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Agenda item 10

Technical assistance and capacity-building

Written statement* submitted by the Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, 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.

[28 August 2016]

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

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Human rights situation in conflict areas in Sudan

Maarij Foundation for Peace & Development expresses its grave concern over human rights situation in different conflict areas in Sudan:

In Darfur, Area of Jabal Marra had witnessed serious confrontations between the government army and Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) / Abdulwahid M. Noor's Wing during Dec. 2015 and Jan. 2016 started by SLA attacks on the government forces. The area had been under the control of SLA since 2003, now controlled by the government.

During SLA occupation, the local population had suffered from serious HR violations as following:-

- Indiscriminate attacks resulting in many civilian losing their lives, including traditional leaders.
- The whole population of the area became captives; used as human shield against any attacks and exploited for forced labour.
- Levying taxes, tributes and tolls on crops, fruit trees and animal husbandry.
- Abducting and recruiting children in SLA army.
- confiscation of properties and belongings.
- Destruction of infrastructure and service institutions.
- Keeping the area in complete blockade - no access to the markets; no communication with the external world.

The hostilities of last Dec. and Jan. ended with displacements when some people left their homes to safer areas within Central, North and South Darfur States. Now most of them have returned; however, there are others remaining under the government facilitating them with humanitarian assistance. In South Kordofan and Blue Nile States, still there are there are attacks on the villages by the armed groups resulting in devastating consequences on the enjoyment of the right to life. Child abduction and recruitment became a daily practice. Young ladies are abducted for forced labor. There are many evidences of children and women abuses. Time was wasted waiting for the armed Movements to sign the peace talks road map. All hopes for peace are now disbursed by the armed movements. They refused to join the National Dialogue (ND) which Sudan considers as the last resort for national peace and stability. Whenever there is an initiative for cease-fire or negotiation their response is negative.

For all the above mentioned, MFPD calls on the Council to take measures and put more pressure on the armed movements to take positive steps to sit for negotiation with the government to reach a final and sustainable peace.

Lastly, Sudan has been for a long time under special procedures. The Independent Expert has failed to fulfil his mandate due to lack of resources as he always mentions. We call on the Council to free Sudan and give it the chance to be directly accountable to the Council towards human rights situation.
