COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE
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Sudan UPR Briefing for Portugal

Sudan Task Force

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

The Sudan Task Force invites Portugal 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

Sexual and gender based violence

2022 recommendation 137.248: "Eradicate violence and discrimination against women, including by repealing all discriminatory legislation and by ensuring women's participation in decision-making, including in the ongoing peace process."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* Effective prevention and protection have not been achieved. 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. The specific legislative and participation clauses have not been verified in full.

Corporal punishment and related protection

2022 recommendation 137.265: "Take action to protect children from all forms of violence and exploitation, including corporal punishment, forced labour, early marriage and military recruitment."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* Implementation of the specific legal prohibitions on corporal punishment has not been verified. 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. These findings support stronger criminal prohibitions and independent prevention, but do not establish the status of every law or policy governing corporal punishment, education or child protection.

New recommendations from the Sudan Task Force

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

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

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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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