



# DEFENDDEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

## UN Human Rights Council – 50<sup>th</sup> regular session

### Item 6: UPR outcome of Sudan

#### Oral statement

*Delivered by: Majid Maali*

Mr. President,

Ahead of the third UPR of Sudan, before the military takeover of 25 October 2021, DefendDefenders and the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) addressed recommendations on freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and association to the civilian-led government.

We note that the *de facto* military authorities represented Sudan during the country's review, on 9 February 2022. Our recommendations, however, remain valid. As repression of those peacefully demanding a return to the transitional process or full civilian rule intensifies, it is essential for UN member states to exert pressure on the authorities, including on civic space and accountability.

We take note of *de facto* authorities' replies to the recommendations states addressed to Sudan. We will follow with interest how recommendations are implemented, in particular those pertaining to ratifications, cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC), and respect for fundamental freedoms. We stress that no reservations to the CEDAW Convention or the Maputo Protocol should run contrary to their object and purpose.

Sudan should ratify the Rome Statute. But once this step has been taken, things should be clear: cooperating with the ICC means complying with arrest warrants issued for all indicted persons, including former President Al-Bashir.

Mr. President,

In the country, the situation continues to deteriorate. As the High Commissioner's report ([A/HRC/50/22](#)) shows, authorities continue to commit violations with impunity. These include excessive use of force against and unlawful killings of protesters, arbitrary detentions, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), torture, attacks on hospitals and medical staff, and undue restrictions to freedoms. Intercommunal violence is also rising, especially in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Eastern Sudan.

Beyond the UPR, and beyond the UN Human Rights Council's 50<sup>th</sup> session, Sudan requires continued, long-term international [scrutiny](#).

Thank you.