

**Thanks People for Rumbek Recovery**  
*EA111250 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic*  
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[Speech by Sudanese Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on 8 May at the Workers Federation House in Khartoum on the occasion of the world workers centenary — recorded]

[Excerpt] I congratulate you and our Armed Forces on the recovery of Rumbek Town. [applause] And I say once again: We do not want this fighting, for every one killed on either side is a Sudanese and it is our duty to protect and (?preserve) his blood. [applause] But he who shoulders arms against his people must be resolutely faced by the people, for whoever [words indistinct] he sometimes [word indistinct] (?for) the one who has mercy on him. [applause] It is meaningless to shoulder arms against Sudan now, because Sudan now, its people and government, are a group [jamah] that affords an opportunity for the expression of the opinion of each. It protects fundamental liberties: It protects the independence of the judiciary; it establishes government on the basis of representation [niyabah]; it will never assert that the state we are in is right and the state you are in is wrong. On the contrary, it says: Come ye for equal talks between us and you. Such a course does not justify the bearing of arms in opposition, because those who bear arms against this course stand against the people: They stand against rightness: They stand against history. Whoever adopts such a position must face punishment and a harsh confrontation.

There is a group that does not admire all this, but thinks day and night of distorting democracy and of distorting freedom. They raise numerous slogans at night. They soliloquize about dictatorship and how dictatorship is the way for their honor, dignity, and supremacy. This group knows that the worst and (?dirtiest) type of dictatorship is the one that was set up by Jafar Numayri, because he spent all the peoples funds on it, imposed it on them, and imported alien tutelage for it. In spite of this, the people topped Jafar Numayri. Therefore, whoever embarks upon this road will find his way to the kiln of history into which Jafar Numayri went. [applause] Some of them write in newspapers, singing about the glories of dictatorship, some of them hatch conspiracies to distort the appearance of freedom and some of them conspire by night to polarize the enemies of freedom. Whatever happens, the people are lying in wait and God is with us. God willing, He will grant us victory not only over the conspiracies of despotism and distortion inside the Sudan, but, God willing, everywhere, for rightness towers and it is not towered over. Peace and God's mercy be upon you. [applause]