



# DEFEND DEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

## UN Human Rights Council – 52<sup>nd</sup> regular session

### Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in the Sudan

#### Oral statement

*Delivered by: Hassan Shire*

Mr. President, Mr. High Commissioner,

We salute the work of the OHCHR office in Sudan, designated Expert, geographic desk, and support team.

16 months after the military coup of 25 October 2021, Sudan's human rights situation remains grim. Human rights defenders, journalists, protesters, and all those who express dissent or demand full civilian rule remain targeted.

We reiterate:

- (1) The central importance of Sudanese citizens' right to protest. No democratic Sudan will be possible without an open civic space. In this regard, we are concerned by new [measures](#) imposed by the Humanitarian Aid Commission against NGOs and urge the High Commissioner, the designated Expert, and the Special Rapporteur on freedoms of peaceful assembly and association to push back against the stifling of Sudanese civil society.
- (2) The need for investigations, prosecutions, and redress. Judicial institutions must ensure accountability at the command responsibility level, including for serious violations committed in relation to the coup and the popular Revolution of 2018-2019. Impunity so far remains almost complete.

Mr. President,

We welcome the signature of a [Framework Agreement](#) between civilian leaders and the military. We stress, however, that Sudan needs continued international scrutiny.

The Council should ensure that public debates on Sudan's human rights situation continue to be held, as over 50 NGOs [urged](#).

Thank you.