Dear Partners and Friends,

It has become a tradition that the European Union Delegation to Sudan celebrates the International Human Rights Day, the Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations.

Although 63 years have passed since the adoption of the Declaration in 1948, it is permanently challenging all of us, individually and collectively.

The Declaration for the first time recognized the inherent dignity and equality of all human beings individually. It stressed their personal rights and freedoms without discrimination of any sort.

Without paying much attention, we exercise our individual rights in all aspects of everyday life. Buying a newspaper, going to school or to the doctor, raising our children according to our traditions and culture may seem normal activities, but they are also the expression of a human right.

The Declaration also states that the collective effort to build a free, just and peaceful world can be achieved only on the foundations of the respect for the rights of each one of us.

No country in Europe or in the world can yet be said to have attained all the goals set by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The support for human rights defenders, individuals and institutions, is a long-established element of the European Union’s human rights policy.
Dear Friends,

Since 2005 the European Union has supported 63 organisations working in the Sudan. These organisations work to promote a wide range of issues ranging from the democratic process, civic and voter education, the rights of women, to the rights of children and marginalised groups. We have been supporting the fight against Sexual and Gender Based violence as well as the capacity building of domestic electoral observer or of the media. While we celebrate the human rights day we should do it celebrating the work of these grass root organisations.

Today, we proudly add the Human Rights Centre of the University of Khartoum to the list. By contributing to the human rights literature of the centre, we hope to inspire students as well as teachers to develop their own ideas on how we can best help to further these important principles in Sudan. We also hope that this contribution can be the beginning of a fruitful partnership between the EU and the Khartoum University in general and the Human Rights Centre in particular.

I would like to thank University of Khartoum, especially the Dean of the Faculty of Law and the staff of the Human Rights Programme for making this event happen and for his important contribution to human rights here in Sudan. May these books help you and your students build on this accomplishment. May Khartoum’s Human Rights Centre prosper and develop in the years to come.

Thank you all again for coming. I wish you all a memorable and enjoyable human rights day.