COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE
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Sudan UPR Briefing for the Netherlands

Sudan Task Force

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

The Sudan Task Force invites the Netherlands 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

Assembly detention and torture

2022 recommendation 137.121: "Effectively protect the right to peaceful assembly by immediately ceasing the excessive use of force by security actors against peaceful protesters, journalists, medical staff and facilities, by preventing arbitrary detention and torture, and by repealing emergency order No. 4."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* The commitment to prevent arbitrary detention has not been implemented effectively. The Sudan Task Force documents detention without charges or effective judicial review, unofficial detention sites, denial of access to families and lawyers, and ransom demands since April 2023. Torture also persists; the repeal of emergency order No. 4 has not been verified.

Women peace and security

2022 recommendation 137.226: "Ensure a return to democratic transition and ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the mediation processes, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), leading to the formation of a legitimate civilian-led Government."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* Full implementation of the specified women, peace and security plan, participation, consultation or cooperation arrangements has 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.

New recommendations from the Sudan Task Force

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

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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.

Torture and enforced disappearance

3. 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.

4. 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

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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

8. 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.

9. 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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