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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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and Protection of Human Rights
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**PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION: PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND
PROTECTION OF MINORITIES.**

**Written statement* submitted by Society for Threatened Peoples, 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.

[2nd July 2004]

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

No protection for civilian population in Darfur (Western Sudan)

Darfur in Western Sudan continues to be insecure and a place of conflict although all warring factions have agreed on April 8, 2004 to a temporary cease-fire. Tens of thousands of civilians of Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups, who have lived in Darfur for generations, have been systematically killed, raped and displaced as their villages are destroyed. The Government of Sudan is ultimately responsible for the displacement of more than one million civilians and the burning of several hundred villages, killing of civilians, widespread boting, rape und ethnic cleansing. Government supported Janjaweed militias helped at every stage by the Sudanese army and air force have been responsible for the systematic destruction of livelihood of ethnic minorities in Darfur. Several times Government troops attacked villages alongside the Janjaweed and the Sudanese Airforce has provided aerial surveillance before and after attacks and has been bombing villages just before the militias attacked, suggesting that these attacks were coordinated. The links between the Sudanese security forces and the Janjaweed are incontrovertible. Militia forces have been seen wearing uniforms of the Sudanese army. Despite having the duty to take all necessary measures to protect the rights of the civilian population and to allow free and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance access the Government of Sudan has been hindering access of international aid workers, medical supplies, vehicles and food to the crisis area. In numerous public statements Government of Sudan denied its responsibility for the massive human rights violations and the humanitarian disaster which has been described by UN experts for humanitarian relief as one of the worst humanitarian and human rights crisis in the world.

Despite the announcement of Sudanese President Omar al Bashir to disarm and disband the militias on June 19, the Janjaweed have been continuing to attack civilians and terrorising Internally Displaced Persons. After surviving massacres carried out by pro-government militias on their villages, displaced civilians in Darfur had to endure violent attacks and rapes in immediate proximity of their refugee camps. Men have been risking to be killed if they leave, and women have been beaten and raped looking for food and other essential items outside their camps.

Society for Threatened Peoples calls on the Sub-Commission to urge the Government of Sudan to immediately ensure the protection of all civilians in Darfur. Furthermore the Sub-Commission should call upon the U.N. Security Council to establish an International Commission of Experts to collect testimonies of victims of crimes against humanity, war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law and to document the co-responsibility of the Sudanese authorities and to identify the identity of perpetrators of massive human rights violations.
