

ANNEX 1

Public

Visit of Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir to the United Arab Emirates

Sudan Tribune

Sudan's Bashir extends his stay in the UAE for "recuperation"¹

December 1, 2015 (KHARTOUM) - President Omer al-Bashir has extended his visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for one week in order to take some rest while his accompanying delegation returned to Khartoum Monday, said government official



Sudanese president Omer Hassan al-Bashir (L) shakes hands with UAE vice-president and prime minister Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum in Abu Dhabi on 22 February 2015 (WAM)

Bashir had arrived in the UAE last Saturday accompanied by several ministers and officials on an official visit. He held talks with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan focusing on bilateral ties as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

A Sudanese official, who spoke to *Sudan Tribune* on the condition of anonymity, stressed that Bashir has extended his stay in the UAE for several days to have some rest, saying his accompanying delegation returned to Khartoum following the end of the official talks.

He expected that Bashir would participate in the UAE's National Day which falls on December 2nd.

It should be mentioned that Bashir's accompanying delegation included the foreign minister Ibrahim Ghandour, finance minister, Badr al-Din Mahmoud, minister of electricity and water resources, Muataz Musa, minister of the state at the presidency, Fadul Abdallah Fadul and the director of the office of the president, Taha al-Hussein besides several other officials.

¹ <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article57219>, last accessed 2 May 2016.

Meanwhile, Bashir said that his country would witness a real renaissance in the entire domains if the ongoing national dialogue achieved satisfactory outcome, underscoring that his government is keen to allow the fundamental freedoms in order to lay strong basis for a genuine dialogue.

In a joint interview with the Dubai-based *Sky News Arabia* TV channel and *Abu Dhabi TV*, Bashir praised the stances of the UAE towards regional and Arab issues, offering congratulations for the UAE leadership, government and people on the occasion of the national day and the martyr day.

He explained the latest developments in Sudan including the national dialogue besides the evolving relations with the UAE, the conditions of the Arab world and the participation of his country in the Saudi-led coalition against the Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Sudan is the only non-Gulf state to send troops to fight in Yemen alongside Saudi Arabia and UAE against Houthi rebels there.

He pointed that Sudan continued to participate politically and militarily in the efforts to achieve peace in the Arab world since longtime, praising UAE's role in the region and its renaissance which was founded by the late Shiekh Zayed Al Nahyan.

Sudan appears to have managed to achieve a breakthrough in ties with UAE after a long period of strained relations over Khartoum's close ties with Tehran.

UAE is in a long-standing territorial dispute with Iran over the three Gulf islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb.

Iran refuses international arbitration over the dispute and insists that its sovereignty over the islands is non-negotiable.

Last year, Sudanese authorities ordered the closure of Iranian cultural centre in the capital Khartoum, and other states in a move which was seen as gesture to the Arab Gulf states.

Alnilin

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01/12/2015

البشير يمدد زيارته للإمارات والوفد المرافق يعود للخرطوم



شارك الموضوع :

تخلف الرئيس السوداني عمر البشير في دولة الإمارات لقضاء فترة أسبوع لأخذ قسط من الراحة والاستجمام، فيما أنهى الوفد الذي رافق البشير زيارة الإمارات، يوم الإثنين.

117.5 - JPEG كيلوبايت
الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم نائب رئيس الإمارات يستقبل الرئيس عمر البشير وكان البشير وصل الإمارات السبت الماضي في زيارة رسمية برفقة عدد من الوزراء والمسؤولين، لإجراء محادثات تتصل بالعلاقات الثنائية والتطورات الإقليمية بالتركيز على سوريا واليمن وليبيا.

وأكد مسؤول حكومي تمديد الرئيس زيارته للإمارات، وقال لـ”سودان تريبيون” أن الوفد الحكومي المرافق للرئيس عاد بعد انتهاء المباحثات الرسمية مع الجانب الإماراتي على أن يبقى الرئيس لعدة أيام للاستجمام.

وتوقع المسؤول مشاركة الرئيس دولة الإمارات في احتفالاتها بالعيد الوطني، الذي يصادف الثاني من ديسمبر.

