



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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FM Akol accuses U.S. of undermining peace

- Sudan's Foreign Minister Lam Akol gave a briefing yesterday to the National Assembly regarding the recent U.S. sanctions on Sudan. He affirmed that his ministry would "exert efforts to thwart pressures on the UN Security Council to adopt a new resolution of sanctions on Sudan." Akol denounced a recent decision taken by the U.S. administration to impose new sanctions on Sudan, saying it was aimed at aborting Khartoum's efforts to resolve the conflict in Darfur. "This decision, which came at a time that the Darfur peace process was witnessing positive progress, indicates that the United States wants to undermine all the peaceful efforts and realize its own goals," the Foreign Minister said. He further stated that all pretexts for the decision, including the alleged failure of the Sudanese government to carry out its commitments to resolve the Darfur crisis and disarm the militia, and continue the so-called genocide, were "totally baseless." Akol anticipated additional U.S. targeting of Sudan, but argued that "through our solidarity, we will be able to confront it." He argued that U.S. sanctions are against the peace process as they impact negatively on the Sudanese people.

Sudanese lawmakers, however, failed to pass a resolution with respect to U.S. sanctions on Sudan. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement MP Ghazi Suliman called for dealing with these sanctions in a wise manner and not to "launch a verbal campaign against the U.S." Ghazi also affirmed the need to resolve the Darfur crisis immediately. MP Hajo Gism Al-Sid of the ruling National Congress Party called for no cooperation between the Sudan and the U.S. in any fields, whether political or intelligence. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam Al-Intibaha, Al-Ayaam, et al*)

Street closure debate continues

- In a feature article in *Al-Sudani* about the threatened reopening of Ali Abdel Latif Street (on which the U.S. Embassy is located) to vehicular traffic, sources revealed that the closure of the road back in 2003 came as a result of a request by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of Interior and had been agreed to by the governments of Sudan and the United States. *Al-Sudani* reported that the Embassy had not received an official notification from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or from Khartoum State regarding the reopening of the street and is currently discussing the issue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (*Al-Sudani*)

U.S. Congress urges China to end Darfur crisis

- The U.S. House of Representatives urged China yesterday to use its influence and economic leverage to stop genocide in Sudan's Darfur region. The lawmakers charged that China has stood in the way of halting bloodshed in the western Sudanese region. Representatives stopped short of joining calls to boycott the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing made by some U.S. politicians. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Quote of the Day

"The U.S. knows that the Darfur conflict will soon be resolved and has implemented these sanctions to undermine efforts of national reconciliation." – Minister of Justice Al-Mardi

The Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy welcomes the new U.S. Chargé d'Affaires to Sudan, Alberto Fernandez

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