



الجمعية السودانية للدراسات والبحوث في الآداب والفنون والعلوم الإنسانية

The Sudanese Society for Research on Arts and Humanities

Société Soudanaise des Etudes et Recherches sur les Arts, Lettres et Sciences Humaines

Call for a Sudan for all

Call for participation and involvement in reinforcing solidarity for giving precedence to reason over passion, respect for human rights, blocking the way in the face of propagation of violence, injustice, inequality, arrogance and prejudice, and for the deepening of the values of unity, peace and citizenship rights amongst the sons and daughters of the united Sudan

- To all sectors of the people of the Sudan, at home or abroad, wholeheartedly devoted to ensconce the principles of peace, equality, justice and the rights of citizenship;
- To all local and international civic society organizations;
- To all local and international human rights organizations;
- To all Sudanese political parties;
- To all trade unions, and geographic and regional associations and unions;
- To all school teachers and lecturers at institutes of higher education and universities;
- To all unions and organizations of writers, actors and artists;
- To the masses of the students' movement at home or abroad;
- To local and international mass media.

Our nation has, stoically, endured one of the most devastating ordeals and trials in its recent history by the untimely and unfortunate demise of Dr. John Garang De Mabior, the president of the Sudanese popular Liberation Movement and the first vice president of the Republic of the Sudan, one of its most influential iconic leaders who fought for peace and equality envisaging a democracy based on transparent observation of human and citizenship rights and on the unfaltering respect for the cultural and religious diversity. And, at the aftermath of the great loss, faced once again with another devastating tribulation and trial, which has nearly put an end to our hopes and aspirations for the long awaited peace, unity, fraternity, dignity and development and for which we have fought dearly for so long.

Khartoum and so many other major Sudanese cities have witnessed bloody fighting and complete smothering of the blossoming promise of the possibility of multicultural coexistence. The deeply embedded inherited suspicions and aggravations were let loose on one side and the vile, concealed xenophobic sentiments, lurking in some people who failed to learn the bitter lessons of war and dissension of which they were not at all concerned, were loudly pronounced on the other side.

Voices advocating such despicable sentiments were heard from certain platforms and from the tops of mosques' minarets, unveiling embryonic potentials for a civil war that would definitely put the nation at the risks of total annihilation. It also revealed the fact that the road towards institutionalization of the culture of peace and citizenship is faced from the very first infant steps with insurmountable mammoth hurdles, which make it necessary to weigh the pros and cons of each step taken. It should be studied carefully from the intellectual perspective, given the most appropriate media coverage and actual, active and continuous presence, on the part of the civic society organizations, political parties, trade unions and other cultural and social bodies in the frontlines. Such presence should not be limited to mitigation or mollification of ill feelings but should go all the way towards the cleansing and curing of minds and hearts, through honest and persistent dialogue and through critical, sharp and vivid appraisal of the issues involved which would eventually expose the pitfalls and failings of all of us and open our eyes and minds on our joint and combined obligations and duties if we are to build a united and strong country, capable of lifting itself out of the mire of the wretched religious and ethnic conflict and acrimony, into the inspiring spacious domain of creative and human multicultural, multiethnic coexistence. This is the only road open to us if we are to salvage our souls and our blemished humanity out of the lowliness of haughtiness and racially prejudiced and myopic sentiments or better still, delusions.

We want to make it quite clear that what we call for here is neither to disregard the causes and ignore the propagators of what has happened, nor overlook the liabilities implicating so many of us. We neither call for hushing down or evading the burning valid questions nor do we deride the importance of the call for a conscientious, painstaking and transparent investigation into the act of bloodshed. However, at this crucial juncture in our history, we give priority to the most urgent task to be undertaken by the sons and daughters of our country in the south, the north, east, west and center of the Sudan, that is to challenge and defy the voices advocating discord and igniting the blazing fires of aggravation and consciousness falsification, in order to safeguard the grand mission of achieving peace, unity and democracy and put it into firmly and clearly founded and institutionalized action. Such are our hopes, so grand and magnificent for a Sudan, redesigned into a home country that accommodates all its peoples happily and in which they all rejoice.

