



Joint Press Release

The Sudanese Human Rights Monitor and the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies Submit a Joint Report to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Mechanism on the Crimes and Grave Violations Committed During the War in Sudan

30 July 2026

The Sudanese Human Rights Monitor (SHRM) and the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) have submitted their joint report to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council as part of Sudan's 2026 review cycle. The report highlights the widespread and systematic violations committed since the outbreak of the war on 15 April 2023 and assesses the extent to which Sudan has implemented the recommendations issued during its third UPR cycle, which were formally communicated to the Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs in August 2022. The report also focuses specifically on developments in the human rights situation during the years of the ongoing conflict.

The report states that Sudan is experiencing the most extensive and severe humanitarian and human rights crises in its modern history. The war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces—marked by significant external interference—has led to the near-total collapse of state institutions in many parts of the country, the breakdown of protection systems, and the widespread prevalence of impunity.

Drawing on direct testimonies, field investigations, and credible national and international reports, the SHRM and ACJPS submission documents a range of violations, including indiscriminate aerial bombardment of populated areas in Kordofan, Darfur, and Al-Jazirah; large-scale attacks on villages and towns in Gezira State; torture, arbitrary detention, and enforced disappearance across several states; sexual violence used as a weapon of war in Khartoum, Darfur, Gezira, and Kordofan; the use of siege and starvation as methods of warfare in El Fashir and Kadugli; the continued application of harsh criminal penalties; and the targeting of journalists and human rights defenders through killings, arrests, and torture. The report identified the party responsible for each violation documented.

The report concludes that Sudan has failed to implement most of the recommendations issued during its previous UPR cycle, particularly those related to justice sector reform, civilian protection, combating impunity, safeguarding public freedoms, and facilitating humanitarian access. It further notes that the human rights situation has deteriorated to an unprecedented extent compared to the previous cycle. The report also highlights the persistence of restrictive legislation, such as the 2024 Intelligence Service Act, the continued enforcement of laws imposing harsh penalties, weak judicial independence, and the paralysis of prosecution offices and courts in conflict-affected areas.

The two organizations call on Sudanese authorities and the international community to ensure the protection of civilians, investigate grave violations, lift immunities granted to security forces, support justice and accountability mechanisms, guarantee safe humanitarian access, and protect human rights defenders and journalists. They emphasize that ending impunity is an essential condition for achieving peace and stability in Sudan.

It is worth noting that the Universal Periodic Review is a United Nations mechanism through which the human rights records of all UN member states are reviewed every four and a half years. States and organizations submit reports on the human rights situation, and UN member states participating in the Human Rights Council issue recommendations that are politically, rather than legally binding. The UPR is considered one of the most important international tools for monitoring states' compliance with human rights obligations.

Contact:

Email: info@shrm-sd.org

Website: www.suhrm.org

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