

**IZZA PEACE FOUNDATION (IPF)
AFRICAN AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR HUMANITARIAN AID AND
DEVELOPMENT (ASHAD)
BRIDGES INTERNATIONAL (BI)**

**JOINT COALITION REPORT ON SUDAN
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
1st NOVEMBER 2010**

1. AGENCIES PROFILE:

1.1 Izza Peace Foundations (IPF):

(IPF): is based in Khartoum, Sudan and registered as a developmental Non-Governmental Organization (INGO). It was founded in 1995 in response to development and emergency in Sudan.

(IPF): implements long-term development programmes in 12 states, and particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas. **(IPF)** works in common cause with those on the margins of Sudanese society, who have been denied their rights, in order to understand, to challenge and to change these conditions. **(IPF)** programmes currently focus on four critical thematic areas, which cut across all our programmes:

- Creating conditions for peace building and resolving conflicts.
- Overcoming gender and other forms of discrimination.
- Improving livelihoods.
- Strengthening capacity building.

The organization objectives from that program is mainly to monitor human rights abuse and works to improve it through either direct intervention program or advocate and working with others in education and health as main human rights component.

1.2 AFRICAN AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR HUMANITARIAN AID AND DEVELOPMENT (ASHAD):

African-American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development (**ASHAD**) was established in late eighties of the last century in response to the unprecedented humanitarian, economic and natural disaster in Africa.

African American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development (**ASHAD**) is an ECOSOC member since 1990.

During the last decade (**ASHAD**) continued to contribute to peace building through conflict mediation, basic services delivery and poverty alleviation among the targeted communities in the war and drought affected areas.

The prime targets of (**ASHAD**) have been displaced and refugees populations. The main objective of (**ASHAD**) is to boost the African American relationship for the benefit of the needy and vulnerable population all over Africa.

(**ASHAD**) endeavors to create a harmonious working relationship with the International community and the United Nations system.

(**ASHAD**) is advocating the issue of human rights situation especially in conflict affected zones.

(**ASHAD**) used to participate in Regional and International conferences discussing human rights, social and sustainable development aiming to achieve empowerment, dignity, human rights and prosperity of humanity in the 21st century.

1.3 BRIDGES INTERNATIONAL (BI):

Bridges International (**BI**) is an International NGO having consultative status with (**ECOSOC**). (**BI**) is inspired by a philosophy that aims to foster channels of positive communication for the ultimate goal of brotherhood, friendship and collaboration among the people of the globe through motivation the spirit of religions.

(**BI**) is a people to-people popular diplomacy initiative applying the spirit of religions as a mechanism to bridge the divide between civilizations in different part of the world.

Defeating hatred, fear, bigotry, and militancy through comparative research is a critical component in seeking expanded “common ground”. This is accomplished through dialogues around the commonality of the humanity.

(**BI**) endeavors to ensure implementation of a wide spectrum of activities to enhance population and sustainable development, particularly consolidating culture of peace, empowerment of women and child welfare, Rehabilitation and development of the regions inflicted by manmade and natural disaster, war affected areas as well as rendering genuine humanitarian assistance for the needy specially IDPs and Refugees at the world wide scale.

2. MONITORING HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SUDAN:

2.1 Fulfilling their mandate IPF, ASHAD and BI monitor the progress achieved on human rights in Sudan. The government rectified the Sudan Transitional Constitution of 2005. The article 27-3 emphasized that all human rights basic principles should be implemented by law.

However, these constitutional laws need tremendous effort from the government of national unity, Civil Society Organizations to work hard to achieve in real life. The Capacity building of human resources, as well as institutional and legal framework reform for both official and independent NGOs working in the field of human rights are highly needed to enable these entities to perform better in the field of human rights, and to address and improve human rights status in Sudan.

2.2 IPF, ASHAD and BI noticed with greater concern that some important conventions and human rights treaties are not yet signed or ratified by Sudanese government, among these are the Conventions of Elimination of all Form of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Although IPF, ASHAD and BI have some reservations on (CEDAW), a position which is natural, but it goes without sayings that signing and adoption of (CEDAW) is considered as a prerequisite for fostering the human rights of women in many aspects. Having the rights of reservation to some articles which are not compatible with Sudanese ethics and principles we advice the Sudanese Government to engage in the process of signing and ratifying (CEDAW).

2.3 The National Parliaments in Sudan established the commission of human rights as one of the positive progress on handling human Rights issues 2008.

The issue was clearly mentioned on Mr. Mohamed Sandi the independent expert on Human Rights in Sudan on his report to the Human Rights Council 15session, Geneva 2010.

