

# Sudan

## **Sudan: Al-Bashir Addresses Assembly, Urges Peace With Garang**

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[Speech by Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir to the National Assembly in Khartoum — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dear brother deputies: When I delivered my address to open your esteemed assembly, I gave you the good news that our peace efforts would soon bear fruit. A few days ago, your esteemed assembly endorsed the Peace Charter, which has been accepted and welcomed by most of the political forces in southern Sudan, either by way of participation or delivery of speeches.

We are proud that the charter is a purely Sudanese achievement brought about on Sudanese territory. It was the result of sustained dialogue and the placing of the national interest above those of individuals and groups. We shall pursue the same road by entrenching the charter, building up confidence in minds, and making peace in the land. This will be done by means of reconstruction and development, resettlement, and the building of new societies on the basis of justice, fairness, tolerance, and love.

Once again I wish to say that war has never been and will never be a way of resolving disputes and differences. The war has inflicted on Sudan generally, and on the south in particular, human and material losses which cannot be estimated in terms of price. The government will not spare any efforts to seek peace through negotiations and dialogue with factions which are abroad. We shall strengthen peace from within.

There was that brave admission about the roots of the problem and its causes, and the need to solve it peacefully. This has guided our steps ever since the national dialogue conference [words indistinct] and from men of the Armed Forces and the People's Defense Forces who prepared the way to peace, and created stability and security in all parts of the south with the exception of a few scattered pockets.

From this platform I call on John Garang's faction to respond to the call of peace which has been expressed by our people countrywide so that overall peace, stability, and brotherhood and confidence can be restored. [passage omitted]

Brother speaker and members of the assembly: All the government's internal policies as represented by the entrenchment of peace, consultation, democracy, and economic development are expressions of a peace-loving state and people. In spite of the political and diplomatic pressures represented by UN Security Council Resolution No. 1054 and others, Sudan still has its friends. Sudan will not isolate itself from its Arab and African neighbors.

We shall strive to clear the air, and to build relations with the Arab countries. We have already advanced a long way in this respect. We appreciate the Arab world's response to and solidarity with us. We know that Sudan is part of the African Continent and that Sudan's security and stability are inseparable from the continent's security and stability. It is for this reason that we shall step up our efforts to strengthen bilateral relations, and strive to settle differences and disputes between ourselves and some of our neighbors in a framework of dialogue or by way of the OAU. We do not want the OAU to step aside from its role of bringing its members together in favor of other quarters.

We shall also strive to enhance our participation in regional organizations such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development.

The government will strive to strengthen our cooperation with Asia. We shall strengthen our approach to the Orient so as to develop popular and official relations with the friendly Asian states.

In the area of relations with Europe, the government will persevere with Sudanese-European dialogue [words indistinct] and we will also strengthen our relations with states with which our relations are witnessing a relaxation [infiraj]. We shall also continue our dialogue with the United States and seek new opportunities to bring about an improvement in our bilateral relations.

In the area of relations with international organizations, Sudan will participate effectively in all the councils and committees to which we belong. Sudan will continue to be an active member of international fora, and will uphold a clear record in international cooperation on protecting human rights and fighting terrorism and drug trafficking. Sudan will [word indistinct] with all peace-loving countries for a world which rejects hegemony and strives for freedom and justice and equality between all nations and peoples.