

August 28, 2023

His Excellency
Mr. António Guterres
Secretary – General
United Nations
New York

His Excellency
Mr. Dennis Francis
President
United Nations General Assembly
New York

RE: Greater Action Required for Sudan

Your Excellencies,

The ongoing violence in Sudan that threatens millions in the country and region demands greater action by the United Nations. Since April 15, 2023, when conflict erupted between the Sudan army and its militia, the UN has in fact taken important actions (please see the attached list). The UN's engagement, however, must continue with a frequency and intensity that reflects the seriousness of the crisis and crimes committed and that exerts significant additional pressure to end violence and enormous suffering.

What more can be done?

Last month, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, published "A Framework for Action for Responsibility to Protect, A Resource for States". The Framework outlines strategic steps for the UN Secretary General, the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly to take to prevent and respond to atrocity crimes. Some steps have already been taken, but many instrumental actions remain, such as:

Adding a debate on Sudan, as an item of an important and urgent character, to the agenda of the UNGA's regular session to constructively consider what the UNGA can do to avert or halt the commission of atrocity crimes and to include testimony by Human Rights Council special procedures or mechanisms, special representatives or envoys of the UNSG, the Special Advisors on the Prevention of Genocide and R2P and civil society experts.

We, the undersigned human rights organizations, scholars and leading activists urge your offices to take these and other recommended steps to prevent and respond to atrocities in Sudan (please see the attached list of actions).

The lack of accountability and subsequent acquiescence to atrocity crimes sends a dangerous message and creates an insidious precedent that entirely undermines peace and security in Sudan and beyond. The United Nations own "Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes" recognizes that when atrocity crimes

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are not adequately addressed historically and currently, they are more likely to be repeated, which has been the case in Sudan for decades in southern Sudan, escalating 20 years ago in Darfur, and expanding to the Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile, Eastern Sudan, Abyei, Khartoum and elsewhere.

This year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, criminalizing genocide and requiring states to pursue its enforcement. In 2005, the Responsibility to Protect was unanimously adopted at the UN World Summit to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Your Excellencies, we urge you to lead boldly and to uphold these and others foundational principles of the United Nations for the good of Sudan and to maintain international peace and security. On your watch, the United Nations can and must respond urgently and decisively to violent conflict and atrocity crimes in Sudan.

Respectfully,

Act for Sudan

Africa Civil Society Forum

Darfur Action Group of South Carolina

Darfur and Beyond

Darfur Bar Association

Darfur Interfaith Network

DefendDefenders (East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project), Uganda

Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

Jews Against Genocide

Joining Our Voices Ministries

Katartismos Global

Massachusetts Coalition to Save Darfur

Never Again Coalition

New York Coalition for Sudan

Operation Broken Silence

Regional Centre for Training and Development of Civil Society (RCDCS), Sudan

Rights for Peace, United Kingdom

Society for Threatened Peoples

Stop Genocide Now

Sudanese American Public Affairs Association, Inc. (SAPAA)

Sudan Unlimited

The Sentry

Ambassador (Rtd.) Akec Khoc

A Framework for Action for Responsibility to Protect, A Resource for States (partial list)

**By the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect,
in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect**

Part 4 Preventing and Responding to Atrocity Crimes through Multilateral Cooperation

Action 4.1 Support UN funds, programs, and other entities, and leverage membership of UN bodies, to address the structural risk factors of atrocity crimes.

- Invite advice from the Peacebuilding Commission regarding atrocity risk situations, including recommendations for actions that the UNSC and/or UNGA could take to address that risk.

Action 4.2 Utilize the international human rights system to address the risk of atrocity crimes

- In the event of reliable information regarding serious, grave or systematic violations by another state of its obligations under the CAT, CEDAW, CERD, ICCPED, ICESCR, ICCPR or CRC, where those violations indicate the commission of atrocity crimes or risk thereof, and where the provisions of the relevant human rights treaty or convention allow, consider conveying that information in a communication the relevant body.

