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**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Written statement* submitted by Elizka Relief Foundation, 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.

[22 August 2023]

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



The Human Rights Situation in the Sudan

Background:

Over the past four months, the situation in the Sudan has reached a tragic state. The city of Khartoum has turned into a battleground between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), resulting in thousands of deaths and injuries. This has also led to millions of people being displaced from their homes, particularly in the region of Darfur where the security situation has worsened. Despite efforts to end the fighting, conflicting demands from both sides have made it difficult to achieve any progress toward a resolution.

Elizka Relief Foundation aims to provide an overview of the current human rights situation in the Sudan, specifically focusing on instances of human rights violations, most notably the right to life, the right to health, and the right to housing in light of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan.

Most Prominent Human Rights Violations in the Sudan

1. Right to life:

The armed conflict in the Sudan has now reached its fourth month, causing hundreds of casualties, as the current fighting has killed more than 30,900 civilians since fighting began⁽¹⁾ and caused more than 5000 have been injured in Khartoum and the five states of Darfur. In addition, there are reports of 2,500 flagrant violations of children's rights; at an average of more than one per hour. Besides, at least 435 children have been reportedly killed and the injury of 2,025.⁽²⁾

The situation in Darfur, west of the Sudan, is turning daily from bad to worse, as the fighting gave way to ethnic attacks by Arab militias and the RSF in West Darfur, from which hundreds of thousands fled to Chad, with the continuation of rape, looting, and burning that affected more than 50 residential areas within the region. In El Geneina, the various attacks launched by Arab militias and the RSF against the non-Arab Masalit tribe which represents the largest population group in the city, have led tens of thousands to flee to Chad. According to the latest data announced in July 2023, more than 5,000 people were killed in El Geneina alone, and at least 8,000 others were injured in attacks launched by the RSF and their allied Arab militias during the period from April 24 to June 12, 2023.⁽³⁾

The escalation of bloody clashes between the Sudanese army and the RSF in some areas has left hundreds of dead bodies rotting in streets, without giving them proper burial and funerals have become almost impossible in Khartoum. Although no medical staff revealed the number of unburied corpses, many of the bodies of victims dumped in the streets of Khartoum spread and began to decompose, which has become a threat to public health and warns of the spread of epidemics in light of the power outages in hospitals, and the imminent decomposition of the bodies in Hospital morgues which made the conditions of morgues on the brink of collapse.

2. Right to Housing:

In light of the continued intense bombardment of the Sudanese army, coinciding with the launch of anti-aircraft fire by the RSF in Khartoum and several states in the Darfur region, the suffering of thousands of civilians who fled their homes due to artillery and aerial bombardment of their homes is increasing. These people rely only on the scarce food stuff they receive from relief organizations.

Statistical reports stated that approximately 3.8 million people have been internally displaced in the Sudan, including 1.9 million children, and an additional 1.7 million children have been forced to leave their homes.⁽⁴⁾ The number of those who crossed the borders to neighboring countries reached 968,000. Reports confirmed that more than 71 percent of the displaced came from Khartoum and that the River Nile state received the largest proportion of the internally displaced, amounting to 14%. Chad received the largest number of people crossing

to neighboring countries with a rate of (39%), followed by Egypt (29.5%) and South Sudan (21,6%).

3. Right to Health:

The health situation in the Sudan has deteriorated to a critical level, especially in light of the ongoing clashes between the Sudanese Army and the RSF. More than 42% of the population or about 20.3 million people in the Sudan face high levels of acute food insecurity between July and September 2023.⁽⁵⁾ More than 6.2 million people are one step away from famine. At least 690,000 children have been severely malnourished⁽⁶⁾, and 1.7 million children under one year of age are at risk of missing out on critical immunizations, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks. Between 15 May and 17 July, more than 300 deaths were reported, mostly among children under the age of five, due to measles and malnutrition.⁽⁷⁾

The clashes also affected hospitals, resulting in more than 70% of the Sudan's hospitals stopping service. Only about 30 hospitals out of 130 are still operating in Khartoum state amid complex conditions and great difficulties. As well as the chronic shortage of health workers, and attacks targeting staff. Between 15 April and 31 July, there were 53 attacks on the healthcare sector, causing 11 deaths and 38 injuries. There are at least 70 patients per doctor per day, which is higher than what is medically recommended, and is clear evidence of the overstretched services. Between 6 to 7 million citizens live in Khartoum state, and they need urgent medical services and humanitarian aid. In addition, more than 200,000 Sudanese citizens are at risk of death from chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and kidney failure due to a lack of medicines and medical staff.⁽⁸⁾

Recommendations

Elizka Relief Foundation submits the following recommendations to the independent expert on the Sudan appointed by the High Commissioner to end the tragic situation in the Sudan:

1. Elizka Relief Foundation urges the parties to the conflict in the Sudan to respect and protect humanitarian aid workers and medical teams by ensuring the security of humanitarian corridors and refraining from actions that may prejudice the work of humanitarian workers;
2. Elizka Relief Foundation condemns the ongoing human rights violations and risk of war crimes in the Sudan, calls for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire by the warring parties, and for talks to bring a definitive end to the current conflict;
3. Elizka Relief Foundation urges the international community and international actors to put pressure on the warring parties, including through the use of targeted sanctions to force the leaders of the warring parties to put an immediate end to the conflict;
4. Elizka Relief Foundation condemns the violations committed in Darfur that specifically target people based on their ethnicity, which mostly affects members of the Masalit ethnic group, and calls on the Sudanese government to put an end to human rights violations, possible war crimes, and humanitarian crimes taking place in the Sudan;
5. Elizka Relief Foundation welcomes the HRC's decision to strengthen the mandate of the designated Expert on the Sudan to include detailed monitoring and documentation of the human rights situation, including violations arising directly from the current conflict. In this context, Elizka Relief Foundation urges the designated Expert on the Sudan to pay particular attention to the situation in Darfur;
6. Elizka Relief Foundation calls on the parties to the conflict in the Sudan to return to the negotiating table to end the conflict and ensure that an inclusive settlement of the issue is reached.

- 1-Resolution on the serious deterioration of the human rights situation in the Republic of the Sudan as a result of the continuation of the war that broke out on 15 April 2023 - ACHPR/Res.563 (LXXVI) 2023, ACHPR, Aug 04, 2023, <http://bitly.ws/RMEs>
- 3- Wagner Support for RSF Leads to Carnage in Darfur, adf, July 5, 2023. <http://bitly.ws/RMMP>
- 4- Severe violations of children's rights an 'hourly occurrence' in the Sudan, warns UNICEF, UNICEF, July 24, 2023, <http://bitly.ws/Ru9f>
- 5- The Sudan Situation Report, 9 August 2023 [EN/AR], OCHA, 9 Aug 2023, <http://bitly.ws/RMS7>
- 7- Health conditions worsen as displacement from the Sudan conflict exceeds 4 million, UNHCR, 08 August 2023, <http://bitly.ws/RMXL>
- 8- The Sudan.. At least 18 die in attack in the Sudanese city of Omdurman, Th Guardian, Tue 25 Jul 2023.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/25/sudan-city-omdurman-attack>