Sudan: Blocking of an Independent Website for Elections Monitoring

Khartoum, Wednesday, April 14th, 2010, The Sudanese government has blocked the site: http://www.sudanvotemonitor.com/, an independent site launched by a group of Sudanese civil society organizations inside and outside Sudan to monitor the Sudanese Election process throughout the polling period concluded today.

The site was effectively used by observers from independent civil societies on the ground in and out of Sudan to file their reports and findings in real time using a variety of ICT tools including SMS to submit reports. The site is powered by Ushahidi platform (http://www.ushahidi.com), a collaborative reporting technology.

The Consortium of Civil Society Organizations (Tamam), the Sudan Forum for Election (Shams), and the National Civil Forum, which are currently working in elections monitoring, express their profound concern at this blockage, and consider it a restriction on freedom of expression and free communication contrary to Sudan's Constitution and domestic laws, including the current election law, as well as the commitment of the Sudanese authorities to international laws and election standards. The three organizations consider this blockage to be a new obstacle to the ability of Sudanese citizens to exercise their rights to free and fair elections conducted under their sight and supervision.

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