Action 4.3 Utilize membership of UN bodies to respond to an imminent risk of actual commission of atrocity crimes

Actions for members of the UNSC to consider in the event of an imminent risk or actual occurrence of atrocity crimes

- Request the UNSC President to convene a meeting of the UNSC to consider the situation and the appropriate response or initiate an informal interactive dialogue for that purpose.
- Request the UNSC President to circulate relevant reports of the HRC, HRC special procedures or mechanisms, or special representatives or envoys of the UNSG to members of the UNSC as official documents of the UNSC. Request the UNSC President to invite these experts and other officials, including OHCHR and the UN Special Advisors on the Prevention of Genocide and R2P, to brief the Council on their findings regarding atrocity risks.
- Request the UNSC President to invite briefers from civil society and affected communities to formal and informal meetings on atrocity situations. Assist in facilitating participation of briefers, including through support for virtual participation or visas, travel, and where necessary, security.
- Request special representatives of envoys of the UNSG and heads of peace operations and political missions to provide an assessment of atrocity risks during their regular briefings to the UNSC.
- Utilize formal and/or informal meetings of the UNSC on the situation in question to condemn the commission of atrocity crimes, and call for an end those crimes and for perpetrators to be held to account.
- Propose/support a UNSC resolution

- Mandating the deployment of a monitoring or observer mission, or an investigative or mediation team; (done – expert)
 - Calling for unrestricted access for humanitarian relief operations;
 - Imposing sanctions or arms embargoes targeting the perpetrators of atrocity crimes;
 - Referring perpetrators to the ICC;
 - Mandating a peace operation or special political mission, aimed at halting or averting the commission of atrocity crimes, with a mandate to monitor and protect human rights and protect civilians
- Failing a UNSC resolution, propose/support a UNSC press statement or presidential statement aimed at condemning the commission of atrocity crimes
- Propose/engage in a UNSC visit to the country experiencing or at risk of atrocity crimes.
- In the event that the UNSC is unable to exercise its responsibilities in relation to atrocity crimes, propose/support a procedural resolution calling for an emergency special session of the UNGA to consider the situation, pursuant to the procedure established by UNGA Resolution 377(V) (1950) (Uniting for Peace)
- For permanent members of the UNSC in line with the Political Declaration on Suspension of Veto Powers in Cases of Mass Atrocities and the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group's Code of Conduct, refrain from exercising the right of veto to block UNSC action aimed at averting or halting the commission of mass atrocities.

Action for members of the UNGA to consider in the event of an imminent risk of actual occurrences of atrocity crimes

- Request the UNSG to convene a special session of the UNGA plenary to consider the situation in question, or propose that the situation be added as an additional item of an important and urgent character to the agenda of the UNGA's regular session.
- Request the UNSG to utilize the power granted to by Article 99 of the UN Charter to bring the situation in question to the attention of the UNSC
- Request the UNGA President to circulate relevant reports of the HRC, HRC special procedures or mechanisms, or special representatives or envoys of the UNSG to members of the UNGA as official documents of the UNGA.
- Request that informal interactive dialogues be held with HRC special procedures or mechanisms, special representatives or envoys of the UNSG, the Special Advisors on the Prevention of Genocide and R2P or civil society experts. During such dialogues, including within the Third Committee, make statements and ask questions regarding the atrocity risk situation
- In the event that the UNSC fails to exercise its responsibility in relation to the situation in question due to the veto of one or more of its permanent members, and the UNGA holds a debate on the situation pursuant to the UNGA Resolution 76/262 (2022), work with other states to ensure that the debate is used to constructively consider what the UNGA can do to avert or halt the commission of atrocity crimes. Alternatively, consider requesting the UNSG to convene an emergency special session, pursuant to UNGA Resolution 377A(V) (Uniting for Peace).
- Propose/support a resolution

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- Condemning the conduct in question and describing that conduct as amounting to crimes against humanity, war crimes or genocide;
- Requesting the UNSG to appoint a special representative or envoy, or otherwise exercise his good office, with a view to averting or halting the commission of atrocity crimes;
- Establishing a commission of inquiry, monitoring mechanism, fact-finding mission or investigative mechanism aimed at holding perpetrators of atrocity crimes to account;
- Recommending that states adopt sanctions targeting the individual perpetrators of atrocity crimes;
- Calling on states to halt the flow of arms and military equipment to armed forces or groups suspected of committing or planning to commit atrocity crimes;
- Requesting a special report from the UNSC regarding its handling of the situation in question;
- Establishing a UN peace operation or special political mission aimed at halting or averting the commission of atrocity crimes, with a mandate to monitor and promote human rights and protect civilians;
- Making recommendations to the UNSC, for example, for mandatory sanctions or seeking referral of the perpetrators of atrocity crimes to the ICC.

