Letter to all International and Regional Actors in Sudan

9/4/2019

In the early hours of today, the 9th of April 2019, forces of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), backed with Islamist militias, attacked peaceful protestors in front of the Headquarters of the Armed Forces, where a massive sit-in began on the 6th of April and continues to this moment. This attack, which lasted for over two hours, was the third of its kind since the beginning of the sit-in, but this time it was more violent and on a larger scale, leading to several casualties. Members of the armed forces intervened again to protect the protestors but after some delay. NISS forces are still attacking groups of peaceful protestors who are trying to join the sit-in.

It is clear that the regime of Omar al-Bashir and its security apparatus intend to continue using violence and excessive force against those who are exercising their right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. The nature of the political crisis in Sudan is clearly demonstrated in yet another case--the National Congress Party (NCP) regime rules with complete tyranny, using violence and the security apparatus to guard itself against the people. In over four months of protests, the regime has lost all legitimacy to continue ruling the country.

It is time for the international and regional community to listen to the voice of conscience and help speed up the inevitable democratic transformation in Sudan by giving it their clear support. Further delay in doing so will lead to more casualties and the risk of instability. The regime’s attempt to manipulate the situation by offering to reopen the discredited national dialogue is a repeated tactic that is neither genuine nor acceptable.

The Sudanese people continue to stand alone in the face of the regime’s brutal apparatus. We urge the international and regional community to stop turning a blind eye to the ongoing situation in Sudan and to respond in an appropriate way to the crimes committed by Bashir’s regime.

SPA Foreign Relations Committee