وضم الوفد الذي رافق الرئيس البشير: وزير الخارجية إبراهيم غندور، وزير المالية بدر الدين محمود، وزير الموارد المائية والكهرباء معتر موسى ووزير الدولة برئاسة الجمهورية فضل عبد الله.

إلى ذلك قال البشير، إن بلاده مقبلة على نهضة حقيقية في كافة المجالات حال التوصل لنتائج مرضية للحوار الوطني الجاري حالياً، مؤكداً حرص حكومته على تمكين الحريات الأساسية لإحداث أرضية قوية لحوار وطني حقيقي.

وثن البشير في حوار مع قناتي “إسكاي نيوز عربية” و”أبوظبي”، مواقف الإمارات تجاه القضايا العربية والإقليمية.

وتقدم بالتهنئة للإمارات قيادة وحكومة وشعباً بمناسبة عيدي الوطني والشهيد والذين تزامنت الاحتفالات بهما مع زيارته الحالية.

وقدم شرحاً لآخر تطورات الأوضاع في السودان بما في ذلك الحوار الوطني والعلاقات المتطورة مع الإمارات وأوضاع المنطقة العربية ومشاركة السودان في إعادة الشرعية والأمل في اليمن من خلال التجمع العربي المعروف بـ"عاصفة الحزم".

ولفت البشير إلى أن السودان ظل يشارك سياسياً وعسكرياً في جهود إقرار السلام والاستقرار في المنطقة العربية منذ زمن بعيد.

وأشاد بالدور الذي تلعبه قيادة الإمارات في المنطقة ونهضتها التي أسس لها الراحل الشيخ زايد آل نهيان.

Visit of Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Sudan Tribune

Sudan's Bashir to participate in Ethiopia's national day celebration Wednesday,²

December 8, 2015 (KHARTOUM) - Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir Wednesday will travel to Ethiopia to participate in the Ethiopian Nations, Nationalities and People's Day celebration.



President Omer Al-Bashir meets with the Ethiopian PM Hailemariam Desalegn on 26 December 2012 (SUNA)

Media reports in Khartoum Tuesday have quoted Sudan's ambassador to Addis Ababa Osman Nafie as saying that Bashir and the Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn would meet in Addis Ababa on Wednesday to discuss bilateral relations.

He added that Desalegn has invited Bashir to participate in the 10th Ethiopian Nations, Nationalities and People's Day celebration which will take place in the Gambella region.

² <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article57302> last accessed 2 May 2016.

Nafie pointed that Bashir will address the celebration as a guest of honour, saying the occasion also marks the 21st anniversary of the ratification of the Ethiopian Constitution.

“This is a very big occasion and Ethiopia’s invitation for the president comes within the framework of the excellent relations between the two nations besides the keenness of the Ethiopians on the personal participation of the president,” he said.

“The two presidents will meet to discuss issues of common concern and Bashir might also meet with other guests. This is a good occasion to renew contacts between the leadership of the two countries at the highest levels,” he added.

Ethiopia is the second-most populous nation on the African continent after Nigeria with over 100 million inhabitants who are distributed among 83 nationalities.

It has decided to celebrate Nations, Nationalities and People’s Day on 9 December since 2005, to commemorate the day of the ratification of the nations’ constitution.

The day serves as an important forum for nations, nationalities and people’s to show their culture, know each other and show unity and strong solidarity for peace.

Sudan Tribune

Sudan’s Bashir in Gambella to participate in Ethiopian all-tribes cultural celebration³

December 9, 2015 (GAMBELLA) – President Omer Hassan Al Bashir of Sudan on Wednesday participated in the Ethiopian all-tribes cultural event in Gambella town, capital of Gambella regional government in western part of Ethiopia where he praised Ethiopians for their unity in diversity.



Tens of thousands gathered at Gambella regional stadium celebrating cultural event of all tribes in Ethiopia, Gambella, 9 December 2015 (ST Photo)

³ <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article57312>, last accessed 2 May 2016.

The Sudanese head of state whose country has been marred with violence, sometimes pitting tribes against one another particularly in the western region of Darfur, visited the Ethiopian town close to the South Sudanese border at the invitation of his counter-part, prime minister Haile Mariam Dessalegn.

