EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT

By:

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LIST OF ACRYNOMS

ACHPR: African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights
CSO: Civil Society Organization
IDPs: Internally Displaced Persons
INGO: International Non-Governmental Organization
HR: Human Rights
NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
POL: Public Order Law
POC: Public Order Court
POP: Public Order Police
POR: Public Order Regime
SIHA: Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa
WHRD: Women Human Rights Defenders
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With support from Europe Aid, SIHA launched and implemented project titled Towards Restoring the Human Rights of Women Detainees and Prisoners in Sudan. It started on 20 December 2015 and ended 20 September 2017. The project is a response to a very disturbing situation of rights of women detainees and prisoners in Sudan as a result of the implementation of the Public Order Regime (POR). These powerless women continue to be subjected to different types and levels of abuses, exploitations, and legal discriminations. Based on the project aim and specific objectives, targets, and anticipated results, SIHA carried a set of activities in four components: research, advocacy, capacity building, and legal aid support aiming at redressing the repercussions of the POR. The following are summary of the key achievements and their results:

The project started with conducting baseline assessment followed by research. At least 1000 copies of the research report were disseminated to and used by universities in Sudan, human rights groups locally, regionally and internationally and Civil society organizations (CSOs). This number represents at 100% achievement of the anticipated result. At least 20 advocacy and/or HR-oriented entities were briefed on the findings of the research and gain increased capacity to advocate on behalf on the rights of women detainees and prisoners. This is a 100% achievement of the anticipated result.

SIHA identified and trained at least 33 lawyers to represent women imprisoned under the POR and Sudan Criminal Act while contracted individual lawyers from Awn Legal Aid Center to provide representation, along with SIHA’s Legal Officer; it strengthened capacities of at least 9 counselors/psychologists from various institutions were strengthened with abilities to support women detainees and respond to those incarcerated under POR or who are vulnerable to detention. Moreover, SIHA trained 40 community mediators on the provision of community mediation and casework, to enable them to intervene early in cases that infringe upon women’s rights and freedoms. These target numbers represent more than 100% of the anticipated results.

Through establishing working relationship with authorities, at least 20 members of Sudan Internal Affairs, Omdurman prison administration and judiciary are sensitized by SIHA to the rights of women detainees and understood their need for improved protection under the POR. More than 290^1^ women at-risk of detention under the POR have gained understanding on women’s rights under POR and Sudanese law and equipped with practical skills to avoid arrest, as well as to invoke their rights in the event of arrest and detainment. This achievement represents 290% of the anticipated result. 250 women have an improved understanding about their rights under POR and Sudanese law and have skills to tackle or improve their detainments; and a least 20 imprisoned women saw their legal case progress and improve as a result of their access to legal representation provided for by SIHA, and the two figures represent 100% of the anticipated results. Moreover, SIHA provided medical, social, psychological and material supports for at least 106 women; as well as providing 85 hygiene packages (soap, tampons, underwear, tooth brushes, paste, diabetic sweetener, and some nutrition materials), and kids packages (milk, soap, nutrition).

In aggregate, the four components and their activities were effectively implemented; the targets were met; and the anticipated results were highly achieved with remarkable performance, particularly in the case of direct beneficiaries, i.e., the women detainees and prisoners. Moreover,

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*^1^*Between April and June 2016, SIHA has coordinated 6 outreach activities and reached more than 270 women at-risk of detention under the POR, including women alcohol brewers and sellers, tea and food vendors, sex workers, and internally displaced women (IDPs) belonging to religious and ethnic minorities and residing in areas frequently targeted for POR police raids. And August 2017, In August 2017 SIHA conducted an outreach activity and awareness-raising session for 20 women in Al ‘Ezba in Khartoum North (SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 7.*
the project managed to train and link together several entities working in support of the women detainees and prisoners including lawyers, human rights defenders, paralegal activists, and community leaders, women associations including tea and food makers and sellers.

Though the nature of the project is quite sensitive and could be viewed as challenging the State authorities, SIHA was very successful in implementing the project essentially because of a number of enabling factors including but not limited to the following: First, based on its accumulated experiences, SIHA took extra precautions in the approach to advocacy engagements. Second, it relied on its trust worthy networks established during the previous projects and activities. Third, it requested from some of its international partners, including the European Commission, not to publicize its works, actions and some publications. Working with low profile was a key factor for this impressive achievements and results.
PROJECT BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The situation of Sudanese women’s human rights and status in Sudan is - socially, economically, legally and politically - very disturbing by all standards. They continue to be subjected to different types and levels of abuses, exploitations, and humiliation by the very state institutions which are supposed to protect their rights. Despite this, the problem receives less attention by human rights defenders at national, regional and international levels. Against this backdrop, and with support from Europe Aid, SIHA launched and implemented project titled **Towards Restoring the Human Rights of Women Detainees and Prisoners in Sudan**. It started and ended during 20 December 2015 – 20 September 2017.

1.1: **Aims:** The aim of the project is to empower and protect women vulnerable to detention and persecution through employing a human rights framework and by incorporating Sudanese traditional and cultural values that challenge the application of discriminatory laws and condemn the maltreatment of women.

1.2: **Overall and Specific Objectives:** The project overall objective is **to enhance and protect Sudanese women’s human rights as recognized in international human rights law** and based on Sudan’s regional and international obligations. Based on this overall objective, two specific objectives were identified:

a) **To enhance public knowledge and understanding, through advocacy, awareness raising, and much needed targeted research on the dire situation of women in prison and the nature and adverse consequences of Sudan’s Public Order Regime (POR) to contribute to informing and influencing Sudanese public discourse and policy reform debates**; and

b) **To enhance the legal protection and physical/ psychological well-being of women detained / imprisoned under the POR and Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs).**

1.3: **Project Target Group and Beneficiaries:** the project targets women in great Khartoum State who are subject to imprisonment and detention based on Sudan’s gender discriminatory laws administered by the Public Order Regime (POR) which enforces a set of laws from the Sudan Criminal Act and Khartoum’s Public Order Law. Precisely, the project focus is on targeted Sudanese women detainees and prisoners who are vulnerable to risk of detention and their families while the “final beneficiaries” are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large2. The numbers of the targets and beneficiaries intended to be served during the project implementation are as follows: **75 women detainees and prisoners; 250 women at high risk of detention; 25 lawyers; 30 community mediators; 3 communities in Greater Khartoum; 20 government representatives; and 20 advocacy and/or human rights entities.**

1.4: **Project’s Key Components**
The project’s overall and specific objectives highlighted in the introduction were planned to be achieved through a set of interventions/ activities categorized into four key components: (i)

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Research, (ii) Lobbying and Advocacy, (iii) Capacity Building and Training, and (iv) Legal Aid Support.

1.5: Project’s Main Activities
The above four components were transformed operationally into a set of activities each with specific target numbers. These activities that include but not limited to the following:
- Conduct research to identify, follow-up and document trends with regards to human rights (HR) violations and discrimination against women detained/imprisoned under a set of the POR including but not limited to Public Order Police (POP), Public Order Law (POL), and POR;
- Publish research report on HR violations and discrimination against women detainees/prisoners including specific recommendations for adoption by the Government of Sudan;
- Conduct national advocacy and dissemination of the research findings through seminars and discussion groups with key stakeholders;
- Conduct regional advocacy, including presentation of the situation at sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) with key HR and advocacy groups and HR institutions;
- Conduct community level advocacy and sensitization to raise awareness amongst at-risk women and groups on their human rights and reduce their vulnerability under the POR;
- Strengthen the capacity of 25 lawyers to provide direct legal support to women in prisons and detention;
- Support 25 trained lawyers and legal teams to provide legal aid to the most vulnerable women prisoners and detainees under the POR;
- Strengthen the capacity of 30 community mediators on the provision of community mediation and case work, to enable them to intervene early in cases which contravene women’s rights and freedoms; and
- Support the provision of emergency needs (food, clothing, medical aid, etc.) as well as counseling to 50 women in prisons and detention.

