



EthioLion

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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

MAY 17/2008

OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT OMAR AL BASHIR OF THE SUDAN

Mr. President,

The EPRP joins the people of Ethiopia in raising its voice against the illegal occupation of Ethiopian land by the Sudan. We are saddened to learn that Sudanese soldiers have not only entered Ethiopian territory but have taken brutal action against Ethiopian farmers. Some 30 Ethiopian farmers have been kidnapped and taken to prison in the Sudan where reliable reports affirm that they are being starved and denied medical care. This is unacceptable and illegal.

Mr. President, many years ago there were claims by Sudanese farmers on Ethiopian territory in the Quara region, on land stretching from the Shinka River to the Nefso Gebeya mountain. The EPRP was able to resolve this problem with participation of Sudanese elders, border officials, security and administrative personnel from Gedaref and Ethiopian elders. The legal border was accepted as being along the Shinka River. This has now been reversed by the illegal regime in Addis Ababa and Sudan has occupied Ethiopian land as a consequence. While this may be acceptable to the Sudan and to the Meles Zenawi regime it is totally unacceptable to the people of Ethiopia as a whole. There is absolutely no chance that this occupation of Ethiopian land can be tolerated or accepted without resistance and a fight notwithstanding the goodwill that Ethiopians have for their Sudanese neighbours. The issue is very clear. Sudan has illegally occupied Ethiopian land benefiting from the decision of the traitorous regime in Addis Ababa. This goes against the Ethiopian people and their historic opposition to any form of aggression.

This is why the EPRP calls upon Your Excellency, President Omar Al Bashir, to withdraw your troops from Ethiopian land and to release the Ethiopian farmers now being held in the Sudan. In the long run what is important and lasting is the good relations that should prevail between the peoples of Ethiopia and the Sudan.

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Ethiopia Will Prevail!