Bashir who spoke in Arabic and translated in Amharic at the opening of his speech as the Guest of Honour for the event, addressed tens of thousands of participants from all over Ethiopia. The Sudanese president turned the crowd wild when he made his greetings in Nuer language, one of the ethnic groups in Ethiopia who constitute the majority population in Gambella region.

“Maale, maale mi goaa. Yien a thin,” he said, which translates ‘how are you, how are you doing’, a similar greeting language spoken by South Sudanese Nuer across the border.

He was earlier received at Makot Airport in Gambella by the governor of Gambella region, Gatluak Tut Khot, whose regional government hosted the event.

The Sudanese leader is also expected to conduct bilateral talks with the Ethiopian Prime Minister Dessalegn on Wednesday evening to discuss issues of mutual interest after he and his counter-part returned to Addis Ababa from Gambella.

“The two presidents will meet to discuss issues of common concern and [President] Bashir might also meet with other guests. This is a good occasion to renew contacts between the leadership of the two countries at the highest levels,” announced the Sudanese ambassador to Ethiopia, Osman Nafie, on Tuesday.

Senior officials from other African countries also participated in the event. South Sudan was represented by the speaker of the national parliament, Manasseh Magok Rundial, who said he represented president Salva Kiir who could not come in person to Gambella for the celebration.

More than 80 different ethnic groups of Ethiopia participated in the cultural event, displaying their respective cultures at the Gambella stadium.

Nuer and Anyuak cultural groups, the host communities, had been welcoming the guests with their respective traditional dances, dressed in traditional dresses. Symbolic traditional villages of Nuer and Anyuak have been built outside Gambella town for show to the guests from other regions.

EVENT COMMEMORATES CONSTITUTION



The Ethiopian cultural day, 9 December, is celebrated annually to commemorate the ratification of the country's constitution by parliament after the fall of the Ethiopian former dictator, Mengistu Haile Mariam, 24 years ago.

The constitution established the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia which is based on ethnicities and referred to as the 'Nations and Nationalities' grouped into administrative regional governments across the country.

Ethiopia is the second-most populous nation on the African continent after Nigeria with over 100 million inhabitants who are distributed among 83 nationalities or tribes, with largest tribes such as the Oromo and Amhara having their own regional governments while smaller tribes are grouped into other regions.

Gambella region is inhabited by five 'nationalities' with the Nuer and Anyuak ethnic groups being the majority in the area. They also share cultures and languages with their South Sudanese communities on the other side of the border.

The Ethiopian federal government has also encouraged the development of ethnic languages in schools. In Gambella currently, the Nuer and Anyuak languages are being taught from primary to secondary school levels and with further intention to introduce it into colleges in Gambella region.

The cultural day served as an important forum for nations, nationalities and peoples to show their respective cultures; learn about cultures of other ethnic groups and show unity in diversity as Ethiopians and strong solidarity for peace.

The event is also an opportunity to implement development projects in a particular regional town where an annual cultural event takes place.

Almost all main roads inside Gambella town and leading to the other neighbouring regions including to the South Sudanese border town of Pagak have been tarmacked, some constructed years ago while others shortly before the cultural event.

All Africa

Africa: Ethiopia Finalizes Preparations for AU, U.S-Africa Business Summits⁴

By Mehari Beyene

The 26th AU Summit is slated for January 26-31, 2016 while the US-Africa Business Summit February 1 - 4, 2016 in Addis.

31 December 2015 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday announced that Ethiopia has finalized preparations for the upcoming African Heads of State and Government and the 10th US-Africa Business Summits in January and February 2016 respectively.

Briefing diplomats at a consultative discussion forum held yesterday, State Minister Ambassador Taye Atskeselassie said the Summits will help create business opportunities and strengthen the business ventures among participants.

"As the participants of the Summits are drawn from various sectors including gas, oil, manufacturing, energy and agriculture, the experience that would be gained in this regard for the local business people is immense," the Ambassador said.

He added that participant of the Summits should not be discouraged by the sporadic violence that occurred in Oromia State which the government took under control with active public participation.

