

What is happening in Sudan

This document will be updated cautiously

Date: This has been going on since Bashir took power in June 1989

(A) A Rampant and chronic corruption at all levels in Sudan

A number of corruption cases exposed last month have shown, without doubt, how corruption is deeply rooted in the Sudanese government at all levels of governance and administration. This is well reflected in the increasing level of poverty and devaluation of the Sudanese pound within few months. Billions of dollar have been diverted from the state income to private accounts outside Sudan, money laundering and other illegal investments owned by key figures in the ruling National Congress Party (NCP).

A typical case is the case of the Sudan Cotton cooperation (SCC) in which key figures in the ruling NCP and their family members have created different sub companies to be contracted for millions dollar contracts illegally. A detailed report of the general auditor have shown how state money have been embezzled and entered pockets of people with close ties to power center and to the NCP in Khartoum and other regions.

Another case is the way the state have sold the national aviation company Sudan Airways which is currently at the brink of collapse. The whole business of selling Sudan Airways to the Kuwaiti company called Arif Group is a corrupt business leaving Sudan airways with a huge sum of debt making it unable to pay salary for its personnel.

In all cases of corruption being brought up none of the person behind that corruption were brought to justice. The judicial system itself became part of the rampant corruption protecting NCP members from any prosecutions. The Sudanese are currently joking about a new term introduced by the council of Muftis called Tahlil (It comes from the word halal and means those who swindle the tax payers money can pay small percentage back and they will be free from the charges of corruption and makes their rest of the money they swindled as halal)

Assessment

Almost all of the key figures in the NCP and their allies (some Darfurian Armed groups who signed agreement with the government) are involved in some kind of corruption. This has made it difficult for NCP government to take any action against any case of corruption. The government has hardly income to meet its obligations towards the salaries of its state-employees among them diplomats who have not received their salaries for the last three month. A political shuffle is going own in an attempt to clean the files of corruption. An internal fight is going on among key figures of the NCP and can possibly lead to bloodshed in Khartoum in control of power and getting rid of the dirty files of corruption.