



General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 October 2020

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-fifth session

14 September–2 October 2020

Agenda item 10

Technical assistance and capacity-building

Written statement* submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, 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.

[20 August 2020]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

GE.20-12850(E)



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Human Rights Situation in the Sudan

Preamble

With attention and aspirations drawn towards the Sudan after the December 2018 revolution that called for the protection and promotion of human rights that has been forgotten for decades, many obstacles and challenges stood up in the face of the Sudanese government. Such challenges, nevertheless, require United Nations (UN) support, which is already provided by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in terms of technical support to the Sudanese government.

Technical support in the Sudan: commendable developments and urgent challenges

Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights commends the remarkable efforts made by the Sudanese government, in cooperation with the Office of UN the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to open an office of the High Commissioner in Khartoum, under a resolution issued by the Human Rights Council to enable the independent expert in the Sudan to carry out surveillance, provide technical support and governments' capacity-building so that the human rights situation in the country would be developed^{1,2}.

However, the Sudanese government remains in dire need of speeding up logistic arrangements so that the office would be opened and fully operated. This is in addition to developing an extended agenda with OHCHR on technical assistance and capacity-building, along with paying greater attention to promoting effective technical cooperation in the field of human rights that reflects the National Development Goals for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which is the most prominent focus of OHCHR's technical support .

Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights also encourages the Sudanese government's orientations to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms.

In particular, inviting the independent expert on the human rights situation in the Sudan, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief, to visit Sudan in the coming period to learn about the human rights situation and the improvement of religious freedoms in the country. However, such visits have not been made public to date.

Maat would also like to point out the need to activate one of the most important means of technical cooperation, which is adopting the recommendations of human rights mechanisms, including the recommendations made by independent experts and private rapporteurs³, who recommended the need to accelerate accountability and justice for the victims of police brutality who fell dead during the Sudanese peaceful protests of June 3, 2019, as an urgent step towards peaceful democracy.⁴

Victims and their families are still calling for justice and compensation. There is a need to provide effective remedies for the victims who were killed for the Sudanese revolution. Besides, all figures responsible for these violations must be held accountable without exception and in accordance with the rules of legal procedure established by international standards. The Independent National Commission must also be urged to address the

¹ " وفد أممي يبحث فتح مكتب بالسودان لمراقبة أوضاع حقوق الإنسان"، العين الإخبارية، 30/10/2019، على الرابط <https://al-ain.com/article/un-sudan-human-rights-situation>.التالي:

² "Sudan Pledges to Form Government Based on Human Rights Principles", VOA, available at: <https://bit.ly/34iZH2M>.

³ * الخبراء: السيد كليمنت نيالتسوسي فول ، المقرر الخاص المعني بالحق في التجمع السلمي وتكوين الجمعيات ، والسيد أريستيد نونوسي ، الخبير المستقل المعني بحالة حقوق الإنسان في السودان ، والسيد فاييان سالفبولي ، المقرر الخاص المعني بتعزيز الحقيقة والعدالة والجبر و ضمانات عدم التكرار ، السيد ديفيد كاي ، المقرر الخاص المعني بتعزيز وحماية الحق في حرية الرأي والتعبير

⁴ Sudan: Khartoum massacre victims and their relatives still waiting for justice one year on", OHCHR, 3 June 2020, available at: <https://bit.ly/326Oysi>.

seriousness of gender-based violence that occurred during the crackdown and to do its utmost to ensure justice and reparations for the victims.

Recommendations

Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights recommends the following:

1. Expediting logistical arrangements until work is completed and the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is opened in the country.
 2. Complete joint cooperation with the rest of the UN human rights mechanisms, and allow representatives of the special procedures to visit the country and allow them freedom of movement.
 3. The necessity to expedite the results of the investigation committee regarding the victims of the attack on the demonstrators on July 3, 2019, and to provide mechanisms for reparation and compensation for the victims and the injured as soon as possible.
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