

## **Human Rights in Sudan**

The Government of Sudan has taken positive steps towards putting an end to the armed conflicts in the country, which are the main factor affecting human rights. The government signed the Doha agreement for peace in Darfur on 2011; efforts are going on to achieve stability and development through the establishment of Darfur Regional Authority, furthermore financial pledges were made by the Government and donors during the Doha Donors Conference to support peace in Darfur.

As for the situation in South Kurdofan and Blue Nile States the Government of Sudan is exerting efforts to achieve stability in the two states. The Government accepted the tripartite agreement with the United Nation, African Union and the Arab league to deliver humanitarian aid to the needy in the two areas but unfortunately the rebel groups rejected that agreement.

### **Legal Aspects**

Regarding the legal steps taken to maintain human rights, the following steps were taken

- Establishment of the National Independent Commission on Human rights.
- Launching of the national Strategy for the promotion of human rights.
- Adoption of the law on prevention of human trafficking.
- A Law on child protection was issued in 2010.
- Establishment of a unit for combating violence against women together with the adoption of positive discrimination towards women. Moreover priority to benefit from presidential decrees of pardon is given to mothers imprisoned in cases other than those related to private right.
- Appointment of a General Prosecutor for Darfur issues.
- Establishment of special procuratorates for child and minor cases together with establishment of a special police for juvenile cases.
- Enrichment of school curriculums with all information that promote human rights in Sudan.

- Amendment of Sudanese laws to be compatible with the international criteria on human rights, together with adoption of international legislation related to human rights.

### **Cooperation with the Human Rights Mechanisms**

In the context of Sudan cooperation with the international community and human rights mechanisms the following was done:

(a) Sudan received the independent expert on human rights twice during the year.

(b) Sudan received the special rapporteur on the rights of internally displaced persons.

(c) Sudan received the UN assistant on humanitarian affairs.

(d) In the context of the periodical comprehensive mechanism, Sudan presented its national report on human rights on May 2011; moreover many of the accepted recommendations were implemented. Sudan also presented its bi-annual report on human rights during the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council.

### **Freedom of Expression**

Freedom of expression has been widened to cope with the concept of freedom and the requirements of maintaining Sudanese National security. The following facts indicates freedom of expression in Sudan.

- In Khartoum 52 daily newspapers are issued of which 24 are political newspapers.
- Ten TV channels are broadcasted in Sudan.
- 25 radio stations are broadcasted in Sudan in the medium and short waves.
- The competent Sudanese authorities are now revising press and publications law to optimize in order to cope with the international changes.