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ORAL STATEMENT

Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
Agenda Item 3: Human Rights Situation in Africa
77th ordinary session
20 Oct -9 Nov 2023

Honourable Chairperson,

Amnesty International welcomes this opportunity to address the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Commission) during its 77th ordinary session.

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 [over five million](#) people have been forced to flee their homes.

In early August, our organization released [a report](#) 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 caused untold death and destruction. They continue to carry out repeated deliberate attacks targeting the ethnic Massalit population.

Honourable Chairperson,

Impunity is at the heart of the violations and abuses taking place in Sudan. The perpetrators feel nothing will happen to them and the inaction from the international community including the African Union has emboldened them further.

It is time for the African Commission to prioritize addressing impunity in Sudan. We call on the African Commission to publicly support the Fact-Finding Mission established by the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council in early October. We also urge the African Commission to:

- Call on the Sudanese authorities to fully cooperate with the Fact-Finding Mission established by the UN Human Rights Council;
- Call on all parties to the conflict in Sudan to end all attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure and ensure unhindered and immediate humanitarian access;
- Call for all countries to respect the UN Security Council's arms embargo on Darfur by refraining from transferring weapons and ammunition to the SAF, the RSF and other actors; and
- Call on countries neighbouring Sudan to keep their borders open and remove movement restrictions and ensure those fleeing the conflict are not rejected at the borders, are protected against refoulement, and have prompt access to asylum procedures.

Thank you.