

**ACHPR/Res.149 (XLVI) 09: RESOLUTION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN AFRICA**

*The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Commission) meeting at its 46<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held from 11 – 25 November 2009, in Banjul, The Gambia;*

**CONSIDERING** its mandate to promote human and peoples' rights in Africa and to ensure their protection in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;

**RECALLING** its Resolution **ACHPR/ 69(XXXV) 04** of 4 June 2004 on the protection of human rights defenders in Africa adopted at the 35<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held from 21st May to 4th June 2004, in Banjul, The Gambia;

**BEARING IN MIND** its resolution **83(XXXVIII) 05** of 5 December 2005 on the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in Africa; adopted at the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held from 21<sup>st</sup> November to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005 in Banjul, The Gambia;

**CONSIDERING** its Resolution ACHPR/Res.125 (XXXXII) 07 on the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in Africa, adopted at its 42<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo from 13 to 28 November 2007;

**BEARING IN MIND** that in the *Grand Bay (Mauritius) Declaration and Plan of Action*, the Organization of African Unity (African Union) called on Member States "to take appropriate steps to implement the UN *Declaration on Human Rights Defenders* in Africa";

**CONSIDERING** that the term of **Commissioner Reine Alapini-Gansou** as Special Rapporteur comes to an end on 5 December 2009;

**NOTING** with appreciation the work and accomplishment of Commissioner **Reine Alapini- Gansou** as Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in Africa since her re- appointment in 2007;

**CONSIDERING** the end of the mandate report of the Special Rapporteur;

**EMPHASIZING** the importance of the work of the Special Rapporteur regarding the search for solutions to the problems arising from the protection of human rights defenders;

**CONSIDERING** the necessity to allow the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in Africa to continue to carry out its mandate as contained in resolution **ACHPR/ 69(XXXV) 04**;

**DECIDES** to appoint Commissioner **Mohamed Bechir Khalfallah** as Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in Africa for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009.