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**HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRES THE COUNCIL'S
ATTENTION**

**Written statement* submitted by International Federation for Human Rights
Leagues (FIDH), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[31 August 2007]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

The human rights situation in Darfur

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and its member organization, the Sudan Organization Against Torture (SOAT), have welcomed the adoption by the UN Security Council of Resolution 1769 to deploy a hybrid African Union-United Nations force to Darfur (UNAMID). This Resolution was of utmost importance considering the continuing deterioration of the human rights and security situation in Darfur, threatening stability, peace and security, not only in Sudan but also in the wider region, especially in eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic.

Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in Darfur are ongoing. The Government, in its fight against armed groups, has continued carrying out indiscriminate attacks, destruction, deaths and further displacement of civilian population. It has failed to disarm the *Janjaweed* militias, whose attacks carried out against armed groups and Sudanese villages continue with complete impunity.

Indeed, the Government has also failed to ensure accountability and to end impunity for crimes committed in Darfur and continues to refuse to collaborate with the International Criminal Court, despite UN Security Council Resolutions.

Despite the Government's establishment of the Special Criminal Court for the Events in Darfur, to date, most perpetrators have not been brought to justice and only low ranking soldiers have been prosecuted and command responsibility remains largely unaccounted for.

The spill over effect of the conflict in the neighboring countries is considerable. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates, in May 2007, the number of Sudanese refugees in Chad reached as high as 235,574.

A recent joint FIDH-SOAT fact-finding mission in Eastern Chad revealed the need to improve the security situation of refugees and internally displaced people in the region of Eastern Chad. The collected testimonies from newly-arrived Sudanese refugees in Chad attested that since 2006, further attacks along and across the Sudan-Chad border by *Janjaweed* have increased, neither the African Union forces nor Chadian army being able to provide effective protection. Besides, many humanitarian organisations highlighted the implications of the Darfur conflict on the situation of the 170,000 Chadian IDPs in Eastern Chad, whose humanitarian situation is extremely precarious due to the weak response of the Chadian authorities.

In view of the extreme insecurity of the civilian population in Darfur and in Eastern Chad, FIDH and SOAT call upon the Human Rights Council and the UN Group of Experts on Darfur

- To condemn the grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law committed with impunity in Darfur by the belligerents, especially the *Janjaweed* militias, backed by the Sudanese authorities, against the civil population, namely: summary executions, sexual violence, acts of torture and pillaging ;
- To condemn the violations of human rights and humanitarian law committed against the

Chadian civilian population, specifically those committed during raids by *Janjaweed* on the Chadian territory

- To condemn the absolute impunity of their authors;
- To urge the **Sudanese authorities**:
 - to fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court, notably by handing over to the Court the two suspects whose arrest warrants have been issued, and by giving the Prosecutor's Office unhindered and free access to Darfur to conduct their investigation;
 - to immediately disarm and disband the *Janjaweed* militias in Darfur;
 - to demonstrate its commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by fully cooperating with the UN Group of Experts charged with ensuring the effective follow up of UN human rights mechanisms' recommendations;
- To call the **United Nations Security Council** to adopt a resolution on the deployment of a UN-AU hybrid force in Chad and Central African Republic to guarantee the protection of the civilian population in refugee camps, IDP sites and villages.
