



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Secretary Rice comments on hybrid force

- U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stated yesterday that the international community has not lived up to its responsibilities in Darfur, describing the conflict there as "one the international community has simply got to act more quickly and more responsibly to stop." Rice criticized the Sudanese government by saying, "If, in fact, the Sudanese are prepared to accept the hybrid force, they need to accept it once and for all and stop the process of trying to scale it back. It seems one step forward, two steps back with the Sudanese government." (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Ayaam, Al Wihda, et al*)

U.S. Chargé meets with Presidential Adviser

- Most of the Arabic dailies published articles about the meeting yesterday between Presidential Adviser Dr. Magzoub Al-Khalifa and U.S. Chargé d'Affaires to Sudan Alberto Fernandez. Following the meeting, the Chargé reportedly called for reactivation of the political process and a larger role for civil society in Darfur. The meeting touched on a number of issues, in particular the Darfur crisis and relations between Sudan and the U.S. The Chargé said that he and Al-Khalifa agreed on the importance of direct and extensive dialogue to enhance the bilateral relations. He also said the coming six months would be decisive.

He further stressed the importance of putting more pressure on the rebel movements that did not sign the Darfur Peace Agreement in order to force them to participate in the negotiations and to join the dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union. Fernandez reportedly acknowledged the existence of inaccurate images and information about the situation in Sudan, and he stressed the importance of working in the interest of

the Sudanese people, especially Darfurians. He also stated that the U.S. has no reservations about exchanging visits between Sudanese and American officials. Al-Khalifa stated that Sudan is skeptical about the United States agenda. He indicated that the U.S. has missed an opportunity to play an important role in the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement, adding that the opportunity has now come to initiate dialogue with the U.S. (*SUNA, Sudan TV, Akhbar Al-Youm, Al-Rai Al-Aam, et al*)

Al-Bashir accuses U.S. of trying to divide Sudan

- In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily *Al-Wasat*, President Al-Bashir accused the U.S. of trying to divide Sudan into five states -- South Sudan, Darfur, East Sudan, Kordofan, and the center. Al-Bashir said the U.S. military is behind this scheme. (*Al-Intibaha*)

Journalists object to detention of their colleague

- Sudanese journalists gathered at *Rai Al-Shaab* newspaper to object to the continued detention of Saad Al-din Ahmed of *Elaf* newspaper and Mujahid Mohamed Ahmed of *Rai Al-Shaab*. Journalists intend to submit a memo to the National Assembly calling for their release. [The press did not provide reasons for the detention.] (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Sahafa, et al*)

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.