



KAMIL IDRIS

Scholar, statesman and international polymath, Professor Kamil Idris is a former Director General of the UN specialised agency WIPO and also of UPOV and a leading member of the UN International Law Commission (ILC). He is currently the President of the International Court of Arbitration and Mediation (ICAM) and a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. He has extensive experience as an ambassador and Senior Diplomat with entrees to a wide variety of Presidents, Prime Ministers and world leaders. During his career he became a highly influential and trusted eminence grise in helping to solve international crises, a behind the scenes figure with uncompromising beliefs in human rights and social justice. In 2010 he stood as a Presidential candidate in his native Sudan, undergoing house arrest and receiving death threats but refusing to be intimidated. He is that rare combination, an academic and intellectual with numerous honorary degrees and decorations from every continent, complemented by an acute political awareness championing freedom of speech, freedom of religion and political reform. He has published an extensive range of books and articles on intellectual property, political science, philosophy, aesthetics and international law and development. His underlying message is that global healing is a possibility and not a fantasy but can be achieved only through tolerance, understanding and goodwill to all, and not by aggressive posturing, violence and dogmatic assertions of belief.

MY NILE ODYSSEY

“Stay on the rock! Stay on the rock!”

“I invite schools in Africa and the Arab world to make this book available to the young generation. Nelson Mandela was right when he urged Kamil Idris to write his autobiography and it is my pleasure to write a commendation to this moving memoir.”

H.E. Dr Amre Mousa, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs and former Secretary General of the League of Arab States (LAS) (Egypt)

“The story is a testimony to the achievement of the human spirit in overcoming adversity and is a treasure trove of fascinating diversions into history and philosophy. I commend it for its courage and its vision of a future based on brotherhood, acceptance and a rejection of violence.”

Imam El-Sadiq El-Mahdi, Former Prime Minister of Sudan 1966-1967. 1986-1989.

“A testament to the powerful bond of humanity that defies the fault lines of colour, religion and ethnicity.”

H.E. Dr Mohamed El Baradie, Former Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Nobel Prize Laurette (Egypt)

“This is a fascinating and highly readable memoir, full of insights into human nature and international politics. I recommend it to all readers.”

H.E. Ambassador Brunson McKinley, former Director General, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) (USA)

“This odyssey mirrors the stamina, compassion and tolerance that typify Kamil’s life.”