The State Minister also called upon members of the diplomatic community to make themselves ready for the success of the summits by facilitating the overall logistics adjustments.

⁴ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201512310331.html>, last accessed 2 May 2016.

The 26th AU Summit, which is expected to be attended by delegates representing various institutions, is slated for January 26-31, 2016 and the US-Africa Business Summit February 1 - 4, 2016 in Addis.

Ahram

Bashir tells Sisi 'Sudan keen to not harm Egypt' in dam saga⁵



Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir attends the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council in Addis Ababa on January 29, 2016. (Photo: AFP)

⁵ <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/186311/Egypt/Politics-/Bashir-tells-Sisi-Sudan-keen-to-not-harm-Egypt-in-.aspx> last accessed 2 May 2016.

Sunday 31 Jan 2016: Sudan is keen to not cause harm to Egypt's interests regarding the controversial Renaissance Dam, Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir told Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi on the sidelines of the African Union Summit in Ethiopia's Addis Ababa on Saturday.

Al-Bashir added that Sudan stands by Egypt, noting the pioneering role that Egypt has played throughout history in defending the capabilities of Arab nations.

In statements by Egyptian presidency spokesman Alaa Youssef, El-Sisi affirmed during the meeting Egypt's appreciation of the close historic relationship with Sudan, asserting the importance of developing different fields of cooperation that would benefit people of both countries.

The meeting between the two presidents comes following media reports that El-Sisi is expected to hold talks with his counterparts from Sudan and Ethiopia over Addis Ababa's controversial Renaissance Dam plans during the summit.

Although Egypt has repeatedly expressed concern over the dam's possible effect on the country, Ethiopia insists it will not negatively affect Egypt's share of Nile water.

Sudan has continuously said that it was not playing the role of mediator between Egypt and Ethiopia as the "dam is not located in Sudan."

In December 2015, Al-Bashir said in a TV interview that the Ethiopian Renaissance dam has become a reality and that it requires the cooperation of all parties to "ensure its success."

In the same month, El-Sisi addressed the public saying that there is no reason to worry about the dam and that the matter would be resolved.

However, El-Sisi added that, "I totally understand the concern of Egyptians as water is a matter of life or death."

All Africa

Sudan: President Al-Bashir to Participate in Fifth Tana Forum in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia⁶

Bahir Dar, April 13 (SUNA)- President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, will head a high-level delegation for participating in the Fifth Tana Forum on

⁶ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201604140998.html> last accessed 25 May 2016.

Security in Africa in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia on Saturday, besides a number of African heads of state and officials of international and regional organizations.

SUNA learned that the two-day Tana Forum aims to discussing issues of peace and security in Africa and means of enhancing the cooperation between the African governments for supporting the security in their countries.

Several lectures and symposiums will be organized during the forum on governance in Africa, security and peace in Africa and support to the peace-keeping operations in the continent.

All Africa

Sudan: President Al-Bashir Calls On African Leaders to Cooperate for Solving African Issues Without Resort to Foreign Circles⁷

Bahir Dar — President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, has called on the African leaders to cooperate and stick to solidarity for solving the problems facing Africa without reliance on that foreign cycles that have agenda not coping with Africa aspirations and interests.

In his address to the morning sitting of Tana Forum on Security in Africa in the Ethiopian Bahir Dar city Sunday, President Al-Bashir called for arranging the African house from within by reinforcing the economic and political institutions and cooperation for strengthening the African Union.

He affirmed the importance of Tana Forum for discussing the security issues facing the African nations, indicating that security and development are two sides of the same coin.

He asserted that the Africans shall depend on themselves in funding their development programs, especially that the finance coming from abroad is conditional.

President Al-Bashir said that the Africans shall exploit their own resources, preserve the public money and issued deterrent laws to protect the public money.

President Al-Bashir has called for support to Sudan efforts for resolving the dispute in South Sudan State, referring to the great role exerted by Sudan and the IGAD for restoration stability in South Sudan.

⁷ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201604181001.html> last accessed 2 May 2016.

He said that the Africans shall work to confront the challenges by serious work, solidarity and exploiting Africa resources.

Visit of Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir to the Arab Republic of Egypt

Sudan Tribune

Egypt invites Bashir to attend investment African forum⁸

January 17, 2016 (KHARTOUM) - The Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir has received an invitation from his Egyptian counterpart Abdel-Fatah al-Sissi to attend the African Investment Forum (AIF) at the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Shiekh from 20 to 21 February 2016.



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi speaks during the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa at Jordan's King Hussein Convention Center on the Dead Sea, May 22, 2015. (photo Reuters/Mohamed Hamed)

The AIF, which is the first of its kind, is an Africa to Africa investment forum aimed at strengthening business ties within Africa, both at a business and presidential level.

Sudan's foreign ministry spokesperson Ali al-Sadiq told reporters that the Egyptian ambassador to Khartoum Osama Shaltout Sunday has handed over Bashir's invitation to the foreign minister Ibrahim Ghandour.

He added Shaltout told Ghandour that delegations from a number of Egyptian companies would arrive soon in Khartoum to invest in various projects.

⁸ <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article57721> last accessed 2 May 2016.

Relations between Sudan and Egypt have been frosty over the past few years, but they've recently begun to thaw thanks to a series of conciliatory diplomatic gestures.

In October 2014, al-Sisi and al-Bashir upgraded representation in a joint committee aimed at strengthening bilateral ties.

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION IN DAMAZIN

Meanwhile, Egypt's minister of irrigation and water resources Hossam Moghazi announced that his country would revive agriculture scheme in Sudan's strife-ridden Blue Nile state.

Moghazi, who addressed the opening session of the 56th meeting of the Egypt-Sudan Permanent Joint Technical Commission for Nile Waters (PJTC) Sunday, said they would cultivate 100,000 acres in the Damazin area of the Blue Nile state, pointing the Egyptian-Sudanese Integration Company would be contracted for the job.

Moghazi added the two countries agreed to renew the lease of the company which was established more than 40 years ago for another 30 years, noting the ministry of irrigation would build the necessary infrastructure for the project in coordination with the Sudanese side.

For his part, the director of the technical department at Sudan's ministry of electricity and water resources Saif al-Din Hamad said the PJTC continued to set an example to be followed by the various international commissions for 55 years.

He pointed to the cooperation of the PTJC with the Nile basin countries, describing it as the "cornerstone" of its work.

Hamad further said the PTJC continued to provide support for the Nile basin since the early sixties of the last century through various cooperation programs.

The director of the Nile Waters sector in the Egyptian ministry of irrigation Ahmed Bahaa said the meeting, which would last for one week, will discuss several issues including the current activities of the PTJC and the technical cooperation and water development projects in South Sudan besides the water loss in the upper Nile.

He added the meeting would also discuss ways to develop monitoring and measurement operations on the Nile River and its tributaries besides restructuring the PTJC's career system.

Business for Africa Forum

Africa 2016 - Business for Africa, Egypt and the World⁹

Confirmed Speakers and Participants

Africa 2016 - Business for Africa, Egypt and the World

Under the High Patronage of H.E. Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt And the Umbrella of the African Union



H.E. Omar al-Bashir
President, Republic of Sudan
Sudan

Visit of Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir to Republic of Indonesia

Sudanese online

President Al-Bashir to lead Saturday Sudan delegation to Islamic Summit in Jakarta¹⁰

Khartoum, Mar.4 (SUNA)- President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir will lead, Saturday, Sudan delegation to the 5th extraordinary Islamic Summit in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta .

The Summit Conference, which will be held under the theme,-We are united for just solution, is set to discuss development of situations in Palestine and Al-Quds.

⁹ <http://www.businessforafricaforum.com/speakers/> last accessed 2 May 2016.

¹⁰ <http://sudaneseonline.com/board/10/msg/President-Al-Bashir-to-lead-Saturday-Sudan-delegation-to-Islamic-Summit-in-Jakarta-1457104764.htm> last accessed 2 May 2016.

