



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

### **Joint written statement\* submitted by Rencontre Africaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme, African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement., Public International Law and Policy Group, non-governmental organizations 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.

[17 August 2019]

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



## **Saving democratic transition in Sudan**

In a meeting held in Geneva on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at the United Nations Office within the framework of the 41st session of the UN Human Rights Council, co-organized by la Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (RADDHO) in partnership with the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS), the Public and International Law and Policy Group (PILPG) and other organizations, a large group of activists, human rights defenders, political actors, diplomats and international civil society actors discussed the prospects of democratic transformation in Sudan. The meeting equally highlighted the grave and alarming security and humanitarian situation in Dar Ouaddaï in Eastern Chad.

The participants welcomed the contribution and determination of the Sudanese people who ended about three decades of dictatorship and recalled, among other things, the main causes of violence and serious and systematic violations of human rights, and stressed the following points:

- The need to address the fundamental issues for a peaceful political transition to a democratic, free and independent society in Sudan and to take concrete steps to initiate a genuine dialogue with all the active socio-political actors in the country;
- Ensure effective cooperation with the International Criminal Court to end impunity and to hold accountable the perpetrators of genocide in Darfur as well as those responsible for the commission of crimes against humanity, and massive and serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in South Kordofan and Blue Nile;
- Start an independent, credible and transparent investigation into the recent bloodbath unleashed against the protesters on 3 June 2019;
- Establish a National Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission;
- Immediately release all political prisoners without conditions.
- Demand that the Sudanese authorities and other external actors end any support to the various armed militia groups that are spreading terror in the country.

To the international community, the meeting recommended that;

- To set up a monitoring and early warning mechanism to prevent possible massive and serious human rights violations in Sudan.
- To invest the necessary resources in support of national initiatives with the backing of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in a bid to truly strengthen national capacity in the field of human rights.
- Support actions of the African Union targeting genuine political dialogue and a democratic transformation process in Sudan.
- Establish a rehabilitation mechanism for the victims of human rights violations.
- Ensure the development of a credible roadmap for free and transparent future elections and a smooth and unhindered transfer of political power to civilian-led authority as soon as possible.
- Support efforts for the establishment of conducive conditions for transitional justice.

On the situation in Dar Ouaddaï in Eastern Chad, the meeting sent a strong alarm signal about a potential large-scale humanitarian crisis and called on the regional and international community to take immediate measures to reverse the worsening security and humanitarian situation. It called on the government of Chad to take sincere further measures to end the inter-ethnic violence and protect the lives of the civilian population facing armed Janjawids militias.

Conseil Mondial de la Diaspora Panafricaine (CMDP), Darfour Relief and Documentation Centre Ligue Camerounaise des droits de l'Homme, Omar El-Mukhtar International Association Organisation de l'unité syndicale Africaine (OUSA )Union interafricaine des droits de l'homme (UIDH), United Nations Human Rights (UNHR NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.