

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	453
Land:	Sudan
Kilde:	UN General Assembly
Titel:	Human Rights Council. Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan
Udgivet:	26. juli 2019
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	5. september 2019



General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 July 2019

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Forty-second session

9–27 September 2019

Agenda item 10

Technical assistance and capacity-building

Situation of human rights in the Sudan

Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan*

Summary

In its resolution 39/22, the Human Rights Council decided to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan for a period of one year or until the operationalization of a country office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, whichever was earlier. The present report covers the period from 28 September 2018 to 30 June 2019. The report is based on remote consultations and information made available to the Independent Expert by the Government of the Sudan and by other sources, including civil society organizations working in the Sudan. The Independent Expert analyses the situation of human rights in the Sudan, outlines recent developments and the continuing human rights challenges in the country, assesses the implementation of the recommendations contained in the previous reports of the Independent Expert, and provides recommendations, addressed to the Government and other stakeholders, necessary for improving the situation of human rights in the country.

* Agreement was reached to publish the present report after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	3
II. Methodology and engagement	3
III. Key developments	4
IV. Main human rights challenges	6
A. Economic and social rights	6
B. Violations of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	7
C. Arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and ill-treatment	9
D. Restrictions on freedom of expression and harassment of journalists	12
E. Women's rights	13
F. Human rights situation in Darfur	14
V. National accountability mechanisms	15
VI. Technical assistance and capacity-building	16
VII. Conclusion and recommendations	17

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 39/22, the Human Rights Council decided to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan for a period of one year or until the operationalization of a country office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), whichever was earlier. The Council requested the Independent Expert to present a report on the implementation of his mandate, including recommendations on technical assistance and capacity-building, for consideration at its forty-second session.
2. In the same resolution, the Human Rights Council requested the Government of the Sudan and OHCHR to engage constructively to agree on the modalities and mandate for the establishment of a country office no later than September 2019, and to present their oral reports on progress towards the opening of a country office during an enhanced interactive dialogue at the forty-first session of the Council.
3. The present report covers the period from 28 September 2018 to 30 June 2019.¹ In compliance with the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council, a draft report was shared with the Government of the Sudan in order to provide it with an opportunity to comment on the observations and findings of the Independent Expert.
4. The report is based on information made available to the Independent Expert by the Government of the Sudan and by other sources, including civil society organizations working in the Sudan. During the period under review, the Independent Expert was unable to conduct a field visit to the Sudan, as permission from the Sudanese authorities was pending.
5. The Independent Expert expresses his gratitude to the Government of Sudan for its continuous engagement with him, and to all others for sharing information and providing the assistance required.

II. Methodology and engagement

6. Between 25 January and 16 April 2019, the Independent Expert submitted four written requests to the Government of the Sudan, through its Permanent Mission in Geneva, requesting permission to conduct a field visit. In early April, the Government granted permission for the Independent Expert to conduct a visit from 27 April to 5 May. However, on 23 April, following the removal on 11 April of the President of the Sudan, Omar al-Bashir, and the then serving Government, the new authorities in the Sudan, through the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, informed the Independent Expert of their request to postpone his field visit to a time to be determined later. Upon follow-up, no new official invitation was extended to the Independent Expert.
7. The Independent Expert met with the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission on 17 June, who explained that permission to conduct a field visit was pending the progress in talks between the Transitional Military Council, a grouping comprised of senior officers of the army, and the Forces for Freedom and Change, an umbrella coalition of opposition parties, professional associations and civil society groups that was formed in early January 2019, to form a new government. The Chargé d'affaires briefed the Independent Expert on actions taken by the Transitional Military Council to investigate reported killings and other incidents that allegedly took place on 3 June 2019, and provided updates on the Government's response to the implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 39/22 with regard to the establishment of a country office of OHCHR in the Sudan. Additionally, the former Chair of the national commission for human rights in the Sudan had been

¹ The Independent Expert will present to the Human Rights Council, at its forty-second session, an oral update on the situation for the period July 2019 to September 2019.

continuously updating the Independent Expert on actions taken by the Government to address the events in the country.

