



## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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### **South Sudan: UN Human Rights Council should extend the mandate of the CHRSS and protect the documentation of evidence related to human rights violations.**

Amnesty International is concerned by the Government of South Sudan's calls at the ongoing 55<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (CHRSS) to share evidence and names of individuals and entities accused of human rights violations in the country. The justification for the request is for the "government to evaluate the evidence with a view of addressing them through accountability."<sup>1</sup>

Given the authorities' failure to establish a victim and witness protection programme, sharing with the government evidence documented by the CHRSS could put witnesses at risk, and lead to loss of or tampering with evidence in case witnesses are intimidated or attacked. The request for sharing of evidence should also be rejected considering the lack of meaningful progress on judicial reforms in South Sudan that has denied the country an impartial and independent judiciary, capable of holding perpetrators to account. During the last one decade the South Sudan government has not demonstrated commitment to putting in place mechanisms outlined in Chapter V of the peace agreement to ensure justice and accountability and tackle the ongoing rampant human rights violations in the country.

While the CHRSS may choose to share the evidence and information it holds with credible independent institutions under Chapter V of the Revitalised Peace Agreement, these bodies are yet to be established. The HRC resolution on South Sudan under item 2 should protect evidence and information held by the CHRSS in unambiguous terms and oppose all efforts by the Government of South Sudan to coerce the Commission into sharing such evidence or information.

The process to establish the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) and the Compensation and Reparations Authority (CRA) Bills has stalled since they were tabled in the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly (RTNLA) on 5 December 2023. More worrying for victims and survivors of grave human rights violations is the apparent lack of political will by the authorities to set up the much-needed Hybrid Court for South Sudan to hold perpetrators of these violations accountable.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://twitter.com/UN\\_HRC/status/1765478416868851867?s=20](https://twitter.com/UN_HRC/status/1765478416868851867?s=20)

As South Sudan prepares for its first election in December 2024, we are witnessing an increase in human rights violations, especially arbitrary arrests and detention, widespread violation of freedom of assembly and movement and serious curtailment of freedom of association, among others, targeting political and civil society actors as well as media. The international oversight and early warning role played by the CHRSS is critical at this juncture in South Sudan.

Amnesty International urges the Human Rights Council to renew, in full, the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan.