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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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**PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL,
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING
THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

**Written statement* submitted by the International Federation of Human Rights
Leagues (FIDH), a non-governmental organization in special consultative**

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

[30 November 2007]

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

The Human Rights situation in Sudan

Taking note of the decision of the Human Rights Council to review during the second part of its 6th session the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Sudan, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and its partner organisation the Sudan Organisation against Torture (SOAT) express their concern over the human rights situation in Sudan and urge the Human Rights Council to maintain and support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Sudan established by the Commission on Human Rights according to resolution 2005/82.

The Special Rapporteur fulfils a vital role in monitoring the human rights situation across the whole of Sudan. While Darfur remains the major pressing issue, the FIDH and SOAT welcome the SR's attention to the slow implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which put an end to two decades of war between the North and the South and the National Interim Constitution subsequently adopted.

A successful implementation of the CPA and INC is crucial for Sudan's democratisation process, tackling the root causes of its conflicts, protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and reaching a lasting peace throughout the country.

As noted by the SR, the legislative reform is worryingly behind schedule and laws which seriously violate the Constitution and international human rights standards are still in use, including the National Security Act. Under the latter arbitrary arrests and detentions are carried out and interference with freedom of expression and human rights defenders activities is justified. During the month of August a number of journals have been confiscated, prevented from going to print and articles have been censored. Sudanese authorities have prevented any public discussion and imposed a ban on media reporting on issues such as the International Criminal Court and the arrest warrants for two suspected war criminals, the Kajbar incidents and the arrests and arbitrary detention of political opponents in July 2007. Activists campaigning against the building of the Kajbar dam in the Nubian region have been the object of a waive of arrests and arbitrary detentions and a peaceful demonstration was quashed by security forces through excessive use of force which resulted in the death of four persons and many others injured. Cases have been reported in which detainees have been held incommunicado for long periods of time placing them at risk of ill-treatment. More recently a number of human rights defenders in Khartoum have been repeatedly summoned and questioned by the National Security Services in relation to their activities, administrative and financial matters.

The SR both as a member of the UN group of experts on Darfur and in her capacity as SR on Sudan has also devoted attention to the conflict in Darfur which remains a region where gross violations of human rights are perpetrated, mass internal displacement continues and where insecurity reigns affecting the whole neighbouring region.

The mandate of the SR is vital in supporting the Government of Sudan in meeting its obligations under the Interim National Constitution and international human rights standards; it also fulfils a crucial function of monitoring the human rights situations in Sudan which cannot be compartmentalised. Peace in Darfur and elsewhere can be reached only if the wider country can benefit from a solid and effective implementation of the

Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the accompanying National Interim Constitution with its guarantees for fundamental human rights and liberties.

FIDH call on the Human Rights Council:

- To maintain and support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Sudan
- To call on the Government of Sudan to:
 - Continue cooperating with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur
 - Cease harassment and arbitrary detentions of journalists and human rights defenders, remove restrictions on local media
 - Respect its constitutional and international human right obligations
 - Speed up the harmonization of its laws in line with the Interim National Constitution including the National Security Act
 - Cooperate with the international community to end the conflict in Darfur including facilitating a speedy deployment of the hybrid UN/AU force and ensure accountability for the crimes perpetrated in Darfur
