



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Fourth Special Session, 12 December 2006

Written statement submitted by the Lutheran World Federation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

Title:
The Human Rights Situation in Darfur

Text:

The Lutheran World Federation welcomes the calling of this Special Session of the Human Rights Council, and particularly welcomes the broad cross-regional support the calling of this Special Session has received. This support appropriately demonstrates the mounting international concern for the tragic and deteriorating situation in Darfur.

The Lutheran World Federation makes this statement based on the practical experiences and insights of several partners present and active in Darfur.

The Lutheran World Federation first and foremost calls for respect and support for the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement. We and our partners are deeply concerned by the slow implementation of the Agreement, by the inadequate efforts to broaden its support base, and by the failure to secure new parties to the Agreement. The implementation of the DPA must be seen as an essential basis for improving the humanitarian and human rights situation on the ground. A much greater commitment to consultation and inclusiveness will be required in order to achieve improved support and implementation. The international community must make stronger efforts to bring together the non-signatories and assist them to find a unified position. In order for the process to be effective, the outstanding issues of compensation, disarmament and political representation will have to be addressed.

All parties, including non-signatories and signatories to DPA must recommit to the N'djamena ceasefire. Insecurity is the critical issue affecting Darfurian peoples lives and without the curtailment of violence, displaced people will not return to their homes. The Government of Sudan has the responsibility to protect all the people of Sudan and ensure their safety.



Civilian protection and peacekeeping must be viable and effective. Any peacekeeping operation, be it AU or UN, needs to have an adequate mandate, adequate number of troops and must be adequately funded.

We underline the evidence and information on the human rights and humanitarian situation in Darfur available from a range of UN and civil society sources. We challenge those who dispute this credible and consistent information to provide alternative credible evidence.

The Government of Sudan is failing to provide humanitarian agencies with the support it has agreed upon. It is failing to provide access to the areas where people are in need. It is essential that all humanitarian agencies have access to those people who are in need. Humanitarian organizations should be enabled and assisted to have free access and freedom of movement. We call on the Government of Sudan to respect the Memorandum of Understanding it signed with the UN where these principles were laid down and agreed upon. We are, moreover, deeply concerned by reports of obstruction and harassment of humanitarian workers and agencies, preventing them from providing relief and humanitarian assistance and operating effectively in Darfur.

We welcome the cooperation established by the Government of Sudan with the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan, and call on the Government of Sudan to intensify its cooperation with the Special Rapporteur and with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

We support the urgent dispatch of an impartial, independent, professional and expert human rights mission to Darfur to assess the human rights situation – as has been mandated by other recent Special Sessions of the Council – and to report back to the Human Rights Council expeditiously.