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Sudan UPR Briefing for Latvia

Sudan Task Force

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

The Sudan Task Force invites Latvia 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 137.16: "Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported 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.

International justice and accountability

2022 recommendation 137.39: "Ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as previously recommended."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* Ratification of the Rome Statute remains outstanding. 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. Cooperation with individual requests from the International Criminal Court and the full scope of domestic implementation have not been comprehensively verified.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2022 recommendation 137.63: "Consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, as previously recommended."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan noted this recommendation.* Full implementation of the cooperation commitment has not been verified. The Sudan Task Force documents continuing protection and accountability failures and the need for effective independent access, investigation and follow-up. Cooperation must deliver practical protection for victims and their families. The standing-invitation clause has not been verified.

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Women human rights defenders

2022 recommendation 137.155: "Take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, especially women human rights defenders, free from persecution, intimidation and harassment."

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.

Violence against women and legal reform

2022 recommendation 137.243: "Take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to combat violence against women and girls and domestic violence."

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.

New recommendations from the Sudan Task Force

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

Extrajudicial killings and civilian protection

1. 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.

Sexual and gender based violence

2. 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.

3. 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

4. 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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