ORAL STATEMENT
Item 10: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SOUTH SUDAN: Technical Assistance yet to lead towards progress in justice and accountability for victims of human rights violations.

UN Human Rights Council
Fifty-fifth regular session
26 February – 5 April 2024

Mr. President,

While we acknowledge the technical assistance offered by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to the Government of South Sudan we are concerned that this support is yet to translate into noticeable progress in terms of achieving justice and accountability for victims of human rights violations across the country.

The government continues to drag its feet in implementing Chapter V of the revitalized peace agreement which contains mechanisms critical to the right to truth, redress, and accountability for crimes under international law. The process to establish the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing and the Compensation and Reparations Authority has stalled since the bills were tabled in the transitional parliament on 5 December 2023. The review of the National Security Service (NSS) Amendment Bill has also been pending in parliament since May 8, 2023. The current NSS Act allows the agency to commit serious abuses with impunity, while creating and sustaining a climate of repression and fear.¹

Equally concerning is the government’s failure to put in place the much-needed Hybrid Court for South Sudan. Victims and survivors of atrocities continue to wait for justice and accountability, almost ten years since the promise to set up the court was made.

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 Commission is critical at this

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