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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Joint written statement* submitted by Rencontre Africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme (RADDHO), Association apprentissage sans frontières (ASF), Union Interafricaine des Droits de l'Homme - Inter-African Union for Human Rights, Centre Indépendent de Recherches et d'Initiatives pour le Dialogue (CIRID), non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

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

[4 May 2011]

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

Obligation and right of interference: Ivory Coast, Libya**

At a meeting on March 16, 2011 in the context of the 16th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, some civil society and diaspora organizations analysed in depth the human rights situation of African countries (after 50 years of independence) on the themes of governance, electoral processes and transition realities.

The participants in this dialogue presented the attainments and the expectations of the African populations vis à vis various and innumerable crises. The systematic degradation of human rights in certain countries such as Ivory Coast, Somalia, Libya, Soudan, Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of Congo were examined.

Today no one can deny signs of genocide in certain countries such as Ivory Coast and Libya as well as that of Darfur in Sudan.

The participants condemned:

1. Cycles of crimes and violence followed by impunity;
2. Corruption, denials of corruption, and the spoiling of public wealth and natural resources which prevents the enjoyment of social, economic and cultural rights by the peoples;
3. Connivance of African leaders with outside states interested in African natural resources – which undermines the prospects of a better future for Africans in the socio-economic sphere;
4. Constitutional reforms which tend to establish lifetime presidencies and a dynastic governance.

It is essential to recall the principles enshrined in the third chapter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which stipulates that human rights be protected by a rule of law which would prevent citizens, with no other recourse, from revolting against tyranny and oppression.

The revolt of African peoples particularly in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya – people who aspire to liberty and dignity – finds its source and inspiration in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is why we, defenders of human rights, propose the immediate application of Resolution 43/131 adopted December 8, 1988 and Resolution 45/100 of December 14, 1990 on the ‘obligation and right of Interference’. We cannot allow the Libyan army forces under Mr. Khadafi control to kill innocent civilians. We cannot allow Mr. Laurent Gbagbo to massacre the population of Ivory Coast.

Extrajudicial executions and mass violations of human rights are being perpetrated in Libya and Ivory Coast. Two new ‘‘Rwanda’’ are in the process of being created. All member states of the United Nations should reject a ‘right of indifference’ and immediately intervene in these states to save thousands of human lives subject to bombardment.

Immediate interference in these countries is urgent in order not to allow genocide on a continental level.

** Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement (CECIDE), Interfaith International, Comité pour les Droits de l’homme et la Démocratie au Rwanda, Guinée Développement (GUIDE), Coordination Africaine 2XNON, Ligue Camerounaise pour les droits de l’homme, Conseil Mondial de la Diaspora Panafricaine, Centre Panafricain des droits de l’homme, NGOs without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

The right to the interference should not be instrumentalized at ends of occupation of a Sovereign state.

We warn the nostalgic western powers against any attempt to recovery of the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people at freedom and the good governance.