1.6: Anticipated Results
Based on the above main activities and key components the following were envisaged as anticipated results at the end of the project implementation process:
- At least 1000 copies (hard and soft) of the research report are expected to be produced and disseminated to partners and stakeholders;
- 75 imprisoned/detained women have increased access to gender-sensitive legal aid;
- 100 at-risk women have improved awareness of their rights and consequently lower vulnerability to detention under the POR;
- Local community response and support to women detained/imprisoned under POR charges is strengthened in three communities of Greater Khartoum;
- At least 20 government representatives have knowledge of the rights of women detainees and understanding of their need for improved protection;
- At least 20 advocacy and/or HR entities are briefed on the findings of the research report and gain increased capacity to lobby on behalf of women’s rights and women detainees; and
- Capacity of 25 lawyers and 30 community mediators/paralegals is strengthened in respect of their ability to support women detainees and respond to those incarcerated under POR.

1.7: Methodological and Theoretical Considerations, and Theory of Change
This is a participatory qualitative evaluation with focus on the project’s context, objectives, implementation of activities, results and limitations. The report depends largely on the initially
approved project proposal, related regular and monitoring reports, research and final narrative report. The study deploys a set of data collection techniques, tools and methods including but not limited to the following:

1. Undertaking desk review with focus on some SIHA's and its partners’ key reports;
2. Conducting group discussion with SIHA’s core staff in office in Khartoum;
3. Conducting interviews with several of the targeted women and other beneficiaries; and
4. Evaluating SIHA's monitoring, accountability and support to the project's associates.

The entire evaluation is conceptually guided by the following “the theory of change”:

“If the public knowledge and understanding of the human rights of the vulnerable and disadvantage women detainees and prisoners are enhanced; and if their legal protection and physical/psychological well-being under the POR are supported and improved, then their ability to understand and legally defend their basic rights will be increased, consequently, the recurring frequency of their victimization will be reduced while those occur will be effectively redressed.”

1.8: Report Organization
Following this INTRODUCTORY PART, the report is divided into three parts. Based on the project proposal and SIHA project interim and final reports, PART TWO provides descriptive evaluation of the project performance based on its main components and the key implemented activities in view of the project’s context, aim, objectives, target groups, beneficiaries, and anticipated results. In order to provide empirical evidence to the impact of the project during its implementation, testimonies-based analytical evaluation is provided in PART THREE. The focus is on testimonies, voices and views of selected targeted women, stakeholders and beneficiaries. PART FOUR conclude the report by providing key results and recommendations.
II

EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: ACTIVITIES, RESULTS AND IMPACT

Evaluation of the project performance, in terms of components, activities, results and impact, is done against a set of the overall aim, general and specific objectives, targets, and beneficiaries outlined in the background. The implementation of the project was expected to trigger chain of changes that would progressively lead to empowerment and protection of human rights of the women detainees and prisoners, and their families.

2.1: Research Activities, Results and Impact

Research component was aiming at depicting human rights (HR) violations and discrimination against women detained/imprisoned under a set of the PORs. In this respect, two main activities were carried out: a baseline assessment, and research. SIHA began the project by conducting a baseline assessment in January and February 2016 in order to provide a clearer picture of the current condition detained and imprisoned women in Sudan. This assessment drew attention to the conditions and services in prison, patterns of alleged crimes and convictions, and human rights violations. It is evident that the results of the baseline assessment came to have tangible and far reaching positive impact in the project activities that followed up.

“Findings from the baseline assessment have been used to develop awareness rising and advocacy pieces aimed at targeting and improving regional knowledge and understanding the plight of detained women in Sudan. Furthermore, the baseline informed the development of the research methodology and objectives. It helped SIHA setting in-depth research in collaboration with REDRESS focusing on the human rights' situation of women detainees and prisoners.”

Via partnership with REDRESS, SIHA conducted research into the situation of women detained/imprisoned under the POL, looking into the nature of charges, the conditions of detention and imprisonment and the access to services. The research also examined the compatibility of the prison conditions with Sudan’s human rights obligations under national and international law and identifies legislative and institutional reforms needed to contribute to better protection of women detainees/prisoners. The research meant to advance advocacy efforts by raising the profile of women prisoners and fostering support for the protection of women’s rights in Sudan.

In October 2017, SIHA and REDRESS produced the intended research report. The report is spectacular and unique for it brings, for the first time, in comprehensive manner how the POR discriminates against vulnerable women not only while in detention or in prison but also while trying to earn their livings in their respective jobs classified by Government of Sudan as informal and or illegal jobs. It manages to succinctly reveal all discriminatory aspects, institutions and practices of POR and their negative impact on the vulnerable women in Khartoum. In conclusion, the report articulately discloses that:

3 SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 5

4 Criminalization of Women in Sudan: A Need for Fundamental Reform, A Joint Publication of SIHA and REDRESS, October 2017
The atmosphere created by the application of the public order laws is one of fear, apprehension and self-censorship as women are never aware of when or for what they might be arrested. The criminalization of daily aspects of women’s lives contravenes Sudan’s obligations to guarantee non-discrimination, equality before the law, freedom from torture and ill-treatment and due process guarantees as provided for under regional and international instruments and, to some extent, Sudan’s 2005 Interim Constitution. The public order regime is hinged on the control of women and the wider population through the discriminatory application of vague legislation. Its enforcement is a hindrance to Sudan’s national development as it prevents women - a large part of its population – from full participation in public life.5

One tangible result of conducting the research through participatory approach was that “by the end of the project, at least 60% of the 250 community members participating in the research report discussions are aware of negative consequences of the POR and its link to the incarceration of women”6. As a research activity, SIHA conducted two seminars with community members who participated in the research, including community mediators, paralegals, human rights activist, and representatives from civil society organizations and lecturers from the University of Khartoum, CBOs and the project network which include paralegal, social workers, lawyers. These key participants were briefed on the research outcomes, in line with SIHA’s participatory approach, and are in the position to return to their institutions and community groups with concrete information to share on the negative consequences of the POR7.

The final report resulting from research components, no doubt, has made, and it will still make, cumulative positive impact on the rights and status of the women detainees and prisoners not only in Khartoum state but all over Sudan. Several indicators point to this assertion. The report was appreciatively and widely received by Women HRs related entities inside and outside Sudan with its findings being widely disseminated to relevant partners and stakeholders. Two actions and one partner response attest to this assertion:

- at least 20 advocacy and/or HR-oriented entities are briefed on the findings of the research report and gain increased capacity to advocate on behalf of women’s rights and specifically women detainees in Sudan;
- at least 1000 copies (hard and soft, 500 copies in English and 500 in Arabic) of the research report were disseminated to and used by universities, CSOs, and CBOs in Sudan, human rights groups locally, regionally and internationally; and
- The report set of chain of self-responses from human rights organizations, for example, “the Human Rights Centre in Khartoum has responded to the research findings with their own proposal to review the legal status of the local authority orders”8.