There is no doubt that the issue of establishment of National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is one of the greater aspirations of all activists in the field of human rights as well as all classes of the people in Sudan. The significance of the (NCHR) establishment stem from the fact that the (NCHR) will be the national mechanism entrusted with the care, promotion and protection of human rights in the Sudan, inter – alia, it will help to achieve human dignity which is the main target of the people of Sudan.

Sudanese NGOs and networks coalition for human right had shown clearly that they are highly interested in the formation of National Commission for Human Rights, praising the efforts made by various civil and political parties, National Assembly and civil society organizations in drafting the Law of National Commission for Human Rights, 2009.

In conclusion we emphasize that establishment and Activation of the commission was highly needed in order to do it is jobs effectively and efficiently.

2.4 IPF, ASHAD and BI observe and monitor the human rights situation of women in Sudan especially on the rural Ares. Despite national efforts conducted to implement millennium Development Goals (MDGs) pertaining health and education but still the phenomena of maternal mortality child mortality are still high and the same thing could be said about education of women and girl Childs.

In order to improve the status of women the right for education and the right for health should be guaranteed for all Sudanese citizens with particular emphasis for women and girls.

2.5 On 2010 the government for Sudan issued the Child Protection Law. We hail this positive development because it will avail the legal framework and good environment for child protection from child abuse. We came to notice that there is still great numbers of children have no access to good quality education, working as child labor and involved on arms conflict.

As far as child soldiers are concerned we need to mention that 89 children were involved on the Justice and equality movement attack on Omdurman 2008. All of them were freed upon request of the President of Sudan.

Emphasis should be made by all warring parties in different locations of Sudan to abandon and combat military conscription of children or abusing children by using them as child soldiers. DDR Commission in both South and North Sudan should be strengthened to help achieve these noble goals.

2.6 IPF, ASHAD and BI works among IDPs in Darfur State and monitor the situation since 2004. People living in IDPs camps suffer and lack an important and basic services e.g. good housing, enough potable water, schools for education, health facilities, enough food and human security. The IDPs were denied most of their rights and live on misery situation. The camps were facing recurrent fatal clashes between warring entities and factions e.g. Clashes took place at Kalma camp many times as follows:

- Clashes between the four and the Brgo tripe from one side and Zagawa tripe from another side, around 40 citizens were killed.
- Clashes between police force and the residence while policy force searching on arms resulting on deaths of many IPDs, 2008.
- Clashes between IPDs themselves, especially those who are supporting the negotiations at Doha and those who are rejecting that negotiation, resulting in Death of 31 members from two sides during 2010.
- The recent fighting in Tibra resulting in many deaths and casualties.

IPF, ASHAD and BI appeal for the different parts engaged in fighting in Darfur to cease fire and to engage in positive peaceful negotiations to restore peace stability human security rehabilitation and development throughout Darfur.

2.7 IPF, ASHAD and BI noticed that there are fewer National Sudanese NGOs working in that field of human rights, and those who are working are not capacitated properly to address human rights issues and challenges in an efficient and effective manner. IPF, ASHAD and BI suggest capacity building, participation and activation of the National NGOs to respond to human rights issues.

2.8 Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external genitalia or other injuries to the female genital organs for cultural or other reasons that are not medical necessities.

FGM/C reinforces the inequality suffered by girls and women and is a violation of universally recognized human rights – including the rights to bodily integrity and to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

The pain of the procedure is known to cause shock and long-lasting trauma, and severe bleeding and infection can lead to death. Girls who do not experience chronic pain, serious bleeding or blood poisoning after the procedure often suffer complications during pregnancy, experience great pain during sexual intercourse, and suffer other gynecological problems and traumas later in life.” Gynecological complications that result from FGM include fistula. Increased susceptibility to HIV infection is also an area of high concern.

Whilst Sudan has had a law since 1946 now banning the most severe form of FGM the law is clearly insufficient as it does not ban all forms of FGM, and as it has failed to prevent the tragic death of many Sudanese little girl who died after FGM operation. It has also failed to protect Sudanese girls and women at large, for an estimated large percentage of Sudanese women are subjected.

It worth mentioning that the Sudanese council of ministers issued a new law for child welfare which can be considered as positive legal frame work for protection of child human rights but a tremendous efforts needs to be conducted to abolish FGM in Sudan as many reports speaks about the magnitude of FGM phenomena in Sudan.

2.9 In August 2nd 2009, Murle fighters attacked the distant Akobo area in Jungle state. This Incident is one of the worst violent episodes that southern Sudan witnessed since the end of the civil war four years ago. The Murle fighters formed a siege around a fishing camp and shot fire at camp residents, then, they used their spears to take the lives of those who were injured. 185 victims (mostly women and children) lost their lives according to initial estimates.

