



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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South Sudan must develop a human rights agenda and action plan

Speaking at the UN Human Rights Council today, Amnesty International welcomed South Sudan's support for 210 out of 246¹ recommendations made during its third Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Nevertheless, Amnesty International regretted that South Sudan has not implemented its commitment from its first review to develop a human rights agenda and action plan² and urged South Sudan to do so without delay.

On 2 February 2022, Amnesty International and partners offered the government recommendations for ten human rights priorities that, at a minimum, should feature in such an agenda.³ These priorities include human rights issues raised during this UPR and which Amnesty International highlighted in its submission to the Working Group,⁴ including violations of the right to life; freedoms of expression and opinion, association and peaceful assembly; freedom from torture and other ill-treatment, and concerns regarding arbitrary arrest and prolonged detention; the use of the death penalty; and impunity for crimes under international law.⁵

Amnesty International said that it regretted that South Sudan noted all 18 recommendations regarding steps to abolish the death penalty;⁶ all four recommendations regarding ratification of

¹ The total number of recommendations is 258. However, 12 of those fall outside of Amnesty International's mandate, namely recommendations 6.112 (Ghana), 6.131 (Maldives), 6.141 (Czechia), 6.145 (Lithuania), 6.149 (Maldives), 6.154 (United States of America), 6.156 (Somalia), 6.165 (China), 6.168 (Algeria), 6.169 (Philippines), 6.211 (Norway), 6.226 (Chile). Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/WG.6/40/L.10, 4 February 2022 and Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/50/14/Add.1, 1 June 2022.

² UNHRC, Report of the WG UPR: South Sudan, 28 December 2016, UN Doc. A/HRC/34/13, Recommendations 126.26 (Ethiopia) and 126.27 (Pakistan).

³ Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, South Sudan Human Rights Defenders Network, *South Sudan: Human rights priorities for the government of South Sudan* (Index: AFR 65/5196/2022), 3 February 2022, [South Sudan: Human rights priorities for the government of South Sudan - Amnesty International](#)

⁴ Amnesty International, *South Sudan: Human rights in review. Amnesty International submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 40th session of the UPR working group, January – February 2022* (Index: AFR 65/4530/2021), July 2021, [South Sudan: Human rights in review: Amnesty International submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 40th session of the UPR Working Group, January – February 2022 - Amnesty International](#)

⁵ Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, South Sudan Human Rights Defenders Network, *South Sudan: Human rights priorities for the government of South Sudan* (Index: AFR 65/5196/2022), 3 February 2022, [South Sudan: Human rights priorities for the government of South Sudan - Amnesty International](#)

⁶ Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/WG.6/40/L.10, 4 February 2022 and Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/50/14/Add.1, 1 June 2022 recommendations 6.7 (Iceland), 6.15 (Italy), 6.16 (Uruguay), 6.72 (Germany), 6.73 (Lithuania),

the Rome Statute;⁷ the recommendation to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding to establish the Hybrid Court for South Sudan;⁸ and three recommendations regarding ending unlawful and extra-judicial killings of civilians.⁹

Amnesty International welcomed support for ratification of key human rights treaties¹⁰, for 21 out of 25 recommendations regarding civic space¹¹ and 42 out of 48 regarding accountability¹² and urged South Sudan to implement them without delay. The organization regretted that South Sudan noted four recommendations¹³ urging the government to take concrete action to protect civic space and urged the government to reverse its decision, especially in light of possible forthcoming elections.

The organization concluded its statement by urging the government to submit a mid-term report on progress towards implementation of supported recommendations and to use an Item 6 General Debate to bring this to the attention of UN Member States.

Background

This public statement is based on an oral statement Amnesty International delivered to the Human Rights Council on 4 July 2022, during the adoption of South Sudan's UPR outcome report.

Public Document

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6.74 (Mexico), 6.75 (Portugal), 6.76 (Slovenia), 6.77 (Spain), 6.78 (Switzerland), 6.79 (Ukraine), 6.80 (Albania), 6.81 (Argentina), 6.82 (Chile), 6.83 (Costa Rica), 6.84 (Chad), 6.85 (Brazil), 6.86 (Liechtenstein).

