

Sudan

Al-Bashir Addresses Rally in Al-Kabbashi

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[Speech delivered by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, to a rally at al-Shaykh al-Kabbashi village on 27 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks to God, the only one. Prayers and peace be upon the last messenger and prophet. [passage omitted] Gentlemen, the sons of al-Shaykh al-Kabbashi, brother citizens from al-Kabbashi village, brother citizens of east Nile, peace be upon you. Thank you for this warm, crowded reception and your overflowing patriotic sentiments. Our meeting today, [word indistinct] in the

heart of the revolution and its solidarity with the masses—who have believed in the revolution and supported it.

We have experienced the practice of politics—during the corrupt era—and we have seen how certain major forces shifted from the camp of the nation to the camp of our enemies and how they shifted from being forces that compromised with the enemy to forces that besieged the resister and the fighter. We have seen the parties weak and trembling before the challenge of the great battle, yet they were fierce and strong against the sons of our people.

We have seen and followed the sale of posts, buying of conscience and trade in positions, and the receiving of the proceeds by politicians and deputies. These practices led to disappointment, hopelessness, and despair in the souls of the masses and in this hopeless state of affairs, with a corrupt and deteriorating political reality, the national salvation revolution erupted to heal the wounds of the homeland and to deliver it from tribalism and sectarian, factional politics before they led to further divisions and tribal conflicts.

The revolution came about to beat with the stick of salvation all the elements of surrender and disintegration, for which political sectarianism had provided a means and the fuel to spread. The revolution erupted to put an end to limited loyalties and to elevate loyalty to the level of the great homeland. The revolution came and found the country facing critical conditions of supply, a petroleum reserve sufficient for just 3 days, an agricultural sector facing near disaster with farmers refusing to sow cotton for the new season, and no fertilizers or fuel available for traditional agriculture.

The revolution immediately began to relieve the situation, with great success. We solved the farmers issue, their protest action ended and the country's main crop was saved. We managed to provide fertilizers and fuel and for the first time, thanks to God, diesel was made available at its official price for the farmers in all the productive areas, such as al-Gedaref, Northern Region, Blue Nile, Kordofan, Darfur, and the other production areas. We have received a number of cables of gratitude for saving the traditional and irrigated agricultural harvests.

We are now near to completing the preparations for the agricultural season. Contracts have been signed with the spraying companies who were refusing to operate this season because they had not been paid for previous seasons. Preparations are now going on for the harvest. As for sugar, contracts have been signed and supplies have arrived in the country to bridge the gap until the local factories can begin production in November. We have undertaken to control distribution channels and I promise God and you brothers, that not one bag of factory sugar shall escape to the black market. I assure you that every pound of produce will reach the citizens

to compensate them for the deprivation and depression which they are experiencing at the moment. [passage omitted]

Brother citizens, thanks to the joint efforts of the Ministry of Education, the National Capital Commission and the governors of the regions, the school year began on time, books have been distributed from the 1st day, and classes have been conducted from the new time of 0700. [passage omitted]

Brother citizens, the revolution came about to save the Sudanese people from disease and the revolution is spending 30 million pounds on rehabilitating, developing, and supporting the general hospitals so that they can render specialized services to all Sudanese inside the country. [passage omitted]

In the name of the Armed Forces and in the name of the Sudanese people, for whose sake the revolution erupted, be assured that production is highly valued—we shall always strive to increase it and develop it—and the revolution will not allow anyone, under whatever cover or pretext, to misappropriate that production. Any hand that tries to sabotage it will be amputated without hesitation, no matter what the cost. Brother citizens, there is punishment for the old loyalties, but for all those who try to impose the loyalties of the past in the revolution era there is severe punishment. There shall be no return for the parties. Authority shall remain in the hands of the people and the Armed Forces.

Honorable brothers, on the matter of peace, the revolution—the national salvation revolution—has given it some of its [words indistinct] interest. It hastened to declare a cease-fire, unilaterally, for a period of 1 month, together with a general amnesty for anyone who had carried arms against the homeland. It then renewed it for another month as an expression of its good intentions and earnestness. It also clarified its (?vision) by entering into negotiations with the popular movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] on the basis of a balanced and realistic view.

Indeed, from the beginning it sought help from fraternal and friendly countries to speed up the earnest and urgent negotiations process in order to bring about peace in the country. The revolution succeeded in crowning its efforts by sitting with the rebel movement in Addis Ababa last week, conducting a useful dialogue on the issue under dispute and agreeing to continue the dialogue.

The next few days will witness extensive moves to draw up an integrated peace plan based on a recognition of the cultural and developmental disparities to offer definite proposals on a system of government. Participating in these preparations are numerous personalities of national stature who are experienced, objective, and representative, in national terms, as a prelude to the decisive determination of this issue at the next round of talks with the popular movement. This issue has sapped the strength of the Sudanese Armed Forces and Sudan's economy and manpower.

From this dais I would like to express thanks and appreciation to all the friends and brothers who have participated in the preparations for the brotherly dialogue. In particular, we thank [word indistinct] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak [applause], and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam [applause] for the efforts he made to make the talks successful. We shall continue our contacts with our brothers and friends and those countries concerned with events in Sudan until these efforts lead to the end of the war.

Today, I am pleased to announce that the revolution has resolved to extend the cease-fire period for a 3d month in support of the negotiations and to give new momentum to the march towards peace. [applause]

Honorable brothers, to reinforce the principles and slogans of the revolution, it will issue at the beginning of the month, the Law of Popular Committees for Salvation. The law will be comprehensive and will embody the solidarity of the revolution and the masses, in order to preserve political unity and to consolidate the internal front so that it may face the challenges.

This law shall offer great opportunities for popular participation, which will not be limited to services and the control of supplies. These committees shall have rights and specialities covering all occupations and socially active roles in our society. This law will place planning and control in the hands of the people and will establish the cabinet in a technical and coordinative role.

The law will also vest in the committees the authority to form committees of parents and teachers and committees of mosques and alms giving, to enable these committees to take care of the aged, the orphans, the widows and the disabled. [passage omitted]

Honorable brothers, we want to see a new Sudan loved by its people as they love their children. We want other people to know that we are a people with pride and a country that will always give birth to heroes and that we want to serve our country and defend it so that it can regain its power and pride. Peace be upon you and mercy from God and blessings.