

Al-Bashir Closes Conference

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[Speech by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir at closing of national constitutional conference on the political system, at Friendship Hall in Khartoum; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the most merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Brother participants and honorable guests: peace, mercy, and the blessings of Almighty God be upon you. No words or tokens of thanks are sufficient to express the overflowing joy and the great happiness I feel at what I have witnessed and

heard in your wide-ranging constitutional conference, a conference called for by every sincere patriot who is keen on the interests of this motherland and the welfare of its citizens.

We were all pleased by the participation of friends and brothers, Arabs and Muslims, at the head of which was Brother Colonel Abu Bakr Yunus Jabir, member of the historic leadership in the sisterly Jamahiriyah; and brother Omar Arteh Ghalib, the Somali prime minister, and the delegations accompanying them. The value of our happiness was further increased by the activities of the intellectuals from Arab and Islamic movements who came to attend the popular conference on our issues and who played an active role in our internal political dialogue.

The spirit of participation was high, as was the manner in which all the participants felt the need for an attentive participation apart from greed and personal goals. You were all a boost to Sudan at the present moment and a fine aspiration for its prosperous and radiant future. The revolution was thankful to the conference when it said to the prisoners: You are free to go, and pardoned every outlaw, rebel, and dissident, calling on them all to participate without being isolated, restricted, or being given instructions.

We renew our call to all to join the ranks of the homeland and to forget all the differences which have obstructed us and led Sudan to the abyss of retrogression. This system is for all and the call to participate in it is directed to all. So come to it, accept it with a pure patriotism and be endowed with sincerity and the spirit of diligence and endeavor so that all of us may rise to the heights of what we envision for this beloved country and the prosperity and welfare we are aiming for.

Brother participants, your excellencies the guests, you will all have noticed through the march of our revolution that the revolution has committed itself to certain principles. We want to emphasize them again. There is a stress on a spirit of seriousness which is represented in credibility, originality, and impartiality. The credibility is in the revolution's commitment to the agenda of peace, education, economy, and the political system. The revolution's other commitments have sprung from the recommendations of various conferences. As for impartiality, it is concerned with the implementation of the principles of purity, fair play, and rejection of evil, purity of leadership, its profound (?understanding) of the greater importance of the hereafter over the world of today, its affection for one another, and distancing itself from evil. These values comprise a real immunity from failure and ruin. A precept to be followed is not set by appearances, pictures, or structures, which any political system possesses.

Dear brothers, among the principles to which we are committed is that of legality: the revolution's legality, which has sprung from the mutual confidence between it

and the people. This bond, which was formed by experience and interaction, is proof of the revolution's credibility, which is being entrenched daily. This confidence means that the revolution will gradually hand power over to the people concerning the economic reforms and issues of legislation and will in general engage in power sharing. This principle can be relied upon and removes from the hearts any suspicion of deceit or hoodwinking. The revolution's practice of fulfilling its pledges up to now is renewed proof of this confidence.

The other principle is that of gradualization, which in another way is accompanied by the principle of revolution. Gradualization does not mean indecision, laxity, or defeat, but rather discernment, firmness, and (?success) in implementation. Dear brothers, we are confident in ourselves and in legality. This makes us feel convinced of our direction and open in our work without any fear or paranoia. Tolerance is an original element of the revolution's fabric and is [word indistinct] on which the revolution does not overly concern itself. Firmness, in its place, is an entrenched custom which the revolution can implement whenever the need arises. The revolution does not prefer its use, for the final medicine is cauterization.

Your excellencies, this is the spirit of the new era which we honor and whose characteristics have been formed by this conference and by your discussions during the conference. The merits of this are due to you and to your efforts and your active participation. We owe you thanks for what you have achieved. God favors virtue. Peace, mercy, and the blessing of Almighty God be upon you. [applause]