However, the distribution of the report in wider sense was limited “owing to the sensitive nature of the Sudanese context and in light of the negative consequences additional attention may bring to the work SIHA is contributing towards achieving in Sudan, the network requests the European

5 Criminalization of Women in Sudan: A Need for Fundamental Reform, a Joint Publication of SIHA and REDRESS, October 2017, p. 40.
6 SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 6
7 SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 6
8 SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, P. 12
Commission not to publicize the results of the action.” Moreover, in a seminar held with community leaders in August 2017 on the findings of the research, the participants pointed to the following key challenges and gaps in the report:

- The report concentrated on the Public Order Regime (POR) rather than the prison conditions, which did not serve well in analyzing the lack of infrastructure needed to support inmate women in prison;
- The harsh prison rules with punishment are considered inhumane for the level of the offenses. The code of conduct for inmates needs to be revised and amendments made for it;
- The relationship between the ministry of justice and the POR courts needs further exploration, e.g., that funds created from POR courts are taken to the ministry of finance, to be used as a source of income;
- The report should detail further the methodology used to gather the data and more analysis on it is required to make an accurate statement revealing the ideology shift of POR courts;
- The report should look into African Union protocols that address issues of human rights, which can be as a reference to reforms need to be made by the judiciary system;
- Focus on the POR as an institution that connects all of the police forces, state’s attorney, and court; and
- The ability of citizens to take their cases to the African court for human and people’s rights, to seek justice against POR courts that undermine their basic human rights.

Despite these limitations and gaps, no doubt, the production of the report and dissemination effort stirred up and increased public knowledge and understanding on the dire situation of women in prison and the nature and adverse consequences of Sudan’s Public Order Regime (POR). In this respect, one beneficiary lawyer acknowledged the SIHA pioneering role in raising understanding and awareness of the public on issues of women detainees and prisoners in Sudan through successful advocacy and lobbying campaigns.

“As a human rights activist, I was associated and actively involved in SIHA legal aid component from its inception in 2015 when I received an invitation to attend workshop dealing with “status and rights of women in prisons. SIHA is pioneer and instrumental in highlighting, therefore, bringing attention to the questions of the conditions, status and rights of women while in prisons in Sudan. These were never issues or legal agenda among Lawyers in Sudan, including those actively engaged with human rights like me, until when SIHA made them an explicit legal and human rights agenda in its recent project activities.”

Thus, it is assertive to conclude that the research report production and dissemination contributed, to large extend, towards the achieving one of the project’s key objective aiming “To enhance public knowledge and understanding ... on the dire situation of women in prison and the nature and adverse consequences of Sudan’s POR”, and therefore, contributed to informing and influencing Sudanese public discourse and policy reform debates”.

10 SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, P. 7
11 SIHA Interim Narrative Report, July 2016 – December 2016, p. 6
12 For the whole interview, see Interview (4) in Annex.
2.2: Lobbying and Advocacy: Activities, Results and Impact

Lobbying and advocacy campaigns during the project period were based on the research data and findings. Data from the research was disseminated and used to build understanding and solidarity amongst key agents of change. At the local level, advocacy focused on local authorities (prison administration and management, Ministry of Internal Affairs’ Women and Children Units, Ministry of Justice, and Sudanese Police), to promote improved protection of women detainees amongst these key stakeholders. At the national level, this action advocated for the Sudanese Government to improve protection of women prisoners, in line with its national and international commitments. Regional advocacy targeted key HR entities (e.g. ACHPR) with a view to building solidarity and reinforcing national initiatives aimed at improving conditions for women prisoners/detainees.

As noted in part two, advocacy and lobbying targeted different types of stakeholders. At one level the focus is on reaching, engaging and influencing government authorities and institutions dealing directly with women in police, detention, and court and or in prisons. In this respect “at least 20 members of Sudan Internal Affairs, Omdurman prison administration and the judiciary have been sensitized to the rights of women detainees and understood their need for improved protection under the POR.” Moreover, an advocacy campaign on the condition of women in detention in Sudan has been initiated through a blog and Twitter and YouTube accounts. SIHA reported that:

In July and August, 2016, SIHA finalized plans for the #Sajeenat (English translation: women prisoners) campaign as part of Lan Nasnot/We Will Not Be Silent advocacy activities against the Public Order Regime. The #Sajeenat campaign uses web-based media platforms to build solidarity for cases of women arrested and imprisoned under the POR and to highlight violations inflicted on women in Sudan to Sudanese society, as well as regional and international audiences. The campaign both in Arabic and English relies on the Blog, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Under this activity SIHA was able to mobilize members of SIHA’s lawyers’ network and WHRDs in Sudan to write articles on conditions inside prisons and detention centers and share within the legal community. Establish a network of journalists who have since written articles covering the Public Order Regime and its effects on women. Moreover, SIHA conducted national advocacy and dissemination of the research findings through seminars and discussion groups with key stakeholders. Most importantly, it took an initiative positive engagement with relevant government authorities, particularly the staff of Omdurman Women Prison. The successful advocacy and lobbying campaigns among government authorities is ascribed, to large extend, to SIHA ability of establishing a good working relationship with the local authorities in the Omdurman Women’s Prison, through its legal officers with the women’s prison and the lawyer’s network with the prison authorities. This working relationship have a gone a long way in supporting access to beneficiaries and improving their conditions in prison. Two concrete and operational results can be cited here:

1. Meeting with prison director: SIHA staff paid a visit to the women’s prison on 8/23/2017. In this visit a meeting was held with the prison director and several issues were discussed.

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14 SIHA Interim Narrative Report, July 2016 – December 2016, pp. 7 - 8

15 SIHA Interim Narrative Report, July 2016 – December 2016, p. 15
including the capacity of the prison. The director said that the capacity of prison is 500 women but in reality it held between 700 up to 1000 women and 50% of the prisoners are alcohol sellers. This huge number had a big effect on the existing services, for example the availability of food and health/hygiene, as well as supervision. These large numbers of inmates were sometimes difficult to control and this resulted in some harassment and violence. The director stated that the prison needs further support government especially in terms of the budget. Another key issue raised was the need to identify job opportunities for women after discharge from prison because there was a very high return rate, with most of the women who were released being arrested and detained again after one or two months\textsuperscript{16}.

2. Establishment of national committee for prison: SIHA manage in collaboration with some prison authorities, to establish national committee for prisons. Its aim is to oversee and facilitate improvement of the prisons’ performance and physical and social conditions of the women prisoners and detainees while in prison. The committee includes members from prison authorities though they accepted membership on their personal capacities and not with their official status. This national committee was divided into various sub-committees including health, education, sport, and culture. Initially, the committee started off very well and was able to hold two successful meetings. However, at later stage, the committee faced numerous challenges when attempted to interact deeper with relevant government institutions and officials, particularly those engaged directly with women prison, and Prison Law and POR.\textsuperscript{17}

Community awareness and outreach was of the most effective approach deployed by SIHA in advocacy and lobbying campaigns. During the project period, SIHA coordinated 6 outreach activities reaching more than 270 women at-risk of detention under the POR, including women alcohol brewers and sellers, tea and food vendors, sex workers, and internally displaced women (IDPs) belonging to religious and ethnic minorities and residing in areas frequently targeted for POR police raids. Among these 270, at least 250 at-risk women in the three communities have been trained and are equipped and have access to legal aid services.

Outreach sessions provided elaboration on women's rights under POR and Sudanese law and equipped participants with practical skills to avoid arrest, as well as to invoke their rights in the event of arrest and detainment. Activities primarily took place in Ombadda and Jabal Awlia communities and SIHA’s network of community mediators supported the implementation of these outreach activities. The content of the outreach sessions was well received by the women with a number of them indicating the lack of awareness of their rights during arrest and in detention. These sessions provided practical guidelines to minimize risks in these incidents and the women were able to present specific cases that they, or someone in their communities, were subjected to, and a lawyer present during the sessions provided relevant legal opinions. One beneficiary, Nawal Mustafa Adraki testified that “SIHA legal aid, advocacy and public awareness interventions and its different material and moral supports to the disadvantaged women are very instrumental in restoring the dignity and rights of the targeted groups. However, the project ended at the time, it highly stimulated demands for those packages of interventions among the targeted women.”\textsuperscript{18}

Finally; SIHA lobbying and advocacy campaigns were effective essentially because, through its participatory approach, SIHA managed to successfully mobilize different types of partners and

\textsuperscript{16} SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 11

\textsuperscript{17} Group Discussion with SIHA Core Staff, Khartoum Office, December 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2017.

