



SUDAN MORNING NEWS



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Escalation of Violence in El-Fasher

- Senior Assistant to the President Mini Minawi told a press conference yesterday that there is intense fighting between Janjaweed militia and his forces in El-Fasher. Minawi threatened to revert back to war if the Government does not halt its support to the Janjaweed militia. Minawi revealed that thousands of civilians were displaced and around 48 villages burnt during the last six months. The press reported between three and five fatalities and up to wounded in the clashes. Meanwhile, Presidential Adviser Magzoub Al-Khalifa downplayed the impact of the recent violent incidents in El-Fasher, describing it as “an isolated act and not a violation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.” (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Ayaam, Rai Al-Shaab, Al-Hayat, et al*)

- Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) leader Abdel Wahid Nur stated that he will only agree to hold talks with the GOS if the Darfur-Darfur dialogue is terminated and if international forces are deployed. He is also insisting that there not be any new armed movements in future negotiations. (*Al-Adwaa*)

- The UN withdrew 32 humanitarian staff from the regions of Kulbus, Abu Shourug, and Salby in West Darfur, due to the insecurity there. (*Al-Ayaam*)

Government of National Unity

- Upper Nile Southern MPs boycotted yesterday's parliament session to protest the failure of Defense Minister Abdel Rahim Hussein to appear before them to brief them on the recent incidents in Malakal. (*The Citizen*)

Ambassador Bolton's resignation

- Most of the front pages of today's press carried reports of the resignation of U.S. Ambassador to the UN John Bolton.

Miscellaneous

- Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniya is expected in Khartoum within days to discuss with President Al-Bashir means to bridge differences between Fatah and Hamas rivals. (*Alwan*)

- A Palestinian human rights activist group reported that more than 160 Darfurians are being detained in the Nagab prison in Israel. (*Alwan*)

- The Sudan National AIDS program reported that Sudan has the highest HIV infection rate in North Africa and the Middle East. (*Al-Sudani*)



Between an Official and a citizen

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