

Rifaat O Makkawi, Sudan

Speaker Round Table Minors & Death Penalty

He holds a LLM (Master of Laws) in International Human Rights Law, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, UK, (1995 – 1996), and a LLB University of Cairo –Khartoum (1984 -1988); and qualified the Sudanese Bar Association examination (1988 – 1989).

He is currently a Lawyer in Khartoum from 1999, and Director of People's Legal Aid Centre (PLACE) From June 1998. The vision of PLACE is to improve access to justice for displaced women and children and to contribute towards bringing the Sudanese legal system in line with international human rights standards. As well as providing legal aid, in initiatives to bring Sudanese law in line with international standards, PLACE has brought cases through the legal system including the Constitutional Court and worked with governmental committees such as the National Council on Child Welfare (NCCW), the Legislation Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Legal Aid Acts as well as the Committee on the rights of prisoners.

He has provided consultancy with UNICEF Libya on mapping and analysis of child protection related legislation and policy frameworks in Libya from Nov 2012 to March 2013; consultancy on behalf of UNDP from Feb 2011 to March 2011 to support Juvenile Justice in Syria; consultancy with UNODC to conduct a Survey of legal Aid in North Africa from June 2010 to Sept 2010; advisor to UNICEF from June 2005 to 2009, on the legal protection work being carried out by its Child Protection section. Carried out research and advocacy work on the areas Juvenile Justice, Child Soldiers, Sexual Discrimination and Abandoned Children. Asked by the National Commission for Children Welfare to join a committee set up to review current juvenile legislation in Sudan and was a member of the sub-committee drafting the new Child Protection Act, which was finally passed as Child Act 2010; consultancy on behalf of UNMIS from Nov 2007 to May 2008 to train Police officers on Human Rights and to draft a ToT manual on Human Rights and Policing in northern Sudan, which has since been incorporated in the police training curriculum; consultant with Penal Reform International (PRI) from Jan 2006 to Dec 2008 to train prison officers on Human Rights in Prisons and to draft (with Hans Wahl) a ToT manual on Human Rights in Prisons, which now is used by the Police University as part of their main curriculum; Consultancy on behalf of Ford Foundation April to June 2007 to assess the legal aid situation in Darfur and make recommendations for support & development; assessment of the Condition of the Prisons in Transitional areas (Kassala, Kadugli and Damazine) for PRI and UNDP in August 2006; consultant with UNICEF from Jan to April 2007 to train law students, lawyers, prosecutors and judges on Human Rights of people living with HIV/Aids and to draft a ToT manual on protection of people living with HIV/Aids; Consultant with UNICEF from

June to December 2006 to review the draft legislation on The Prevention and protection of the Rights of Persons Living with HIV/Aids for UNICEF and Sudanese National Aids Program; trained members of the police, the Judiciary, NGO staff, members of the security service, Army officers, other government personnel and community leaders in Khartoum, Malakal, Wau, Nyala, El Fasher, El Geneina, Kassala and Wad Medani on human rights and humanitarian law for IRC, UNICEF, UNDP Rule of Law Programme, Trocaire and other NGOs from 2001 to date; Human Rights Advisor to the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Somaliland from Jan to April 2000. I was contracted by SCF (US) and Radda Barna (Sweden) to carry out this assignment, which included drafting a Juvenile legislation; preparing a report on juvenile justice administration and making recommendations for future interventions.

Some examples of research papers & articles written and presented include:

- Children's Rights In Libya: Assessing Compliance of Domestic Legislation with International Human Rights Standards on Feb 2013.
- Criminal Responsibility in the Children's Bill compared with the four schools of Islamic law: a paper presented to the members of the Islamic Fiqh Academy on Jan 2008
- Review of the Sudanese legislation related to the protection of children from Violence, exploitation, abuse, and deprivation of family environment. Research carried out for UNICEF from Feb to May 2005
- Juvenile Justice system in Sudan: consistency with International Human Rights Law. Research carried out for UNICEF Jan to Apr 2004
- Comments on the Child Rights Bill draft July 2003. This research work was adopted by national and international NGOs in Sudan as their response towards this draft Bill
- National Institution for Human Rights. A series of articles in El Ray Alaam written between 2004 –2006 to support the idea of setting up National Human Rights Commission.
- The role of State Assemblies in implementing CRC. Carried out on behalf of Plan Sudan in relation to their work in Kordofan & White Nile Provinces
- Flogging as a legal punishment in national and international law. A comparative study first prepared as part of the LLM course. Later used for training of Judiciary at various times
- Right to a Fair Trial under Islamic Law. LLM Dissertation (University of Essex) 1996

He speaks Arabic (Mother tongue) and English (fluent spoken & written)