Certain UN Actions in Support of the Sudanese People

Since April 15, 2023, UN agencies, funds and programs have organized important meetings, issued urgent statements, convened a special session of the Human Rights Council, tasked the designated expert with documenting allegation of all human rights violations, revised the humanitarian response plan and created a regional refugee response plan, organized a high level pledging event for Sudan and the region, listened to civil society, promised accountability, and pressured the warring parties to stop fighting. These critical efforts by the Secretary General, the UNSC, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNITAMS, Special Rapporteurs and Procedures, OCHA, UNHRC, Special Advisors on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect, the ICC, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and others must continue and increase.

August 25, 2023	UNOCHA	War and hunger could destroy Sudan, Statement by Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
August 23, 2023	UNICEF	More than two million children displaced by brutal conflict in Sudan as violence spreads to new areas
August 17, 2023	WFP	Statement by Eddie Rowe, Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. in Sudan on World Humanitarian Day 2023, Attacks on humanitarian workers in Sudan must stop now
August 17, 2023	UNHCR – Special Procedures	UN experts alarmed by reported widespread use of rape and sexual violence against women and girls by RSF in Sudan
August 15, 2023	OHCHR	Sudan: The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk decries “disastrous” impact of war, urges accountability
August 15, 2023	Inter-Agency Standing Committee	After four months of war, humanitarian leaders urge action to end the tragedy in Sudan
August 13, 2023	ICC	Statement of ICC Prosecutor, Karim A. A. Khan KC, to the United Nations Security Council on the situation in #Darfur, pursuant to Resolution 1593 (2005)
August 9, 2023	UNSC	Sudan and South Sudan – Security Council, 9394 th Meeting US Presidency: Amb. Linda Thomas-Greenfield UN Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Martha Ama A. Pobee’s Ms. Edem Wosornu, Director, Operations and Advocacy Division, on Behalf of Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Martin Griffiths
August 3, 2023	UNITAMS	Statement by UNITAMS on the Situation in Darfur
July 13, 2023	ICC	Statement of ICC Prosecutor, Karim A. A. Khan KC, to the United Nations Security Council on the situation in Darfur, pursuant to Resolution 1593 (2005)
July 13, 2023	OHCHR	Sudan: At least 87 buried in mass grave in Darfur as Rapid Support Forces deny victims decent burials

July 4, 2023	Special Advisor, Prevention of Genocide	53rd Session of the Human Rights Council, Interactive dialogue with the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (as per HRC/RES/49/9, 2022)
July 2, 2023	UNITAMS	Clementine Nkweta-Salami: Mounting humanitarian needs in Sudan as the conflict enters its third month
June 28, 2023	UNITAMS	Statement by UNITAMS on Ceasefire during Eid Al-Adha
June 26, 2023	UNITAMS	Statement by UNITAMS on the Fighting in the Blue Nile Region
June 19, 2023	UNSG	Secretary-General's remarks to the High-Level Pledging Event on Sudan and the Region
June 19, 2023	OHCHR	High Commissioner for Human Rights: the Reckless, Senseless Conflict in #Sudan Has Resulted in a Human Rights and Humanitarian Crisis that Is Unfolding at an Alarming Rate and on a Devastating Scale (A/HRC/53/19)
June 18, 2023	UNITAMS	Statement by the Trilateral Mechanism on the Need to Observe the Ceasefire for Facilitating Humanitarian Assistance in Sudan
June 16, 2023	OHCHR	Sudan: High Commissioner appalled by killing of West Darfur Governor
June 15, 2023	UNITAMS	UNITAMS Statement on the Killing of the Governor of West Darfur
June 13, 2023	UNITAMS – SRSG	Statement by The Special Representative of the Secretary- General for Sudan and Head of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), Mr. Volker Perthes, on the situation in Sudan
June 13, 2023	Special Advisor, Prevention of Genocide	Protect civilians and respect international humanitarian law, says UN Special Adviser as she raises alarm on Sudan conflict Statement by Alice Wairimu Nderitu, United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, on the conflict in #Sudan
June 9, 2023	OHCHR	Concerns over the continued devastating impact of the fighting in Sudan on civilians
June 8, 2023	UNITAMS	UNITAMS Continues ITS Engagement with Sudanese Civil Society and Human Rights Organizations
June 5, 2023	UNITAMS	NEWS on the Importance of Protection of Civilians in Sudan
June 2, 2023	UNSC	UNSC Press Statement on Sudan
June 2023	UNHCR	SUDAN EMERGENCY REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN May-October 2023 (Six Months) - Revised June 2023
May 23, 2023	UNHRC – Expert	Sudan suffering “dehumanizing”, UN human rights expert Radhouane Nouicer
May 23, 2023	UNITAMS – SRSG	Near-Verbatim of SRSG Volker Perthes’ Stakeout in New York
May 22, 2023	UNITAMS – SRSG	UNITAMS SRSG Mr. Volker Perthes’ Remarks to the Security Council 22 May 2023

