



DEFEND DEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

UN Human Rights Council – 52nd regular session

**Item 2: Enhanced interactive dialogue on the report of the
Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan**

Oral statement

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Mr. President, Commissioners,

We welcome your report, including its description of the environment South Sudanese civil society is facing.

In South Sudan, violence and impunity remain pervasive and uncertainty over the Constitution-making and electoral process is high. As justice is elusive for victims and survivors of the conflict, the continuation of the Commission's mandate is the best means to safeguard prospects for future accountability, including through the Hybrid Court.

Once again, this year, close to 100 organisations [urge](#) the Human Rights Council to extend the Commission's mandate. They highlight that its work remains vital as the conditions that prompted the Council to establish it, in 2016, have not significantly changed to warrant less scrutiny.

Parties to the Revitalised Peace Agreement have agreed to extend the transitional period by 24 months, which is now due to end in February 2025. This is one of the reasons why civil society calls for a two-year mandate extension.

Mr. President,

As the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) has re-prioritised addressing South Sudan's human rights situation, through a [resolution](#) adopted in November 2022, this Council should make clear that investigations, collection and preservation of evidence, reporting, and advancement of justice and accountability remain critical.

Commissioners:

How can we make sure that the three transitional justice mechanisms envisioned by Chapter V of the revitalised agreement are established, operationalised, and mutually reinforcing?

Thank you for your attention.