We call upon all sectors of the Sudanese people, without any exemption to any of its political, cultural and social organizations, at home or abroad, to join forces in support for the call to block the way in the face of any further renewal of bloodshed and pointless killings. We call for sparing our people, who have long endured the hellish apocalyptic rule of dictatorships based on ideologies of fanaticism and denial of the other, the fall into the petty blind raging fury and missing the real enemy of our people, luring them towards absurd and thoughtless obliteration and ruin.

We call for the eradication and uprooting of the disease, because we have had enough of the repeated short-term, shortsighted and tactical treatments, which deceive no one, anymore. All it does is to lead us back to square one, reducing us into more misery, wretchedness and dissension. For all of the above, we suggest the following action plan:

- We call upon all local and international civic society and mass media organizations, all political parties, trade unions and other cultural and social organizations and to the masses of

Sudanese people to safeguard, preserve and promote our grand national mission for the realization of peace, unity and democracy.

- We call upon all concerned parties to adopt comprehensive programs to study and discuss the roots of the chronic Sudanese political crisis in order to arrive at what might lead to the foundation of stability, comprehensive peace and the peaceful transition of power and governance. This could only be achieved through the formation of a national committee, representative of all Sudanese people, for the drafting of the permanent constitution of the Republic of Sudan.
- We call upon all sectors of the Sudanese society, involving all their political, cultural and social organizations, at home or abroad, to engage ,actively ,in comprehensive discussions and dialogue, by creating their own diverse platforms, in towns, villages and residential districts all over the country, and by revitalizing existing platforms, for the institutionalization and promotion of healthy dialogue and exchange of ideas and visions concerned with the crucial issues of democracy, peace and freedom. The ultimate goal is to establish the state of citizenship, equality, justice and the rule of law, accommodating all Sudanese people, whereby, these issues and concepts become a day-to-day concern for all people and hence, deeply inculcated into our collective consciousness and sub- consciousness.
- We call for the rooting, deep into our everyday practice, of the reality of cultural, religious and ethnic diversity and the call for the necessity of coexistence and creative interaction to open up the rich treasures, long dimmed and hidden away, of diversity and to invest on its fecundity in order to enrich and promote the newly born move towards the acceptance and tolerance of the other, the reality of ethnic diversity, observing civic rights, and the values of equality, fraternity and justice, as the essential pillars for the building of the nation. These values would be given their due only if they were effectively introduced into our educational, research and information organs and consolidated in our daily practices through the cultural, scientific and legal rights activities and programs of the civic society organizations.
- We call upon the unions and organizations of creative people of all sorts and domains of creative endeavors, to give voice to these values in their work and to innovate means and ways by which their intensive presence is made conspicuously effective through various forms of cultural, artistic and literary involvements which give luminous expression to the values of peace, unity and development and entrench them deep into the hearts and minds of Sudanese people.
- We call upon the local and international civic society and human rights independent organizations and upon the world organizations to line up in support of the people of the Sudan, in their endeavor to implant and consolidate their rights in freedom, justice, peace and security, by adopting and endorsing firm and clearly envisioned resolutions and regulations to the effect of applying the standards of democracy, based on the internationally sanctioned principles of human rights as a singular, nonnegotiable and unwaveringly authoritative point of reference for resolving the political and cultural disputes, at the heart of the Sudanese question.

- We call upon the international civic society organizations to get involved in, and provide the necessary support for maintaining, this long-term campaign by initiating and running programs, study and research projects and units, platforms and organizational activities, contributing to the enhancement of deep and sober-minded definitions of the issues of cultural, religious and political disputes and conflicts in our country, as well as challenging and refuting the ubiquitous misleading media simplifications.
- We call upon the various groups, bands and unions of musicians, artists, actors, creative writers, teachers, lecturers in university and higher institutes of education, researchers and students to take an active and effective part in promoting and supporting the Sudan for all appeal and campaign.
- We call upon the various charity organizations, at home and abroad, to participate in this campaign by giving generous support to war- affected persons, supplying the necessary provisions for supporting the displaced, particularly children and helping in the rehabilitation programs for the home return of refugees. In this regard, we suggest organizing an annual week devoted to collect donations for the benefit of war-affected children in the Sudan and to arrange for continuous educational, cultural and entertainment programs for those children.

The Democratic Forum

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www.sudan-forall.org

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