\textsuperscript{18} For the full testimony, see Interview (3) in part 111 below
or beneficiaries while implementing the project’s different components and their respective activities. The partner organization includes but not limited to the following:

Table (1): List of SIHA’s Partners, Beneficiaries and Participant Entities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Partner Organization</th>
<th>Types</th>
<th>Focus and Main Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>REDRESS</td>
<td>INGO</td>
<td>Advocacy, solidarity, training, and research with focus on legal and human rights issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Justice Centre</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>HR and legal aid support as well as participating in advocacy and lobbying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No to Oppression against Women</td>
<td>Women HR Movement</td>
<td>Women HR protection and enhancement and gender issues; and advocacy and lobbying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>NWEDA</td>
<td>Gender NGO</td>
<td>Focus on women's education and development with special reference to IDPS women from the war torn Nuba Mountains region and other similar areas. It is Beneficiary, participant in capacity building and training, community mobilization, and advocacy and lobbying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Place نارا ساع نفلك</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Beneficiary, participant in capacity building and training, community mobilization, and advocacy and lobbying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Help Your Self نفلك</td>
<td>Gender CBO</td>
<td>Focus on supporting its members, beneficiary, participant in capacity building and training, community mobilization, and advocacy and lobbying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Um Dorain أم دوريين</td>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Focus on supporting its members, beneficiary, participant in capacity building and training, community mobilization, and advocacy and lobbying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kifah Society جمعية كفاح</td>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Focus on supporting its members, beneficiary, participant in capacity building and training, community mobilization, and advocacy and lobbying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Legal Aid Centre مركز العون القانوني</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Focus on providing legal support, beneficiary, participant in advocacy and lobbying campaigns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Self-Help المساعدة الذاتية</td>
<td>Gender CBO</td>
<td>Focus on women HR and gender issues, beneficiary and participant in capacity building and training, community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3: Capacity Building and Training Activities, Results and Impact

Capacity building and training activities were targeting the following partners and stakeholders: lawyers, community leaders, paralegals, and WHRDs, counselors/psychiatrists as individuals and or as members of implementing partner organizations. Selected lawyers, who show commitment towards working in legal cases of the women detainees and prisoners, received training on gender sensitivity and the impact of POL on women to be able to identify and redress gender discrimination. By encouraging and building the capacity of young lawyers, the project established conditions for broader support of vulnerable targeted women groups.

Community mediators were selected in at-risk communities and trained as paralegals and conflict mitigation actors between at-risk women and local authorities, particularly the POR police and local courts. Trained community mediators were meant to contribute largely to minimizing and mitigating the risks women encounter within the target communities, and report incidences of unjust imprisonment or detention of women. They also expected to play a strong role in community sensitization and organizing solidarity visits (by community and family members) to women prisoners in order to contribute to the reduction of stigma against women detainees and the lessening of vulnerability to abuse inside detention centers/prisons.

Towards that end, SIHA provided different yet interrelated types of capacity building and training workshops for these groups. For example, SIHA trained 33 lawyers at a 6-day workshop held on 27 – 28 February and 5 – 6 March 2016. Participants were a mix of female and male lawyers, as well as a mix of independent lawyers and lawyers affiliated with organizations. Organizations represented were Awn Legal Services, Justice Center, Aid Center, Human Rights Center, Darfur Lawyers, and lawyers from Nuba Mountains Cooperation. Independent lawyers were recommended by SIHA grassroots partners and were from the peripheral areas of Khartoum frequently targeted for POR raids and arrests, including Al-Bashir, Alhaj Yousif, and Mayo. The training workshop focus was on HRs, PORs and legal aid support to women who are victims of POL. One trained lawyer testified that “My experience with SIHA has empowered me and today I more than prepared to deal with the cases of women detainees and prisoners in Sudan at different stages of legal processes in Sudan. After training I was able to handle numerous court cases successfully. This demonstrates the effectiveness of SIHA capacity building and training and their tangible results.”

In order to provide direct legal and psychosocial support to women in prisons and detention, SIHA trained 9 counselors/psychologists (one male and eight females) from various organizations, including Eltijani Almahi Hospital, Al Diaar organization, Mayo Self-help organization, Um Dorain organization, and AID for legal aid and social work. The psychiatrists at

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For the full testimony, see Interview 5 in part 111 below
Military Hospital and volunteer counselors with number of human rights institutions also participated in the training.\textsuperscript{20}

SIHA Organized capacity building trainings for 30 community mediators from three community areas and localities on the provision of community mediation and casework, to enable them to intervene early in cases that infringe upon women’s rights and freedoms. It also trained another 40 community mediators (38 women and 2 men). Topics covered in the training included international human rights law, Sudanese law including POR, trauma and psychological conditions resulting from torture, a situational analysis of women in prison and detention, and how to prepare women to present themselves in POR courts.\textsuperscript{21} Moreover, training covered skills for community mediators, including how to build communication networks to stay informed of what is happening in their communities, building trust with victimized women and providing legal advice, and how to document and report cases objectively using facts.\textsuperscript{22}

In sum, capacity building and training of lawyers, community mediators, counselors mentioned above have “strengthened in their ability to support women detainees and respond to those incarcerated under POR or who are vulnerable to detention.”\textsuperscript{23} The trained lawyers were more effective in providing legal aid support. The impact of the training is far reaching because it “encouraged lawyers entering the Omdurman Women’s Prison to document human rights violations within the prison and to advocate to improve prison conditions in general. Participants agreed that lawyers, human rights defenders, civil society and the international community must pressure the Sudanese government to improve the situation in prisons and to implement the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.”\textsuperscript{24} The trained counselors provided psychological support to women traumatized by their detention/imprisonment; and community mediators to provide support for POR cases, and has been instrumental in an unprecedented constitutional court ruling that women wearing trousers is no longer considered indecent dress\textsuperscript{25}.

\textbf{2.4: Legal Aid, Medical and Material Supports: Activities, Results and Impact}

Baseline assessment and research report point to the fact that the majority of detained and imprisoned women have no access to lawyers or legal advice resulting in many women being unjustly charged or punished. Thus there was an urgent need to trace, identify and provide legal aid support to women detained or imprisoned in the target areas. Women were also in need to be supported with emergency needs, counselling and bail support in circumstances where women are being held due to inability to pay minimal fines for minor offences. Given dire situation, SIHA provided numerous legal aid supports to different cases of women detainees and prisoners as shown below.\textsuperscript{26}

\textsuperscript{20} SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 16
\textsuperscript{21} SIHA Interim Narrative Report, July – December 2016, p. 12
\textsuperscript{22} SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 19
\textsuperscript{23} SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 16
\textsuperscript{24} SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 16
\textsuperscript{25} SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 16
\textsuperscript{26} SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, PP. 22-23
SIHA Provide basic legal aid support (including legal representation and supporting the appeal process) to 75 women who are being held in prisons or in detention canters under the POR and other discriminatory Sudanese laws.

SIHA’s network of lawyers successfully represented 32 women in court between July and December 2016. SIHA’s Legal Officer supported the network lawyers to successfully defend these cases, collaborating and strategizing to achieve the best possible outcomes. These cases selected for free legal support were based on a number of criteria – levels of vulnerability of the women victims, potential for better case outcomes with legal support, lack of financial resources, and seriousness of the allegations.

SIHA provided legal aid to 78 women, working with the network of lawyers and community paralegals that were developed through the project. The network was successful in providing legal aid to 78 women and alleviating some of the issues arising from detention centres and lack of legal representation in POR courts. Monthly meetings were conducted with the lawyers’ network to update the SIHA staff on the ongoing cases and their work on consulting each other on how to proceed in difficult cases. The lawyers also provided SIHA staff with case studies that have potential for advocacy purposes.

SIHA’s network of lawyers successfully represented 44 women in court between July and December 2016. Eighteen cases were successfully resolved, and 14 cases are still in progress. From January to July 2017 an additional 34 women (including 2 appeal cases in addition) received legal aid. SIHA’s Legal Officer supported the network lawyers to successfully defend these cases, collaborating and strategizing to achieve the best possible outcomes. These cases selected for free legal support were based on a number of criteria – levels of vulnerability of the women victims, potential for better case outcomes with legal support, lack of financial resources, and seriousness of the allegations.

SIHA undertook a demographic assessment of the detained women and ex-prisoners targeted by the POR regime, along a number of variables and the findings are summarized in Table (2).

**Table (2): Demographic Analysis of the detained and ex-prisoners targeted by POR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Educational Level</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75% divorced</td>
<td>90% between the ages of 19 – 30 years of age</td>
<td>20% Illiterate/Uneducated education</td>
<td>86% of the women have been providing legal aid were Sudanese.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% single</td>
<td>10% between 30-45 years of age</td>
<td>04% completed basic education</td>
<td>14% were migrants/refugees (Ethiopian and from south Sudan).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% married</td>
<td></td>
<td>20 % completed secondary school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20% students at the university and graduates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 23

The majority of women whom were in prison were divorced and usually the bread-winners in their household. IDP women were the majority of the prison population whom has a small family to take care off. The majority of them were jailed for alcohol brewing and selling. Their education level was minimal and that is due to them being IDPs. Mostly are Sudanese nationals, with some refugee minorities that were badly treated by either the prison officials or the inmates themselves.

Also, SIHA provided emergency needs as well as counseling to 75 women in prisons and detention. With the overcrowded prison cells and lack of beds, mattresses were provided to prisoners including mattresses for 15 women, hygiene and food package for 85 women, and 20 women with infants accompanying them, and 6 emergency medical cases. It also pays bails for women who have their infants with them in prison, or for women who can’t risk going to prison due
to health issues, or to support their families. However, the findings of both baseline assessment and REDRESS research indicated that the POR was more focused on generating funds and income from fines. Therefore, SIHA decided to avoid paying fines and bails as a mean for support to not feed into the POR fund raising process, unless under critical circumstances that threatens the freedom of the defendants. Lawyers, social workers, SIHA’s paralegal networks and partners supported SIHA in identifying cases that are critically in need of emergency assistance.

This evaluation supports one key finding of SIHA Final Narrative Report of 2017 which concluded that “the presence of legal representation for women arrested under the POR significantly influenced the outcome of the case, even where it wasn’t taken to court. The lawyer’s presence alone persuaded many officials to drop or minimize the issue so that many detainees were let off with a verbal warning or small fine in comparison to more severe treatment and punishment of those without legal support.

In sum, the effort and results of legal aid support and emergency assistance are significantly evident and greatly felt. However, the actual needs for legal aid support and emergency assistance are something beyond the ability and capacity of SIHA and its partners’ networks. Thus, there is a need for up scaling and expansion of SIHA experiences into other similar organizations through adoption process to be stirred up by SIHA and with support from donors.

Additionally: during the months April-May-June 2018 SIHA has experienced to tremendously benefit from the experiences and network that was established during this project as the death penalty of the 19 year old Noura Hussein, who has been detained in the Omdurman Women’s Prison after she killed the man she was forced to marry when he tried to rape her for the second time. In the legal aid that SIHA supported for this case, the sustainability of the project proved tremendously fruitful and important.

2.5: Quantitative Summary of Activities and Achieved Results
Based on the project aim, overall and specific objectives outlined in part 1, the project identified target, activities and anticipated results. The following are summary of the achievements in research, advocacy, capacity building and training, and legal aid and emergency supports:

- At least 1000 copies (hard and soft, 500 copies in English and 500 in Arabic) of the research report are disseminated to and used by universities in Sudan, human rights groups locally, regionally and internationally and CSOs. This represents at 100% achievement of the anticipated result.
- At least 20 advocacy and/or HR-oriented entities are briefed on the findings of the research and gain increased capacity to advocate on behalf of women’s rights and specifically women detainees. This is a 100% achievement of the anticipated result.
- At least 20 members of Sudan Internal Affairs, Omdurman prison administration and judiciary are sensitized to the rights of women detainees and understood their need for improved protection under the POR;
- SIHA identified and trained at least 33 lawyers to represent women imprisoned under the POR and Sudan Criminal Act while contracted individual lawyers from Awn Legal Aid Center to provide representation, along with SIHA’s Legal Officer;

28 SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 25
• Capacities of at least 9 Counselors/psychologists from various institutions were strengthened with abilities to support women detainees and respond to those incarcerated under POR or who are vulnerable to detention;
• SIHA trained 40 community mediators (38 women and 2 men) on the provision of community mediation and casework, to enable them to intervene early in cases that infringe upon women’s rights and freedoms. This represents more than 133% of the anticipated results of 30 community leaders.
• 250 women have an improved understanding about their rights under POR & Sudanese law and have skills to tackle or improve their detainments;
• More than 290 women at-risk of detention under the POR have gained understanding on women’s rights under POR and Sudanese law and equipped with practical skills to avoid arrest, as well as to invoke their rights in the event of arrest and detainment. This achievement represents 290% of the anticipated result.
• During the period of the project, at least 80 detained and or imprisoned women saw their legal case progress and improve as a result of their access to legal representation provided for by SIHA, and this represent 100% of the anticipated result. Most cases were resolved in favor;
• SIHA provided medical, social, psychological and material supports for at least 106 women;
• SIHA provided 85 hygiene packages (soap, tampons, underwear, tooth brushes, paste, diabetic sweetener, and some nutrition materials), and kids packages (milk, soap, nutrition).

In aggregate, the four components and their activities were effectively implemented; the targets were met; and the anticipated results were highly achieved with remarkable performance, particularly in the case of direct beneficiaries, i.e., the women detainees and prisoners.

29Between April and June 2016, SIHA has coordinated 6 outreach activities and reached more than 270 women at-risk of detention under the POR, including women alcohol brewers and sellers, tea and food vendors, sex workers, and internally displaced women (IDPs) belonging to religious and ethnic minorities and residing in areas frequently targeted for POR police raids. And August 2017, In August 2017 SIHA conducted an outreach activity and awareness-raising session for 20 women in Al ‘Ezba in Khartoum North (SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 7.
III

PROJECT IMPACT: VOICES, VIEWS AND PERSPECTIVES OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

Below are testimonies of selected informants who benefited directly from SIHA set of activities being it advocacy and lobbying, capacity building and training, and legal aid support and emergency material and psychological assistance. The interviewees represent the following categories: (i) paralegals, community leaders, and women leaders with initiatives of establishing women interest groups (Interviews 1, 2 and 3); (ii) lawyers who received training by SIHA while participating in providing legal aid support to the target women (interviews 4, 5, and 6); (iii) SIHA Core Staff, Khartoum Office (Interview 7); (iv) women ex-detainees and ex-prisoners with their cases handled by SIHA (8, 9, and 10); and (v) WHRDs who were and still being subjected to different kinds of intimidation, detentions and imprisonment (11, and 12). All these testimonies give self-evaluation to SIHA’s project tangible results with positive and far-reaching impact to the women in detentions and or in imprisonments in particular and the question of women human rights in Sudan in general.

