



We Fight for a Better Life For Our Entire Population

Sudan's Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mutrif Siddiq, gave this briefing at the Foreign Ministry on April 6, to the foreign delegates, including several EIR correspondents, who were attending a conference in Khartoum (see EIR, April 24, 2009).

Sudan is at a crossroads: Certain forces, through new means, are working to re-exert colonialism. To counteract that, we need a new approach. There are very sincere entities, there are very sincere persons, there are very sincere organizations, who share with us these ideas, who are working hard towards a just, international system. Unfortunately, we don't feel at all that the existing world order is a just one, including the United Nations itself. And the United Nations is represented as a supreme political body, that is, the Security Council, which was formed after the Second World War, and it was accepted and agreed to, based on certain attitudes prevailing at that time.

In light of developments concerning Sudan, reforms in the Security Council must be considered. And we think one of the unjust rules is that certain countries have special rights, where they are protected, and they can protect those whom they like, those whom they love, and the others are targeted for subjugation and intimidation and harassment, like the case of Sudan.

For example, in the year 2004, and the year 2005, most of the resolutions of the Security Council were directed towards the case of Sudan, and the case in Darfur.

This doesn't come out of the blue. This doesn't reflect the concern of the international community for the innocent people of Darfur who have been affected by civil wars. Because even the civil war in Sudan is not caused by the simple reasons that have been circulated in the media—that there is a fight between Arab and non-Arab tribes in Darfur—this is just a fallacy.

Problems in Darfur Are Not New

We think that the problems in Darfur are more complicated than that. We are afraid of the desertification that has affected the whole continent, and Sudan is severely affected. The biggest wave of displacement, the biggest wave of challenges that we have faced, was not in the years 2003 and 2004. It goes back in history. The most recent one, was the displacement and the resultant flow of refugees that took place in 1984, when we in Sudan received millions of refugees from the East and West. At that time, Ethiopia was united. We had received more than a million refugees from the eastern front; and we had received more than a million refugees from the neighbors in Chad. They had been forced into Sudan because of the drought that affected the wells in that year.

Despite the displacement, at that time, Sudan managed to absorb the serious shock, and to receive all these waves of refugees and IDPs [internally displaced persons], and feed them, alone first, and then with the help of the international community, at that time. And we do remember that President Bush, the father—at that time he was the Vice President of the United States—came to Sudan and he visited Kordofan and Darfur, and the United States offered some help to the Sudanese government to address the needs of the masses of refugees that came into Sudan from neighboring countries.

We are quite happy for that. We don't deny the favors; we recognize them, and thank those that helped us. But, any conditional assistance, or conditional help, which conceals agendas within that help, is not acceptable for us in Sudan. Because if you want to assist someone, you have to assist him in good faith. You have to assist to rectify that situation, and to get back to a normal situation. But if you utilize the problems to undermine the whole system, and to change the whole world, and use it as a means of manipulation, it is not going to help.

In Darfur, we have two major life styles: We have the nomads and the farmers. They always compete for their resources, and these resources are affected by the threat of desertification, and we have the advancement of the desert in Sudan. Every year it is said that the desert is advancing by more than 100 kilometers in Sudan. This is a shared responsibility. If we don't reverse the situation, it is now Sudan; but tomorrow it is going to be Niger, or Mali, or Algeria, or Senegal, or whatever. Or it might even go somewhere else.

The situation in Sudan is not even compared to the D.R.C. [Democratic Republic of Congo], where the D.R.C. problem is the typical regional and international conflict, because all the countries around the D.R.C. are involved. Some of the major powers are competing over the resources of the D.R.C.. What is the magnitude of displacement? What is the magnitude of killing? What is the magnitude of insecurity in the D.R.C.? But this is not mentioned.

Our internal conflict has been blown up and described as a threat to international security. This is why the series of resolutions—up to ten within less than two years in the UN Security Council—is a manifestation of the monopoly of the institution which shares the objectives of certain circles. That's why the Darfur problem was blown up as a humanitarian crisis, although it was an internal conflict that has flared up repeatedly. We had a conflict in 1986, but, at that time, the Cold War was still there, and no one was talking about internal conflicts. It passed, unnoticed, and the internal dynamics managed to absorb that conflict.

