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Sudan UPR Briefing for Zambia

Sudan Task Force

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

The Sudan Task Force invites Zambia 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 prevention and treaty implementation

2022 recommendation 137.3: "Ratify the international human rights conventions that it has not yet ratified, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* The OPCAT and CEDAW treaty steps remain outstanding. Sudan had already ratified the Convention against Torture on 10 August 2021, before the review. 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. Independent prevention, inspection and investigation remain necessary.

National human rights institutions

2022 recommendation 137.97: "Create an independent national human rights commission and designate sufficient resources for it to operate and to obtain accreditation under the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles)."

Implementation assessment: *Sudan supported this recommendation.* The establishment, legal status, accreditation, resourcing or practical independence required by this recommendation has not been verified in full. Continuing detention abuses and accountability failures show the need for effective national oversight and transparent implementation of human rights commitments, with participation by civil society.

Accountability for violations by armed forces

2022 recommendation 137.133: "Investigate and prosecute violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed by the armed forces."

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

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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.

New recommendations from the Sudan Task Force

The Sudan Task Force proposes that Zambia 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 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.

Extrajudicial killings and civilian protection

3. 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.

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.

7. Within six months, adopt a national plan to implement all outstanding supported UPR recommendations, including those from the 2022 cycle, identifying responsible bodies, timelines and indicators, and publish a progress report every six months in consultation with civil society.

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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