Charge D' affaires at Sudan Embassy in Indonesia , Tareq Abdalla Al-Toam said in a statement to SUNA, that the Summit will approve two documents one is Jakarta Declaration and the second a decision including practical steps on supporting the Palestinian cause.

He added the Summit will start by meeting of senior officials of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation(OIC) next Sunday , then meeting of Foreign Ministers who will refer the outcome of their meeting to summit of the Presidents on Monday.

Sudan Tribune

Sudanese president to travel to Indonesia on Saturday¹¹



Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, right, arrives at Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing, China, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2015. (Photo AP/Ng Han Guan)

March 4, 2016 (KHARTOUM) - Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir Saturday will lead his country's delegation to the 5th extraordinary Islamic Summit in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, said the official news agency

Bashir was indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2009 over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Darfur conflict. As a result his overseas travel has been restricted to friendly nations ever since.

Indonesia is not an ICC member and is therefore not obliged to hand over Bashir to the court.

¹¹ <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article58211> last accessed 2 May 2016.

According to the official news agency SUNA, Bashir will lead Sudan's delegation to the Islamic Summit dedicated to discuss recent developments in Palestine and holy Jerusalem under the title "united to achieve the just solution".

Chargé d'affaires at Sudan's embassy in Jakarta Tarig Abdallah al-Tom told SUNA that the summit is expected to approve two documents including the Jakarta Declaration and a resolution to take practical steps to support the Palestinian cause.

He added that the meeting of the presidents of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) nations would be preceded by a meeting of the foreign ministers to prepare the final documents for approval.

Last April, Bashir cancelled a planned visit to Indonesia to attend a meeting of the non-aligned movement.

At the time, government sources told Sudan Tribune on condition of anonymity that Bashir's trip was scrapped after several countries denied permission for him to fly over their airspace en route to Jakarta.

The circumstances which surrounded the cancelled visit were similar to another one in 2011 when Bashir arrived in China a day late following a dramatic trip that saw his plane blocked from airspace of two countries, prompting him to return and adjust flight routes to avoid risk of arrest.

Also, the Sudanese leader cancelled a planned appearance in the South-East Asian nation of Malaysia in 2011 after controversy erupted there over his possible attendance.

Bashir refuses to recognise the international tribunal, and considers it "a colonial tool directed against his country and Africa".

Last June, Bashir was forced to flee South Africa where he attended an African Union (AU) summit after a court ruled he should be banned from leaving pending the outcome of a hearing on his possible arrest.

Sudan Tribune

Sudan's Bashir flies to Indonesia¹²

March 5, 2016 (KHARTOUM) - Sudan's President Omer Hassan al-Bashir travelled to Indonesia on Saturday evening for an extraordinary Islamic summit despite an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued in Mars 2009.



A Chinese honor guard waits as a plane carrying Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir arrives at Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing, China, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2015 (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

Bashir will take part in the fifth extraordinary Summit of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) convened at the request of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to discuss the situation in Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque.

In April last year Bashir cancelled at the last minute his trip to Jakarta for an Asia-Africa summit.

Indonesia is not a State Party to the Rome Statute and has no obligation to arrest the Sudanese president.

However, last year a campaign was organized by right groups and activists to put pressure on the Indonesian government to cooperate with the war crimes tribunal.

The Sudanese president visited several African states members of the ICC but he was not arrested. However, the issue generated a large literature in the international law on Bashir's immunity.

The OIC summit was initially to be held in Morocco but the north African monarchy declined to organize it.

The summit is expected to renew the support of the Islamic world to the right of Palestinian people to establish an independent state and to condemn Israeli attempts to "erase its Islamic and Arab identity" of Jerusalem.

¹² <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article58224> last accessed 2 May 2016.

"The two-day summit will start with a preparatory meeting of senior officials on 6 March. This will be followed by a meeting of foreign ministers, with the outcomes of the first day of deliberations forwarded to the leaders of the OIC member states on 7 March 2016," said a statement issued by the Islamic organization.

Visit of Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Sudan Tribune

Sudan's Bashir to attend the end of military manoeuvres in Saudi Arabia¹³

March 7, 2016 (KHARTOUM) - Sudanese President Omer al-Bashir will travel to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday to attend the end of the joint military drills "North's Thunder", said government sources.



