



DEFENDDEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

UN Human Rights Council – 45th regular session
Item 10: Enhanced interactive dialogue on the report of the
Independent Expert on the Sudan
Oral statement

Delivered by: Nicolas Agostini

Madam President,

DefendDefenders thanks the Independent Expert for his work over the last six years. We welcome draft resolution L.40, which highlights the positive steps undertaken by the Transitional Government to improve human rights in Sudan. As the draft resolution acknowledges, it is the “exemplary, non-violent and inspiring popular uprising” of the Sudanese people that led to a fundamental change in the political and human rights situation.

Ahead of this session, a group of 25 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including many from Sudan, called on the Council to extend both its support to, and scrutiny of, the country. In a [letter](#), they highlighted progress and ongoing challenges and stressed that Sudan’s political transition remains fragile, with the country facing a multi-faceted crisis with economic, social, human rights, humanitarian, and health dimensions. We extend our condolences to the Sudanese people for the lives lost to floods and disease.

Increasing violence against civilians, especially in Darfur, must be addressed urgently. Significant steps must be taken to address this and other systemic human rights issues, including lack of justice and accountability for the egregious violations committed under the 30-year Al-Bashir dictatorship and by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), whose commander, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo “Hemedti,” sits on the Sovereign Council.

The opening of an OHCHR country office is a milestone. However, after the Independent Expert’s mandate is discontinued, and as Sudan attempts to strengthen gains of its revolution and prevent setbacks, the Council has a role to play. It is its responsibility to support systemic reforms, extend technical assistance and capacity-building, and ensure monitoring, reporting, and public debates on Sudan.

To allow Sudan to benefit from both expert and political support, to continue sending positive signals to the international community, and to continue building confidence, the government should continue to engage constructively and work toward ambitious resolutions. The country should remain on the Council’s agenda until at least the end of the transition period, in 2022-2023, with regular OHCHR reporting and public debates in an enhanced format.

Thank you.