

Acceptance Speech of  
**Field Marchal Abdo Ar-Rahman M. Siwar Al-Dahab**  
Winner of the 2004  
King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam

Sunday 21.3.2004 (30.1.1425H)

*In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate*

Praise be to Allah, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds, and may peace  
And prayers be upon the messenger of guidance and mercy

Your Royal Highness, Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al-Aziz  
Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Aviation  
And Inspector General  
Your Royal Highnesses  
Your Excellencies  
Distinguished Guests

Al-Salam alaikum,

In this memorable evening, and on this gracious land, it is my greatest honour to stand before you to receive the King Faisal International Prize - a testimony to the magnanimity of this country and an example of its leaders and noble people's contributions to the welfare of mankind.

The Almighty Allah has bestowed upon me the grace of being seen tonight as a servant of Islam and of receiving this prestigious prize, despite my efforts to avoid nomination. Now that I have been awarded the Prize, I must express my sincere thanks to the Secretary General of the World Congress of Islamic Youth, Dr. Saleh Al-Wihaiby, who nominated me without my prior knowledge, knowing that I have previously declined several nominations including by his predecessor, the late Dr. Manie' Al-Juhani. I must also express my gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Abd Allah Al-Faisal Ibn Abd Al-Aziz, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the

King Faisal Foundation, and His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal Ibn Abd Al-Aziz, Chairman of the King Faisal International Prize Board, and the honourable members of the Selection Committee.

Allah's bounties must be told. I have served my country as a soldier for many years, rising to the rank of Commander General of the Sudanese armed forces, an army still remembered for its gallantry during the Second World War; then I served as Minister of Defense and was subsequently chosen by the Sudanese people to preside over the country at a very critical time of political unrest. All of these esteemed positions are, however, dwarfed by the monumental status of being recognized as a servant of Islam. What honour greater than such should any Muslim aspire to achieve? I pray to Allah to accept my humble contribution thanks and grace be to Him always.

My selection for this illustrious award is a symbol of recognition not of me but of the Organisation of Islamic Daawa, which I am privileged to chair, and of other Islamic Organisations that I am honoured to serve as a member. It is those institutions that availed me the opportunity to do my duties in serving Islamic philanthropy. It is also recognition of many of my colleagues and countrymen who, along with fellow African Muslims, are serving to promulgate Islam in that Continent, with support from the Sudanese leadership.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generous support of many philanthropic activities executed by the Organisation of Islamic Daawa in fields of education, healthcare and social development, as well as the field of Daawa. Special thanks are due to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abd AL-Aziz, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abd Allah Ibn Abd Al-Aziz and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Al-Aziz, the Second Deputy Premier, for their sponsorship and support of these projects.

Distinguished Guests,

The King Faisal International Prize is one of the prides of Saudi Arabia; it recognizes excellence in different fields of knowledge without religious or

racial prejudices, and bears witness to the Kingdom's pioneering role in expressing Islamic principles and contributions to human civilisation. This deep knowledge of human relations enforces our expectations of the Kingdom's role as leader of the Islamic world, especially at this time of challenges and turmoil. The Islamic world, on its part, should reciprocate by supporting the Kingdom's wise handling of many unjustified accusations to Islam.

I cannot leave this platform before paying tribute to one of the great makers of modern Islamic history, the late King Faisal bin Abd Al-Aziz, whose aspirations for the welfare of Muslims and humanity at large are symbolized by this prize.

May Allah generously reward the leaders of this country for their excellent deeds and guide them to the path of righteousness under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

Wa Al-Salam alaikum, wa rahamtullah wa barakatu