

SUDAN IN A CROSS-ROAD

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Introduction

Sudan's long ruled president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir was removed by a military council headed by General Awad Ibn-Auf in Thursday. Ibn Auf announced the suspension of the constitution and the formation of a higher military council that will rule the country for two years. After the protests continued Ibnu Auf resigned and named General Abdelfattah Al-Burhan as his successor. Military action came as an acquiesce to four months of demonstrations.

Clashes have been ongoing between the Sudanese people and security forces due the government decision to increase the price of the food in late 2018. The clashes resulted the death and the injury of dozens of civilians, others were detained. Although the president tried to absorb and prevent any further escalation, the protestors were very committed to get rid of the thirty years regime. The protests started from the historic center of the Sudan's labor movement town of Atbara and then spread throughout the country.

One groups whose role is grown is the Sudanese professional's association "SPA" an organization led the demonstrations in the capital city Khartoum. Their demands were very simple and understandable "economic reform and political liberties". These demands are constant rallying cry of the demonstrators in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Syria and currently in Algeria since the broke of what's called Arab spring in 2011.

Civil disobedience against regimes is not new to the Sudanese, in October 1964 they overthrew the first military regime led by Ibrahim Abboud and ushered in a four year of parliamentary democracy. Again, in February 1985 the intifada uprising overthrew the second military dictator Jafar Al-Numeri. The military rule led by Abdelrahman Swar-dahab made a quick transition to the democracy within one year before Omar Al-Bashir came to power in 1989 through a military coup orchestrated by islamists generals and with the embroilment of late intellectual Hassan Al-Turabi.

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The story of current uprisings goes back with the start of economy based on oil export in 1990s where the production sector especially the agriculture is marginalized and privatized. By default In the mid of 2000s the Sudan's government became reliant on oil, but unfortunately when South Sudan seceded from the rest of Sudan the country lost three-quarters of its oil production, hence Omar Al-Bashir's regime failed to stabilize the economy and make up for the loss of the foreign exchange earnings.

The Sudanese people are not in the same view towards the latest events, a lot of people inside and outside are jubilated, on the other hand others are very un-happy and sceptical. It seems as bittersweet action where in one side the removal of Al-Bashir is achievement, on the other side the intentions of the military council are not clear and there is the fear of replacing a dictator regime to another dictator with a different face. Yet the Sudanese protestor's demands were not met by the military, which means the continuation of public unrest and agitation until a compromise is reached.

The Sudanese revolution leaders do aware of how the deep state resisted against any positive respond to revolution demands and abruptly crashed it in some countries, where others been dragged to the traps of bloody war. Also, they see how the initially justice and legitimate demands for decent life have been turned suddenly into a proxy war between the super powers. Sudan is not shielded from such a destiny due its geopolitical importance.

Sudan is a country which in the history facilitated the birth of powerful empires and city- states, locates between the northern and central Africa, it borders seven African countries: Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Libya, Chad, and Central Africa Republic, it contains much of the Nile River and borders with the contested red sea. Most of the countries neighbouring to Sudan are also witnessing political deadlocks and civil upheavals.

The counter revolution axis led by three capitals, Abdu Dhabi, Riyadh and Cairo somehow succeeded to disrupt the spring. The major success of the counter-revolution axis was the orchestrating the military coup in Egypt and installing general Abdelfattah Al-Sisi as a president. after the coup in Egypt hundreds of civilians were killed where thousands were prisoned without getting the basic rights of fair trial. Obviously, what is happening in Sudan makes Sisi very nervous, specially he is planning to undertake a constitutional amendment in order to stay in power until 2030.

The scenario of Egypt was reproduced both in Yemen and in Syria. Their intervention in Yemen caused the death of hundreds of civilians due to the brutal bombardment of the civilians or due to severe starvation. Counter revolution agencies will not allow the Sudan peoples` demands to see the light, they will do what they can and will leave no stone unturned to prevent any successful regime transformation. Globally the US and its western allies recently are not interested in democracy and human rights as much as they interested stable regime led by a strong dictator man like Abdelfattah Al-Sisi in Egypt and Khalifa Hafter in Libya.

Besides the deep state and the counter revolution agencies, Darfur crises and other insurgencies will be a gargantuan challenge to any political transformation, and even the unity of the country, it requires a new genuine reconciliation and peacebuilding initiative. Also, the economic crises and the huge debt owned by the foreign countries and financial institutions represents another heaven on the shoulders of the post-revolution regime.

The success of the revolution is dependent to the unity and perseverance of the revolutionaries. Their ideological and party differences should be put aside to achieve the common Cause of democracy and good governance. Peaceful protests and avoiding any kind of violence will be useful strategy in order to avoid the catastrophe of civil war. If history is any guide, the fragmented elites will be huge cost to any revolution, to avoid such gruesome situation extensive negotiations, compromise and assuring the interest of the mass within a revolutionary principle will be very fruitful for all.

The ideologies and political positions of all parties and factions should be transformed to be in

alignment with the requirements of the unfolding political environment. Also, Inclusive and transparent process and agreeing on the baselines of transitional justice will be very indispensable in the coming hardship moments.

The role played by the international community in the Arab spring countries was very destructive. Its alignment against the will of the mass caused a protracted civil war and severe human rights violations. The international communities' approach towards the new situation in Sudan should be different and should push forward to an inclusive political process. Finally, Sudan is a country that is located between the Northern and Central Africa, and borders with seven African countries. Most of these countries are having a complex social and political difficulties. Any attempts to bypass or ignore the Sudanese people's legitimate demands will be fraught with huge complications not only in Sudan but for the whole region and increase the risks to the strategic strait of Bab Al-Mandab and to the Red Sea region.