



Darfur Women Action Group

STAND WITH THE PEOPLE OF SUDAN

Letter to the Member States of the United Nations Security Council

Darfur Women Action Group (DWAG) along with the undersigned civil society leaders expresses grave concern about the situation in Sudan. Following increasing frustration over corruption, violence, and economic mismanagement by the Sudanese government for the past 30 years, protests finally erupted in December 2018 when fuel and wheat subsidies were terminated. What began as small local protests have now grown throughout the country, as the Sudanese people demand a peaceful resignation of their oppressive president Omar al-Bashir.

The suffering of the people of Sudan has lasted for far too long under this bloody regime, as noted by the crises in Darfur entering their 16th year, and in the Nuba Mountains and the Blue Nile, their 8th year. The human rights situation has now rapidly deteriorated across Sudan. Furthermore, members of the Sudanese regime, rife with corruption, have been using the country's resources for their own self-enrichment. The military budget has notably increased and is used to purchase weapons for the murder of civilians. As a result, Sudan's economy has collapsed. While two-thirds of the country's population has long suffered crises, the remaining population is now starving. Today, the Sudanese people are experiencing historical hardship, comprising of a severe lack of food, commodities, fuel, and other materials necessary for survival. Subsequently, the Sudanese have taken to the streets to demand a change in government and their demands are just.

The response from al-Bashir has been violence. Mr. al-Bashir has had his troops respond with live gunfire and tear gas against the peaceful protesters blocked media coverage and blocked the use of the Internet to coordinate activities - all in violation of Human Rights Commission Resolution 38/11. So far, over 40 protesters have been killed, hundreds have been jailed and many have been tortured.

Prior to and during the present outbreak of protest, people on the ground, who keep meticulous, verified record of government violence, have reported that on average, violent attacks occur daily in Darfur as well as in the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile regions. Last Saturday, a village was bombed and burned down to the ground in Jebel Marra, West Darfur, and in one week in November alone, 16 villages were burned to the ground, displacing over 50,000 people. The Sudanese military and the sanctioned militia commit crimes with impunity, including murder, rape, and theft. These are not random acts, but a systematic operation that strives to take land and property while furthering al-Bashir's genocidal policy.

In spite of al-Bashir's strategy to divide Sudanese along ethnic, political or regional lines, today the hardship and the anti-regime's sentiment has united the Sudanese more than ever. This unity has provided a rare opportunity for a just transformation of Sudan. Rather than turn a blind eye to the violence, we urge the Security Council to press the Government of Sudan to respond to the people's demands for a solution that meets their aspirations and brings lasting stability. This includes pressuring al-Bashir to peacefully step down from power at which time the Security Council should provide security while the people of Sudan form a coalition government to draft a new constitution, under which it can hold free elections. In addition, it is critical that the United Nations Security Council acts to protect protesters as well as the media, as this is the only method of airing grievances in a country without a democratic political process. The Security Council must press Sudan to stop attacking, arresting and torturing protesters and to

1627 K. Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20006
www.darfurwomenaction.org. policy@darfurwomenaction.org



Darfur Women Action Group

release all detainees and grant them access to their lawyers, family, and medical care. The Security Council must also launch an independent investigation into the attacks on protesters and hold those responsible accountable for their actions.

This should be a time when those forced from their homes can return, but the violence perpetrated by this government forces even more people from their homes. The situation is further exacerbated by attacks on peaceful protesters just as protests demanding change are spreading.

The Sudanese people's demands are just, and the Security Council must listen to the voice of the people while using its capacity to help bring about change and a lasting solution to Sudan. At no time in history has a leader indicted of multiple crimes by the International Criminal Court, including three counts of genocide against his own people, been treated so generously by this body (UNSC). The Security Council should work with all nations to bring Mr. al-Bashir and others similarly indicted to justice and facilitate the new beginnings to peace and democracy in Sudan. It is imperative that the United Nations act to end these horrible acts and hold those responsible accountable so that people everywhere can feel safe in their own country.

Sincerely,
The Undersigned,

Niemat Ahmadi, Founder, and President
Darfur Women Action Group

1-
2-