

## **UN Human Rights Council**

**(4<sup>th</sup> Session, Geneva, 12<sup>th</sup> March - 5<sup>th</sup> April 2007)**

### **Oral Intervention by Abdelbagi Jibril on behalf of North South XXI**

#### **Report of the High Level Mission on Darfur**

Mr. President, Distinguished Members of the Council,

North South XXI welcomes the report of the High Level Mission on Darfur. We are pleased to note the HLM has placed protection of civilians in Darfur at the heart of its work. The report is yet another indicting document on the criminal practice of the government of Sudan and its allied militia groups better known as the Janjaweed that are fighting a proxy war on its behalf, alas against innocent civilians including women and children. It is regrettable that the government of Sudan (GoS) adamantly refused to cooperate with the HLM and used all pretexts to hamper its work. This is another futile attempt from the GoS to conceal the truth about what is actually taking place in Darfur. The shape of this Council is becoming ugly as some of its members made the point that they are concerned about questionable procedural matters rather than the lives of millions of helpless civilians in miserable IDP camps in Darfur or across international borders. Such attitude is reprehensible. The GoS should not be allowed to thumb up its nose at the world community in this insulting manner and be escorted free unpunished.

Mr. President,

Last January the 8<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union denied Sudan its ambition to ascend onto the chairmanship of the AU. This was the second time that Africa's top leaders refused Sudan's attempt to head the continental organisation on account of the serious crimes committed in Darfur. North South XXI believes that the international community needs no additional evidence of the massive violations of human rights an international humanitarian law committed in Darfur. The world has no more time before it acts to put an end to this impossible situation. In addition to fighting and aerial bombardment of civilian installation, we observed a coordinated government strategy to obstruct the work of relief organisations. This is especially alarming as it creates immense difficulties among the war-affected communities. Hunger and the lack of safe water, medicine and other life-saving necessities are now developing into massive silent killers in Darfur.

Mr. President,

We would like to draw attention of members of the Council to what amounts to an economic war waged by the GoS against the people of Darfur anywhere in the country. They are subjected to selective appropriation of material wealth by executive measures and also by well-coordinated robbery even inside major towns of the region. In "Al Ginena", capital of West Darfur State many incidents were reported in recent months where armed militia men attacked market places and selectively destroyed shops owned by members of certain tribes. This is why we recommend that the economic aspects of the crisis in Darfur need to be considered by the Council in its future consideration of the situation in Darfur.

Thank you Mr. President for your attention.