

Permanent Mission of
The Republic of the
SUDAN
To U.N. Office, Geneva

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



البعثة الدائمة
لجمهورية السودان
جنيف

Human Rights Council

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Statement of H.E. ABDEL DAIM ZUMRAWI

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of the Republic of the SUDAN

At the High Level Segment

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Please check against delivery

Mr. Chairperson,

Distinguished Delegates,

Many developments have taken place in my country since our meeting in the past year, as pertains to the earnest search for peace and stability. The Government of national unity expressed on many occasions its conviction that solution to the crisis in Darfur must needs be peaceful, invariably, and comprehensive, excluding none of the actors involved there, or of the issues under question. It is the reality of the Naivasha Agreement and its achievements relating to the sharing of power and wealth that attests to the feasibility of the solution indicated.

On the political level, the Government held meetings with the armed groups, sponsored by Libya, and encouraged the laudable exercise by the government of South Sudan to unify the negotiating positions of those groups. Similarly, dedicated pursuits succeeded in invigoration the Dakar understanding between the Government of the Sudan and Chad, leading to a resumption of the diplomatic ties. Furthermore, the Government sought to identify a unanimously agreed negotiating position, through the Initiative of the Citizens of the Sudan. All of the political actors, either in the Government or in the opposition participated, alongside the social and tribal leaders and representative structures and organizations of the women in Darfur. The initiative tackled and concluded positions on the issues of power and wealth sharing, justice and mending of the social fabric.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Doha negotiations affirmed the good intention of the Government and the justice and Equality movement. The two sides fell short of adopting a framework agreement that includes cessation of hostilities, but the negotiations brought the movement to dialogue with the Government for the first time. Another step forward in the negotiations was setting of a timeframe for their continuation, and the announcement of the two sides that they were engaged in dialogue without desire to exclude others from it. In witness to genuine wish for peace, forty-seven prisoners were exchanged, twenty-four belonging to the army and the remainder to the movement.

Key facilitators and supporters of the Doha negotiations included the State of Qatar, which put in a commendable effort, the United Nations mediator, Mr. Djibril Bassouli, the African Union and the Arab League. The African Union promised in a statement by its current chairman H.E. Col. Qaddafi to continue to treat the crisis in Darfur as priority. And as countries and organizations in the region are engaged presently in assisting the solution of the crisis, we feel it pertinent to call on such parties as the new administration in the United States, the European Union and the OIC to increase their contribution to the peaceful solution, especially by applying pressure on all of the armed groups.

Mr. Chairperson,

My Government noted the statement by the tripartite mechanism that contained expression of its satisfaction at the level of cooperation by the Government and its facilitation of the task of the foreign troops. Instances that can be cited here include the replacement of the police officers protecting the Kalma Camp for displaced persons by the afore-mentioned troops, and protection of the logistical convoys of UNAMID, and the conclusion of an agreement for the nightly use of airports and the recent cooperation that ensured the safety of civilians during the attack on Muhajreia. In this connection, the Government appreciates the contribution of China of engineers and medical doctors to the hybrid force, and its assistance to the infra-structures of services in Darfur, particularly water project. The Government also expresses its appreciation for participation of troops from Indonesia, Thailand and Ethiopia in the hybrid force.

Mr. Chairperson,

This august council may be aware that the Minister of justice in the Sudan appointed a special prosecutor to investigate the major cases cited in the reports of the national and international commissions of enquiry. The prosecutor commenced his mandate by looking into the Deleij case, collecting forensic and deductive evidence, exhuming bodies of the victims and interrogating the persons involved. Interrogation of fifteen witnesses resulted in charging twenty eight suspects, Mr. Ali Kosheib is one. The charges fall under articles dealing with criminal collaboration, murder, pillage and kidnap in the Sudanese penal code.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Government legislated the registration of political parties, to pave the way to democratic transition that is prescribed by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The law recognized political pluralism and the freedom to organize political parties, and a council was instituted to aid the constructive functioning of these. A reputable lawyer of Darfur chairs this council now. In addition, the Government passed the elections law, which instates the peaceful devolution of power and assigns a representation of 25% for women. Furthermore, an election commission was set up following wide consultations with the political parties. The commission is composed of independent persons and the prominent lawyer of South Sudan Mr. Abel Alier chairs it.

In its turn, the parliament passed a bill on a commission on human rights, and those amendments that incorporate in the national legal instruments that deal with war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. On another level, a new bill on the press is now tabled before the house. It limits the administrative closure of newspapers and establishes the council regulating the press of members the majority of whom will be elected democratically. Another law before parliament is on the child. It ends the equivocality of the definition of child in the previous laws. In the law, a child is a person less than eighteen years of age, and the discretion age is raised to twelve instead of seven. The law prohibits, inter alia, the conscription of children and their employment in military activities and prostitution.

Bureaus of special prosecutors have been created with some being located in Darfur. Relative to the matter, also, the Government released a hundred children who took part in the attack against Omdurman and the courts excluded from their procedures those suspected to be under age. Eight have thus been pardoned and their names given to UNMIS and the special rapporteur. The governing two political partners are presently engaged in tabling two bills before the Parliament by June 2009, namely national Security bill and the referendum bill.

Mr. Chairperson,

Cooperation by the Government with the UNAMID and UNMIS continues. Of the activities thereto, two symposiums on human rights were organized in Darfur, with the understanding that these meetings serve as a permanent mechanism for the exchange of information. This procedure proved useful, as in the case of handling the lists of the persons involved in the attack on Omdurman and the following up of the situation in Darfur.

Besides, the Consultative Council on Human Rights is collaborating currently with the two indicated missions in the implementation of a capacity building programme that is funded by the Swiss Government.

Mr. Chairperson,

Distinguished Delegates,

Considering that the economic development of Darfur, especially of the infra structures, addresses directly and adequately the root causes of the crisis, the Government allocated USD 650 million to carry out a comprehensive plan for roads. As relates to health services, the central hospitals in Elfashir, Nyala and Jeneina have been rehabilitated and a new one specializing in the treatment of fistula has been built. Other ongoing activities comprise an national campaign against polio, the sinking of wells and installation of water pumps in different parts of the area and the construction of schools. Three universities operate now in Darfur, in addition to the admission of students from Darfur free of charge to all of the universities in the Sudan, as the Abuja Agreement stipulates.