

AGENDA ITEM 10

FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF IN SUDAN

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ORGANISATION: JUBILEE CAMPAIGN

Thank you Mr President.

Jubilee Campaign together with Christian Solidarity Worldwide welcomes the Independent Expert's report and commends him on identifying challenges to the right to freedom of religion or belief in Sudan.

We remain concerned by the number of human rights violations that have occurred during the reporting period, especially the continued harassment of church leaders by the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS). Since December 2015 CSW has noted the arrests or detentions of at least 36 religious leaders and senior church members. Harassment of religious minorities is pervasive and constant.

We are gravely concerned about the case of Reverend Abduraheem, Reverend Shamal, Czech national Mr Jašek and Mr Abdumawla, who are on trial unjustly accused of at least seven crimes including waging war against the state and espionage, which carry the death penalty as the maximum sentence.

The National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) continues to restrict press freedom and use lethal force

to shut down protests. Human rights defenders continue to report arbitrary detentions, raids of workplaces, and confiscation of phones, computers and passports.

In the conflict areas of Blue Nile, South Kordofan, the oil rich Abyei area and Darfur – civilians continue to be targeted. In South Kordofan hospitals, schools, markets and homes have been attacked by the Sudan Armed Forces. In Darfur displaced people continue to experience violence from government-allied militia. The prevalence of sexual violence in war-torn regions is alarming.

The arrest and detention of members of an IDP delegation as a consequence of their meeting with the US Special Envoy for Sudan, the expulsion of humanitarian organisations and the effective removal of the head of the UN Humanitarian Coordination Office, are indicative of wider restrictions targeting humanitarian and human rights actors operating in Sudan.

The human rights situation has continued to deteriorate. We urge the Council to address this in a more comprehensive manner by adopting a strong, action-oriented resolution on Sudan which explicitly includes monitoring, verifying and reporting on human rights violations and the making of recommendations to the government of Sudan to address them.

Thank you Mr President.