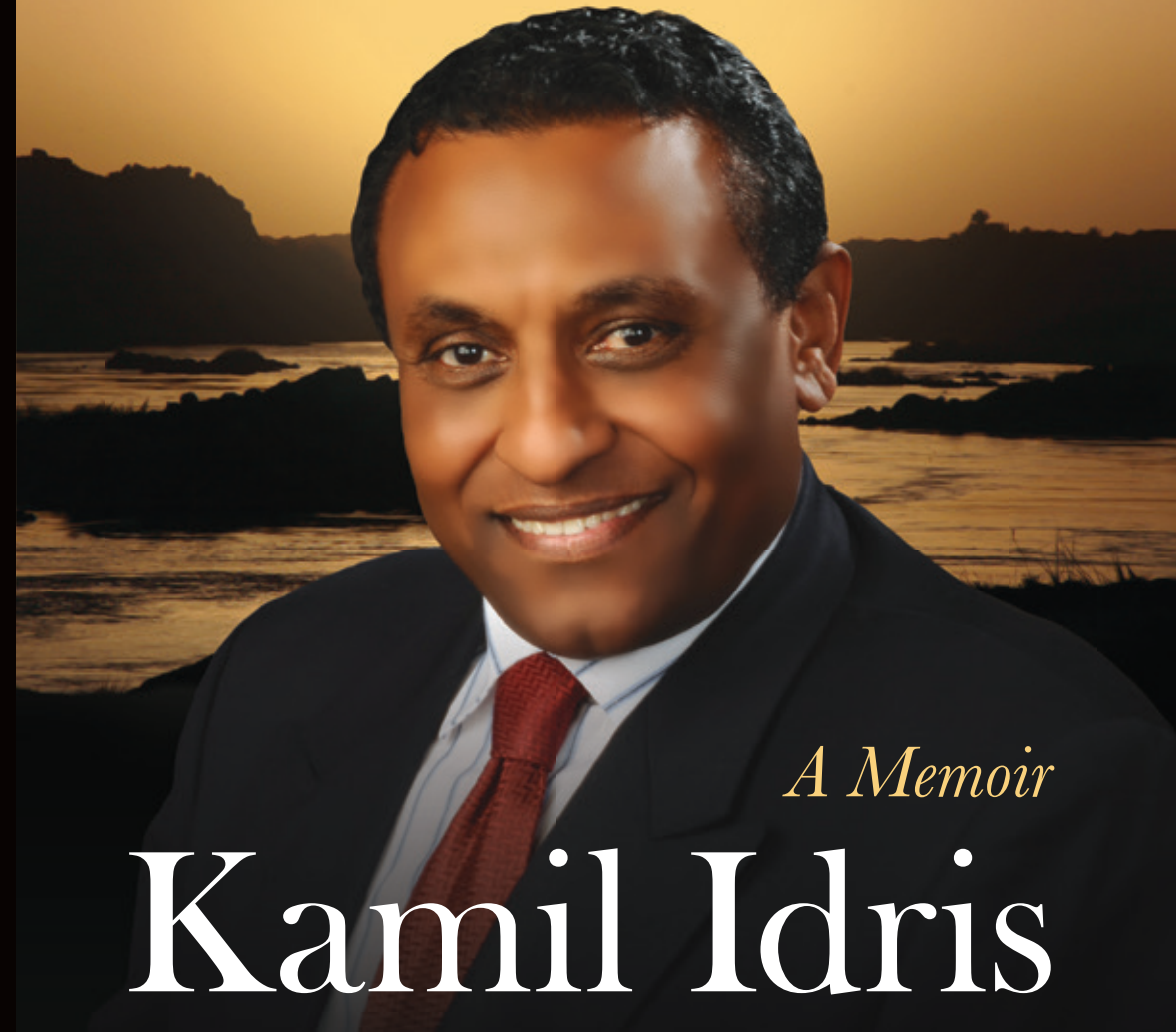
Professor Makram Khoury-Machool, Director, The European Centre for the Study of Extremism, Cambridge, England (Palestine/ UK)



MY NILE ODYSSEY Kamil Idris

MY NILE ODYSSEY

The life and death story of a child labourer’s rise to international leadership



A Memoir

Kamil Idris

MY NILE ODYSSEY

Kamil Idris, a man proud of his nomad ancestry, survived child labouring in darkened factories, boyhood journeys to Cairo balanced on the top of trains, hazardous treks to Europe in his teens, capture and death threats from piratical Nile fishermen who thought he was an evil spirit or djinn, and even being stranded in the ferocious heat of the Nubian desert. In later life he was arrested and placed under house surveillance with his immediate family, because of his views on human rights and political reform. Inspired by a promise to Nelson Mandela to write his memoir, the book is a cameo of a loving family devastated by a series of tragedies, of ancient souks, camel markets, eccentric characters, philosopher kings, and his father’s tales of the earliest days of Africa, Nubia and the first wanderings of mankind. As a child Kamil was taken to Meroe to gaze at the remains of the fabulous Kingdom of Kush which boasts twice as many pyramids as Egypt. Moreover, recent excavations are lifting a veil on the rediscovery of Sudan’s astonishing Black Pharaohs, who once ruled over the whole of north east Africa and beyond over two and a half thousand years ago. Above all the memoir is a magnificent celebration of and a tribute to Kamil’s beloved and enduring River Nile, which he sees as a metaphor for all our destinies. It is an incredible story.

ISBN 978-1-910223-96-3



9 781910 223963 >