

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 53rd SESSION

Enhanced interactive dialogue on a comprehensive report on the situation of human rights in Sudan.

19 June 2023

In the Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the human rights situation in Sudan, **the High Commissioner for Human Rights** began by highlighting the dire state of affairs in the region. With an emphasis on **ceasefires, gender apartheid, and ethnic violence**, particularly in Darfur, the High Commissioner shed light on the rampant rape and sexual violence. **Arbitrary arrests and disappearances** were attributed to forces under General Dogalu, with many being held by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The Council was particularly concerned with the fact that women defenders were facing death threats and there was a glaring lack of accountability for human rights violations. The scale of violence has necessitated scaled-up funding and strengthening of mandates.

Interactive dialogue

20 country delegations took the floor during the interactive dialogue. During the EID, delegations and participants expressed grave concern regarding the human rights situation in Sudan. Countries such as the **US, the UK, Japan, Canada, and Germany** voiced their alarm over the escalation of ethnic violence, especially in Darfur, and the appalling state of human rights with instances of rape, sexual violence, arbitrary arrest, and disappearances. **The medical services in Sudan were reported to be in a state of collapse**, with bodies lying in the streets, and UN facilities being looted. Qatar pledged 50 million USD in aid but highlighted that **NGOs have not made sufficient efforts**. Several nations called for the strengthening of the African Union's role in the conflict, scale-up funding, and urged for technical assistance to be provided. The need for dialogue and solidarity was emphasized to break the cycle of violence and foster a transition from tyranny to freedom.

The delegates of various countries including **Qatar, Spain, Australia, and South Africa** expressed grave concern over the widespread looting, plundering, and atrocities in West Darfur, and accused rebels of perpetrating violence. The delegates collectively recognized that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was being breached and called for a harmonious treaty and trilateral cooperation to return Sudan to civil rule.

Moreover, participants drew attention to the humanitarian crisis, as medical services were collapsing, with bodies still lying on the streets, and the crisis reverberating across the region. In **Al Jenina, over 150,000 people were reported to be fleeing violence**. Participants expressed alarm at the looting of UN facilities and the plight of 13 million children caught in the conflict. The **African Union** was highlighted as a critical player in mediating ceasefires and promoting peace. The participants called for technical assistance, African-led peace initiatives, and independent investigations to monitor the transition from tyranny to freedom. They noted that the October 2021 coup had catastrophic consequences with reports of rebel forces breaching hospitals and using healthcare facilities as garrisons. There was a unanimous call for the international community to break the cycle of violence and for Sudanese forces to be strengthened through solidarity and support.

The African Union asserted that a military solution to the conflict was not viable and urged for constructive dialogue. The African Union presented a roadmap for a ceasefire and called for strengthening the role of international organizations in the conflict. **Japan** pledged humanitarian assistance of 5 million USD and many countries like Germany, Lebanon, and Qatar called for the protection of civilians, an end to the conflict, and unhindered humanitarian assistance. The **United Kingdom and the United States** stood in solidarity with the Sudanese people and called for all parties,

especially the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and RSF, to abide by the Jeddah declaration. There was a consensus among the participants that non-compliance with international human rights norms was not acceptable and that there should be zero tolerance for conflicts on this scale. They stressed the need for **political dialogue, protection of civilians, and respect for international humanitarian law**. The dialogue concluded with an urgent appeal to the High Commissioner to provide assistance and for regional stakeholders to find new solutions on the basis of consensus.

Russia Federation was accused of non-compliance and not being active in solving the crisis. It was noted that the rebels were not only perpetuating violence but also documenting their atrocities. The dialogue stressed the importance of safeguarding civilian institutions, protecting civilians, especially internally displaced persons, and ensuring access to healthcare. **Humanitarian organizations and international committees** were urged to affirm security and work towards de-escalation under the Jeddah Declaration. The African Union rejected a military solution, advocating for a roadmap for ceasefires and positive cooperation. The need for the international community to ensure human rights accountability, unhindered protection, and respect for international humanitarian law was emphasized.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (60 country delegations):

Sudan, Australia, European Union, Gulf Cooperation Council, Lebanon, Côte d'Ivoire, United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Egypt, Qatar, Luxembourg, Kuwait, Japan, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), France, Liechtenstein, Spain, Bahrain, Canada, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Iraq, Malaysia, South Africa, Malta, New Zealand, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ireland, Türkiye, China, Switzerland, Libya, Niger, Senegal, Yemen, South Sudan, Mauritania, Jordan, Romania, Kenya, Montenegro, Ethiopia, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Belarus, Tunisia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ukraine, Syrian Arab Republic, Morocco, Algeria, Eritrea, Chad, Uganda, Pakistan, Lithuania, Oman.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (10):

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme, World Organisation Against Torture, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Amnesty International, CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation, International Service for Human Rights, Interfaith International, Stichting Global Human Rights Defence.

To watch full meeting refer to UN Web TV, [Human rights in Sudan](#).