Sudanese troops participating in the 'North Thunder' military drill with troops from 20 nations in Saudi Arabia on 16 February 2016 (Photo Saudi Press Agency)

On February 29, armed forces from 20 Arab and Muslim nations have begun military manoeuvres at the King Khalid Military City (KKMC) in Hafr Al-Batin in north-eastern Saudi Arabia.

The military exercise comes within the framework of the Saudi-led alliance to fight terrorism in Islamic countries.

A government source told *Sudan Tribune* that Bashir, who is currently taking part in the 5th extraordinary summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jakarta, will return to Khartoum at dawn on Tuesday aboard a Saudi aircraft.

The official source said the Chadian President Idriss Deby will arrive in Khartoum on Tuesday afternoon in an official one-day visit to hold talks with Bashir, saying both presidents would leave separately for Riyadh on Wednesday to watch the end of the manoeuvres in the presence of the Saudi King Salman bin Abdel-Aziz.

¹³ <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article58239> last accessed 2 May 2016.

The source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, emphasized that Bashir left for Jakarta aboard a Saudi plane, saying the Sudanese presidential aircraft is currently under maintenance and that is why Riyadh sent the plane.

Bashir travelled to Jakarta on Saturday despite an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued in Mars 2009. In April last year he cancelled at the last minute his trip to Jakarta for an Asia-Africa summit.

Sudan's foreign relations have witnessed a remarkable shift since last fall particularly in its rapprochement with the Arab Gulf states following years of chilly ties.

The east African nation participates with over 850 troops in the Saudi-led "Decisive Storm" against the Iranian-allied Houthi militants in Yemen.

The Sudanese military participation in the military campaign in Yemen and the Islamic alliance reconciled Bashir's regime with the Saudi government, and marked the divorce with Iran.

Following the visit of the Saudi foreign minister Adel al-Jubeir to Khartoum late last month, multiple sources said that Saudi Arabia has granted five billion dollar military assistance to Sudan initially dedicated to the Lebanese army.

DEBY'S VISIT

Meanwhile, Sudan's ambassador to N'djamena Abdel-Aziz Hassan Salih told *Sudan Tribune* that Deby's delegation to Khartoum would include foreign and trade ministers besides several experts from the transportation ministry.

He pointed the two presidents would discuss bilateral cooperation as well as regional and international issues, adding that Deby would thank Bashir and the Sudanese people for sending a medical aid convoy to his country.

Salih noted that the Chadian trade minister Gidi Bishara would stay in Sudan following Deby's departure to hold talks with his Sudanese counterpart and to visit the area designated for Chad's imports at the sea port of Port Sudan.

The Sudanese diplomat added that the Chadian transportation experts will discuss with their Sudanese counterparts the proposed railway project that would transport goods from Port Sudan to N'djamena.

He commended the evolving relationship between the two countries, saying that Sudan praises Deby's election as the African Union chairman.

In January 2010, Sudan and Chad signed a normalization agreement ending a long history of mutual hostility in which both sides provided support to each other's insurgents.

All Africa

Sudan: President Al-Bashir Attends Conclusion of North Thunder Military Exercises in Hafr Al-Batin¹⁴

10 March 2016

Hafr Al-Batin — President of the Republic, Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir, attended Thursday the concluding military North Thunder manoeuvre at King Khalid Military City in the Northern area of Hafr Al-Batin, Saudi Arabia, together with a number of Kings and presidents of the participating countries, in response to an invitation from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz.

Twenty Arab and Islamic countries have participated in the military exercises, which is the biggest to be carried out at the region.

President Al-Bashir arrived Wednesday in Saudi Arabia to participate in the military exercises at which the Sudanese Armed Forces is taking place.

The Saudi Chief of Staff and commander of the military exercises, Lt. Gen. Abdul-Rahman Al-Bunyan, said that the North Thunder Military Training is the biggest one with regard to the number of the participating of forces and size of the military operations.

He said that the military training will be followed by a military parade on Friday for the forces of the participating countries.

¹⁴ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201603110370.html> last accessed 2 May 2016.