May 21, 2023	UNITAMS	Statement by the Trilateral Mechanism on the Signing of an Agreement on a Short-term Ceasefire and Humanitarian Arrangements
May 17, 2023	UNOCHA	Sudan: Revised Humanitarian Response Plan 2023
May 12, 2023	UNITAMS – SRSG	Volker Perthes: Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan is an important first step in the right direction
May 11, 2023	UNHRC	Human Rights Council Asks Distinguished Expert of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in Sudan to Document all Allegations of Human Rights Violations since 25 October 2021, including the current conflict
May 11, 2023	OHCHR	High Commissioner for Human Rights Strongly Condemns Wanton Violence in Sudan as Human Rights Council Opens Special Session on the Human Rights Impact of the Ongoing Conflict in Sudan
May 11, 2023	UNHRC – Special Rapporteurs	Civilians bear devastating brunt of fighting in Sudan: UN experts
May 11, 2023	UNHRC	Special Session of the UNHRC – requested by UK, US, Norway and Germany
May 11, 2023	OHCHR	High Commissioner for Human Rights Strongly Condemns Wanton Violence in Sudan as Human Rights Council Opens Special Session on the Human Rights Impact of the Ongoing Conflict in Sudan
May 11, 2023	UNHRC	Human Rights Council Asks Designated Expert of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in Sudan to Document All Allegations of Human Rights Violations since 25 October 2021, including those Arising from the Current Conflict
May 11, 2023	UNITAMS	Statement by the Trilateral Mechanism on the signing of a Declaration of Commitment to protect the Civilians of Sudan
May 8, 2023	UNHRC	Human Rights Council to Hold Special Session on Sudan on 11 May
May 6, 2023	UNITAMS	Statement by the Trilateral Mechanism on the Saudi-American initiative
May 5, 2023	UNHRC	Human Rights Council to Hold Special Session on Sudan on 11 May
April 30, 2023	UNITAMS	Statement by the Trilateral Mechanism on Ceasefire
April 28, 2023	OHCHR	Sudan: Plight of civilians amid hostilities
April 26, 2023	UNITAMS – SRSG	Statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sudan on violence in El Geneina
April 25, 2023	UNSG	Secretary-General's remarks to the Security Council - on Sudan
April 24, 2023	UNITAMS	United Nations reassures its commitment to Sudan
April 21, 2023	UNITAMS	Statement by the Trilateral Mechanism on Ceasefire
April 21, 2023	UNITAMS – SRSG	Message of the SRSG Volker Perthes on the Occasion of Eid El-Fitr
April 20, 2023	UNSG	Secretary-General's opening remarks to the press on Sudan

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April 19, 2023	UNITAMS	Statement by the Trilateral Mechanism Statement on 24 hour ceasefire
April 18, 2023	OHCHR	Sudan: Türk urges immediate end to hostilities, return to talks
April 17, 2023	UNSG	Secretary-General's remarks on Sudan
April 17, 2023	UNITAMS	Trilateral Mechanism urging for humanitarian pause
April 17, 2023	UNITAMS – SRSG	SRSG Volker Perthes statement on the partially honored cessation of hostilities and intensified clashes this morning
April 16, 2023	UNITAMS	Statement on humanitarian pause
April 16, 2023	UNITAMS – SRSG	Civilians and humanitarian aid workers are “Not A Target”
April 15, 2023	UNITAMS – SRSG	SRSG Perthes calls for the restoration of calm in Sudan
April 15, 2023	UNSC	Council’s Press Statement SC/15257 of 15 April 2023, which expressed deep concern over the continued military clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF).