



**30th Session of the
Human Rights Council
Item 10**

**ID with IE on the Sudan
29 September 2015
Delivered by Koffi Leon Kouame**

Thank you Mr. President,

CIVICUS welcomes the efforts of the Independent Expert (IE) to highlight the serious threats to fundamental freedoms, equality and justice in Sudan. We are very concerned that Sudan Officials appear not to have taken into account the deteriorating environment, where national security forces have arrested, sexually assaulted and arbitrarily detained dozens of opposition party members, human rights defenders, students and political activists in the run up, during and after the April 2015 election.

We express alarm on the continued conflicts in the country, particularly in Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, which have a very direct effect on the life of civilians.

CIVICUS is also very worried about the situation of **Civil Society, HRDs, activists and journalists** in Sudan. They face arrest and detention, are routinely and arbitrarily curtailed, and the press faces pre- and post-publication censorship. We are also deeply concerned about continued intimidation of civil society organizations by government security agents and about the government's closure of some CSOs.

CIVICUS urges the Council to remain seized of these issues and strengthen the Special Rapporteur's mandate to monitor and periodically report under item 4 on violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in all parts of Sudan.

We call on the Government of Sudan to urgently:

- 1- *Release* all **HRDs and youth activists**
- 2- *Cease* arbitrary curtailment of the activities of CSOs
- 3- *Ensure* that its security agents desist from arbitrary arrests and detentions
- 4- *Recognize* representatives of civil society organizations, women and youth group as formal participants in the proposed national dialogue to ensure maximum inclusiveness of all stakeholders and citizen participation

Thank you