

## Press Release

His Excellency President Omar Hassan Al Bashir returned to Khartoum on Monday from Johannesburg, South Africa, after participating in the 25<sup>th</sup> African Union (AU) Summit with the other 54 heads of state and government members to AU. On the sidelines of the Summit he met many dignitaries of friendly states to discuss bilateral and regional issues, including women empowerment, sustainable development and strengthening of regional and continental relationships between the peoples and governments of the continent.

President Al Bashir in continuation of furthering the role of the Sudan as a pivot of stability in the region of East Africa, the Horn of Africa and North Central African regions where issues of conflict resolution, sustainable development and good governance have taken top priority, has chosen to pay much effort to sustain brotherly relations with all. In 2005 Sudan has successfully concluded an agreement with the erstwhile rebels in its Southern region, which culminated in the referendum of 2011 that brought birth of the new state of South Sudan, ending a bloody conflict that lasted for 50 years. This has been possible only under the able and visionary leadership of President Al Bashir. Also, in April the Sudan conducted its ever second-term democratic election since 1956. Al Bashir will go in history as the first president to bring the country to a second term that witnessed 16 presidential candidates to contest, with participation of more than 70 political parties. To that, we must also add the achievement made in the western region of Darfur, which has concluded a successful agreement in Doha in May 2008 due to which an autonomous Darfur Authority has been established. Again, for the first time in more than 25 years, in April 2015 all Darfur 5 federal states have participated in free and transparent elections to choose representatives for legislative assemblies, The National Assembly and presidential candidates.

In a region that is wading in deep turmoil caused by terrorist movements and chaotic non-state actors, stretching from Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Somalia to Mali and elsewhere, with the emergence of terrorist and extremist groups all around its peripherals, such achievements should be hailed by each and every peace-loving person.

To further aggravate the situation in the region with the end to create more chaos, certain smear campaigns of propaganda and defamation were highlighted from dubious NGOs routinely work as fronts on behalf of enemies of the people of the Sudan, who have been working during the last 50 years with the mission to perpetrate conflict in Sudan through sponsoring, financing and

training rebellious and terrorist movements to disintegrate the country. Experts in conflict management in various think tanks, in Sudan and beyond, have accused such groups of following the paradigm of Creative Destruction to perpetuate the same chaos circulating in the above-mentioned conflict-infested countries. Due to this paradigm, President Al Bashir has been portrayed as an alleged perpetrator of crimes of wars in Darfur. The paradigm-followers rode the so-called ICC, which Sudan is no member to, in order to show their case as legally accessible and humanly reasonable. Sudan has been referred to ICC by a political body where 60% of its permanent members are no members to; where some among them issued laws to invade the ICC if it ever stretched its hand to arrest any of their nationals. This act is called Double-Standard in the jargon of international law.

The dubious NGOs have deliberately ignored the Report adopted by the UN Secretary General who appointed the international law expert Mr. Antonio Cassese, to head a Commission to investigate reports of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in Darfur. The Commission submitted a full report on its findings to the Secretary General on 25 January 2005. The Commission's final decision: "***no genocidal policy has been pursued and implemented in Darfur by the Government authorities, directly or through the militias under their control...***"

Sudan official position is that ICC resolutions are not applicable, complying with its constitution, applicable laws and the universally observed tenets of state sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity. The Charter of UN asserts the sovereignty of states who shall not be liable to laws or regulations these states are no members to.

The AU and the government of the Republic of South Africa, the host of the 25<sup>th</sup> AU Summit, abide by UN Charter, which must be supreme and more universal than ICC rules and procedures. The AU has adopted a unanimous decision requires that members shall abide fully by the laws, rules and procedures agreed to by the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government who are democratically elected and not submit to non-elected bodies, including NGOs who represent only themselves and those who finance their budgets.

Due to this understanding, President Al Bashir was heroically received yesterday in Khartoum by all the people of the Sudan as an African democratically elected leader who enjoy enormous respect and passion of the peace-loving peoples of the Sudan and Africa.

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