

This statement represents a coalition of two organizations; HUDO Centre and Waging Peace.

HUDO Centre is a Sudanese NGO based in Uganda, dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights in Sudan with emphasis on Sudan's two areas (Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile).

Waging Peace is a UK-based charity that documents human rights abuses in Sudan with the aim of raising awareness of such abuses in the British establishment and public.

No consultation was made with civil society in the Two Areas by Sudan government in developing the national report.

This statement addresses: freedom of religion or belief, enforced disappearances, and the security status in the Two Areas. My focus is within the transitional government jurisdiction period.

Firstly; Freedom of religion or belief

Spain, Italy, Slovakia, Poland, Honduras and Australia gave recommendations at the previous review. To date, Sudan has removed the penalization of apostasy, but other crucial punishments remain in penal code. No change has been made on Christian rights, for example:

- No Christian among the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowment staff
- There has been a denial of permissions to erect new churches
- Taxes are imposed on Christian holy books while the Islamic are exempted
- No action was taken against the Christian confiscated assets by the former regime

We recommend Sudan government to;

1. Immediately include Christians within the Ministry of Religious, and give them the needed authority to deal with all Christian religious affairs.
2. Establish a body to assess and return within one year all the churches and Christians properties that were confiscated or forcibly rented under the previous regime.
3. Ensure that adequate training on freedom of religion or belief is given to all decision making members of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Secondly; Enforced Disappearances

Slovakia, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Honduras, Niger and Costa Rica made recommendations on the previous review. Recently, Sudan ratified CAT and CED conventions but lack the will to implement provisions, for instance:

- Enforced disappearances are still ongoing;

- No progress has been made on disclosing the fate of individuals forced disappeared at Nuba Mountains since the former regime in 2011.

We recommend

1. Sudan government should immediately disclose the whereabouts and well-being of all detainees and political prisoners.
2. The government in collaboration with the OHCHR should investigate the current insecurity status in conflict areas and make necessary steps.

Thirdly; Security in the two areas

Netherlands, Slovenia and Argentina made recommendations on detention, impunity and security of persons within the last review. No change in the two areas, the violations has significantly increased and armed robbery emerged due the presence of government militias granted impunity for their crimes or police failed to investigate.

In line with the 16th SDG, we urge Sudan government to:

1. Take measures to dissolve and disarm militias within one year.
2. Should immediately enforce rule of law.

As well as, we urge the international community to strengthen its monitoring mechanism on the Two Areas.

Thank you for your attention, please don't hesitate to contact me if you need more information or you want to discuss further.