

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 50th SESSION

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights since, and human rights violations and abuses committed during, the period of the military takeover in the Sudan

15 June 2022

In her presentation, **Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights**, underscored that the patterns of human rights violations observed since the coup remain of grave concern. The report presented, covering the period 25 October 2021 to 10 April 2022, highlighted the continued excessive use of force by security forces in response to protests against the coup. A pattern of mass arrest and detention of protestors and activists was also observed. This is emblematic in the shrinking civic space, notably for women civil society activists, increasingly facing threats, rapes and harassment, including those providing support to victims of sexual violence. Moreover, she welcomed the decision to lift the state of emergency and release all persons under emergency legislation. Likewise, acknowledging progress in the judicial investigation, she encouraged the authorities to make this progress public, expedite the investigation and hold those responsible accountable.

H.E. Mr. Mohammed Saied Al-Hilo, Acting Minister of Justice of the Sudan (Country concerned), affirmed that the country continues its efforts to undertake necessary institutional and legal reforms. He stated that the justice organs, under the principles of the rule of law and the promotion of human rights, are capable and willing to facilitate justice and promote accountability, and impunity. However, he called on the international community to provide further technical assistance. To overcome challenges and difficulties, the Government is launching a comprehensive multidisciplinary national action plan at the national level. This plan will combat some negative phenomena that threaten social cohesion and peace. This includes activities and programmes for national reconciliation and State policies aimed at countering intolerance, racial and ethnic bullying, discrimination and the promotion of hatred. It also includes combating poverty, transnational crime and human exploitation.

Interactive dialogue

Several countries, including **Australia, the EU, the Netherlands, the UK, and Switzerland**, expressed concern over the human rights situation in Sudan. They urged the government to stop using excessive force against protesters as well as arbitrary arrests and detentions. They also called for the respect and protection of all human rights, specifically, the right to life, to freedom of opinion and expression, and to freedom of assembly and association, and to actively prevent violations by all State actors, even the joint security forces. Conversely, **Venezuela**, along with **Eritrea, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania**, and the **Russian Federation**, supported Sudan through political dialogue, technical cooperation and assistance in order to improve the well-being of the population, human rights, and to achieve lasting peace and national reconciliation. They discouraged and condemned the imposed monitoring mechanisms that contradict sacred principles of the free self-determination of peoples, respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, using human rights as an instrument of political pressure.

Sudan raised a *point of order* following the statement delivered by **Germany**, reminding all to abide by official UN terminology.

A series of failures to protect civilians has repeatedly been reported by government forces. A number of **NGOs**, citing data and evidence, expressed concern about human rights violations and abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence and enforced disappearances, patterns of mass arbitrary arrests of protestors, excessive force used against protestors, including the use of live ammunition, stun grenades,

tear gas, and attacks on civilians, children, and hospitals. In addition, they urged the protection and respect of rights of association and assembly, freedom of expression, and access to information.

Delegations that took the floor during the Enhanced Interactive Dialogue (35 country delegations):

Algeria, Australia, Chad, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, European Union, Eritrea, France, Germany, Iceland (on behalf of Nordic and Baltic countries), Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Jordan (on behalf of Arab Group), Kenya, Libya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mauritania, Netherlands, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia (on behalf of GCC), Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States, Venezuela, Yemen.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor (10):

Centre d'études juridiques africaines (CEJA), Christian Solidarity Worldwide, CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Human Rights Watch, International Bar Association, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Service for Human Rights, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Society for Threatened Peoples.

To watch full meeting refer to [UN Web TV](#).