

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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## **Sudan must end violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and promptly investigate all allegations of torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary detention and excessive use of force**

### ***Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Sudan***

Amnesty International welcomes Sudan's acceptance of recommendations to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and strengthen efforts to prevent torture and inhuman treatment.

The organization notes, however, that Sudan rejected recommendations to remove impunity provisions from the National Security Act 2010 and ensure independent investigation and prosecution of human rights violations committed by the National Intelligence and Security Service, the armed forces and the police. This raises doubt as to Sudan's commitment to ending human rights violations committed by its security forces.

Amnesty International calls on Sudan to promptly investigate all allegations of torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary detention and excessive use of force and to hold those responsible to account in fair trials without recourse to the death penalty.

Amnesty International is pleased to note Sudan's acceptance of recommendations to amend national legislation in line with international human rights law, including with regard to the right to freedom of expression.

Civic space for opposition political parties, civil society and human rights defenders is restricted in Sudan. Three civil society organisations were shut down in 2015 and dozens more were denied registration. So far this year, eight civil society activists have been arbitrarily arrested and, in March 2016, four activists were prevented from travelling to Geneva to attend a preparatory meeting ahead of Sudan's Universal Periodic Review. Newspapers are regularly confiscated by the authorities from the printers. So far this year, ten newspapers have been confiscated on 19 different occasions.

Amnesty International calls on Sudan to ensure that human rights defenders, other civil society activists and journalists can carry out their legitimate activities without intimidation, hindrance or harassment.

Amnesty International remains concerned by the indiscriminate bombardments, unlawful killings, abductions, and gender-based and sexual violence in the conflict areas of Blue Nile, Darfur and South Kordofan. While Amnesty International welcomes Sudan's acceptance of recommendations to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons in these areas and to protect their rights, it is dismayed at Sudan's rejection of a recommendation to end attacks against civilians, including the use of rape as a weapon of war. Amnesty International urges Sudan to end all violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and to bring those responsible to justice.

**Background**

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Sudan on 21 September 2016 during its 33<sup>rd</sup> session. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above. Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis of the review through its submission on Sudan:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr54/3532/2016/en/>

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