



DEFENDDEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

UN Human Rights Council – 54th regular session

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

Oral statement

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Mr. President, Mr. High Commissioner,

We thank you for your update. We salute the work of the Designated Expert and encourage him to continue advising the High Commissioner and documenting violations in line with his mandate. When the conditions are met, his mandate will allow him to resume his engagement with Sudanese authorities.

As we speak, however, the conflict shows no sign of abating. Sudan’s human rights and humanitarian situation is dire. Egregious violations continue to be committed, including sexual violence against women and girls. In West Darfur, the violence has taken on an increasingly interethnic dimension that is reminiscent of the crimes committed twenty years ago.

As 120 NGOs, including DefendDefenders, highlighted in a recent letter, “impunity is at the heart of the current crisis and addressing it should be a priority.” This is why we [called](#) on the Council to establish, without further delay, an independent mechanism with a mandate to investigate human rights violations and abuses in Sudan, collect and preserve evidence, and identify those responsible.

Such a mechanism should be provided with all the resources necessary to enable it to carry out its mandate, in particular in the areas of fact-finding, legal analysis, translation and interpretation, and evidence-collection and preservation. It should integrate a gender perspective and a survivor-centred approach throughout its work.

The international community has failed the Sudanese people for too long. There is no more time to lose.

Thank you.