



Oral statement of the 32nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 4 Enhanced ID on South Sudan
22nd June 2016
Delivered by Andrzej Owca, CSSp

Mr. President,

VIVAT International welcomes the commitment and the efforts that have been already made by the government of South Sudan to the implementation and the protection of human rights, especially in regard to Human Rights Defenders.

VIVAT International remains concerned about any violation of human rights, the rights to which every human being is entitled by her/his nature. This is a powerful and the basic foundation which is an integral and inseparable part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The information coming from South Sudan, especially in recent times, is of deep concern and they cannot pass without any reaction. Children, women and men are living with insecurity. They are being killed and enforced to abandon their homes and live in sub-standard conditions. This is the situation faced by the population of South Sudan and of the Human Rights Defenders who are providing resources and offering their lives for others.

In recent years many humanitarian organizations have left South Sudan, however, VIVAT International still remains there on the front line. We express our deep concern about the killing of one of our members, Veronika Theresia Rackova, a Slovakian Catholic nun who was allegedly attacked by an armed group on 15th Mai 2016.

Therefore, we recommend that the government of South Sudan:

1. investigate, in a prompt, effective, and independent manner, complaints and allegations regarding threats and human rights violations perpetrated against human rights defenders, including the case of Veronika Theresia Rackova, and bring the perpetrators to justice so as to ensure that impunity for such acts is eliminated in compliance with the HRC Resolution 13/13 no. 12;
2. fully support the role of human rights defenders in situations of armed conflict and provide them, with the protection due to all civilians in such situations in compliance with the HRC Resolution 13/13.

Thank you Mr. President