

DENMARK

Observer (5)

Dansk indlæg under Item 4 – landesituationer

HRC12, september 2009

Mr. President,

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Sweden on behalf of the EU and would like to make the following additional comments.

In Somalia civilians remain the greatest victims of the human rights and humanitarian situation in the country. It is essential to keep up the humanitarian assistance to the civilian population as well as to address more effectively the human rights abuses.

In Sudan impunity remains. The Government of Sudan and the Government of Southern Sudan must take action to investigate and prosecute all allegations of human rights violations.

The formation of the new transitional government in Zimbabwe has opened a welcome window for advancement of the political, civil and economic human rights that have been denied the Zimbabwean population for so long due to bad governance and misguided policies. However, the window will close if all parties do not comply fully with the power-sharing agreement – both in letter and in spirit. Denmark is very concerned about the continued infringement on the freedom of assembly and expression, the freedom from torture and politically motivated violence and detention, media freedom, and the respect for property rights. Denmark urges all state agencies in Zimbabwe to respect these fundamental human rights.

Mr. President,

The Danish Government condemns the Myanmar military regimes decision to sentence Aung San Suu Kyi to detention in house arrest for an offence, she did not commit. The verdict is a serious setback in the process towards democracy and national reconciliation. **Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners must be released immediately and without conditions.** Without the participation of national leaders including Aung San Suu Kyi in the transition to democracy – such as the planned elections in 2010; the stability, prosperity and respect for human rights that we all seek for Burma/Myanmar will not be achieved. **Let me confirm that Denmark remains committed to continue to strengthen the cooperation and engagement with the people of Myanmar** in close cooperation with Asian neighboring countries in support of democracy, economic prosperity and human rights in Myanmar.

Denmark urges the Government of Sri Lanka to fully respect all human rights - including for the internally displaced persons. Proper treatment of IDP's, rule of law, transparency, accountability, end of impunity, free media and an inclusive democratic political process are fundamentals for securing long term peace and development. Denmark continues to stand ready to support the Government of Sri Lanka in this endeavour.

With the Monsoon approaching, Denmark is especially worried for a worsened humanitarian situation for the quarter of a million IDP's in closed camps. There are no excuses for not opening the camps and give fellow citizens the freedom of movement. **The Government must grant IDP's safe and voluntary return to their**

homes or the possibility to stay elsewhere in their country, for example with relatives.

In Afghanistan intensified efforts are required from the incoming Government to ensure adherence to international human rights obligations. While commending steps already undertaken, Denmark – among other issues - remains concerned about the widespread discrimination against women throughout Afghanistan. We urge the Government to ensure that all national laws comply with all international obligations pertaining to women's rights. Noting with great concern recent violations of freedom of expression, **Denmark further calls on the Afghan government to ensure independence of the media free from intimidation and suppression.** Further, we urge Afghanistan to work in compliance with its international obligations to eliminate torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Finally, Denmark is deeply concerned about the human right situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Denmark is against all forms of discrimination and oppression on the basis of religious orientation and **We call on the Iranian authorities to respect and protect religious minorities such as the Baha'is.** Denmark further condemns the widespread use of death penalties and executions and the arbitrary arrests and maltreatment of prisoners. Denmark urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply with international commitments and conventions of human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.