Interview (1): December 17, 2017 Hanan Abdel Karim Bakhit, Women Leader

I live at outskirt of Khartoum in Mayo. I first heard about SIHA in 2012 through my neighbor Awadiya. Later, SIHA conducted training workshop for us with focus on advocacy, solidarity, and legal aid coupled with practical training in small funding and computer skills. Thereafter, it supported us to formally register our Kifah Women Society in May 2013. Since then I got several sessions on legal aid, and now I am actively engaged in public awareness campaigns among disadvantaged women group in my neighborhood. Currently, I assist other disadvantaged women within the society and beyond. As a chairwoman, I frequently mediate in solving women problems before they become police case in close coordination with SIHA. Through SIHA, we have developed useful relations with several lawyers and human rights defenders. The Society has 185 members all of them got training in (i) legal aid and (ii) early marriage in 2016 by SIHA in collaboration with Jisir Training Organization and Sima Organization respectively. We are interested to continue further training possibly through another supporting organization. Members of the society have gained some skills related to how to defend themselves and how to start legal processes in police and Judiciary without fear. After getting legal aid training, I can defend not only my rights but others as well with no fear.

Interview (2): Mohamed Shafaga, Teacher and Para-legal Activist, December 17, 2017

I live in Mayo in Jebel Aulia outskirt of Khartoum. My association with SIHA goes back to 2014 as active member of female-dominated Diyar Society for Rehabilitation and Development established since 2000 in Mayo. Through the society I participated in training workshop, part 1 and 11 that dealt in depth with the following issues (i) Penalty Law, (ii) Public Order Law and (iii) Gender. The focus was on the impact of these laws on the rights and status of disadvantaged women particular tea seller alcohol sellers. The training raised my awareness about the rights and status of disadvantaged women and it improved my leadership skills. Since then I started to participate in different campaigns aiming at raising awareness of women with regard to their legal rights. The society and its members are now more than prepared to sustainably continue their works beyond SIHA support in terms of raising public awareness among the disadvantaged women, support their legal cases, and defend their rights at different stages and institutions.
Interview (3): Nawal Mustafa Adraki, December 17, 2017

I am 37 years old, married with 4 children. I live in Marzook el Thawrah 59 in Omdurman. I knew SIHA since 2014 during one of its outreach activities in my neighborhood where most of women including myself are subjected to exploitation and sexual harassment. I used to believe that the difficult situation we face on daily bases is normal and not an anomaly. After I got trained on issues pertaining to legal aid, gender and women rights, I realized that I can defend my rights as well as that of other women, and challenge those attempt to exploit me. For example, one day there was kasha by local authorities. They caught one of tea seller who has work license from same local authorities. They told her this license is not valid and she was almost giving in. At that point I intervened and told police that this woman has the necessary documents that allow her to work here. After some lengthy discussion she was released and allowed to resume her work. Recently, I started working among young female workers in order to raise their awareness about their legal rights, and how to deal with different types of harassment and exploitation during their works.

Interview (4) Mohammed Al-Mustafa El-Hadi, Lawyer, December 17, 2017

As a human rights activist, I was associated and actively involved in SIHA legal aid component from its inception in 2015 when I received an invitation to attend workshop dealing with “status and rights of women in prisons. SIHA is pioneer and instrumental in highlighting, therefore, bringing attention to the questions of the conditions, status and rights of women while in prisons in Sudan. These were never issues or legal agenda among Lawyers in Sudan, including those actively engaged with human rights like me. It is SIHA which made them an explicit legal and human rights agenda in its recent project activities. Usually, when there is no legal aid disadvantaged women, namely tea and alcohol makers and sellers, hardly received fair trial. They may face arbitrary detention and very quick and unfair trials by Public Order Courts. In fact, most of these courts are directed towards these disadvantaged females who work in informal sectors and live at the outskirt of Khartoum. Sadly, most of them are from specific ethnic groups who were forced to be displaced due to violent conflicts in their own homelands particularly Nuba Mountains and Darfur.

Interview (5) Montasir Mohammed Adam, Lawyer, December 17, 2017

I started working with SIHA since its previous project “Violence against Women” followed by this ending project. I got trained by SIHA and in return supported SIHA in a number of cases and the following cases demonstrate how effective SIHA project interventions and their anticipated results:

Case 1: Releasing an Ethiopian Female Refugee Detained awaiting Trial

SIHA asked me to legally follow up the case. She was detained awaiting trial with an allegation that she was engaging with human trafficking activities. The expected penalty was extremely serious for it amounts to death penalty or life in prison. Through SIHA timely intervention through legal aid, she freed without charge. However, during the court, the authorities requested to consider charging her
for she entered and stayed illegally in Sudan. The court rejected the request for it was not part of the case in focus. Yet, she was charged with nominal fees which paid and then immediately released.\(^{30}\)

**Case 11**: Defending legal rights of two young female facing Article 152 of Public Order Law

Two very young females were stopped and picked up by Public Order Police who claimed that they were wearing indecent dress. With SIHA legal aid support, we group of Lawyers intervened and defended their case in the court. One of them was freed without charge while another one was charged.

**Case 111**: Defending the rights of two young female and four young male from Eritrea

A number of young Eritreans were smuggled into Sudan including these two female and four male who managed to escape while in Butana in central Sudan. Then they were caught and put in custody by police while attempting to enter Khartoum. They were facing charges of illegal entrance to Sudan. But they were also facing force repatriation back to Eritrea. Through SIHA legal support, we were able to defend their rights till their status was legalized as refugees in Sudan. Raising public awareness among lawyers with regard to issues of disadvantaged and or imprisoned women is a very effective activity for lawyers, human rights defenders, paralegal workers, community leaders and the targeted disadvantaged and imprisoned women themselves. This is the best way the rights and status of these women can be enhanced and protected.

**Interview (6) Anonymous Lawyer, December 17, 2017**

I joined SIHA quite long time ago and continued with this project since its inception to the time of its closure. This project is unique in a sense that it paid attention to a sizeable number of most disadvantaged and most discriminated against segment of women population in Sudan especially women detainees and prisoners. With SIHA support, I and other lawyers make frequent visits to female prison in Omdurman in order check their situation and to see as whether they are some cases that need legal aid or any kind of support. In one of such visits, I came across two women prisoners who were trialed under the Public Order Law and charged with indecent dress. They were fined SDG700 each. SIHA intervened at stage of appealing and the verdict was repealed and the fine was cancelled, and the two women were freed. Such cases are numerous and needs collaboration and solidarity of different actors, being local and or international organizations, civil society organizations, and state. These women are usually vulnerable and powerless and subjected on daily basis to gross violations of human rights and violence imposed on them by discriminatory laws while trying to survive.

**Interview (7): SIHA Khartoum Staff Group Discussion, December 30th, 2017**

All core staff of SIHA in Khartoum Office agreed that the project cumulative results and impact are positively far reaching for they yielded several the tangible outcomes:

1. Due to unwillingness of some relevant authorities and officials to positively engage with SIHA’s basic idea of improving the conditions of women detainees and prisoners, the project activities were confined to certain interventions and activities including legal aid, feeding, clothing, medical treatment and training of some women prisoners in selected income-generating small activities.

