



CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

Human Rights Council 24th Session

Oral Intervention

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Item 10 - Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Sudan

Delivered by Paola Salwan Daher

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies welcomes the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Sudan, yet we remain deeply concerned by this Council's failure to respond appropriately and effectively to the severity of the widespread and ongoing violations to international human rights and humanitarian law in Sudan.

We particularly draw the Council's attention to the situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, where clashes continue and Sudanese forces and allied militias have reportedly carried out indiscriminate aerial and ground attacks on civilian-populated areas, resulting in large scale civilian casualties and mass displacement. Fighting has continued in Darfur as well, displacing hundreds of thousands more. In all of these areas, humanitarian aid is consistently prevented from reaching large numbers of the civilians who are direly affected by the conflict.

We are further worried by recent efforts by the Sudanese government – particularly through its National Intelligence and Security Services – to further restrict freedoms of expression, association, and assembly by censoring independent print and electronic media, restricting the work of civil society and shutting down a number of organizations, and using excessive and even lethal force to suppress public demonstrations. Those perceived as opponents of the government are frequently subjected to threats, harassment, arbitrary detention, ill-treatment, and torture. Such repression is particularly detrimental as the country prepares to adopt a new constitution and hold national elections.

We therefore call upon this Council to strongly condemn such violations in Sudan, to establish an independent investigation into violations committed in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile, and to urge the government of Sudan to allow unhindered access to these areas for humanitarian agencies. The Council should itself take action accordingly by renewing the special procedure mandate on Sudan for three years under Item 4 to monitor and report on the situation of human rights in the country.

Thank you, Mr. President.