COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE
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Sudan UPR Briefing for Australia

Sudan Task Force

Advocacy and engagement with States coordinated by the Committee for Justice (CFJ).

The Sudan Task Force invites Australia to renew and strengthen its 2022 recommendations to Sudan in light of continuing violations. All three recommendations below were supported by Sudan.

Previous recommendations and implementation

Arbitrary detention

Australia's 2022 recommendation 137.120: "Cease the use of arbitrary detention and release all civilians detained as a result of the military takeover on 25 October 2021, and related protests."

Implementation assessment: The commitment to end arbitrary detention has not been implemented in practice. The Sudan Task Force documents detention without charges or effective judicial review, unofficial detention sites and ransom demands. In May 2026, the Rapid Support Forces detained 23 students under 18 travelling from Central Darfur towards examinations in Chad. Information available to the Task Force does not confirm whether all civilians detained following the October 2021 takeover have been released.

Excessive force and civilian protection

Australia's 2022 recommendation 137.169: "Stop the excessive and disproportionate use of force against civilian protesters and uphold the rights to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and association, including ensuring a free and safe environment for journalists to operate."

Implementation assessment: Implementation of commitments on policing protests and protecting journalists has not been verified. The Sudan Task Force continues to document direct killings, deaths in custody and attacks on civilian facilities, with major accountability gaps. The 20 March 2026 strike on El Daein Teaching Hospital killed at least 64 civilians and injured approximately 113 people. These continuing threats to civilian life provide grounds for Australia to strengthen its protection recommendations in the context of the armed conflict.

Sexual and gender based violence

Australia's 2022 recommendation 137.250: "Approve and implement the proposed violence against women law, including provisions which clearly criminalize domestic violence with strict punishments."

Implementation assessment: Adoption and effective implementation of the proposed violence against women law have not been verified. The Sudan Task Force documents rape and other sexual violence during raids, flight, detention and displacement. Survivors face fear of retaliation, stigma and limited access to medical, psychosocial and legal assistance.

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New recommendations from the Sudan Task Force

The Sudan Task Force proposes that Australia put forward the following recommendations during Sudan's 2027 Universal Periodic Review.

Arbitrary detention

1. Immediately release all persons arbitrarily detained, including those held for peaceful civic or professional activity or solely because of their ethnicity or perceived affiliation, and ensure prompt judicial review, access to a lawyer and necessary medical care for every person deprived of liberty.

2. Within three months, establish an updated central register of all persons detained in places under State authority, notify families of the place of detention within 24 hours of deprivation of liberty, and close all unofficial detention sites operated by State bodies.

Extrajudicial killings and civilian protection

3. Immediately issue binding written orders to all forces under State authority prohibiting extrajudicial and summary executions, intentional attacks on civilians and other unlawful use of force, and train all units deployed in conflict areas on these orders within six months.

4. Within six months, establish an independent investigation and prosecution team for unlawful deaths and attacks on hospitals, markets and displacement sites since April 2023, preserve forensic evidence, protect victims and witnesses, and publish quarterly figures on investigations and judicial referrals.

5. Within three months, adopt directives prohibiting the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas and the military use of medical and humanitarian facilities, and establish a mechanism to monitor and investigate violations.

Sexual and gender based violence

6. Within six months, establish formal coordination between the unit combating violence against women, prosecutors and health authorities to investigate and refer conflict-related sexual violence cases, maintain a unified confidential case system, and publish annual anonymized data on investigations and judicial referrals.

7. Within six months, establish free and confidential referral services for survivors in conflict-affected States and displacement sites, providing medical care, psychosocial support and legal assistance, including accessible mobile services for children and women with disabilities, without conditioning care on filing a complaint.

Suggested note on timing: *Unless otherwise specified, the proposed implementation deadlines would run from the adoption of Sudan's 2027 UPR outcome. Existing legal obligations and urgent protection measures require immediate action.*

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