



AI Index: AFR 54/7184/2023
12 September 2023

-CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY-

ORAL STATEMENT

Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the High Commissioner's oral update on the situation in Sudan

UN Human Rights Council
54th session
11 September – 13 October 2023

Mr. President,

We welcome today's interactive dialogue and the High Commissioner's update. Civilians in Sudan are bearing the brunt of the ongoing devastating conflict between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and their allied militias. Thousands of people have been killed and injured and [nearly five million](#) people have been forced to flee their homes. Hundreds of thousands of others may soon join them.

Our organization issued a [report](#) last month that documented serious violations and abuses including war crimes committed by the parties to the conflict. Civilians have been caught in crossfire as both sides, often using explosive weapons with wide area effects, have launched frequent attacks in densely populated civilian neighborhoods. Women and girls as young as 12 have been raped and subjected to other forms of sexual violence.

In West Darfur, the RSF and allied militias are causing untold death and destruction. They continue to carry out repeated deliberate attacks targeting the ethnic Massalit population.

Impunity is at the heart of these violations and abuses. The perpetrators feel nothing will happen to them and the inaction from the international community has emboldened them further.

It is time for the UN Human Rights Council to prioritize addressing impunity in Sudan and act with urgency to prevent future violations, by establishing an independent investigative and accountability mechanism to monitor, collect and preserve evidence, identify perpetrators, and report serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law in Sudan.

In this regard, we join more than [110 civil society](#) organizations making the same demand. This demand is consistent with the commitments at the sub-regional level, where Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has also "[[committed](#)] to

work closely with the international community to put in place a robust monitoring and accountability mechanism that will be instrumental in bringing perpetrators to justice.”

The unimaginable suffering of civilians in Sudan will continue with impunity unless the international community acts now.

Thank you, Mr. President.