

Statement by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – Revolutionary Democratic Current on the Army Commander's Speech and the War Dialogue!

Will the Conflict Expand Regionally?

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement – Revolutionary Democratic Current would like to make the following observations regarding the speech delivered by Army Commander General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and to warn of the escalating regional tensions directly linked to the war in Sudan, particularly across the Horn of Africa and the Sahel.

△ A War Dialogue Will Not Bring Peace - Why?

1. The dialogue called for by the Army Commander is being proposed amid an ongoing war, in the complete absence of a humanitarian ceasefire, and while the authorities remain unable to address the humanitarian catastrophe.
2. The dialogue has been proposed by one party to the conflict, which undermines its value and viability and wastes time and resources that Sudan's impoverished population urgently needs.
3. The proposed preparatory committee cannot appoint itself, nor should one of the parties to the war, together with its allies, be allowed to appoint it.
4. In its current form, the dialogue seeks to legitimize the war and confer legitimacy on those who have called for it, thereby moving us further away from sustainable peace.
5. The current war has deep roots embedded in Sudan's historical and political landscape, linked to questions of nation-building, Sudan's unity, and the wars that preceded it. It cannot be sustainably brought to an end without addressing its root causes, ending the state capture, and dismantling the political and institutional entrenchment of the National Congress Party. Its roots go deeper than the emergence of the Rapid Support Forces in 2017, extending back to August 1955 and the historical events that preceded it.
6. The Army Commander's speech offered no preliminary vision for addressing the multiplicity of armies and militias, which is perhaps the most important issue on the Army's 72nd anniversary. The dialogue in its announced form will push the army toward further wars while politically legitimizing the existence of multiple armies and militias, allowing warlords to shape the future governance of Sudan according to the length and strength of their guns.
7. This war involves external actors with significant influence, as well as geopolitical dimensions related to Sudan's location and resources. This is an issue that deserves serious attention and a responsible approach.

△ We Reject What Was Put Forward in the Speech

The speech did not move beyond the framework of war and proposed a dialogue controlled by forces of war. It also imposed conditions on anti-war forces which, by their very composition and nature, oppose anything that would increase the suffering of citizens and the country. They will not accept a fragile peace; rather, they seek sustainable peace, one professional army that reflects Sudan's diversity, and a civilian state based on equal citizenship without discrimination.

Experience has demonstrated that preserving the Sudanese state will only be possible by addressing the causes of war that led to the secession of South Sudan and the prolonged commission of war crimes.

We call for openness to the broadest possible anti-war front in pursuit of building a New Sudan. We affirm that SUMUD and the Forces of the Declaration of Principles must avoid

becoming merely mechanisms for political bargaining and instead serve as mechanisms for seeking a new Sudan.

△ Participation in the Quintet and Quartet Must Not Be Used to Buy Time and Prolong the War

It has become clear beyond any doubt that the first Addis Ababa meeting was unlikely to lead to a genuine political process or an end to the war. Rather, it represented a political track closer to buying time, without addressing the humanitarian catastrophe or stopping the war.

The Quintet requires a review of its design, with genuine ownership and participation by those affected by the war. Their concerns, accountability for violations, and reparations must be placed among the central issues of the dialogue.

△ The Khartoum Dialogue Will Not Exclude the Islamists

The Islamic Movement is at the heart of the proposed dialogue, which risks taking it down the path of the National Dialogue (Dialogue of the National Congress).

△ Finally

At best, the offer presented by the Army Commander represents the negotiating position of the Army leadership and its allies. It will complicate the political process. It would be in the interest of both the army and Sudan for the dialogue to take place directly with anti-war forces, at a neutral venue acceptable to both sides, and to proceed toward ending the war.

Furthermore, just as the war that began on 15 April has previously witnessed the intervention of numerous external actors, current indicators and evidence point toward a trajectory in which the conflict could evolve into regional wars stretching from the Horn of Africa to the Sahel, and potentially the Red Sea. This could bring Sudan even closer to the situations seen in Yemen and Syria, further multiplying the suffering of the Sudanese people and pushing the country toward greater threats to its people, sovereignty, territory, and resources.

Sudan People's Liberation Movement – Revolutionary Democratic Current

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This material is distributed by Esther Spragueon behalf of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – Revolutionary Democratic Current. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.