



# DEFEND DEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

**UN Human Rights Council – 48<sup>th</sup> regular session**  
**Item 10: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the report of**  
**the High Commissioner on Sudan**  
**Oral statement**

*Delivered by: Estella Kabachwezi*

Madam President, Madam High Commissioner,

As the Human Rights Council is about to discontinue its formal reporting on Sudan, we stress that this would be a premature move.

Ahead of this session, a group of 38 Sudanese, African, and international NGOs called on the Council to continue supporting human rights reforms in Sudan, both through technical assistance and capacity-building and by maintaining the monitoring and public reporting capacity of OHCHR.

In its last report, OHCHR outlined both progress and ongoing challenges, including protection gaps. While the last two and a half years have brought about positive change, Sudan continues to face significant human rights, humanitarian, political, economic, social, and health challenges. In recent months, violence against civilians in Darfur and intercommunal conflicts in the Eastern part of the country have increased. Justice and accountability remain elusive for the egregious violations and abuses committed under the Al-Bashir dictatorship and during the 3 June 2019 massacre.

Sudan's political transition is incomplete. The army retains significant power and tensions grow between the civilian and military sides of the executive.

From a Geneva perspective, Sudan is not yet a success story for the Human Rights Council. We do not want to face a situation in which, in one or two years from now, we have to call for Sudan to be set on the Council's agenda again. While we have to issue this warning today, we hope that we will be proven wrong — and we wish all the best to the Sudanese people, who deserve *Freedom, Justice and Peace*.

Thank you for your attention.