



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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China grants \$10 million to Sudan

- The Chinese Special Envoy to Africa, Liu Guijin, announced yesterday the grant of \$10 million to Sudan to improve the humanitarian situation in Darfur. Following his meeting with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs Al-Samani Al-Wasila, the Chinese Special Envoy affirmed China's support for the agreement between the Government of Sudan, the African Union, and the United Nations on the second phase of the Heavy Support Package for Darfur. Al-Wasila expressed Sudan's appreciation for the international community's efforts concerning the Darfur issue, and he commended China's efforts to reach a permanent solution in Darfur issue based on respect for Sudan's unity and sovereignty. (*Al-Sahafa, et al*)

Columnist released from detention

- *Al-Sudani* columnist Osman Merghani was released yesterday after being detained for five days by authorities. Merghani and *Al-Sudani* Editor in Chief Majhoub Erwa were accused of defamation against the Minister of Justice following the publication of a column by Merghani in which he called on the minister to resign. Merghani accused the minister of providing erroneous information about a money laundering case. A number of Sudanese journalists continue to refuse to publish their daily columns to protest the government's actions against *Al-Sudani*. Journalists have called for the annulment of Article 130 of the Criminal Procedure Law which the Government of Sudan used when suspending the newspaper. In a related development, the defense attorney representing those accused of money laundering, has called for lifting the immunity of the Minister of Justice, and further accused the minister of blackmailing the attorneys' clients in the amount of \$3 million. (*Al-Hayat, Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Ayaam*)

AU to assess situation in Darfur

- An AU statement said Sunday that six envoys from the AU Peace and Security Council would visit the Sudan, Chad and Central African Republic this week to "undertake a comprehensive assessment of the situation on the ground." "According to the statement, "The mission is also tasked to identify the obstacles impeding the implementation of the agreements signed by Chad and the Sudan, and to make recommendations that would lead to a durable solution to the problems of the region." (*Akhir Lahza*)

Sudan to cooperate with rights panel

- Swiss President Micheline Calmy stated yesterday that Sudan has agreed to cooperate with a committee of experts and special rapporteurs affiliated with the UN Human Rights Council regarding the situation in Darfur. In her annual briefing to journalists, Calmy stated that the UN rights panel's experts assigned to Darfur would meet with a high-level Sudanese ranking official on May 23-25 in Geneva (*Sudan Vision*).

Quote of the Day

"Darfur does not need more peace initiatives, it needs development." – Chinese Envoy to Sudan, Liu Guijin

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