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High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission

Federica Mogherini

Strasbourg, 12 March 2019

Dear Ms Mogherini,

We would like to bring to your attention the current political situation in Sudan, where popular protests resumed in December 2018.

Protests call for President Omar al-Bashir, who has been in power for 30 years, to stand down. These protests entailed a violent crackdown, and between 30 and 60 people have been killed since the beginning.

President Omar al-Bashir has been charged by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity. We are alarmed at reports that European Union Member States might want to negotiate with President al-Bashir in order to make him step down by having his ICC indictment deferred for one year (renewable) by the UN Security Council¹ through Article 16 of the Rome Statute. Your acceptance of taking a picture in which you stand behind President al-Bashir at the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa may have encouraged these reports.

President al-Bashir has stepped down as the head of the ruling National Congress party (NCP), but has appointed someone close to him to be his successor, Ahmad Harun, who has also been indicted by the ICC for war crimes.

We therefore urge you to:

- Stand against the possible UNSC negotiating position in which President Omar al-Bashir would have his ICC charges deferred.
- Condemn the government's current brutal crackdown and impose targeted sanctions on those committing crimes against humanity.
- Press for the immediate release of all unjust and unlawful detentions, including Sakharov prize laureate Salih Mahmoud Osman.

¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p071jjk1>



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Best regards,

Nikos Androulakis (S&D)

Mark Demesmaeker (ECR)

José Inácio Faria (EPP)

Ana Gomes (S&D)

Karoline Graswander-Hainz (S&D)

Theresa Griffin (S&D)

Tunne Kelam (EPP)

Wajid Khan (S&D)

Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)

David Martin (S&D)

António Marinho e Pinto (ALDE)

Costas Mavrides (S&D)

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