COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE
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Sudan UPR Briefing for Japan

Sudan Task Force

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

The Sudan Task Force invites Japan 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

Unlawful force and gender based violence

2022 recommendation 137.119: "Immediately halt unnecessary and disproportionate use of force against peaceful protestors and conduct investigations into the violence against protesters, including gender-based violence, alleged to have been committed by the Sudanese Armed Forces."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* Implementation of the protest-specific investigation and force commitments has not been verified in full. The Sudan Task Force documents summary executions, killings linked to ethnicity, deaths in custody and attacks on civilian facilities. Independent investigations, evidence preservation and effective remedies remain seriously deficient. Sexual violence also continues, requiring independent investigation and protection centred on survivors. The next recommendations should extend protection and accountability measures to conflict-related violations.

Journalists and political participation

2022 recommendation 137.153: "Ensure equal and full participation in political and public affairs, freedom of expression, press freedom and the safety of journalists."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* Effective protection has not been demonstrated in the cases documented by the Sudan Task Force. Journalists, lawyers, defenders and humanitarian workers have faced arbitrary detention and disappearance in connection with their work. The full range of civic-space, participation, media or investigative measures in the earlier recommendation has not been comprehensively verified.

New recommendations from the Sudan Task Force

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

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Extrajudicial killings and civilian protection

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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

4. 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.

5. 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.

Accountability and implementation

6. Cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court and United Nations and African investigation mechanisms, ratify the Rome Statute within 18 months, and submit implementing legislation to the competent legislative authority within six months of ratification.

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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