

Adam Fadlalmaula Interview

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INTERVIEWER: Anton Lin

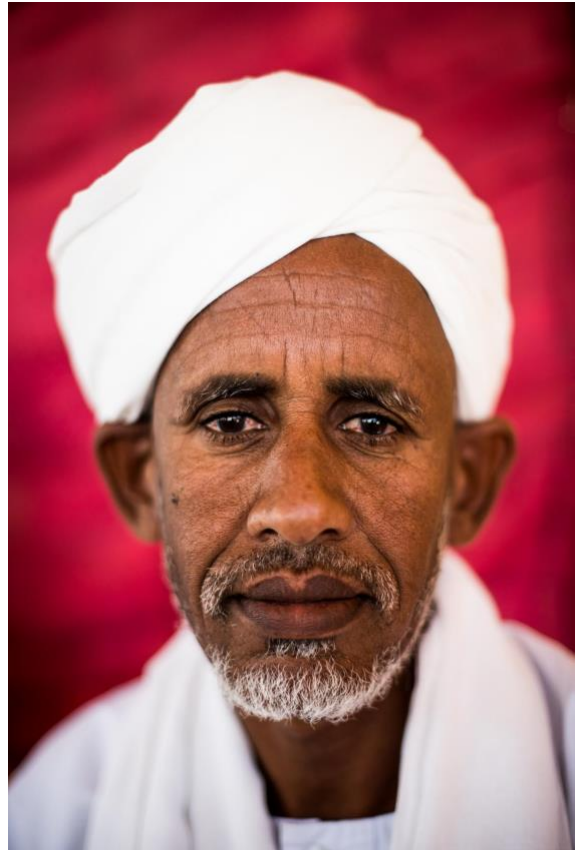
Professor Adam Fadlalmaula

- ◇ Professor of English & Director of Translations, Faculty of Education, University of al-Fasher.
- ◇ Member of the FFC and SPA, representing the University of al-Fasher.
- ◇ Rezeigat Mahariya.

A Sudanese Proverb from Professor Adam

‘When you peel an onion, the taste is the same all the way to the centre.’

His interpretation: a problem won’t be resolved by creating a new one. Truth and reconciliation can’t be focused on revenge.



7 Questions

1. **When you hear the word “Sudan”, what first comes to mind?**
‘Right now, our dream is a transitional change. Peace, freedom, and justice.’
2. **What is your message to the Sudanese people?**
‘Settle down. Stop the war. Support the transition. Use our resources and many cultures and our variety to enrich ourselves socially, culturally, and economically. We are tired of war and death. Live peacefully.’
3. **What is your message to the rest of the world?**
‘Stop selling weapons to Sudan. Support us in education and healthcare instead. Our country is like America, full of different ethnicities, languages, and climates. We have a rich country, but we have never used our resources properly because of conflict. As a result, right now we are living in abject poverty. Could the first world come to assist us?’
4. **How can the government earn the trust of the people?**
‘There is widespread corruption. The government needs to stop this and bring stolen resources back from other countries. We want a civilian government to see what progress it can achieve.’

5. What are you excited about in the next few years?

‘Now we see Sudan is getting out of its evil circle of fighting. This period being a success is exciting- and so are the elections.’

6. What can Sudan and the international community learn from each other?

‘Sudan can learn that democracy can work, and needs to learn how to exist in a state of peace and freedom. We can use the world’s experience in economics, education, and research to benefit Sudan. The world should learn from Sudan about peaceful revolution; the people struggled so hard, faced troops, and defeated the Bashir regime. This was all done peacefully unlike in so many countries, from protests in the developed world to the wars in Syria and Libya, where people turn to violence too quickly. Patience is the lesson we can teach.’

7. What impact do you as an individual want to have?

‘I am trying to have all the varied languages of Sudan given equal status in the educational curriculum. By teaching our different languages, and by teaching in them, we teach our different cultures. Variety is not a negative- it is a strength.’

PEOPLE

On truth and reconciliation:

‘We have seen successful truth and reconciliation processes in South Africa, Rwanda, and other countries, so there are lots of models. If we avenge everything, the problem won’t be stopped. Arab tribes are already feeling negative about truth and reconciliation because they think they have collectively been classified as Janjaweed and their livelihoods are going to be taken away. This is a matter for experts and a specific process, as there are risks from putting people on trial, and risks from not doing so. Remember, actually proving in court that people did something wrong is hard- where it can be done it should. But never collectively, always case by case.’

POLITICS

On the current government:

‘We need the political system we currently have, in order to go successfully through the transition. Burhan and Hemeti, Hamdok and the FFC, all working together as one team. They are doing that, they do have conflicts with each other but that’s because they are working for Sudan from different points of view, which is good. Overall, my view is that they are all keen for this period to be completed successfully.’

On the 2022 elections:

‘There is a problem that the elections may happen before parties have formed in marginalised areas, like Darfur, and so will not represent these peoples properly. Before 1989 our major political parties represented Darfurians- the Umma had a large Darfurian constituency back then, for example. Today they don’t, and in the absence of parties most Darfuris have taken a simple approach of being either pro-rebels or pro-government. Realistically, three years is too soon for elections: we should aim for 2022 so we have a target, but re-evaluate nearer the time in case Darfur isn’t ready. You need a proper political environment for a proper election.’

On the FFC:

'When the elections come, the groups within the FFC can unite into a coalition, or break up; it has to be one of the two. I am a member of the FFC, as part of the SPA, and have told them this. The FFC already has smaller coalition groups within it- the left/communists, the armed groups, SPA, civil society, and the democratic parties.'

On economic change:

'The subsidies of food and fuel are having a big impact on our economy. Criticism of the FFC for keeping the subsidies, against Hamdok's wishes, may or may not be fair. The needs of the country must be balanced against the needs of people on the street. It's difficult and there isn't a simple answer, but whatever is done must be done gradually in steps. A quick change won't work.'

POWER

On Sudan's security threats:

'Right now, we are at peace. But the biggest risk we face to our security is the agreement being made in Juba between the government of Sudan and the rebel groups, which is not being explained properly to the people in Sudan. When people are resettled as a result of the agreement, if it isn't explained properly, there could be war as those currently living on the land are afraid of being kicked out.'

On the role of the SAF and RSF:

'After 30 years of military rule, the military feel civilians are not capable of governing the country. But they must understand that it is not their job to be involved in most areas of government, like economics, education, etc., which should be run by civilians. The solution to this is to educate the military at all levels, not to disband or threaten them, and then consolidate the RSF and SAF into one. But right now, the situation is working so don't exclude anyone or change anything! Excluding anyone will result in new problems. I want harmony, and now there is harmony, so keep it.'

'The right role for the SAF and RSF is that they must do their job as a military. That means a provider of internal security, and of border security. They should not get involved in government.'