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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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**HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRE THE COUNCIL'S
ATTENTION**

**Written statement* submitted by the African-American Society for Humanitarian
Aid and Development (ASHAD), a non-governmental organization on the Roster**

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

[25 August 2008]

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

Statement on the Human Rights Situation in Darfur

Excellences:

Chair, United Nations Council for Human Rights

Honourables and respectful participants

- The African- American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development (ASHAD) takes the opportunity to thank the international community for its significant continuous support to the people of Sudan. Its support to the people of Darfur in their current humanitarian situation is equally valued as inevitable for their recovery, maintenance of lives and rights. This stance dictates that we as a civil society organization to recognise this effort and commend it, giving it the full support required attaining the objectives justifying these interventions.
- ASHAD is privileged to be in a position to provide a nonpartisan opportunity to the monitoring of the HRs situation in the Sudan is well placed to get the advice needed to those whose actions may comprise the rights of others and violate it. This position is a true reflection and exercise of the organisation's principles and operating standards and therefore, ASHAD will remain determined to do everything possible to ensure that the HR situation in the Sudan gets the necessary attention from all those concerned; locally, regionally and internationally.
- The African-American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development is however deeply concerned that the prolonging and protraction of the conflict in Darfur has a direct negative implication of the peace process and aborts genuine attempts to stop that conflict. The international community's commitment to bring this turmoil to an end is no doubt commendable. Yet, we still observe that a number of setbacks are traceable; peace negotiations often get stalled, conflicting parties are still taking too long to come to negotiating tables, inappropriate signals from various circles make some parties refuse to yield to compromise. This is evidently the case when the recent release by the ICC Prosecutor ordering the extradition of the resident Al Bashier. Despite Moreno's intentions, this memo will further stiffen the positions of the conflicting parties and will work to further victims plight lengthen their stay in the current misery or may increase it further. We call upon all those concerned to use active strategies to encourage all concerned parties involved in the current conflict in Darfur (GoNU and Rebel Groups) to reach a speedy settlement to the conflict by all possible means.
- It is becoming evident that international community-brokered peace agreements are easy reach. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and the Eastern Sudan Agreement (ESA) are but a clear example. However, what is more concerning to a civil society organization like ASHAD is the financing of the reached agreements. It is not always true that these agreements do not withhold because the Government of National Unity breaches these agreements. Donor support to these agreements often lags behind, allowing for agreement collapsing. ASHAD urges the international community to continue to broker peace agreements in Sudan but also reminds the international community its honour pledged assistance and support.
- The Sudanese Civil Society is both capable and qualified and with the acceptance required to support and accelerate peace settlement processes should this society be involved at all levels. It is therefore highly recommended by Ashad that the International involves the Sudanese Civil Society in all processes tasked with settlement of the conflict. This ensures sustainability of any peace deal to be reached and representation.

- For over the last 5 years war victims in Darfur continue to live in camps with appalling living conditions and with ever decreasing aid standards due to ever drying funding sources. The UN World Food Programme continued to indicate its concern about adequacy of funds to support the people in and out side camps in Darfur. ASHADS would like to bring it to everyone's' attention that the international assistance is required for the people in the camps, as a humanitarian right but assistance to villages host to many non-camp dwellers is extremely important. It is no good to pretext that no support to villages outside camps is possible before full restoration of peace.
- ASHAD is also keen to request from the international community to more invest in the civil society in Sudan to play a greater role in monitoring of HR situations. This is an added valued solely enjoyed by the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that is available to government or parastatal institutions. We urge the International Community to reconsider its position towards this.
- ASHAD resents the fact that the rights of the children of Sudan are seriously violated by a number of actors party to the conflict. Use of children in wars as soldiers is a clear sign of the violation of children's rights and therefore we strongly call on all the warring partings to immediately refrain from using children as soldiers and should observe their child rights.

Thanks
