Public Statement on the occasion of the Human Rights Council’s Interactive Dialogue with the Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan, during the Council’s 56th Session

Amnesty International welcomes this week’s Human Rights Council dialogue with the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) for Sudan. The conflict in Sudan continues to cause massive human rights, displacement, and humanitarian crises. Over 16,000 people have been killed since April last year, and nearly 9 million people displaced making Sudan the largest internal displacement crisis globally. Humanitarian organizations are warning that the country is heading toward famine.

The communication blackout and internet shutdowns in the country continue to threaten the delivery of humanitarian aid and emergency services and is also hindering the proper documentation of the ongoing atrocities.

The violence keeps spreading to new areas in the country including recently to El Fasher city in North Darfur which is home to over 1.5 million people including hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people. These IDPs fled fighting in other parts of Darfur in the early-2000s as well as from the ongoing conflict from last year, and yet again are finding themselves trapped in another cycle of violence.

The developing situation in El Fasher is another stark reminder that impunity is at the heart of the Sudan conflicts.

Last year, Amnesty International welcomed the establishment of the FFM for Sudan as a milestone for accountability. But the UN’s liquidity crisis has slowed down the work of the FFM including funding and staffing challenges and could therefore impact its ability as mandated to present a truly comprehensive report during the Council’s 57th session.

As the conflict rages and the associated violations, abuses and impunity continue, further investigations will be needed, including through research trips, collection of testimonies and verification of additional allegations of violations and to identify perpetrators so that they can one day be brought to justice.

In this regard, Amnesty International joins 75 other organizations to call on the Council to extend the FFM’s mandate for at least one year to allow it to pursue its important work.

Amnesty International also calls on states to pay their contributions to the UN in full and on time to resolve the liquidity crisis and allow the FFM for Sudan, other independent investigations, and human rights bodies and mechanisms to fulfil their respective mandates.