



25 June 2014

UN Human Rights Council
Twenty-sixth Session
10 – 27 June 2014

Item 10: Technical assistance and capacity-building
General Debate

Delivered by Patrizia Scannella – Video link: <http://goo.gl/FAY2Sw> (statement number 30)

Mr. President,

Amnesty International has documented atrocities committed by both government and opposition forces in South Sudan that constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity and other grave human rights violations and abuses.¹

We fully support the mandate of the African Union Commission of Inquiry to investigate human rights violations and abuses committed during the conflict and to make recommendations on the best ways to ensure accountability, reconciliation and healing. The Commission's terms of reference also require it to assist in identifying perpetrators of such violations and abuses with a view to ensuring accountability of those responsible.

We await the Commission's final recommendations on accountability and hope they will help steer South Sudan away from the habitual impunity that has characterized the state's response to serious human rights violations.

We invite this Council to encourage the Commission of Inquiry to:

- conduct thorough field investigations in conflict-affected areas of South Sudan;
- promptly make public its interim and final reports; and
- brief the Human Rights Council during the 27th session on progress in the implementation of its mandate.

The grave violations and abuses that have been committed demand a serious response. This Council will prove itself as being out of touch with reality if it limits itself to capacity building and human rights education when war crimes and crimes against humanity remain to be addressed, when the Government of South Sudan is implicated in some of these crimes, and when there is a real possibility of further grave violations and abuses as peace talks between the parties are currently stalled.

¹ See 'South Sudan: the UN Human Rights Council must support international efforts to address the dire situation. Written statement to the 26th session of the UN Human Rights Council (10-27 June 2014)', UN index: A/HRC/26/NGO/110, AI index: AFR 65/006/2014.

See also 'South Sudan, Egypt and Sri Lanka require the Council's attention. Oral statement to the 26th session of the UN Human Rights Council'. Amnesty International oral statement under item 4 (Human rights situations that require the Council's attention), AI Index: IOR 41/017/2014.

The Human Rights Council should:

- establish a Special Rapporteur mandate to report regularly to the Council on the human rights situation in South Sudan, and to lend support to the African Union Commission of Inquiry and the implementation of the Commission's eventual recommendations;
- support efforts to ensure accountability of suspected perpetrators of violations and abuses in trials that meet international standards; and
- follow closely the situation.

Thank you Mr. President.