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ORAL STATEMENT

81st Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
Agenda Item 3: Human Rights Situation in Africa
17 Oct - 6 Nov 2024

Honourable Chairperson,

Impunity is a key factor and driver of cycles of violence in Sudan, and any long-term solution in the country must centre accountability for grave violations and abuses. In this context, Amnesty International welcomes the recent decision of the African Commission to undertake a Joint Fact-Finding Mission to Sudan. We believe that the Joint Fact-Finding Mission will play a crucial role in supporting accountability, and truth and justice for the victims.

The three-month timeframe granted to the Joint Fact-Finding Mission is soon lapsing, but the envisaged on-site and remote investigations are yet to commence. Since August when the Commission adopted the resolution on the Joint Fact-Finding Mission, the humanitarian crisis and the horrific toll the conflict is having on civilians across the country has further worsened. We urge the African Commission to move with speed to operationalize and dispatch the Joint Fact-Finding Mission. We also urge all parties to the conflict to cooperate with the Joint Fact-Finding Mission with a view to ending violations of human rights and humanitarian law and promoting accountability.

Honourable Chairperson,

Over 19,000 people have been killed since April 2023, and over 10 million people have been displaced from their homes making Sudan the largest internal displacement crisis globally. Over 2.1 million people have fled Sudan and crossed borders to neighbouring countries where they live in dire conditions.

The conflict in Sudan is being fueled by an almost unimpeded supply of weapons by states and corporate actors around the world to parties to the conflict. Despite the United Nations Security Council arms embargo which has been in place for two decades, our [recent research](#) has demonstrated that recently manufactured weapons and military equipment from Russia, China, Türkiye, and the United Arab Emirates are being imported in large quantities into Sudan, and then diverted into Darfur. Weapons and ammunition are also being smuggled into the country directly through Darfur.

Our research has also identified recently-manufactured or recently-transferred small arms and ammunition from countries such as Serbia, Yemen, and China being used on the battlefield. Advanced drone jammers, mortars and anti-materiel rifles manufactured in China have been used by both sides of the conflict, including in Darfur. A variety of recently-manufactured armoured personnel carriers from the UAE have been used by the RSF, also in Darfur.

All parties to the conflict are using a wide variety of arms to commit serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, in some instances amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In this regard, we urge all states and businesses to stop fanning the flames by immediately ceasing supplies

of all arms and ammunition to Sudan. We also ask the AU including the AU Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) to work with other African States and the UN Security Council to expand the arms embargo that currently applies to Darfur to the rest of Sudan.

Lastly, we call on all parties to the conflict in Sudan including the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces to protect civilians by ending all attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure and by ensuring unhindered and immediate humanitarian access for all those who need it. We also 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.