COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE
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Sudan UPR Briefing for Norway

Sudan Task Force

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

The Sudan Task Force invites Norway 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

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2022 recommendation 137.61: "Cooperate fully with human rights mechanisms, including by issuing a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council."

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.

Emergency powers and arbitrary detention

2022 recommendation 137.125: "Revoke the state of emergency, abstain from arbitrary detention, and release all political prisoners."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* The nationwide state of emergency imposed in October 2021 was lifted on 29 May 2022, fulfilling that historical step. 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. Release of the entire historical group of political prisoners has not been verified.

Excessive force and civilian protection

2022 recommendation 137.148: "Respect the rights to freedom of expression and assembly, including by allowing peaceful protests, and by ensuring accountability for perpetrators of violence against protesters."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* Implementation of the specific commitments on policing peaceful protests has not been verified comprehensively. 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

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seriously deficient. These continuing threats to civilian life provide grounds to strengthen protection orders and accountability measures in the context of the armed conflict.

Women peace and security

2022 recommendation 137.227: "Respect the Sudanese national plan of action for women, peace and security, and implement the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women."

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. Sudan has not acceded to CEDAW.

New recommendations from the Sudan Task Force

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

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.

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.

Accountability and implementation

8. 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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