Rebels Are Run from London, Paris

The same could have been applied to the conflict in 2003, but because of the international dimensions, because of the regional hands that entered into the conflict in Darfur, these outside factors made the conflict something other than the internal conflict it actually was. The supposed internal conflict, as it is presented in the media, is not coherent with the actions of the rebel movements. Each anti-government movement wanted to appear as a separate entity, because it was supported by certain outside interests, and was so accepted in the media.

Where are the major rebel groups now? The U.K. is actually hosting the major leaders, with the exception of Khalil Ibrahim, of the JEM, that is the Justice and Equality Movement. Jibril Ibrahim, a brother of Khalil, is there in the U.K. Ahmed Tugod Lissan, chief negotiator at the Abuja talks, is there. The spokesman for JEM, Ahmed Hussein Adam, is there. And many others.

They are sponsored by the U.K. But what is the role of the U.K. in establishing this in Sudan? They reveal it themselves. They instruct us to make peace, but how can I make peace when they are holding the cards? When you are not encouraging those who are leading the rebellion to go and talk. The same applies to France, which is hosting Abdel Wahid Nur. If they want to tell



EIRNS/Douglas DeGroot

The AU-UN force in Darfur has not been able to receive desperately needed helicopters for transportation to trouble spots. Here, a UN helicopter at the El Fasher airport in North Darfur.

him to go and talk peace, he will definitely go and talk peace. But they say, “We are very democratic, we cannot force him to do so.”

Peace is not a choice, it is not optional. Our people are suffering inside Sudan, while he is sitting in Paris, and refuses to join the talks in Doha, or the talks elsewhere. This is their responsibility. But instead, they are working against the interests of Sudan. Although Sudan has made many attempts: We have declared a ceasefire, unilaterally, many times, with no results. This was repeated many times, and when we at last went to Doha, one of the major ideas that was put to us by the chief negotiator, was to conclude an agreement on two issues: One of them is to have a treaty, which we have accepted, and the other was a preliminary agreement that organizes a plan for successfully implementing peace in Sudan. We have accepted both, but the rebels have declined.

We did the same when we were invited in October 2007 to Sirte, Libya. We went there, with open mind and heart, we declared a unilateral ceasefire. But still, their chief claim was that the government of Sudan was the party that was reluctant to achieve peace, while they participated in the talks. What about Khalil Ibrahim, himself, and his forces? They attempted to broaden their role, were rebuffed, and went back to Chad. They attempted again to come to Nigeria, were rebuffed, and they are now in Chad. They are now deploying forces in Geneina, which is the capital of West Darfur, waiting for two things to happen.

The first one is American policy toward Sudan. It is up to you to restore the peace. The rebels are not

sure what the real American policy toward Sudan is. Either they will be granted permission to advance their hostilities, undermine security, and destabilize the city, or else they will be exposed for what they are. So you, our brothers, you have a role to play, here and there.

Second, they are waiting for the ICC [International Criminal Court]! And once the ICC had declared its decision, of the warrant of arrest of the President of the Republic, Khalil declared that he was not going to join peace efforts again. His path has shifted. He is going to continue fighting. He is going to be the arm of the ICC, to overthrow the government, arrest the President, and take him to The Hague.

Is that the intention of international justice? I think this is not the intention of international justice. But this is the intention of those who are behind using international justice as a tool of harassment, as a form of intimidation, against the regimes which they don't feel that they are on good terms with. They had been expecting that Sudan would collapse, that the Sudanese people would revolt against the leadership. That there would be rebel moves or advances toward the towns, and this was expected to be the end of the story. They were shocked [when this didn't happen].

The Threat Posed by the ICC Charges

And we were shocked too. Although we had received hints, to be frank, prior to the formation of the ICC justice caper, what the decision of the court was going to be: that they were going to drop the crime of genocide, and were going to go with the other two crimes:

crimes against humanity and war crimes. I swear, this is what we knew prior to the announcement of the ICC arrest warrant. And unfortunately, and shockingly, this is what the decision of the ICC was. And they thought that we would accept this independent court as a legal court.

[ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno] Ocampo went to Yale University and was spreading lies about Sudan. And he was actually playing on people's emotions, using the supposed plight of the children of Sudan, and also claiming that about 5,000 people were dying per month in Darfur, without even cross-checking. This is the so-called evidence that is being used by the enemy. It is part of a conspiracy to prevent the rebels from coming to the table of peace, and to induce them, instead, to wait for the international community to agree to use "humanitarian" justifications to indict Sudan.

They want to use the right of military intervention, maybe through Chad, or by air, and so on. And we are always hearing about the extreme course of aid embargos and more sanctions to strangle the government of Sudan, and so on. But believe me, if we listen to those threats, and allow ourselves to be frightened by that course, we will never move a step forward. We have been facing this situation for almost the last 30 years. This is not new for us.

On the other hand, U.S. policy against Sudan has often been based on the idea of containment, the use of neighboring countries to undermine the system in Sudan, and to support their anti-Sudan goals. At that time, the United States said that it supported these neighboring countries with non-military supplies. But, in time of war, lethal and non-lethal forms of aid are equally important. Because if you give someone food, or you support him medically, at the time of fighting, this makes it easier for him to aid the anti-Sudan military effort. They can aid someone's medical corps. It is not fighting. But it is facilitating the welfare of the fighting groups of that country.

So I think our mission is to understand the plan, the scenarios, and to apply counter-scenarios, to defeat them. I think we are not alone in the world. First of all, we believe in God. God is great. Definitely.

The United States is not the only superpower. We are looking for the super-, super-, super-superpower. Once we have that conviction, the United States will be cut down to size. Once we are having noble objectives, while not deviating from those objectives—because for us killing is prevented by religion; rape is prevented by

religion; robbery is prevented by religion. All these types of activities which have been called tactics used by Sudan, are not in our nature. These are not our practice. This is why we feel harmed by these false allegations which the media has thrown against us, because it is contrary to our humanity, is contrary to our belief. It is contrary to our practice and conduct. So this is the biggest blow against us.

Why, in fighting a rebellion in my country, would I be labeled as exercising genocide? While these same forces are ostensibly exercising their right to defend their security, fighting from countries which are thousands of miles away, they are attacking those who are exercising their rights to protect their own people inside their country. What do you call it other than the worst hypocrisy?

This is why, our brothers, we think that this is our time to think in a new manner. We are happy with the call of President Obama for change. But we don't think that this task is an easy one, because there are many hawks who will not allow him to go onto that path, because it is contrary to the interest of many of them.

But let us have hope. This is why we have extended our hand to the new envoy of President Obama, who is still here with us in Sudan. We have been quite transparent, quite receptive, hoping that he will come with an open mind and an open heart, to work with us during the situation. We are true believers, and truth lovers. We want to live in peace with the whole world, including America, and the U.K., and France. And we never will stop our dialogue and our engagement, unless we are forced to do so. Because we think that we are equipped with the knowledge, we are equipped with the right thing, that will convince those who are sincere, those who are credible, those who are fair and neutral, to work hand in hand with us. So we really call for that sort of cooperation, that sort of engagement, that sort of understanding that will let us all live in peace.

Peace Through Developing the Entire Nation

So accept our apology for this lengthy talk, but believe me, no one can doubt our intention for treating our people in a different manner, to allow them to share power with us. The National Electoral Commission has declared a timetable for elections in Sudan. This is a very fundamental decision, that is going to broaden the base for peace, that is going to send a message to all. We have an opportunity to broaden the base of the govern-

ment. And anyone who has the ambition to govern this country through rule, and an agreed-upon program, will gain the support of the majority of the people, to have power, to have the opportunity, instead of taking up arms, to have a better life, an easier one. So we are after that change.

And we think that if we weaken any part of Sudan, if you continue this process of strengthening one part of the country against the other part of the country, or support this party against that one, the outcome is not going to be fair. It is not going to be acceptable. It will not create a lasting peace in Sudan. So we hope that we will all be here in a fair manner that will respect the choices of the Sudanese people themselves.