

Cairo, July 1, 2014

Urgent Statement

Arab Coalition for Sudan condemns closure of Salmmah Women's Resource Center

Salmmah Women's Resource Center, was presented with a letter from Ministry of Justice, issuing an order – accordingly – for the cancellation of the registration license of the company and its immediate liquidation, as well as appointment of a five-person committee to oversee the Company's dissolution process.

Salmmah Women's Resource Center is registered as a non-profit Company in accordance with the Sudanese Companies Act of 1925, where many civil society organizations are obliged to register as companies that work for non-profit purposes, due to the harassment practiced by the Humanitarian Aid Commission of Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in granting registration for organizations to exercise their activities.

Whilst the Arab Coalition for Sudan (ACS) condemns the decision to cancel Salmmah Center license, it expresses its full solidarity with its administration, and emphasizes the significant role played by that Centre in documentation and conducting of researches related to women's issues and rights. Salmmah Center also has some periodicals, notably 'Bakkir' Magazine.

ACS deplores the arbitrary measures taken by Ministry of Justice; and regardless of the agency that issued that decision and its legality: it is completely affront violation to Sudan constitution of 2005, which stipulates the freedom of association, the right to establish organizations and trade unions. These actions comes now within a series of fierce attack carried out by the authorities to close and liquidate civil society organizations, which is independent and do not conform to the regime's policies, therefore, the regime harasses those organizations and tries to obstruct their activities and license renewals.

ACS also expresses its deep concern over the continuing phenomenon of closure and confiscation of headquarters of civil society organizations, the latest were the Sudanese Studies Centre and Al- Khatim Adlan Centre for Enlightenment and Human Development. Hence, ACS calls all civil society organizations and human rights activists to continue efforts to abrogate laws that conflicts with the Constitution and are used as a weapon against freedoms in general and civil society in particular.

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