8. The Independent Expert issued a public statement on the situation in the Sudan on 17 May 2019, and attached himself to three joint public statements, issued on 28 December 2018, 11 April 2019, and 12 June 2019, respectively,² and issued two joint urgent appeals, on 15 February and 28 March,³ and one press release, on 8 July, with other special procedures of the Human Rights Council.⁴ In the statements, the Independent Expert and other mandate holders condemned the reported excessive use of force by security forces against protesters, reminding the authorities of their primary responsibility to protect civilians and ensure the thorough and independent investigation of alleged human rights violations. The mandate holders also denounced measures taken by the authorities to shut down the Internet in the Sudan, saying it appeared to be part of a larger effort to stifle free expression and association.

9. The Independent Expert was in remote contact with Sudanese civil society groups and members of the national commission for human rights throughout the period under review. In June, he met with several Sudanese human rights defenders in Geneva and discussed the situation in the Sudan with diplomats in Geneva.

III. Key developments

10. Protests across the Sudan broke out on 19 December 2018, sparked by soaring food and fuel prices in the context of the country's profound economic crisis. For years, the Sudan had experienced a loss of oil revenue following the independence of South Sudan in 2011, with its economy further hampered by long-standing international sanctions and reported economic mismanagement and corruption, allegedly involving the leaders of the ruling National Congress Party. The ruling party's call in 2018 for constitutional reform to allow President al-Bashir to run for another term in the 2020 elections provoked a political crisis. Protesters led by the Forces for Freedom and Change demanded economic relief and a change in government to carry it out.

11. In the lead-up to the economic crisis, the Government of the Sudan had undertaken efforts to enable foreign investment. Following the lifting, effective 17 January 2017, of economic sanctions imposed by the United States of America, the Sudan and the United States began to engage in October 2018 with a view to the United States removing the Sudan from its list of States sponsoring terrorism, which is key to unlocking international development funding.

12. On 1 January, following a wave of protests and allegations of related human rights violations, President al-Bashir established a national fact-finding committee chaired by the Minister of Justice, and the office of the chief prosecutor set up another investigation committee. On 17 January, the High Commissioner stressed the readiness of OHCHR to deploy a team to advise the authorities and help ensure they act in accordance with the country's international human rights obligations. No response has been received.⁵

13. On 22 February, President al-Bashir declared a state of emergency, which was endorsed by the National Legislature on 11 March for a period of six months. The Government then issued a series of decrees prohibiting the holding of public gatherings, processions, strikes and similar activities without previous permission of the competent authority, and giving security forces sweeping powers of arrest, search and restriction of movement. Emergency courts were established to try arrested protesters.

² Available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/CountriesMandates/SD/Pages/IESudan.aspx.

³ For details of all communications sent and responses received under the mandate, see <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/Tmsearch/TMDocuments>. For the joint urgent appeals mentioned here, see SDN 1/2019 and SDN 2/2019.

⁴ See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24803&LangID=E

⁵ See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24080&LangID=E.

14. The standoff between the protesters and the Government escalated on 6 April, when thousands of protesters began a sit-in in front of the headquarters of the Sudanese Armed Forces in Khartoum, asking the army to side with their demands. Similar sit-ins were held in front of the army headquarters in other states, including in Darfur. Forces of the National Intelligence and Security Service in Khartoum, under separate command from the army, acted to break up the sit-in on 8 and 9 April, using tear gas and, reportedly, live ammunition. Credible reports indicate that junior army officers intervened to protect protesters and clashed with forces from the National Intelligence and Security Services.