(IPF, ASHAD and BI) were deeply saddened by this incident and are offering its sincere condolences to the families of the massacre victims in Southern Sudan.

It is a matter of a great concern that while the country is still recovering from a 22 years of civil war, a threat of a new and more fierce war within the South itself is renewed with an increasing targeting of women and children in the tribal clashes in southern Sudan, where no less than 1200 people were killed and Thousand others displaced.

While noting the UN reports which states that a large number of people died from the recent tribal clashes in Southern Sudan during that period, it is mandatory to emphasize that the right to live is one of the basic pillars on which international conventions on human rights are founded. Furthermore, safeguarding human life is one of the first teachings of the heavenly religions, especially Islam and Christianity. While we offer our condolences to the affected families we urge all parties to stop killing in southern Sudan a matter which cause about 2500 death in 2009.

The fact that these crimes against humanity were committed in the geographic area of southern Sudan should foster the effort to fulfil the Comprehensive Peace Accord of Southern Sudan achieving unity of the country in the upcoming referendum in the beginning of the year 2011 and realizing peaceful coexistence and human security within Southern Sudan and between the South and North Sudan.

2.10 Transitional justice remains one of the basic pillars of the peace process in Darfur. A fair national independent justice is requested to look to the potential violations of human rights in Darfur and to bring those who are responsible for the human miseries and crimes to the court.

The recent appointment of a high level committee headed by the under secretary of the ministry of Justice Dr. Abduldayem Zumrawi could play an essential role in achieving justice and peace in Darfur.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS:

(IPF, ASHAD and BI) would like to present the following recommendations regarding the Human Rights Situation in Sudan to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR):

3.1 THE RIGHTS FOR HEALTH AND EDUCATION:

In order to improve the status of women the right for education and the right for health should be guaranteed for all Sudanese citizens with particular emphasis for women and girls.

3.2 THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD:

The convention on the rights of the Child (CRC) should be given utmost priority for implementation in the context of the human rights conventions in Sudan.

Strengthen the National Council for Child welfare, and establishment of a special national mechanism for monitoring and promotion of the status of children so as to ensure better protection of the rights of the child in Sudan.

3.3 THE CHILD SOLDIERS:

Emphasis should be made by all warring parties in different locations of Sudan to abandon and combat military conscription of children or abusing children by using them as child soldiers. DDR Commission in both South and North Sudan should be strengthened to help achieve these noble goals.

3.4 BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR IDPs:

Quarantine the basic principles and essential services (Health .Education and Social Welfare) for IDPs throughout Sudan with particular emphasis on Darfur States.

3.5 HUMAN SECURITY AND PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF ARMED CONFLICTS:

IPF, ASHAD and BI appeal for the different parties engaged in fighting in Darfur to cease fire and to engage in positive peaceful negotiations to restore peace, stability, human security, rehabilitation and development throughout Darfur.

3.6 CEDAW:

Signing and adoption of (CEDAW) is considered as a prerequisite for fostering the human rights of women in many aspects. Having the rights of reservation to some articles which are not compatible with Sudanese ethics and principles we advice the Sudanese Government to engage in the process of signing and ratifying (CEDAW).

3.7 FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION:

- Bringing an End to Female Genital Mutilation in the Sudan.
- Do everything in your power to bring an end to the death and suffering of girls and women in Africa due to FGM.
- Urge all concerned parties to live up to these international obligations and genuine shariya jurisprudence in terms of FGM/C, as well as to ensure that adequate care and support is provided to girls and women who have undergone FGM.
- Demand a law specifically banning all forms of FGM in Sudan.
- Issue Information about protection against FGM/C at the birth of every girl and incorporated into school curricula.
- Focus on launching large scale community awareness programs, especially among influential communities leaders, where the practice is particularly prevalent, to mobilize support for the collective abandonment of FGM/C throughout Africa.
- Focusing on ensuring that the high-profile areas are aware of the FGM act and of the punishment for engaging in the practice.
- Appeal to support the Ministry of Social Security and the the national council for child welfare, and to augment both institution so as to accomplish the mission of child rights protection in Sudan.

- Launch a National campaign in collaboration with National NGOs and specialized UN agencies to abolish FGM/C in Sudan in specific and Africa in general.

