COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE
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Sudan UPR Briefing for Spain

Sudan Task Force

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

The Sudan Task Force invites Spain 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 137.25: "Ratify without reservations the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan noted 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 additional Maputo Protocol clause has not been verified in this assessment.

Excessive force and civilian protection

2022 recommendation 137.152: "Ensure fully the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression, including for protestors, as well as strict compliance by security forces with their obligations under international human rights law."

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

Protection of journalists and defenders

2022 recommendation 137.154: "Ensure a safe environment that is conducive to the legitimate work of human rights defenders and journalists."

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

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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.

New recommendations from the Sudan Task Force

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

Extrajudicial killings and civilian protection

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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

4. 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.

5. 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

6. 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.*