15. The events in early April marked an apex of reported excessive use of force against protesters by security forces, particularly by members of the National Intelligence and Security Services. According to multiple reports, security forces stormed and raided hospitals, mosques, university campuses and houses. On 8 April, the Government stated that 46 people had been killed since the beginning of the protests in December 2018.⁶ However, human rights groups and the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors, which is affiliated with the Sudanese Professionals Association, later suggested that the death toll exceeded 100 between December and April. Reports also suggested that an enormous number of protesters had been arbitrarily arrested, including opposition leaders, political activists, journalists, members of civil society, doctors, university professors, engineers and students. The Government imposed severe restrictions on national and international media, banning several local newspapers, raiding the office of the Al-Jazeera television network in Khartoum on 7 April and closing the Al-Arabiya television network on 9 April.

16. On 11 April, President al-Bashir and his Government were removed from power by the newly formed Transitional Military Council. The Council was briefly led by the First Vice-President and Minister of Defence, Awad Ibn Auf, who stepped down on 12 April, after which Lieutenant General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan was appointed as the new Chair. Lieutenant General Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, the Rapid Support Forces commander also known as Hemedti, was appointed Deputy Chair. Following demands by the Forces for Freedom and Change, four members of the Transitional Military Council and the Director of the National Intelligence and Security Services resigned. The Permanent Representatives of the Sudan to the United Nations in New York and Geneva were recalled from their positions. Political detainees numbering in the hundreds, and possibly thousands, were released.

17. The sudden changes in power in the Sudan prompted the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to issue a statement on 15 April demanding a handover of power to a civilian-led transitional authority within 15 days; the deadline was subsequently extended for an additional period of up to 60 days, to 30 June.

18. The events in Khartoum and across the country had a particular effect in Darfur, where the use of force by security forces on protesters reportedly left as many as 47 civilians killed and 186 injured between 11 April and 12 June. In one of the most significant incidents, community members of Deleij village in Central Darfur reported that armed men, who they alleged were affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces, carried out an attack on their village on 9 and 10 June that resulted in the deaths of at least 15 people and significant destruction of homes, shops and other private property.

19. The series of protests and the responses by the Government and security forces starting in December 2018 also influenced the Darfur peace process. Although a pre-negotiation agreement had been signed by the Justice and Equality Movement, the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi and the Government of the Sudan on 6 December, the Darfuri signatory movements suspended their participation in the follow-up negotiations in solidarity with the protesters. Many armed movements from Darfur became constituent members of the Forces for Freedom and Change, welcomed the fall of President al-Bashir and supported demands for a civilian-led transitional government, but they had yet to articulate a coherent position on their role in the transition by the end of June. Reports also suggest that on 27 June in Chad, under the auspices of the President of Chad, Idriss Déby, an understanding on cessation of hostilities was reached between the Deputy Chair of the

⁶ "Sudan says protests death toll rises to 46", *Sudan Tribune*, 8 April 2019.

Transitional Military Council, Lieutenant General Dagalo, and representatives of the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement.

20. On 7 May, the Chair of the national human rights commission, Iman Fatharahman, was removed and replaced by Hurria Ismail. The new Chair had previously served in the position, but she had been dismissed by the former Government in 2018.

21. Leaders of the Transitional Military Council and the Forces for Freedom and Change engaged in talks in Khartoum through April and May, while thousands of people continued daily sit-ins in the city. By early June, as talks produced minimal results and tensions mounted, security forces led by the Rapid Support Forces acted on 3 June to disperse the sit-in in front of the army headquarters, reportedly using excessive force that resulted in numerous civilian deaths and injuries. Security operations against protesters continued in the days after. Following the events of 3 June, talks were suspended. Support from an Ethiopian mediator and a special envoy from the African Union was later provided to facilitate the resumption of the talks.

22. Sudanese authorities reported that the death toll had reached 70 in the two weeks from 3 June, while the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors said that at least 115 civilians had been killed. A national investigation committee was established and chaired by a representative of the Attorney General.

23. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union decided on 6 June to suspend the participation of the Sudan in all of the organization's activities until the effective establishment of civilian leadership. On 24 June, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights informed the Human Rights Council that she had not received a response from the Government to her request for access to investigate allegations of human rights violations committed since 3 June.

24. On 30 June, massive protests were reported across cities in the Sudan, including Khartoum, Omdurman, Kassala, Al-Gedaref, Madani, Port Sudan, Atbarah, El Fasher, Nyala, Zalingie and Kosti, in response to the calls from the Sudanese Professionals Association for a civilian-led transitional authority. Excessive use of force by the security forces was reported as leading to the killing of at least 7 civilians, including a medical professional, and to the injury of more than 180 people. Reports also suggested that members of the Rapid Support Forces and other security forces had raided three hospitals, including the military hospital in Omdurman, the public hospital in Al-Gedaref and Al-Tabib hospital in Khartoum.

IV. Main human rights challenges

A. Economic and social rights

25. At the start of the mass demonstrations in December 2018, the main demand of protesters was for relief from the effects of the severe economic crisis in the Sudan, especially the steep rise by the end of 2018 in the cost of food, fuel and other essential commodities (see para. 10 above).

26. The negotiations that followed the lifting of United States economic sanctions (see para. 11 above) were focused on six tracks in total, including making additional progress on the cessation of hostilities in Darfur and the Two Areas, improving humanitarian access, enhancing cooperation on counter-terrorism, and making progress on human rights. However, the United States suspended the talks after the removal of President al-Bashir, pending the establishment of a civilian-led transition authority.

27. According to the humanitarian country team in the Sudan, over 8 million people needed humanitarian assistance before the events of 3 June 2019. It reported that high inflation rates, currency depreciation and steep price rises for food, medicine and other key commodities had decreased purchasing power and reduced access to food, health care, education, water and other key essentials for already vulnerable communities. The developments had taken place against a backdrop of years of conflict in Darfur, Southern

Kordofan and Blue Nile States. The team noted that people who had already been receiving humanitarian assistance now required greater support, and that an increasing number of Sudanese people would require life-saving support in the months to come. It expressed serious concerns over livelihoods, targeted violence against displaced people and other forms of rising ethnic tensions. Internally displaced people in a number of locations in Darfur had reported that Arab nomads had threatened them with violence to prevent them from cultivating their farmlands.⁷

28. The humanitarian country team highlighted that civil unrest and operations by security forces had negatively affected humanitarian operations during the period under review. Humanitarian organizations had faced increased challenges bringing in supplies – including medicines and medical supplies – through Port Sudan and Khartoum airport, mainly due to lengthy customs clearance procedures and delays in obtaining required permits. There were challenges in moving supplies across state lines. In addition, intermittent violent protests and the looting of humanitarian supplies at internal displacement settlements, particularly in Darfur, had disrupted operations. The economic crisis hampered aid efforts, as insufficient financial liquidity affected humanitarian operations and timely responses, while fuel shortages at field sites and the price of goods and services, including transport, continued to increase.⁸

B. Violations of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

29. Soon after the start of the major demonstrations in Khartoum and other Sudanese cities in December 2018, reports emerged of alleged acts of violent repression of protesters by Sudanese security forces. The Independent Expert received reports that on 25 December, security forces that were deployed in large numbers across Khartoum used live ammunition to disperse crowds of protesters, resulting in multiple injuries and fatalities. Snipers reportedly used civilian premises, including schools, to target protesters. The Government spokesperson stated during a press conference held in Khartoum on 27 December that 19 people had been killed and 107 people arrested during the demonstrations. The spokesperson said that most of those arrested belonged to the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid, a Darfuri armed movement, which the movement's leader denied.

