



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI Index: IOR 40/5397/2022
29 March 2022

South Sudan: UN Human Rights Council must continue to promote accountability in absence of meaningful progress on the implementation of Chapter V of the revitalized peace agreement

Speaking at the UN Human Rights Council today, Amnesty International thanked the High Commissioner for Human Rights for her report on South Sudan. The organisation said that, despite further commitments made by the Government of South Sudan during the reporting period, it remained concerned about the selective approach taken by the authorities to implement Chapter V of the revitalized peace agreement which contains mechanisms critical to the right to truth, justice and reparations for crimes under international law.

Almost seven years after committing to establish the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, authorities have left a trail of broken promises leaving justice for countless victims elusive. Despite the Council of Minister's approval of a plan by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for the establishment of the Chapter V mechanisms,¹ the authorities lack the political will to establish the much-needed hybrid court and apparently prioritize and single out the truth commission.

In 2019, Amnesty International documented the failure of the authorities to investigate or prosecute crimes under international law² that continue to be committed.³ The near total impunity continues to fuel and normalise crimes under international law, as noted in the report by the High Commissioner and both recent reports of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan.

Amnesty International said that, as multiple reports to the Human Rights Council during its 49th regular session have made clear, accountability is central to the prevention of further grave human rights violations in South Sudan. Technical assistance alone is insufficient in the face of a clear lack of political will. The role of the Commission on Human Rights remains critical in collecting and preserving evidence for future accountability. The organization concluded its statement by urging all member states to support the renewal of the Commission's mandate,

¹ Amnesty International, South Sudan's Council of Minister's approval of plans to establish long-awaited hybrid court must be followed by action (Index: AFR 65/3600/2021), 1 February 2021, www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr65/3600/2021/en/

² Amnesty International, "Do you think we will prosecute ourselves?" No prospects for accountability in South Sudan (Index: AFR 65/1105/2019), 7 October 2019, www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr65/1105/2019/en/

³ Amnesty International, "South Sudan: Survivors describe killings, mass displacement and terror amid fighting in Western Equatoria", 9 December 2021, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/12/south-sudan-survivors-describe-killings-mass-displacement-and-terror-amid-fighting-in-westernequatoria/

saying that now is a critical moment for the Human Rights Council to send a clear message that accountability remains a priority.

Background

This public statement is based on an oral statement Amnesty International delivered to the Human Rights Council on 29 March 2022, during the interactive dialogue with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Public Document

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