



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Darfur talks under way in Sirte

-- Talks between the Sudan government and the rebel groups in Darfur kicked off in Sirte, Libya yesterday minus key players from the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi warned that the talks may not succeed in the absence of these two groups. He said he was not made aware that they would not be attending. He further urged the UN not to interfere in Sudan's domestic affairs, and to leave Darfur alone. On the first day of the talks, the Sudanese government declared a unilateral cease-fire. (*Al-Ayaam*)

-- Abdul Wahid Mohamed Al-Nur, a leader of the SLM, said his aim is regime change in Khartoum, not negotiations. He said his SLM faction will never participate in any talks – Sirte or otherwise – unless an international force is deployed to protect the internally displaced persons (IDP) and refugees and guarantee their safe return to their villages in Darfur. He also called on the international community to intervene to guarantee the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Four Darfur rebel groups that met recently in Juba have sent a message to the UN and the AU informing them that the international community is to blame for their decision to boycott the talks. They pointed out that the UN has been lenient about following up on the implementation of resolutions it issued on Darfur despite continued violence and atrocities. (*Al-Ayaam*)

-- Darfur IDPs have begun to protest against the Sirte talks. In meetings yesterday with representatives of the UN and humanitarian organizations, they called for the participation of the SLM and the JEM in order to bring about a comprehensive solution to the problem. Demonstrations against the talks will continue until

October 30. They pointed out that attempts by the AU and the UN to divide the rebel groups will only cause another crisis. (*Al-Ayaam*)

AEC to help ease tensions between NCP, SPLM

The Assessment and Evaluation Commission said it is prepared to give technical and political support to the parties of the CPA to help them overcome their political dispute. The committee met last Friday with representatives of the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to discuss the dispute, and it is now seeking a meeting with President Bashir to follow up on those issues. (*Al-Ayaam*)

More talk of reopening streets near Embassy

The street in front of the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum, Ali Abdel Latif Street, is set to reopen, says Abdelkadir Al-Zubair, the director for urban planning in Khartoum locality, at a press conference yesterday. He said his department is keen to reopen the roads leading to the new bus terminal in order to ease the traffic congestion downtown. (*Al-Sudani*)

Allegations of child trafficking

A committee has been formed to investigate allegations of child trafficking by a French NGO operating in Darfur. The government to Sudan considers the "trafficking" of 103 children from western Sudan to France via Abeche as a violation of international law pertaining to child rights. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is set to summon the French ambassador for an explanation. (*Al-Sahafa*)

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.