

1. The criticism of the Government's policies by the journalist Shamael al-Nur in the newspaper *El Tayar* falls within the general context of news coverage in the Sudanese press by a number of writers and journalists, who address the Government's performance in terms of praise or criticism. It is in line with the customary practices and messages contained in the Sudanese press.
2. The response of some journalists or religious leaders to the column written by the journalist Shamael al-Nur did not exceed their right to exercise freedom of expression.
3. The journalist Shamael al-Nur filed a complaint with the Press and Publications Prosecution Office and with the Office of the Cybercrime Prosecutor. Criminal proceedings were instituted against the newspaper *Al-Sayha* in case No. 25/2017 – 16/2017, which was referred to a court for a ruling on the legal measures to be taken. Criminal proceedings were also instituted against the persons mentioned in the complaint, in which the said person expressed her fear of retaliation.
4. The requisite security measures were taken in the form a 24-hour police patrol to protect the person concerned. There has been no notification of an attack on the said person to date.
5. The Bill of Rights contained in the Sudanese Constitution of 2005 enshrines human rights principles. Article 27 (3) stipulates that: "All rights and freedoms enshrined in international human rights treaties, covenants and instruments ratified by the Republic of the Sudan shall constitute an integral part of this Bill." The Constitution guarantees freedom of expression and opinion in article 39, in accordance with article 19 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
6. Article 39 of the Sudanese Constitution of 2005 imposes the same conditions as article 19 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, namely that such rights shall be exercised without prejudice to order, safety or public morals. The media are required to abide by professional ethics, to refrain from inciting cultural hatred, to refrain from agitating for violence or war, and to refrain from any act that undermines respect for the rule of law and the maintenance of public security, safety and tranquillity.
7. It follows that the incidents that occurred between the journalist Shamael al-Nur and a number of religious leaders and journalists are currently before the courts and will be considered in line with the legal regulations in force, which guarantee all parties equal rights in filing charges and presenting a defence.
8. The reference to the President of the Republic in the urgent appeal is legally unjustified, since he has not had the remotest relationship with the subject matter of the appeal, and the Sudanese Government considers that the reference is inappropriate.
9. The Government of the Sudan calls on the Special Rapporteurs and the Independent Expert who participated in the urgent appeal to consult their Code of Conduct and subparagraph (g) of Council resolution 5.1, which requires such acts to be conducted in a non-duplicative, non-selective and non-politicized manner.

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