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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 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.

[24 August 2012]

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

The situation of the freedom of journalism and expression in the Sudan**

Despite the repeated declaration made by Sudanese Government emphasizing its willingness to protect the freedom of expression specially the press and journalism, but the freedom of expression in Sudan this year has seen a substantial decline ever seen before.

Sudan Government has made strong commitments before International Human Rights Council ,as well as, the universal periodic review mechanism of the High Commissioner for human rights in regard to the freedom of journalism and expression in Sudan ,but it seems clearly that these promises and commitments has not been fulfilled.

African American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development (ASHAD), in collaboration with Sudanese International Alliance for Human Rights (SIAHR), a coalition of a number of Sudanese non-governmental voluntary organizations are watching with high concern the decline of freedom of expression, journalism and press in Sudan.

Sudan government has made many egregious violations against journalists i.e. seizures of newspaper presses, stop newspaper publication without legal justification, arrest of Sudanese journalists and prevent them from writing on the grounds of political affiliation, confiscation of newspaper , press blocking dissenting political views, threatening editors in chief and subjected them to lengthy security investigations , as well as, other patterns of violations endangering the freedom of the press.

African American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development (ASHAD), Sudanese International Alliance for Human Rights (SIAHR), Nuba Mountains NGO Network (Nuba Net), National Network of Sudanese Organizations (SHUMOS), Sudanese Forum for Peace and Human Rights (SFPHR)...the above mentioned entities while strongly condemns Sudanese Government violations of freedom of expression manifested in arbitrary actions and putting Sudanese journalists to arrests, shutting down newspapers called upon the Sudanese Government to honour its commitments to the National and international community to pay special care and protection of freedom of the expression , respect for the right of Sudanese journalists in the exercise of the profession without fear of harassment. (ASHAD) and (SIAHR) also urges the Sudanese Government to stop all forms of restrictions on press freedom allowing the publication of newspapers in accordance with the Charter of the international freedom of expression and the press and publishing and other International laws guaranteeing fundamental human rights.

(ASHAD) and (SIAHR) also has joined activists and Sudanese journalists ' Union network of journalists and journalists of Democrats and other press freedom advocates demanding amendment of the press and Publications Act of its defective materials as well as amending the national security law, which empowers the Sudanese authorities for infringement of freedom of the press and human rights violations.

(ASHAD) and (SIAHR) while enumerating the flagrant violations against newspapers and journalists appealed to the Human Rights Council to give utmost attention to the situation of freedom of the press and expression in the Sudan, inter alia, call to establish an International committee of inquiry so as to conduct an independent investigation on these issues in order to know the extents of human rights violations in the field of civic rights.

** NGOs without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement: the Sudanese International Alliance for Human Rights (SIAHR), Nuba Mountains NGO Network (Nuba Net), National Network of Sudanese Organizations (SHUMOS), Sudanese Forum for Peace and Human Rights (SFPHR).

Such committee is also required to take concrete recommendations that help protect the freedom of expression and to ensure the exercise of human rights in the Sudan and freedom of expression as stipulated in international conventions and treaties governing the civil and political rights.
