

Update on Events in Khartoum, September 3, 2006

1. AU and UN reports from Khartoum indicate an ominous development, namely decisions announced to the Council of Ministers by President Bashir. It is reported that Bashir demanded, and got, approval of three decisions he had taken. The decisions were:
 - a. Rejection of the UNSC Resolution 1706.
 - b. Termination of the AU Mission in Sudan on September 30.
 - c. Redeployment of the Sudan Armed Forces to Darfur to deal with the situation.
2. Minni Minawi was not present at the meeting. It is unclear whether he was not informed or whether he decided not to attend. In any case, he was not consulted, in contravention of the procedure spelled out in the DPA that requires the President to consult his Senior Assistant on all matters relating to Darfur.
3. First Vice President Salva Kiir is in Juba for the opening of the Southern Assembly tomorrow. Lam Akol was not present (he was returning from a visit to Ghana). Yasir Arman and other SPLM members are angry about the decision which they do not accept. They are considering their next steps and will be meeting on Tuesday (when Kiir returns from Juba) to decide on their course of action.
4. This decision was not reported in the Sudanese media, which instead reported that consultations are continuing about how to dialogue with the UN and U.S.
5. The AU Special Representative Kingibe and the deputy SRSG Taye Zerihoun have been summoned to the Foreign Ministry tomorrow at 10 a.m. Presumably the decision will be made public at that point.