



Working Session 8: Freedom of assembly and association Friday 27 September 2013

My first time here in OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting was on 2011 after we registered our organization Set My People Free in Sweden

I was very impressed by the concern and commitment of OSCE to Human Rights and Democratic values. Also I am very thankful that we have this platform in Europe to be able to bring our concerns as NGOs. What you are doing here is very crucial and affects the lives of many people not only in Europe but Around the world.

I am also thankful that in spite of the economical crisis you have, you were not diverted from your concerns and commitment for better world and humanity. You did not remain isolated in your own cocoon but continued to be concerned for others your brothers and sisters in humanity.

You are in this position chosen by your constituency to make Europe a Better place. To be a better place Human Rights is crucial and we need to have freedom, equality, and justice. As Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, in his address to the meeting, stressed that such universal human rights are also vital to broader security. "Respect for and promotion of democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are cornerstones of stability and security in Europe and beyond," Prokopchuk said. "The broad concept of comprehensive security would remain hollow without the promotion and protection of human rights as its essential elements."

Your hard work here on these areas will have effect on many lives around the world:

Think of Wilberforce and his work to abolish slave trade working through the British Parliament and the impact his work had on millions of Africans lives.

Or Dag Hammarskjöld, the general secretary of the UN, who gave his life in Congo and the impact he had on Africa, the UN and the world.

Since then different individuals, organizations and countries from the west have impacted the lives of many. As you celebrate your 20 anniversary, please continue to persevere for the implementation for Human Rights, Freedom, Equality and Justice. Your efforts here make the difference in the lives of many.

As we are talking about the freedom of assembly and association I want to bring to your attention the atrocities which are committed by the regime of Omer al-Bashir against peaceful protesters in Sudan. Over 182 were killed in the last 4 days and very close to 1000 wounded. As we are having our meetings here I got news from North Sudan from the people pleading for help.

Since 2009, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for President Omar al-Bashir accusing him of committing crimes against humanity and war crimes and now we are in 2014 and he is still continuing in his atrocities against his own people in DarFur where over 300,000 were killed and most of the Fur people are displaced. Sudanese forces continue to attack civilians in the Nuba Mountains and the Blue Nile region by land and aerial bombardment over 1.5 million people are displaced.

We need your help in Sudan. We have not experienced the same interest from EU as you had in Turkey and Egypt. We had no visits from Lady Ashton and there is no media attention or any pressure applied from outside.

"The victims [of the Holocaust] perished not only because of the killers, but also because of the apathy of the bystanders. What astonished us after the torment, after the tempest, was not that so many killers killed so many victims, but that so few cared about us at all."

— Elie Wiesel

Kamal Fahmi

Director

Set My People Free

www.freedom2worship.org