

## **Contribution to Sudan UPR Report**

Society Studies Centre, Individual UPR Submission, Sudan, 11<sup>th</sup> Session (2011)

### **Summary:**

Human rights situation in Sudan was dominated by three issues: the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the Darfur Crisis, and the Democratization in Sudan. Implementation of CPA went well, yet needs to be concluded peacefully whatever the outcome of the referendum. The Darfur Crisis, though less intense now needs a breakthrough in an inclusive peace agreement in Doha to end the violations. The democratization process in Sudan need to continue with more freedoms needed. Other human right violations need to be addressed and victims compensated.

### **Text:**

The most significant activities that determined the course of human rights in Sudan over the last four years Sudan has the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the Darfur Crisis, and the Democratization in Sudan, in addition to other human rights issues in other areas.

The two signatories to the CPA, despite all their tussles, managed to bring the agreement to an end. Most of the provisions of the agreement were implemented and there remain three main steps: the Referendum in Southen Sudan, the Referendum in the Abyei area and the Popular Consultation in Blue Nile and South Kordofan. Whatever the outcome of the referendum, Our organization would like to call on the two parties to sort out their differences on the pending issues and stress the importance of sustaining the peace brought by the CPA. In Abyei we call on the peaceful coexistence between the local communities, and the guarantee of the grazing rights of the Misseiria tribe regardless of the results of the Abyei referendum.

In Drafur, there was relative calm on the ground, and the number of civilians death has dropped sharply. The peace talks in Doha are progressing very slowly, while the normalization of relation with Chad has contributed to the peace. However, during this period the violence has escalated many times between the government troops and rebel movements, and more civilian displacement and victimization due to that were reported. The period also witnessed kidnap of humanitarian staff, and the killing of tens of UNAMID troops on the ground. Civilians still live in IDP camps, though some service were provided, they need to go back to their village and live normal life, but they can do that without security which lacking in many places in the region.

The parties to the conflict need to seriously conclude a comprehensive and inclusive agreement in Doha sooner than later to end the suffering of people in Darfur.

The General Elections which was held in April 2010 is considered a milestone on the democratization process in Sudan. Though marred with host of irregularities and complaint of fraud in the north and South, the election was generally accepted by international observers despite their stress that it did not meet the international standards. The participation on women was the most noticeable feature of the elections, they participated in big numbers in the voting centres, and they were allocated 25% of the seats in the parliament. However, some major opposition parties boycotted the election claiming that the ruling parties misused the media and the government support to its favor. They demanded the postponement of election but their demands were ignored.

Immediately following the election, the security forces reinstated heavy press censorship, including banning newspapers and jailing journalists. The good mood created by the election was totally upsetted by such measures.

Some investigations of killings of civilians were not concluded yet despite many years have passes since the occurrence of the incidents, such as the Port Sudan, Amri and Kajbar incidents.

The period was also characterized with significant law reforms that will have positive impact on human rights, such as the Press Act, the Police Act, the Army Force Act, the Child Act, the Human Rights Commission Act and many more. The Human Rights Commission act is a very important act, yet the commission itself was not set up although the law was passed more than one year ago.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Set up of the Human Rights Commission according to the Paris Principles
2. End all forms of violence in Darfur and reach inclusive peace agreement
3. Conduct a transparent, credible, and peaceful referendum in Southern Sudan
4. Ensure the grazing rights of Messeiria in Abyei and ensure peaceful coexistence between the local citizens
5. Continue the democratization process and allow wide freedoms for political activities including freedom of expression
6. Continue the law reforms
7. Ensure the rights and protection of civilian population in Northern and Southern Sudan in case of cessation of Southern Sudan