



DEFENDDEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

UN Human Rights Council – 57th regular session

Item 2: Enhanced interactive dialogue on the report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (IFFM) for the Sudan

Oral statement

Delivered by: Estella Kabachwezi

Mr. President, Mr. High Commissioner, Stakeholders,
Dear Members of the Fact-Finding Mission,

We thank you for your report. As expected, it details a litany of violations and abuses, some of which may amount to crimes under international law.

The “enhanced” format of this interactive dialogue is a small but necessary step for the international community to re-prioritise the Sudan crisis — which so far has received only a fraction of the attention it deserves.

Last October, the IFFM’s [establishment](#) was the first ray of hope for millions of victims. Since then, in light of the situation in the country and of the UN’s liquidity crisis, 80 NGOs [urged](#) states to extend the IFFM’s mandate, and DefendDefenders [stressed](#) that failing to do so would be “more than a mistake: it would be an unforgivable dereliction of duty.”

Mr. President,

Two weeks ago, together with Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, we released a [Question & Answer](#) document that addresses key issues related to the IFFM. The document shows why the IFFM is uniquely placed to advance both the *moral* dimension of accountability (through exposure, public reporting, and as regards truth and remembrance) and its *criminal* dimension.

The IFFM’s collection and preservation of evidence functions and its ability to identify those responsible mean that it is our best collective hope to break impunity, which is at the heart of the current crisis and of cycles of violence in Sudan.

States must act now.

Thank you for your attention.