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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Sudanese Women General Union, a non-governmental organization 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.

[30 May 2016]

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

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Comments on the United Nations Special Rapporteur Report on violence against women in Sudan

First: General observations:

1. The report lacks scientific statistics, data and documents supporting the SR's opinion.
2. The report was composed of alleged incidents without specifying the date of occurrence or the perpetrators.
3. Most of what was mentioned in the report was oral evidences drawn from entities or personalities with specific purposes.
4. The report recognized on its first page that violence against women and human rights abuses are no country in the world is immune from them.
5. The report acknowledged the government's response and cooperation with all international and regional human rights mechanisms.
6. The Government of Sudan extended its invitation to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women in December 2013 and did not respond to it until May 2015???

Second: Thematic response: -

1) The report pointed out that there are restrictions and political and administrative measures adversely affect the relationship between the United Nations Agencies and UNAMID. We believe this talk is unfounded, noting that the United Nations and all its bodies enter wherever based on an agreement between the two parties. In addition, it is the right of any country to impose its sovereignty on its territory according to the Charter of the United Nations.

2) manifestations of violence against women: -

- In spite of Special Rapporteur's acknowledgement towards the existence of laws, policies and programs prepared for preventing violence against women, but she came back and indicated that the issue of violence against women in the Sudan is alarming and this is a clear contradiction in the report.

- Regarding her talking about inequality, that is refuted by the Sudanese constitution and laws that established the equality in addition to the reality of Sudanese woman who managed by Constitution and the law as well as her aptitude to achieve this equality, that is lacked by several countries. Noting that the report itself couldn't provide an evidence confirming inequality.

3) The report indicated a high rate of trafficking in women and girls, especially women refugees who have suffered violence. Sudan is acquitted of this charge Sudan does not abduct them from their countries, but they came on their own will or on the will of their traffickers who bring them from their respective countries which are well-known in such a trade worldwide.

Sudan has fought against this phenomenon and enacted the year 2015 Act to prevent human trafficking. Furthermore the leader in the Sudanese parliament Badriya Suleiman has recently requested the world parliament to fight this global phenomenon but her request was intercepted by another request from the State of France.

4) There is not a racist targeting on Darfur students, they are Sudanese citizens.

5) The report pointed to the lack of security in majority of displaced camps which women and girls are exposed to violence. This is a confession that the camps are being run by the displaced people themselves, as this talk means that the security is available outside the camps.

6) The report pointed to a number of laws: the criminal, public order and personal status and pointed to Article (25) and in fact the intended article is (52) and not (25), which talks about the scandalous uniforms. Our response is that the personal freedom ends at the infringement of others' freedoms. scandalous uniform is violating freedoms of the straightforward people of Sudan. Concerning the talk about the Public Order Act, this law is not a federal law it is a state law not talking about wearing or other matters, but it has honored the Sudanese women in Khartoum state, when allocated them special seats in the public transport, when preventing men from entering the women Hairdressing shops and when banning voodoo and begging. As for the freedom of work which is meant the return of men to work of women hairdressing shops, this is what is not acceptable to Sudanese people at all.

- 7) The report pointed out that it met prisoners who entered prison, because of minor offenses such as not being able to repay the financing or loans to run other economic activities, our answer is that all laws in the all countries of the world as the laws in Sudan stipulated that rights must be returned to their due persons.
- 8) The report pointed to the presence of household violence in the family and community in two cases linked to the girl child which are genital mutilation and early marriage. The early marriage and genital mutilation are a well-established culture of a society based on religious matters and not a single organization can be able to eradicate a rooted culture of society. The question which arises here is that what are the implications of a later marriage???
- 9) The report pointed to the presence of (52) laws including provisions that discriminate against women such as the Personal Status Law. These indicated laws are there for further amendments as part of the State Reform Programs and not because they discriminate against women.
- 10) The report demanded that the government set up a commission of inquiry made up of national and international experts to look into the communications relating to mass rape in different regions. This claim lacks international legal authority, there is no a provision in the international law obliges the State to form a committee made up of national and international experts to investigate national affair. This is why we call on the international organization to respect the international law. Moreover she pointed to the planned mass rape in different areas, and that is only happened in this report for it is well known that the international claim is confined only in the North Darfur area of Thabit.
- 11) The report pointed out that the government is cracking down on non-governmental organizations, particularly that working in the field of women's rights through canceling the registration of some organizations or develop complications before registration formalities, this talk is not true and if it is true, the organizations that have been canceled should be announced.
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