



DEFEND DEFENDERS

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

UN Human Rights Council – 62nd regular session

Urgent debate on the human rights situation in and around El Obeid, North Kordofan, in the context of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan

Oral statement

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Mr. President,

Three weeks ago, we **urged** this Council to “bridge the gap between the objective gravity of the Sudan crisis and the level of attention the country is getting.” Civil society repeatedly pushed the international community to do more to prevent atrocity crimes in Sudan. Those who were unaware of the scale and gravity of these crimes before the Fact-Finding Mission’s (FFM) El Fasher **report** can no longer claim ignorance. As we speak, El Obeid, North Kordofan, **faces** a risk of atrocities as a result of an imminent ground offensive by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and their allied forces.

Mr. President,

The **call** civil society issued on 26 June is more than a call for an urgent debate. It is a plea: The Human Rights Council should not simply react to one atrocity crisis after another. It should move into a qualitatively different phase of its action on Sudan. This debate should be the moment the Council moves from documenting atrocities to shaping consequences for perpetrators. We believe it can do so within the purview of its mandate.

Our immediate asks are simple: Request the **FFM** to conduct an urgent inquiry, ensure that it has adequate resources to identify all actors responsible, and request it to report to the Council.

Beyond these, we urge the Council to take bolder steps towards atrocity prevention and accountability. It should: (1) Clearly condemn external actors supporting the warring parties and fueling atrocities in Sudan, including the United Arab Emirates — **without** giving a free pass to the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and their backers for their own violations; (2) Encourage the FFM to continue coordinating and sharing information with other international and regional accountability mechanisms; and (3) Recommend that the General Assembly submit all reports of the FFM to the Security Council for its consideration and appropriate action.

The criminal and political cost for those who contribute to the Sudanese people’s nightmare should be maximum. If it is not, we will be condemned to doing more of the same: holding more urgent debates, convening more special sessions, responding to one atrocity crisis after another without attempting to break the cycle of violence and impunity by holding all perpetrators to account. This is an insanity trap.