resolve this issue is not an option at this time and will only be considered after seeking the assistance of the U.S. as the main sponsor of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Amum clarified that the U.S. administration previously has submitted a proposal in this regard that has been accepted by both sides. Amum stated that the Abyei's oil revenue will be placed in a specially designated account until the issue is resolved.

Amum expressed his frustration over the lack of programs that aim to make unity attractive, arguing that Southerners have lost hope about living in a unified Sudan because of the slow pace in implementing the CPA's provisions. In a reference to the July 9 anniversary of the signing of the CPA, Amum said that "not celebrating peace this year is a dangerous indicator."

Amum accused the NCP of supporting tribal militias in South Sudan. Amum also criticized the continued violations of free expression, referring to the incident in Kajbar where four persons were killed during a peaceful demonstration. (*Al-Rai Aam, Al-Sudani, Al-Sahafa, et al*)

EU probing why AU forces have not been paid

- The European Union is investigating why its financial contribution to the African military force in Darfur is not reaching soldiers, leaving many

without pay for months. The European Commission has earmarked \$384 million for the African Union since November 2004, and further funds have been provided by individual EU member states. The AU was supposed to pay the soldiers, but a recent EU fact-finding mission to Darfur heard widespread complaints from the troops. (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

JEM agrees to hold talks with government

- The African Union envoy to Darfur, Salim Ahmed Salim, stated yesterday that different holdout rebel groups expressed a readiness to participate in the forthcoming peace talks with the government to end the four-year-old Darfur conflict. Salim stated that the Justice and Equality Movement was among the parties that had agreed to dialogue. (*Alwan, Al-Wihda*)

World Bank accused of blocking projects

- Vice President Ali Osman Taha accused the bureaucratic system of the World Bank yesterday of delaying the funding of essential infrastructure projects in Sudan. Taha explained that infrastructure projects previously agreed upon with international donors were funded by the government instead of donors. Taha further called on international donors to fulfill their pledges to Sudan. Meanwhile, World Bank's head of programs, Joseph Hanson, criticized the slow implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and stated that the growth of the Sudanese economy has had no impact on the lives of ordinary citizens. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

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.