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**SUDAN: UN RESOLUTION MUST BE BACKED UP WITH ACTION**

Following yesterday's resolution at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) condemning the Sudan government's human rights record, Amnesty International is calling on member states to back up the resolution by creating a human rights monitoring team.

Despite the decision taken a year ago by member states of the Commission to create a monitoring team to investigate human rights abuses in Sudan, the team has still not been set up. Further failure to implement this decision will seriously undermine the credibility of the UN's resolutions on Sudan, Amnesty International said.

"Over the last 12 months Amnesty International has documented hundreds of cases of extrajudicial executions, torture and arbitrary arrests in Sudan," the organization said. "Through their failure to create a monitoring team, member states are showing a lack of will to take effective action to combat continuing widespread abuses of human rights in Sudan."

"Furthermore, the announcement at the UNCHR of a proposed budget for the monitoring team of US\$200,000 is far too little to create an effective operation."

Amnesty International urged the UN not to backpedal on creating the monitoring team following the government's decision to renew cooperation with the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan. The scale of the human rights problem, especially in the rural areas of Sudan, requires a full-time monitoring team in addition to the work of the Special Rapporteur, the organization said.

"The government's decision to renew cooperation with the Special Rapporteur is a welcome development," Amnesty International said. "However, the government's refusal to allow a UN monitoring team to be based in the country sends a firm message about the reality of its commitment to human rights."

In the face of this refusal, the UN has proposed that monitors be deployed in neighbouring states where hundreds of thousands of Sudanese refugees now live. Despite the lack of access for monitors into the Sudan itself, Amnesty International called on the UN not to delay implementation of the monitoring team.

It is vital that the UN team is set up in a way which gives it credibility, Amnesty International said. It should be properly resourced and should issue regular public reports to the UNCHR on the human rights situation and on steps taken by the relevant Sudanese authorities in response to cases of abuse.

While it would be preferable for monitors to be inside the country, deploying them among refugee communities is an important step towards the ultimate goal of building respect for human rights in Sudan, the organization said.

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