\(^{30}\) The external consultant wanted to find and meet her but she was not traceable.
2. The project attempt to improve basic human rights and needs of this targeted group while in detention and prison was below expectations because of lack of enthusiasm from most of the relevant officials to positively engage with the committee and the project staff;

3. Public awareness was significantly raised among women detainees and prisoners as well as vulnerable women working in informal sector like food, tea, and local alcohol making and selling, on their rights to legally defend themselves through legal aid provided by SIHA and carried out by Lawyers, Women Rights Defenders, community leaders and trained paralegals;

4. Contrary to the economic-driven fines imposed usually by Public Order Courts on women working as tea and food sellers, or those charged with allegedly indecent dress, SIHA managed, through lawyers, to challenges those fines and reverse courts decisions, therefore, reduce significantly payments of fines imposed on these vulnerable women;

5. The project was delayed and later extended into “No Cost Extension”. The delay was essentially due to two main factors. First, there were delays in the payments of some installments. Second, it took SIHA much time to shift the focus from payment of fines to legal aid. Initially, SIHA focus was on payment of court fines before it shifted the focus from payment of fines to supporting legal aid processes, including payment of courts’ and lawyers’ fees;

6. SIHA initiative raised public awareness among many lawyers and shifted their focus towards human rights issues as integral part of their legal profession in the courts. It stirs up the enthusiasm of many young lawyers to seek training in legal aids and human rights issues from legal perspectives. This is evident by the fact that SIHA initial target was to train 25 lawyers but it ended training 33 women and men lawyers during the project life time. Unfortunately, the demand for such training among lawyers gained momentum when the project came to an end; and

7. The overall exercise of the project suggests that it would have been more effective if the project was designed from the start as formal partnership between SIHA and one nationally reputable legal organization with sharp focus, expertise and experiences in legal aid as well as in advocacy and protection of human rights of the vulnerable, disadvantaged and/or mistreated groups, namely women, children, IDPs and refugees.

Interview (8) Haifaa Farouq, January 3rd, 2018

Haifaa Farouq is a young lady who represents a typical beneficiary of the project when she was subjected to discriminatory Public Order Regime supported by Public Order Police and executed by Public Order Courts. Her testimony is a revealing and self-telling story:

In June 2017 around 22:00 PM, I and three of my male friends were picked up by Public Order Police while sitting in front of a tea seller at the Nile Avenue in Khartoum. I was wearing trousers. It took us two hours before we arrived to Police station for the Police were searching and picking up more girls along the way. Our belongings were taken including mobiles so we were not able to communicate with families. I was told that “if you are an Arab girl, you would not dress such indecent dress”. During the interrogation, I could hear voices of girls crying within the police premises. At some point the girls and my friends were released except me. Thereafter, I was allowed to access my mobile and made contact with my relatives. At 11:00 am the following day, I was released on bail awaiting Public Order Court to face charge under Article 152 of the Public Order Law wearing indecent dress. SIHA got information and send me a lawyer. The Court sessions took almost two months before I was released without
charge essentially because of legal aid I received from SIHA. But I was forced to sign an undertaking of not wearing such indecent dress and not to be found in such areas during night’s hours. The experience was a turning point in my life in a number of ways: (i) it exposed me to legal aid opportunity provided by SIHA while opened my mind to the importance of legal awareness in order to defend myself; (ii) it changed my life positively, from being passive to a person with resilience and self-confidence to protect and defend not only my own human rights, but that of others as well; and (iii) since then I started to voluntarily engage with gender-based human rights activism in a number of ways including (i) helping similar cases as how to legally challenge the Public Order Regime; (ii) participating through social media in public awareness campaigns against Public Order Law; and (iii) I become very active as paralegal and legal aid provider to numerous needy women who are vulnerable to detention and or imprisonment as well as those already detained or imprisoned under public order law.

**Interview (9) Lina Bakheit and Rania Bairak, January 3rd, 2018**

Lina and Rania are friends and both are in the twenties. They asserted that “one midnight while we were sitting with our two friends drinking tea and coffee in front of tea women seller, we were picked up in an abrupt and brutal way by ten armed POP who tried to put us in their car. We resisted and insisted that we will drive our own car to police station. While driving, we called and informed one of SIHA’s lawyers whom we knew already. The police started by taking away our belongings followed by investigation before putting us in custody. We were released through our lawyer after spending two hours in custody. Initially, police filled two charges (i) wearing indecent dress, and (ii) practicing adultery (zina) but the latter was dismissed during investigation. We were brought to POC the following day to POC which charged each of us with SDG500. However, as a result of SIHA’s lawyer interventions, the charge was repealed and the entire case was dismissed by the court. The positive role played by SIHA’s lawyer changed our life in a number of ways: (i) for the first time, we become aware of an organization that offer free legal aid support; (ii) we become legally aware as how to defend our human rights while challenging injustice, mistreatment and illegal process in such situations; (iii) we become aware as how to stick to and defend our rights at different stages starting from picking up by police, investigation, detention, and court; (iv) we are already prepared not only to stand for our own rights but to provide legal support to others voluntarily; and (v) we are now actively involved with SIHA’s advocacy campaigns including sharing our stories and those of others in social media and in our different networking groups.

**Interview (10) Rogayia Mohammed and her teenage daughter Aisa, January 11th, 2018**

Rogayia is a IDPs divorced woman from the Blue Nile. She lives with her son and daughter in Mayo, one of the shantytowns in sub-urban Khartoum. Her teenage daughter, Aisa Awad Ismail, is 15 years old. “My daughter was raped while she was in sug el makazi (Central Market in Khartoum) after she was persuaded by a man to a public toilet. She did not tell me for she was traumatized and frightened to speak out until I discovered, at some point, that she was pregnant. I reported the case to police, Child Department where she was checked by specialized physician who decided that she need to undergo abortion operation for her safety for she is under age. The operation cost SDG7000 which we failed to pay because I stopped working in order to care for my daughter. While the court was on sessions, she delivered by caesarian operation but the baby passed away three month later. Initially, the man was charged 10 years in prison but he was somehow set free and I failed to follow up the case. It was lengthy and costly. SIHA assistance was extremely helpful. It offered substantial legal aid. It supported me financially when I stopped working while following up my daughter case. It paid operation bill for my daughter. It is through SIHA legal, financial and moral support that we were able to survive throughout that painful period.”
Interview (11) Jalila Khamis WHRD, February 6th, 2018

“I, Jalila Khamis, am a professional teacher, activist and WHRD who has been frequently summoned by security, detained and imprisoned several times. I started engaging with SIHA since 2014 and since then I have been actively involved with SIHA in different activities including SIHA’s workshop in Kampala in 2014 on “Muslim Women”. There were presentations reflecting the conditions of women in different Islamic countries including Sudan. It was evident that the Sudanese laws are among the most repressive and discriminatory laws against women in the world. The workshop has deepened my understanding and magnitude of the inhuman conditions facing women in Sudan. Since then I started to voluntarily play role in advocacy and public awareness campaigns among the disadvantaged women in their different groupings. I started literacy class of women in my neighborhoods, in my workplace, and in many other women organizations and entities.

Through SIHA support, I was invited and participated in the 60th session of the Human Rights International Conference, held in Niger last year. The aim of my invitation was to share my personal experiences while in detention and prison as well as testifying on the conditions of detained and imprisoned women in Sudan. Moreover, as WHRD, SIHA supported me morally, legally and financially several times during my detention and imprisonment. In fact, SIHA was pioneer in leading the campaign that resulted in my release from detention that lasted for 11 months without trial. During my detentions, I faced different types of physical and psychological torture, threat and intimidation through several fabricated charges, including my link with ICC. Most of those charges, if proved, lead to death sentence or life imprisonment. While in prison several times, I experienced myself inhuman condition women faced in prison. Extremely poor hygiene, too much number of women prisoners in a very limited space, frequent forms of tortures including ruthless treatment and beating in order to force them to confess something they may not done it in the first place.

During that period, SIHA contributed in sustaining my family through visitation, moral and material support. Later, SIHA documented my experiences in one of its Journal Issue focusing on the conditions of women in marginalized and war torn areas where different forms and levels of violence against women is extremely high. SIHA is doing unprecedented jobs towards disadvantaged women and their human rights defenders. But the need is extremely high beyond SIHA capacity and resources. SIHA needs to intensify its presence through advocacy, capacity building and training at the grassroots as well as at the remote and marginalized areas of Khartoum and beyond. SIHA and similar organization shall consider including the rights of street children who are results of different forms of violence against women and victims of repressive laws and institutions. I am very impressed with SIHA recent activity of women’s vocational training focusing on poor and or parentless young girls.