3.8 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN SUDAN:

- Appeal to Mr. President, First Vice-President and Vice-President of the Republic of Sudan to speed up the formation of National Commission for Human Rights - which we feel is long overdue - in response to the requirements of constitutional and institutional construction, and the completion of the duty of democratic transformation and the promotion of human rights situation in the country.
- Expand the circle of consultation at the national level, during the preparatory process for the composition of the (NCHR) Office, with genuine and fair inclusion of civil society organizations, networks working in the field of human rights, as well as the ruling political parties and the opposition so as to ensure that the formation of (NCHR) Office will be independent, effective and compatible with aspirations of all concerned parties in the country.
- Take into account that (NCHR) is highly consistent with Paris principles and all other international standards and criteria adopted for good establishment of national committees for human rights.
- Compliance with internationally agreed standards, as well as commitments to the principles of partnership, transparency in the ongoing consultation in the preparatory periods in selection of (NCHR) members, an important prerequisite issue which will definitely facilitate NHRC's success in enforcing its mandate, as well as ensuring that its members are eligible to address their mandate in efficiency, courage and professionalism.
- Emphasis on the selection criteria enshrined in the law establishing the (NCHR) , in particular good representation of civil society and women in the formation of (NCHR),as well as, create an agreed upon mechanism for a fair and objective selection of candidates for NHRC's membership.
- Work to achieve a (NCHR) that can receive acceptance, respect and recognition at the national, regional and international levels through acceptable appointment procedures.
- Appeal the Human Rights Council (HRC), UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) especially Human Rights Office to extend further support and technical assistance to concerned authority in Sudan as well as the CSOs in the preparatory process of the formation of the Sudanese (NCHR), in that essence capacity building and training of National NGOs, Networks and Coalitions to help serve human rights challenges and maintain human dignity remains of utmost importance.
- In conclusion we emphasize that establishment and Activation of the commission was highly needed in order to do it is jobs effectively and efficiently.

3.9 COMBATING MASSACRES AND MAINTAINING SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN SOUTHERN SUDAN:

- (IPF, ASHAD and BI) as well as the Sudanese Forum for Peace and Human Rights (SFPHR) are requesting the Human Rights Council, Universal Periodic Review as well as the Government of National Unity in Sudan to adopt the following recommendations:
- Reaffirm Obligation to address the roots causes of inter tribal conflict and killing, namely the widespread tribal chauvinism, ignorance, and animosity among different tribes in this case, (Murle and Niweer), and among subgroups of the same tribe (Dinka) as we saw in the recent killings and abductions in Jungle.

- Calls upon all the concerned national official and voluntary bodies which are known for their efforts in this regard but which are not doing enough at the moment to the victims in the afflicted southern Sudan areas, to step up their efforts in assisting their victimized brothers in the afflicted areas by providing them with humanitarian and medical aids, treatments to the afflicted and the injured, in addition to solidarity with the victims' families.
- Request to allocate more funds and render genuine support for the Sudanese DDR in the north and southern Sudan in order to confront the widespread of small arms, and to achieve Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of the ex-combatant in Sudan.
- Pay special attention to the study of the increasingly spreading Xenophobia phenomena in southern and western Sudan and its damaging effects on peace and security of the whole country, they are demanding that southern Sudan government form an independent investigation committee, which active civil society human rights organizations representation, in order to find the facts in the mutual crimes and massacres between some southern Sudan tribes.
- Calling upon Southern Sudan government to hold a peace conference with the purpose of solving tribal conflicts, and to realize and encourage peaceful coexistence between the conflicting ethnic and tribal groups in southern Sudan.
- Emphasizing the importance of compensating the human losses incurred by making peace conferences and paying monetary compensations to the victims' families who are now willing and waiting to retaliate.
- Work hardly and swiftly to establish the Sudanese National Commission for Peace and Reconciliation, an important body which has been agreed upon and decided by both signatories to Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CAP) in Nevasha peace agreement.
- Keep unstinting efforts in coordination with Darfur Organizations Forum- Human Rights partners, and National Organizations Network in Nuba Mountains to solve and settle the conflict peacefully.

3.10 FULFILMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PEACE ACCORD AND MAINTAINANCE OF SUDAN UNITY:

Foster the effort to fulfil the Comprehensive Peace Accord of Southern Sudan achieving unity of the country in the upcoming referendum in the beginning of the year 2011, and TO realize peaceful coexistence and human security within Southern Sudan and between the South and North. of Sudan.

3.11 TRANZITIONAL JUSTICE IN DARFUR:

To speed the process of transitional justice addressing the potential human rights violations in Darfur.

3.12 STRENGTHENING AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF NNGOs:

The last but not least to ensure capacity building, effective participation and mobilization of the National NGOs to respond to human rights issues and challenges in Sudan. The technical assistance rendered by Sudan independent experts Mr. Mohamed Osman Shandi are highly needed in this respect.