



PRESS RELEASE

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Sudan: Media Law Task Force convenes for first session

In collaboration with the Khartoum Centre for Human Rights and Environmental Development (KCHRED), ARTICLE 19 held the first meeting of its National Media Law Task Force in Juba, Sudan on Thursday June 21.

The session brought together a number of leading editors to discuss the package of draft laws produced by Future Trends Foundation think tank (FTF) at the request of UNDP-Sudan. The four laws; The Press Law, the Broadcasting Bill, the Public Broadcasting Law and the Access to Information Law have since been presented to parliament and are likely to be adopted in September after the parliament's summer break.

The task force pinpointed the worrying and vague provisions in each of the four bills produced. While the bills appear to be positive, a number of chapters, if retained, are expected to have a negative impact on the media. The concerns raised and the recommendations will be then presented and adopted by a larger task force in Khartoum early next month before being presented and discussed at a wider roundtable

The members of the task force include a number of leading stakeholders including Alfred Taban (Khartoum Monitor), William Ezekiel (Sudan Tribune), Nhial Bol (The Citizen), Faisal el-Baghir and Lemia El-Agiely (KCHRED), and Mahjoub Erwa (not in attendance). This task force meeting is part of a larger project "*Promoting freedom of expression and civil society involvement in developing democratic Media legislation in Sudan*" managed by ARTICLE 19 in cooperation with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the Olof Palme International Centre, International Media Support (IMS), Khartoum Centre for Human Rights and Environmental Development (KCHRED), the Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS) and the European Commission (EC).

NOTES TO EDITORS

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- This project was made possible thanks to EC funding.
- ARTICLE 19 is an independent human rights organisation that works around the world to protect and promote the right to freedom of expression. It takes its name from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees freedom of expression.