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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[03 June 2019]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



A call to prevent the reproduction of an authoritarian regime in Sudan

ACHRS would like to draw particular attention to the aftermath of Sudan's revolution to prevent the reproduction of an authoritarian regime. After the ousting of President Omar al-Bashir, Sudan is in a particularly fragile state. As recent history in the MENA region shows us an uprising or revolution is at high risk of failure and returning to authoritarian leadership.

Following the coup, in April 2019, military generals and opposition leaders agreed to form a joint civilian-military council to lead Sudan in a two year transitional period to work towards free and fair elections. However, it is feared that current military leaders and security forces are enforcing similar violent and oppressive tactics to their predecessor, al-Bashir. Last month, protestors were killed in violent clashes and media networks such as Al Jazeera were shutdown threatening freedom of press and information. In addition to this, Sudan's commanding generals of the Transitional Military Council warned pro-democracy protesters of the possible use of force in the event of continued 'unrest'.

Many of the military commanders, responsible for the nations transition to democracy, are closely associated to the ousted president and the violent campaigns he launched in Darfur. Bashir and his forces have been indicted for two counts of war crimes, three counts genocide and five counts of crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court for a campaign that resulted in the displacement of over 2 million and the death of around 300,000 people. These associations lead to fears of the return of a similar style of leadership.

The revolution in Sudan is spearheaded by all members of civil society including the Sudanese Professionals Association, artists and students, to name a few. Furthermore, in often male-dominated public spaces women have been at the forefront of this political movement, forming the majority of the crowd at sit-ins and demonstrations. The militarisation of leadership or civil war would derail the democratic transition and likely further marginalise women and exclude them from participating in decision-making. We have witnessed similar events in Libya where women have been used as weapons of war and there have been no real advancements in turning women's participation into a reality. In light of this, female revolutionaries in Sudan have not surrendered from the streets and continue to demand a civilian-led transition.

The revolution is a national movement for those who are frustrated with the failing economy, lack of opportunity and oppressive policies. To ensure the rights of all civilians are upheld and that Sudan's revolution moves in a democratic direction, we call on this council to advocate and/or facilitate the following actions:

1. An immediate end to any violence or excessive force towards peaceful protesters.
 2. Protect the right to exercise freedom of assembly and association in Sudan, in accordance with the UDHR.
 3. Demand that the current military council honour their pledge to facilitate a 2-year transition period, in cooperation with civil society, to work towards democratic election.
 4. Protect the rights of all women, including female revolutionaries, in their mission to be empowered and participate in decision-making.
 5. Hold all actors accountable for violent actions, including Omar al-Bashir who is currently wanted by the ICC for war crimes and genocide.
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