Interview (12) Awadiya Mahmood Koko, WHRD, Chairwoman of Women Cooperative Union, February 6th, 2018

Awadiya, is poor women who started her carrier as simple tea seller. She is a founding member and chairwoman of the Women Cooperative Union established in 1990 under name Women Worker Society before it was registered as Women Cooperative Union in 1993. The Union focuses on supporting poor women to earn their livings from informal jobs through revolving funds that allow them purchase work tools and equipment like cooking and tea making tools. She was detained several times in different parts of Khartoum state including the following police stations: Shajarah, Kalakla, Lamap, Khartoum North, Arkawit, and Mayo el-Yarmook. In 2007 she was detained, convicted in court and imprisoned up 2010. Thereafter, she emerged as WHRD during a campaign waged against the discriminative decision of barring women from working in Fuel Station by Majzoub elKhalifa, by then, the Governor of the Khartoum State in 2010. In 2016, I was among 10
women worldwide who were honored and received the prize of the Most Courageous Women in the World from John Carry, the USA’s Secretary of State.  

In her own words, I came out from the prison stronger and ready than before to continue supporting women human rights but I was in miserable situation. Thanks to SIHA for it stepped in and supported me and the cooperative activities. As a result, the cooperative was able to expand geographically and in terms of membership. For example, through support we were able to organize and register the following societies that become member of the cooperative: 1. Manbi’elKahir in Soba, 2. elKifah in Mayo 3. Elrasheed Women in elRasheed, 4. Selp Yourself in Ordurman, 5. Wad el Bashir Solidarity, 6. El-Fatih women society and 7. Jighais Women society. In 2017, and with Support from SIHA, these women entities established a network of Women Food Sellers Union. Since then and with sustained support from SIHA, numbers of newly established grassroots societies flourished and reached to more than 13 women entities in 2017. Each society is composed of about 100 members. SIHA supported them in a number of ways including but not limited to the following: 1. Financial support; 2. Capacity building and training; 3. Advocacy and public awareness on women human rights including celebrating the International Women Day; 4. Legal aid support for powerless women victims; and 5. Medical, health and psychological support and rehabilitation for detained and imprisoned women during their detention, trials, imprisonment and after their release.

I cannot recall any organization that does what support and empower women morally, legally, and materially as SIHA do. It provides them with training and capacity building, it raise their knowledge and understanding of their human rights and the inhumane laws and institutions that discriminate against them violently; and provide legal support to the disadvantaged women while facing injustice imposed on them by POR, POL, POP and their supporting institutions lie public order courts, and prisons. SIHA outreach activities and advocacy campaigns are felt beyond Khartoum state through a set of training workshop of disadvantaged women focusing on legal aid support, human rights, violent against women, and many other activities. These activities were carried out in Shendi, Atbara in the River Nile state, and in El Obeid in north Kordofan. SIHA activities are useful and productive with significant and durable impact on the lives of countless marginalized, powerless and discriminated against women and their families. For this reason, I urge all funding organizations to continue supporting SIHA activities so that it can expands geographically and activities wise and reach the most disadvantage women in remote rural areas of Sudan, particularly in several worn torn regions where violence against women is outrageous.

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31 See, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKT9oSLXsk4
Conclusions

4.1: SIHA project has conspicuously demonstrated that the human rights of women, particularly the detainees and prisoners, in Sudan are grossly and constantly being violated by the very institutions which are supposed to protect those rights. Evidently, most of the victims are IDPs from the war torn regions of Darfur, the Nuba Mountains, and the Blue Nile, or they are refugees from neighboring countries, namely Ethiopia and Eritrea. Public order regime, including police, courts, and prisons, has been systematically victimizing and criminalizing those vulnerable women and girls while trying to earn livings for mere survival of their families. Prior to the project implementation, most of the victims don’t have lawyers to represent them, either because they can't afford them or they were never given the chance to contact them.

4.2: The overall analysis of the evaluation indicates, beyond doubt, that the project was a successful endeavor in bringing Sudan’s legal frameworks that institutionalize gender discrimination into focus, mobilizing grassroots, national, and international communities to speak out for change. Findings from baseline assessment and research report were very instrumental in bringing the question of women detainees and prisoner into focus at community, national, regional and international levels.

4.3: Lobbying and advocacy campaigns were effective with far-reaching positive impact in (i) raising public awareness of the public, partners and the victims, and (ii) in establishing working relations with POR, POP, and prison authorities resulting in practical steps and actions towards improving women prisoners' conditions while in prisons.

4.4: Capacity building and training of lawyers, community mediators, counselors have truly strengthened their ability to support women detainees and respond to those incarcerated under POR or who are vulnerable to detention. The trained lawyers were more effective in providing legal aid support. The impact of the training is far reaching because it encouraged lawyers entering women prisons to document human rights violations and to advocate to improve prison conditions.

4.5: The trained counselors continue to provide psychological support to women traumatized by their detention/ imprisonment while the trained community mediators provide support for POR cases. One major result is that women wearing trousers is hardly considered indecent dress.

4.6: Given the socio-political context of Sudan, the nature of the project was quite sensitive, therefore, viewed suspiciously and uncomfortably by state authorities. That was one of the major limiting factors during the implementation process. Despite this, SIHA was very successful in implementing the project because of a number of enabling factors: First, based on its accumulated experiences, SIHA took extra precautions in the approach to advocacy engagements. Second, it relied on its trust worthy networks established during the previous projects and activities. Third, it requested from some of its international partners, including the European Commission, not to

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32 SIHA Final Narrative Report, 2017, p. 16
publicize its works, actions and some publications. Working with low profile was a key factor for this impressive achievements and results.

4.7: Though the project ended with impressive results and impact, there was no clear exist strategy in terms of ensuring up scaling, expansion, replication, and sustainability of those results and impact beyond the project life cycle period, not only within SIHA and its partners but nationwide. There is need for (i) provision of alternative source of incomes for women who engaged in tea and or alcohol before such sources of income is prohibited; (ii) expansion and continuation of public awareness campaign to cover the entire Sudan; and (iii) provision of training for more lawyers, paralegals, community leaders, and social workers.

4.8: Getting rid of, or redressing the negative consequences of POR cannot be attained by a single organization like SIHA. Instead, it needs collaborative efforts by all stakeholders in Sudan and beyond. This implies that advocacy and public awareness on issues of legal aid and basic human rights need to be expanded, up scaled, and sustained to the point where it becomes a public culture among lawyers, legal institutions, lay people, and mostly importantly among the vulnerable women.

**Recommendations**

4.9: Though the project ended, more remained to be done. SIHA should mobilize more resources and funding partners to continue up scaling and sustaining the results while expanding through new the activities of advocacy and raising public awareness, capacity building and training, and legal aid support to the growing numbers of the victims.

4.10: SIHA and its national, regional and international partners may consider exerting more effort to engage with, and raise awareness among, officials working in the related institutions namely prisons, police, and judiciary so that they become more tuned and sensitive to the legal and human rights of women detainees and prisoners. The far reaching objective is to revoke the current POL.

4.11: Effectiveness of SIHA as a leading women organization in Sudan with focus on women human rights will be raised if it expanded and strengthened partnership with some relevant legal, social institutions and human rights groups and organizations at national, regional and international levels. The generous financial support by Europe Aid and its successful collaboration with REDRESS are good empirical experiences in that direction.

4.12: Echoing the voice of one of the WHRDs, “all organizations that support women human rights, particularly those supported and are still supporting SIHA’s programs, are strongly urged to continue doing so. This is a vitally important action towards empowering women in Sudan in order to be able to loudly voice, claim and defend their human rights violated massively and persistently by POR” and other discriminated laws and institutions.

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33 For the full testimony, see Interview 12 in part 111 above.