ORAL STATEMENT

SUDAN: HRC SHOULD ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT MONITORING MECHANISM IN WAKE OF MILITARY COUP

UN Human Rights Council
Thirty Second Special Session
5 November 2021

Madam President,

Amnesty International deplores continued human rights violations witnessed in the wake of last week’s military coup in Sudan. These include the arrest and arbitrary detention of members of the civilian coalition, including some in unknown locations; unlawful use of force including sometimes lethal force against those peacefully taking to the streets to protest the army’s takeover; and restrictions on the internet.

Such violations run counter to Sudan’s ambitions for a future where human rights of all are respected; they amount to a betrayal of the hopes and sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of Sudanese.

Given the security forces’ history of violent crackdowns, the way Sudanese have flooded the streets en masse in peaceful protest, and the ongoing internet restrictions, we fear that conditions are set for an escalation in human rights violations.

We stand in solidarity with Sudanese civil society organizations calling for their rights to be respected, protected, and fulfilled. We join their call for rapid and resolute action by the Human Rights Council. We wholeheartedly welcome this Special Session.

The Council has a crucial role to play in ensuring heightened and sustained scrutiny of the human rights situation in Sudan, including by setting up an independent monitoring mechanism and ensuring effective coordination with the regional human rights bodies. The Council should also call upon military authorities to respect and fulfil human rights, including the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and withdraw military forces from all law enforcement operations.

Thank you, Madam President.