COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE
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Sudan UPR Briefing for Iceland

Sudan Task Force

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

The Sudan Task Force invites Iceland to renew and strengthen its recommendations to Sudan in light of continuing violations, with concrete protection and accountability measures for the 2027 Universal Periodic Review.

Previous recommendations and implementation

Women's rights and treaty implementation

2022 recommendation 137.27: "Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women without reservations to articles 2 and 16."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan noted this recommendation.* Sudan has not acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The accession objective remains outstanding. 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.

Violence against women and legal reform

2022 recommendation 137.239: "Repeal articles in the Sudanese Criminal Code and provisions of the Personal Status Act that violate basic personal freedoms and the rights of women and girls."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* Adoption, amendment or effective implementation of the specific legal measures has not been verified in full. 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.

Protection against violence and discrimination

2022 recommendation 137.240: "Carry out impartial investigations into all allegations of ill-treatment, persecution and extrajudicial killings based on sexual orientation or gender identity."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan noted this recommendation.* Implementation for the particular groups named in this recommendation has not been verified. The Sudan Task Force documents gender-based violence, ill-treatment and unlawful killings more generally; these findings do not establish outcomes specifically for people targeted because of sexual orientation or gender identity. The new proposals address related protection gaps and equal access to safeguards and services.

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New recommendations from the Sudan Task Force

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

Torture and enforced disappearance

1. Within 12 months, criminalize torture and enforced disappearance in accordance with international definitions, ensure effective investigation and prosecution, and exclude evidence obtained by torture from proceedings. A statement obtained by torture may be used only against a person accused of torture as evidence that the statement was made.

2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture within 18 months and establish an independent national preventive mechanism with effective access to places of detention. Immediately permit independent monitoring and confidential interviews in all detention facilities under State authority.

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.

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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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