COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE
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Sudan UPR Briefing for Switzerland

Sudan Task Force

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

The Sudan Task Force invites Switzerland 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

Torture and corporal punishment

2022 recommendation 137.123: "Abolish all forms of torture, in particular flogging as a form of punishment."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* The prohibition of torture has not secured effective protection in practice. 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. The implementation of the specific flogging clause has not been verified. New recommendations should require effective criminalization, prevention and independent oversight.

Cooperation with international justice

2022 recommendation 137.139: "Cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* Effective accountability has not been demonstrated across the documented violations. 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. The Task Force has not comprehensively verified the full institutional, transitional-justice or cooperation arrangements specified in the earlier recommendation.

Civil freedoms and arbitrary detention

2022 recommendation 137.146: "Protect freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association by respecting the freedom of the media and avoiding all disproportionate use of force or the use of arbitrary arrest and detention."

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

Geneva office:
7 chemin de Balexert, Châtelaine
1219 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 940 35 38

Paris office:
60, rue François 1er
75008 Paris, France
Tel: +33 6 85 03 50 85

Gambia office:
in front of the Independence Stadium
Gate, Bakau Newtown, Gambia.
Tel: +220 238 4045

Website: www.cfjustice.org
E-Mail: oc@cfjustice.org
X: @Cfjusticeorg
Facebook: Cfjusticeorg

lawyers, and ransom demands since April 2023. Implementation of the media and assembly clauses has not been comprehensively verified.

New recommendations from the Sudan Task Force

The Sudan Task Force proposes that Switzerland 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.

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.

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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