⁷ Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/WG.6/40/L.10, 4 February 2022 and Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/50/14/Add.1, 1 June 2022 recommendations 6.19 (Timor-Leste), 6.23 (Paraguay), 6.24 (Senegal), 6.31 (Costa Rica).

⁸ Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/WG.6/40/L.10, 4 February 2022 and Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/50/14/Add.1, 1 June 2022 recommendation 6.108 (Belgium).

⁹ Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/WG.6/40/L.10, 4 February 2022 and Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/50/14/Add.1, 1 June 2022 recommendations 6.88 (Italy), 6.89 (Czechia), 6.94 (Spain).

¹⁰ Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/WG.6/40/L.10, 4 February 2022 and Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/50/14/Add.1, 1 June 2022 recommendations 6.1 (Ukraine), 6.2 (Malawi), 6.3 (Ethiopia), 6.4 (Morocco), 6.5 (Kenya), 6.6 (Spain), 6.8 (Indonesia), 6.9 (Chad), 6.10 (Norway), 6.11 (Namibia), 6.12 (Nepal), 6.13 (India), 6.14 (Republic of Korea), 6.17 (Togo), 6.18 (Côte d'Ivoire), 6.20 (Mauritius), 6.21 (Niger), 6.22 (Japan), 6.25 (Sierra Leone), 6.26 (Slovakia), 6.27 (Tunisia), 6.28 (Algeria), 6.29 (Argentina), 6.30 (Armenia), 6.32 (Denmark), 6.33 (Namibia), 6.34 (Burkina Faso), 6.35 (Armenia), 6.36 (Botswana), 6.37 (Chile), 6.38 (Costa Rica), 6.39 (Côte d'Ivoire), 6.40 (Denmark), 6.41 (Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini and Paraguay), 6.42 (Mali).

¹¹ Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/WG.6/40/L.10, 4 February 2022 and Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/50/14/Add.1, 1 June 2022 recommendations 6.132 (Germany), 6.133 (France), 6.134 (Germany), 6.135 (Finland), 6.136 (Ghana), 6.138 (Estonia), 6.139 (Ireland), 6.140 (Japan), 6.142 (Lithuania), 6.143 (Canada), 6.144 (Luxembourg), 6.148 (Australia), 6.151 (Mexico), 6.155 (Spain), 6.157 (Spain), 6.158 (Slovakia), 6.159 (Timor-Leste), 6.160 (Switzerland), 6.161 (Ukraine), 6.162 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 6.199 (Indonesia).

¹² Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/WG.6/40/L.10, 4 February 2022 and Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/50/14/Add.1, 1 June 2022 recommendations 6.65 (Ethiopia), 6.87 (Luxembourg), 6.96 (Angola), 6.99 (Germany), 6.100 (Fiji), 6.101 (Canada), 6.102 (South Africa), 6.103 (Sierra Leone), 6.104 (Albania), 6.105 (Montenegro), 6.106 (France), 6.107 (United States of America), 6.109 (Finland), 6.110 (Ghana), 6.111 (Iceland), 6.113 (Czechia), 6.114 (Libya), 6.115 (Liechtenstein), 6.116 (Croatia), 6.117 (Lithuania), 6.118 (Brazil), 6.119 (Albania), 6.120 (Zambia), 6.121 (The Netherlands), 6.122 (Zambia), 6.123 (Montenegro), 6.124 (Mexico), 6.125 (Zambia), 6.126 (Slovakia), 6.127 (Slovenia), 6.128 (Sweden), 6.129 (Republic of Korea), 6.130 (Ukraine), 6.200 (Ireland), 6.202 (Kuwait), 6.205 (Luxembourg), 6.209 (Mexico), 6.210 (Nepal), 6.212 (Paraguay), 6.222 (Australia), 6.229 (Djibouti), 6.250 (Togo).

¹³ Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/WG.6/40/L.10, 4 February 2022 and Human Rights Council, *Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – South Sudan*, A/HRC/50/14/Add.1, 1 June 2022 recommendations 6.137 (Ireland), 6.147 (The Netherlands), 6.150 (Belgium), 6.52 (Norway).

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