

Oral statement: Delibaya Nuba Women Development Organization

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People

Agenda Item: 11

Date: Tuesday 10th July

Speaker: Winnie Kodi

Nyi gwan Kweni, Nyi guro Nuba. My name is Winnie Kodi a OHCHR fellow from the Nuba Mountains in Sudan. Thank you for this opportunity.

The Bill of Rights is an agreement between the Sudanese people and our government. The government therefore has the primary responsibility to ensure the protection of its civilians, and must undertake effective measures to promote and respect the rule of law and protection of the human rights of its people and in this instance, for the people of the Nuba Mountains.

Mr. Chair, It has been 7 years since the beginning of the unrest in the Nuba Mountains and 7 years of reported human rights violations by state and non-state actors. It is also 7 years since I and many others have been able to freely visit or see our families because of restricted movement in the Nuba Mountains because of insecurity and fear.

The several reports by UN Independent Experts on the situation of Human rights in the Sudan highlighted the continuous human rights violations in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur. In the 2017 report of the UN Independent Expert, the Government of the Sudan and the international community were called upon to increase their assistance to the more than 400,000 internally displaced persons, and to work towards creating the conditions necessary for their return to their homeland. It further urged all parties to the conflict to respect international human rights and international humanitarian law and to facilitate access to the conflict affected areas for delivery of humanitarian assistance. On this note, Mr. Chair, we would like to applaud the ceasefire agreement between the parties that is still holding.

We however, still do not have free access and movement in and to the Nuba Mountains, which has delayed the resettlement of displaced persons, hindered humanitarian access assistance to the region and the most pressing health issue of vaccinations for children.

We therefore, Madam chair, would like to recommend a visit to be conducted by the Independent expert and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the Nuba Mountains to look into the human rights situation of the Nuba people and particularly the Nuba women and children who are the ones who are mostly affected by the conflict.

Who are the Nuba Peoples? We are the Peoples of the 99 hills of South Kordofan and we are here and we are still standing. Thank you.