



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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August 21, 2007

Kajbar dam journalists and activists released

Sudanese authorities released a local journalist who had been held for two months for allegedly violating a government ban on media coverage of dam construction in northern Sudan. Five other activists protesting the dam construction were also released. The activists were released from Dabak prison north of Khartoum on the condition that they refrain from engaging in political activities. On June 13, a demonstration against the construction of Kajbar Dam took place at Farraig village, 140 kilometers north of Dongola. Police and security forces shot at people peacefully demonstrating against the building of the dam. Four people were killed and 13 others were injured. (*Sudan Tribune, et al.*)

Darfur developments

- Ambassadors from India, Pakistan, Indonesia, China, Korea, and Japan returned from a three-day visit to Darfur and stated at a press conference in Khartoum Aug. 20 that "the situation in Darfur has stabilized." (*Al-Sahafa*)

- An Asmara-based group of rebel movements announced Aug. 20 it would return to Darfur to unify its armed factions into a single force. Representatives of the United Front for Liberation and Development (UFLD), an alliance of five factions formed last month, promised that their troops would work to protect aid workers and non-government organizations (NGOs). "The leaders are going back to Darfur to unify all the armies into one group," UFLD official Abdel Aziz told reporters in the Eritrean capital. "They will be protecting civilians and creating a secure area for NGOs doing their work in Darfur," he added. (*Sudan Tribune*)

- In an unprecedented move, the Israeli government granted refugee status to over 500 Sudanese citizens, mostly from Darfur. The refugees entered Israel from Egypt, and have been awaiting a decision for weeks. (*Al-Sudani, et al.*)

UN allocates \$8.7 million for Sudan floods

The United Nations Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief John Holmes has approved a grant of \$8.7 million to support Sudanese flood relief efforts. The grant will be used for relief operations in the most affected area such as Gedaref, Kassala, Khartoum, Northern Kordofan, Unity, and Upper Nile. Meanwhile, the Government of Sudan announced Aug. 20 that 87 citizens have been killed in the flooding, 192 wounded, and more than 69,965 families affected by the flooding. (*Sudan Tribune, Al-Sudani, et al.*)

Heavy downpour in Khartoum

A heavy downpour fell on Khartoum for over six hours yesterday, resulting in 120 millimeters of additional standing water in many areas of the city. The downpour also contributed to closing several main roads and massive congestion in the city. Many people were caught in the traffic for hours, while others abandoned buses and walked to their final destinations. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, et al.*)

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