30. The Independent Expert received information that during a meeting between President al-Bashir and the country's police leadership on 30 December 2018, which was recorded and broadcast on the Sudan TV and Al-Hadath networks,⁹ the President cited verses of the Qur'an to justify the use of force against the protests, which were publicly described as acts disturbing the public order. The President further accused unnamed parties of seeking to destabilize security. Similarly, former First Vice-President Ali Osman Taha, a leader of the ruling National Congress Party, stated in a media interview broadcast on the Sudania 24 TV channel on 8 January that National Congress Party militia members had participated in the repression of the protests, and described "shadow brigades" willing to sacrifice their lives for the regime.

31. In a press release issued on 28 December, the Independent Expert, jointly with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, urged a halt to the alleged excessive use of force by security forces that had reportedly resulted in the killing of peaceful protesters. In the press release, the experts urged the Government of the Sudan to conduct independent and thorough investigations into the incidents.¹⁰

32. The Independent Expert continued to receive reports of excessive use of force by security forces as the protests continued into 2019. Various sources reported that on 9 January, riot police had allegedly fired tear gas at protesters who were calling for the President's resignation as they marched towards the National Legislative Council in

⁷ Humanitarian country team in the Sudan, "Key messages on the humanitarian situation" (June 2019).

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4IpRQxgjZY, posted on 8 January 2019.

¹⁰ See www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24049&LangID=E.

Khartoum. At least two protesters were reportedly killed and eight more were injured in violence that day. According to reports and communications the Independent Expert received from sources on the ground, security forces then followed some protesters into the Omdurman hospital, raided its emergency response unit, and allegedly fired tear gas and live ammunition inside the premises of the hospital. Armed men in civilian clothes were reportedly seen alongside riot police chasing the protesters.

33. The use of force by security forces and the 9 January attack on the Omdurman hospital were roundly condemned by the country's Minister of Health, by the national commission for human rights and by Sudanese doctors unions, among other civil society organizations. A spokesperson for the national police, speaking to the Sudan News Agency, said that the police had registered three deaths and a number of injuries that had occurred during the protests that took place in Omdurman on 9 January, and that the police were investigating the incident.¹¹

34. Attacks by security forces continued in the following days. On 13 January, security forces similarly entered and fired shots inside Bahri Teaching Hospital and Haj al-Safi Hospital. On 17 January, a doctor, Babiker Abdul Hamid, was reportedly shot dead by security forces in Khartoum while providing emergency care for wounded protesters. The National Intelligence and Security Service denied this report, claiming that the doctor had been shot by a protester.

35. On 8 and 9 April, use of force by the National Intelligence and Security Service to break up a mass sit-in in front of the army headquarters in Khartoum, and related clashes with army officers, reportedly resulted in at least 21 people killed and 153 injured, according to the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors. The Committee's casualty figures included the killings of 16 protesters and 5 officers of the Sudanese army.

36. Security forces and protesters also clashed in a series of incidents in Darfur and Southern Kordofan in the weeks following the removal of President al-Bashir. On 21 April in Kutum, North Darfur, protesters reportedly surrounded the office of the National Intelligence and Security Services and committed acts of destruction of property. They were met with force by security forces, who allegedly fired indiscriminately into the crowds, resulting in the injury of at least seven civilians, including minors. The same day, violence between protesters and forces of the National Intelligence and Security Services in Alari, Southern Kordofan, resulted in nine members of the National Intelligence and Security Services killed, and four civilians injured, according to reports from the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei.

37. According to information received by the Independent Expert, on 2 May, two people were allegedly killed and five others injured as a result of the use of live ammunition by the Rapid Support Forces to disperse young people protesting against their presence in Masteri town in East Darfur.

38. The Independent Expert received information that security forces in Nyala, South Darfur, had reportedly used excessive force, including live ammunition, on 4 May to disperse some two thousand people engaged in protests to demand improved services at an encampment for internally displaced persons at Otash, within the town's boundaries. Several protesters reportedly sustained gunshot wounds. Riot police also allegedly raided the local hospital's emergency section. In total, at least six people were wounded by security forces during the 4 May events in Nyala, according to reports received. The Governor of South Darfur imposed a statewide ban on protests following the incident.

39. Reports indicated that on 13 May, in Khartoum, security forces, allegedly wearing the uniforms and using the vehicles of the Rapid Support Forces, used live ammunition on protesters, killing six people, including an army officer. Two days later, members of the Rapid Support Forces reportedly fired live ammunition at protesters in an attempt to prevent the removal of roadblocks around the army headquarters. Reports indicated that at least 6 people had been killed and about 100 injured.

¹¹ "Anti-govt protesters killed in Omdurman", Africanews, 10 January 2019.

40. On 3 June in Khartoum, substantial casualties reportedly resulted from the joint operation by security forces against the peaceful mass sit-in in front of the army headquarters. Credible reports indicated that more than 100 protesters had been killed, and hundreds more had been injured in violence on that day and the days immediately following. Security forces reportedly raided hospitals and clinics and assaulted medical staff who were treating injured people. At least 10 bodies of protesters – possibly as many as dozens, according to conflicting accounts from various medical sources and civil society groups – were recovered from the Nile River in the days after 3 June, allegedly disposed of by security forces who participated in the operation. The Independent Expert also received allegations of rape and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated against both women and men during the crackdown, and information alleging that possibly hundreds of protesters were missing as of the end of June.

41. Sources reported to the Independent Expert that in June, tensions had escalated in Deleij village in Central Darfur between members of the local community and Arab members of the Rapid Support Forces based in the region. According to reports received, armed men allegedly from Arab tribes, possibly including members of the Rapid Support Forces, launched attacks against civilians in Deleij and surrounding villages on 9 and 10 June, resulting in at least 15 civilians killed and 15 injured. Sources also reported that dozens of homes and shops had been destroyed in Deleij and hundreds of heads of livestock had been reportedly looted.

42. On 30 June, excessive use of force by the Rapid Support Forces and security forces against protesters was reported in many of the country's cities. According to media reports,¹² the undersecretary for the Ministry of Health said on the evening of 30 June that 7 people had been killed and 181 wounded during the protests that day. He further said that 27 of those people had suffered gunshot wounds and that the remaining injuries had been caused by protesters. He stated that 10 members of the regular forces had been injured during the protests, including 3 members of the Rapid Support Forces who had been injured by gunshots, and that the other 7 members of the regular forces had been injured by stones thrown by protesters. The Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors reported that seven protesters had allegedly been killed in Omdurman and Atbara by live bullets fired by the Rapid Support Forces and other security forces. Three bodies of activists from Omdurman were reportedly found in Khor Abu Anga in Omdurman on the morning of 1 July, with visible signs of torture. Reports also indicated that the public hospital in Al-Gedaref city had been raided by joint Rapid Support Forces and security and police forces, who had chased protesters into the hospital and fired tear gas and live bullets inside the hospital, leading to the injury of at least one protester. Similarly, sources confirmed that joint forces from the Rapid Support Forces and the police chased protesters into the military hospital in Omdurman, firing tear gas and live bullets, and that, as a result, a medical staff member had been shot dead inside the hospital. This alleged killing in Omdurman is included in the number of seven killed in total, as reported by the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors. Al-Tabib hospital in Khartoum was also raided, allegedly by joint Rapid Support Forces and police forces.

C. Arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and ill-treatment

43. From the start of protests in December 2018, the Independent Expert received reports from multiple sources on large numbers of arrests and detentions by the National Intelligence and Security Services. The Minister of the Interior, speaking before the parliament on 6 January 2019, stated that 816 people had been arrested within the first three weeks of protests. Information from human rights groups suggested that the number of detentions might have been higher at the time. Additional reports that the Independent Expert received from multiple sources on the ground suggested that thousands of people might have been arrested and detained in circumstances linked to protests during the period under review. Many individuals were arrested multiple times, according to information

¹² See, for example, www.swissinfo.ch/eng/tens-of-thousands-demand-civilian-rule-in-sudan--at-least-seven-killed/45066904.

received. