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*Plenary sitting*

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**B8-0057/2019**

15.1.2019

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 135 of the Rules of Procedure

on Sudan  
(2019/2512(RSP))

**Marietje Schaake, Nedzhmi Ali, Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Dita Charanzová, Gérard Deprez, Nadja Hirsch, Ivan Jakovčić, Petr Ježek, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Louis Michel, Javier Nart, Urmas Paet, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Carolina Punset, Jozo Radoš, Robert Rochefort, Jasenko Selimovic, Pavel Telička, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Ivo Vajgl, Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Hilde Vautmans, Mirja Vehkaperä, Cecilia Wikström**  
on behalf of the ALDE Group

**European Parliament resolution on Sudan  
(2019/2512(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Sudan,
  - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 to which the Republic of Sudan has been a state party since 1986,
  - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
  - having regard to the Council conclusions on Sudan on 19 November 2018,
  - having regard to the statement on 24 December 2018 by the spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,
  - having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,
  - having regard to Sudan's Constitution of 2005,
  - having regard to the Cotonou Agreement signed by the Sudanese Government in 2005,
  - having regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
  - having regard to Rule 135 of its Rules of procedure,
- A. whereas in Mid-December the government of Sudan announced the end of subsidies on staple goods in response to spiralling inflation; whereas inflation, at around 70 % is now the second highest in the world after Venezuela;
- B. whereas peaceful protests erupted on 19 December 2018 in the city of Atbara against the cost of living, over shortages and price rises of bread, fuel and medicine, have since quickly spread across the country, including to the capital Khartoum, Omdurman, Um Rawaba, Gadarif, El Obeid, Wad Madani, Port Sudan, Dongola, El Fasher ;
- C. whereas the demonstrations widened and tens of thousands of people again took to the streets, reflecting a broad cross-section of Sudanese society against the authoritarian regime led by President Bashir;
- D. whereas the anti-government protests have led to several political groups ramping up calls for President Bashir to step down; whereas at least eight political parties have withdrawn from government in solidarity with the demonstrations ; whereas the protests are backed by some of the President's former allies and members of his ruling party who are seen as a serious challenge to President Bashir ;

- E. whereas 22 opposition political parties and groups on January 1st demanded that Bashir transfer power to a "sovereign council" and a transitional government that would set a "suitable" date for democratic elections ;
- F. whereas Sudanese authorities deployed national security forces, the police, and paramilitary forces who used excessive force to disperse unarmed protesters, beating them with batons and firing live ammunition, rubber bullets, and teargas ;
- G. whereas President Bashir is the only sitting head of state wanted with two outstanding arrest warrants issued on 4 March 2009 and 12 July 2010 by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity, and war crimes and genocide for ethnic cleansing in Darfur; whereas despite his arrest warrant, Bashir continued his crimes with impunity, expanding his bombing and attacks against civilians beyond Darfur to those in the Sudanese states of Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan;
- H. whereas according to the Sudanese government police have arrested 816 people in three weeks of protests but the actual number is expected to be much higher; whereas several faculty members from Khartoum University were arrested after they joined the protests; whereas dozens of human rights defenders, including grassroots activists, journalists and lawyers, politicians and doctors are among those who have been arrested and detained ;
- I. whereas Salih Osman, a Sudanese human rights lawyer and Sakharov Prize laureate of 2007, was arrested in his law office on January 8th; whereas authorities have confirmed he is in custody, but have not disclosed where he is being held; whereas Salih Osman's family is particularly worried about his detention because of his hypertension and diabetes, which need medical follow-up;
- J. whereas the wave of arrests involves many human rights defenders, including Hasan Abd Al Ati of the National Civil Forum, Faisal Mohamed Saleh working with Teebaa Press, Hisham Ali Mohammed Ali who was arrested along with his defence lawyer; five women rights defenders including Hisham Omar Al Nour, Adila Al Zaibaq, Sumaia Isaaq, Samia Arqawi, Amal Jabr Allah and Ihsan Faqiri; and members of the Congress of Independent Students including Ziryab Abdulrahman Dahab, Mohamed Alwali Omar, Abdulrahman Muhassab, and Abdulnasir Mohamed Wad-Andi:
- K. whereas by 24 December 2018, Amnesty International put the death toll at 37, and observers say dozens more have been killed since ; whereas three more protesters have been killed on January 9th during an anti-government demonstration in Sudan; whereas on the same day a first ever rally of support for President Bashir was taking place in Khartoum ;
- L. whereas on 8 January, in a rare public appearance, former Vice President Ali Osman Taha warned opponents of the government that militia 'brigades' would defend the country;

- M. whereas the government has shut off access to social media sites, but widespread use of VPNs has allowed people to share graphic pictures and videos of wounded or killed protesters;
1. strongly condemns the ongoing violence and repression by the authorities in Sudan and the mass arrests and killings, which continue to target activists and human rights defenders, as well as lawyers, teachers and doctors;
  2. calls on the Sudanese government to halt the deadly use of force and prevent more bloodshed, stresses that all law enforcement and security bodies should act under its direct control and in accordance with Sudan's constitutional and international commitments ;
  3. Calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Salih Osman, a Sakharov Prize laureate, and urges the Sudanese authorities to guarantee urgent medical care and unhindered access to his lawyer and family;
  4. requests the government of Sudan to respect the right of people to voice their concerns and respond to grievances and allow all human rights defenders in Sudan to carry out their legitimate work in defence of human rights without any restriction or reprisal ;
  5. demands the government of Sudan to immediately and unconditionally release all the human rights defenders arrested and detained ;
  6. urges the government of Sudan to carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into all reported killings, injuries and other abuses, and hold those responsible to account, with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards ;
  7. recalls that the right to freedom of expression and the right to access to internet are both fundamental rights in themselves and essential instruments for the exercise of other fundamental rights, including the right to education, the right to take part in cultural life and the rights to freedom of association and assembly ;
  8. reiterates its call for an EU-wide ban on export, sale, update and maintenance of any form of security equipment which can be or is used for internal repression, including Internet surveillance technology to states with a deplorable human rights record such as Sudan;
  9. underlines that the government of Sudan should be focusing on ending longstanding repression of human rights and resolving the economic crisis that have collectively precipitated these protests instead of trying to stop people from demonstrating,
  10. is convinced that mismanagement, corruption, and devoting 70% of the budget to security spending versus 7% for health and education had a detrimental effect on the economy and the people of Sudan;
  11. recognizes that Sudan remains crucial for the peace and stability of the wider Horn of Africa with notably the dynamics of the renewed relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia;
  12. calls on the VP/HR to publicly condemn the alarming situation in Sudan and urges the EEAS to address recent developments, and to use all means of influence at their disposal

to pressure the Sudanese authorities to stop ongoing violence and repression, mass arrests and killings, and encourage the authorities to respect their commitments to international norms and laws;

13. urges the HR/VP and Member States to ensure that ‘migration management’ or counter-terrorism actions do not undermine support for human rights;
14. urges the Commission to further strengthen financial support to human rights defenders and civil society organisations in Sudan under the European Development Fund;
15. instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government of Sudan, the African Union, the United Nations Secretary-General, the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP).