



General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 September 2010

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifteenth session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

**Joint written statement* submitted by Bridges International,
the International Women Bond, non-governmental
organizations in special consultative status, and the African-
American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development
(ASHAD), a non-governmental organization on the roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 August 2010]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Massacre in southern Sudan**

In August 2nd 2009, Murle fighters attacked the distant Akobo area in Jungle state. This incident is one of the worst violent episodes that southern Sudan has witnessed since the end of the civil war four years ago. The Murle fighters formed a siege around a fishing camp and shot fire at camp residents, then, they used their spears to take the lives of those who were injured. 185 victims (mostly women and children) lost their lives according to initial estimates.

The injured who survived the attack are still recalling the horrifying experience: “They shot fire on me but they only hit my arm, I fell to the ground and when I was about to rise from the ground they attacked me again, this time they stick a spear into my back” recalls the 20 years old pregnant mother Nikang Gattwick “they thought I am dead and this is why they left me alone” adds Gatwick.

Joe Joyoul Youl, the UN Commissioner for refugees affairs in Akobo who recently visited the attack site said: “This was an obvious and unambiguous massacre. We saw the floating dead bodies of the women and children in the river. I wonder why people do such thing to these innocent children”.

In the latest violent tribal clashes in southern Sudan, at least 30 victims were killed, and 15 woman and child were abducted last Tuesday according to a local official.

In addition, Paul Gam, deputy communication officer in Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Commission told France Press that “many houses were destroyed, we counted at least 45 such ones” in the aftermath of some Dinka subgroups clashes.

(ASHAD), (SFPHR) are deeply saddened by this incident and are offering its sincere condolences to the families of the massacre victims in Southern Sudan.

It is a matter of a great concern that while the country is still recovering from 22 years of civil war, a threat of a new and more fierce war is renewed with a an increasing targeting of women and children in the tribal clashes in southern Sudan, where no less than 1200 people were killed and Thousand others displaced.

(ASHAD) & (SFPHR) while noting the UN reports which states that a large number of people died from the recent tribal clashes in Southern Sudan during the last couple month, is emphasizing that the right to live is one of the basic pillars on which international conventions on human rights are founded. Furthermore, safeguarding human life is one of the first teachings of the heavenly religions, especially Islam and Christianity.

The fact that these crimes against humanity were committed in the geographic area of southern Sudan, which is controlled by Southern Sudan government, does not necessarily relieve the national unity government partners from their responsibility in protecting the lives of their citizen and fulfilling their duty in providing human security.

While we offer our condolences to the families of the 11 soldiers who were killed in the attack while guarding the Akombo Camp, we urge all parties to stop killing in southern Sudan which cause about 2500 death in 2009.

In this context, the Sudanese Forum thinks that protecting citizens in the areas of tribal conflicts in southern Sudan requires the deployment of larger forces and for making more

** The Sudanese Forum for Peace and Human Rights (SFPHR) and Asas Organization for Human Rights, NGOs without consultative status also share the views expressed in this statement.

effective security arrangements. Accordingly, we call upon the national unity government, southern Sudan government, and peace keeping forces in Sudan to coordinate with each other, to provide the needed supplies, and to make the proper arrangements, so that such bloody conflicts are prevented.

While we appreciate the swift and timely response of the UN agencies to the disaster, and their field work in the disaster site and their provision of humanitarian and medical aids, observe that the response from the national official and voluntary agencies that we felt was hardly up to par in confronting the massacres that took place in southern Sudan, as if the residents of this important part of the country do not belong to the unified Sudan, whose unity is a goal to which all are working to achieve through the referendum that should take place at the end of the transition period.

In this respect (ASHAD), and the Sudanese Forum for Peace and Human Rights (SFPHR) are requesting the Human Rights Council as well as the Government of National Unity in Sudan to adopt the following recommendations:

- Reaffirm Obligation to address the roots causes of the inter-tribal conflict and killing, namely the widespread tribal chauvinism, ignorance, and animosity among different tribes in this case, (Murle and Niweer), and among subgroups of the same tribe (Dinka) as we saw in the recent killings and abductions in Jungle.
- Calls upon all the concerned national official and voluntary bodies which are known for their efforts in this regard but which are not doing enough at the moment to the victims in the afflicted southern Sudan areas, to step up their efforts in assisting their victimized brothers in the afflicted areas by providing them with humanitarian and medical aids, treatments to the afflicted and the injured, in addition to solidarity with the victims' families.
- Request to allocate more funds and render genuine support for the Sudanese DDR in the north and southern Sudan in order to confront the widespread of small arms, and to achieve Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of the ex-combatant in Sudan.
- Pay special attention to the study of the increasingly spreading Xenophobia phenomena in southern and western Sudan and its damaging effects on peace and security of the whole country, they are demanding that southern Sudan government form an independent investigation committee, which active civil society human rights organizations representation, in order to find the facts in the mutual crimes and massacres between some southern Sudan tribes.
- Calling upon Southern Sudan government to hold a peace conference with the purpose of solving tribal conflicts, and to realize and encourage peaceful coexistence between the conflicting ethnic and tribal groups in southern Sudan.
- Emphasizing the importance of compensating the human losses incurred by making peace conferences and paying monetary compensations to the victims' families who are now willing and waiting to retaliate.
- Work hardly and swiftly to establish the Sudanese National Commission for Peace and Reconciliation, an important body which has been agreed upon and decided by both signatories to Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CAP) in Nevasha peace agreement, but unfortunately has not materialized till now.
- Keep unstinting efforts in coordination with Darfur Organizations Forum- Human Rights partners, and National Organizations Network in Nuba Mountains to solve and settle the conflict peacefully, to stop the fighting, and to maintain the dignity of the Sudanese citizens.

- Announces its willingness to coordinate with all the official and voluntary bodies, UN system, National and International NGOs to promote human rights, peacemaking, and to realize comprehensive development in all part of Sudan, with no exceptions.
-