**Interview mit Premierminister Abdalla Hamdok - 05. Juni 2020**

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**“Hamdok to Asharq al-Awsat: Relations with Washington progressing, no fear with Ethiopia, peace is imminent”**

On June 5, the Saudi-owned London-based Asharq al-Awsat newspaper carried the following interview with Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok by its correspondents in Khartoum Ahmad Younes and Mohammad Amin Yassin:

“…Q: “Yesterday, the Security Council issued two resolutions based on the government’s request, establishing a special political mission to Sudan and extending the term of UNAMID. How will this affect the situation in Sudan?

A: “We requested the dispatch of a political mission to Sudan under Chapter VI, which was approved by the international community and the Security Council. Its mission will be to help us face the transitional challenges, at the head of which being the peace process, and lead Sudan away from the challenges and problems of Chapter VII that has been in place for 15 years. This process will be carried out in accordance with the Sudanese government’s vision, which is what the Security Council meant by: The process should preserve national sovereignty. The peace talks in Juba are proceeding in a positive way, and we will reach a peace agreement including the movements that are not currently participating in the negotiations… And the mission will help us prepare for elections during the transitional phase, which is costly for any state that has just exited wars and conflicts. Still, we are happy with the decision. On the other hand, the talk saying that the mission will include military forces is not true. The mission will be formed based on our own vision, we will lead it, and it will provide us with what we want…

Q: “How can this decision affect Sudan’s international relations in light of the existing complications between Sudan and America over the terrorism list?

A: “Ever since we reached power, we have been working on the terrorism file and achieved significant progress.

Q: “What about dialogue with America to ensure the lifting of Sudan’s name from the list of terrorism-sponsoring states?

A: “What happened was a major development and we have already reached numerous understandings in this regard. What remains is related to the compensations for the detonation of America’s embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. We have also come a long way at this level and are expecting a positive conclusion imminently…

Q: “There is controversy surrounding the peace process with the armed movements, which is the object of numerous criticisms… Some are even saying that the military have hijacked the process.

A: “This is not true. Since the formation of the transitional government, we have put in place a vision to achieve peace… All the negotiation papers were drafted by Cabinet, and some ministers are participating in the negotiations with the armed movements in Juba. I even visited Juba personally and am in direct and permanent contact with the leaders of the revolutionary front and the armed movements that are not participating in the talks. As for the claims surrounding the hijacking of the peace file, they are completely false, seeing as how the Sovereignty Council is part of the Transitional Authority…, and there is no competition between us…

Q: “What does the government think about the security tensions that erupted in Darfur between the army and the Sudan Liberation Movement this week?

A: “Since the beginning of the transitional phase, the ethnic and tribal clashes and problems in Darfur, Port Sudan, Kassala and Kadugli have not ceased, due to the comprehensive destruction caused by the deposed regime that deepened regionalism, strife and disputes between the various ethnicities and tribes. These are some of the challenges facing the transitional government and need special handling… to restore the status of the state…

Q: “Lately, the border between Ethiopia and Sudan witnessed security and military tensions. How are things with the Eastern neighbour?

A: “We share neighbourly relations, culture and history with Ethiopia, as well as mechanisms that could help us handle the crisis, such as the joint quintet committee… that met last month and will meet again this month to deal with the problem. Therefore, we are not worried about any escalation.

Q: “You have good relations with the Gulf States, especially Saudi Arabia and the Emirates, though some observers are talking about the existence of a gap. What do you say?

A: “Our relationship is extremely good with Saudi Arabia and the Emirates, and we are receiving support from the brothers in those countries. However, we are hoping these relations will go beyond donations and reach the stage of common interests and investments without a specific ceiling…””

**Ende des Interviews**