



UN Human Rights Council – Interactive dialogue on the oral update of the OHCHR on the human rights situation in and around El Fasher, in the context of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan (9 February 2026)

Oral statement

Delivered by: Nicolas Agostini

Mr. President, Mr. High Commissioner,

[This is a joint statement endorsed by: Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, International Service for Human Rights, and Sudanese Women's Rights Action.]

We welcome this debate, but regret that at its 38th [special session](#), the Council did not do its utmost to secure additional resources for a gravely under-funded Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) – the session simply triggered the unfreezing of three staff positions and additional funds for travels. Today's update should logically have been provided by the FFM. We look forward to the findings on its urgent inquiry on El Fasher, at HRC61.

On the ground, tens of thousands of people have been killed or remain missing, some are detained, and others lack resources to flee. Humanitarian access is limited. Women and girls face widespread sexual violence. Although in El Fasher, violence has been committed on a scale so wide that “much of the city is a [crime scene](#),” it echoes patterns witnessed in Sudan in the past decades. Civil society repeatedly warned about targeted ethnic attacks, in North Darfur and throughout the country, and [urged](#) all actors to help stop atrocities committed by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Mr. President,

Condemning and documenting RSF atrocities should not lead to giving a free pass to the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), which have also committed attacks on civilians and other crimes under international law. Condemning actors who fuel the conflict, including the UAE, should not lead to being silent on others who contribute to the Sudanese people’s nightmare. Two examples: first, Ethiopia must stop extorting obscene visa and residence fees from Sudanese families. Second, Egypt must abide by non-refoulement obligations – it must stop deporting Sudanese asylum-seekers back to Sudan without providing fair and efficient procedures for determining both risks and status.

Mr. President,

The world’s indifference must end. Atrocities in North Darfur should not have happened – the world had notice. But the world now has notice about risks of atrocities in South Kordofan. All actors with influence over the parties have a role to play in stopping the [horrors](#) unfolding in Kadugli, Dilling, and elsewhere in Sudan.

Thank you for your attention.