

## Press Release

### Addis Ababa Agreement on National Dialogue

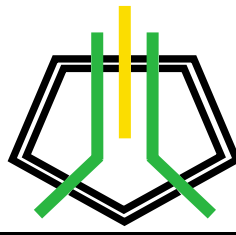
The Sudanese Congress Party (SCP) has reviewed & considered the "Agreement on the National Dialogue" signed in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in two separate documents, one by the Revolutionary Front, & the Umma Party on one part & the other by representatives of the so-called National Dialogue Committee on the other part, under the auspices of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHLIP). The SCP believes that the Agreement represents a step towards the AUHLIP's understanding of its stance on dialogue & asserts that the Agreement did not come arbitrarily but as a result of its effort & that of its partners in the National Consensus Forces (NCF) & their stance on the national dialogue which had resulted in imprisonment & detention of the SCP's & NCF's members as well as restrictions to their freedom by the National Congress Party (NCP).

The SCP's objective is the toppling of Al-Inqaz regime through peaceful means which include dialogue, as the least costly option, on condition that dialogue is capable of dismantling the totalitarian regime, finding a lasting solution to the national crisis and laying a solid foundation for a democratic structure that deals with all the ills of the past, its disappointments & bitterness.

The SCP, although considers the "Addis Ababa Agreement on National Dialogue" a positive step, would like to state that the Agreement is deficient and lacks certain key prerequisites necessary for engagement in the national dialogue that can be summarized as follows:

1. The Agreement does not call for the cancellation of laws restricting freedoms without which we cannot have free equitable and meaningfully dialogue. Certainly, the prevalence of these abhorrent laws will render any dialogue meaningless and will make the creation of the necessary balance of power impossible. The Agreement calls generally for guaranteeing freedoms, while freedoms cannot be guaranteed without the cancellation of the laws restricting them. As an example the detention of Ibrahim el Shaikh and his party members & other opposition activists despite the regime's call for dialogue and his assurances about guaranteeing freedoms.
2. The Agreement does not stipulate that the dialogue should lead to the development of a transitional status including the implementation of transitional justice, accountability and restructuring of state institutions.
3. The Agreement does not specify unequivocally the objective of the dialogue, which must be the dismantling of the totalitarian regime and establishing a democratic people's government.
4. The Agreement does not specify clearly that stopping the war, release of political detainees/convicts and arrival of humanitarian aid to those affected; are urgent requirements to be met by Al-Inqaz regime without delay.

The SCP calls upon the AUHLIP and all concerned parties to revise the Addis Ababa Agreement on national dialogue to ensure that it includes the above mentioned conditions. In the event the regime accepts to meet the conditions necessary for creating an atmosphere conducive to the national dialogue, Addis Ababa Agreement can



be redrafted to include all these conditions and must firstly be signed by the regime that will be required to implement the conditions on the ground through appropriate governmental decisions. Only then the SCP will be ready to join a national dialogue, as an effective partner, to reach comprehensive and lasting solutions and establish a real democratic system of government.

Finally, we would like to commend the efforts of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel in bridging the gap in the views of the Sudanese parties although we believe more efforts are required and we look forward to the support of the regional and international community for a serious national dialogue that stops the war and brings about real democratic change that puts our country in the road to renaissance and progress.