Speaker: Mr. Osman HUMMAIDA

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and its partner organization in Sudan, the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies would like to restate their concerns, shared by many Sudanese, about the remaining obstacles to realizing fundamental rights and freedoms in Sudan.

Severe violations of human rights by state actors are a daily reality in Sudan. The success of the referendum, while an amazing feat, does not cancel out the suffering of persons in Darfur, South Kordofan, Khartoum and Blue Nile state. Although the Southern separation proceeded peacefully, the process has unleashed volatility in the three border areas traditionally contested by the north and south.

In the months since the referendum, fighting has broken out in the sensitive border areas of Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. The conflicts in these areas have resulted in massive human rights violations including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture, displacement and indiscriminate aerial bombardments leading to the deaths of unknown numbers of civilians. There is no resolution to these conflicts in sight. Agreements on Abyei and South Kordofan have been signed and then immediately denounced by the President of Sudan. This past week, the Chairman of the National Assembly in Sudan said that the National Assembly was calling on its government to continue its military campaign in Blue Nile state regardless of any talks. It is likely and should be expected that massive rights violations will continue in these areas until there are resolutions to these conflicts.

Violence and insecurity persist in Darfur. Many organizations, including the African Centre, have documented the horrific abuses committed against Zagahawa communities in North and South Darfur in December 2010 and the continued bombing of Jebel Marra leading to unknown numbers of casualties.

The government of Sudan must:
- lift the state of emergency in Darfur and Blue Nile
- come to a ceasefire
- negotiate a political resolution to the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile
- release all the political detainees, or charge them with internationally recognized crimes

I thank you.