

**Popular Support for Political Parties in Sudan 2013**

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## ABSTRACT

Sudan witnessed democratic traditions since mid-forties of the last century, during which many parties were registered and their partisans and associates were organized and listed. Some of these parties gained entrenched experiences and had to deal with the successive Sudanese governments since independence. Previously, it was pretty much easy for these parties to know, with a reasonable degree of certainty, the exact level of support it enjoys among the populace. Region, religion, age, sex, social backgrounds and educational levels and the like were the crux of these calculations. Accordingly, it was relatively easy for these parties to advocate policies in their campaigns pertaining to ensure followers' support and to attract others.

In the previous few years, however, a growing controversy developed between the myriad political opposition organizations and the ruling party in the Sudan over the previous elections and its outcomes, only to add to the already complicated political scene. It became as well, difficult for interested observers, researchers and academics to estimate the actual size of these parties among the public.

This study is the first of its kind, we claim, to discuss the issue of political parties' allegiance in contemporary Sudan. It is conducted by independent research center and aiming at identifying popular interest in political issues in general among the Sudanese population and the relative weights they give to each of the competing parties aspiring to win their support. The study tackles, moreover, the social characteristics of each of the main parties' supporters in the political arena.

Public opinion survey method is used to highlight political and social issues in the Sudan whereby 5000 Households were covered in 2013 in all the Sudanese states.

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