COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE
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Sudan UPR Briefing for New Zealand

Sudan Task Force

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

The Sudan Task Force invites New Zealand 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 137.33: "Ensure the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and 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. Implementation of the accompanying action-plan, participation or policy clauses has not been fully verified.

Torture prevention and national protection

2022 recommendation 137.145: "Uphold its international obligations to protect freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, take further action to re-establish a national human rights commission and adopt domestic legislation to ensure full compliance with its international obligations under the Convention against Torture."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* Domestic protection against torture remains seriously deficient. The Sudan Task Force documents beatings, electric shocks, painful suspension, sexual violence and deprivation of food, water and medical care in detention facilities controlled by different parties. Implementation of every legislative, national-commission and civil-freedom clause in the recommendation has not been verified. New recommendations should focus on enforceable prohibitions and independent monitoring.

New recommendations from the Sudan Task Force

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

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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.

Sexual and gender based violence

3. 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.

4. 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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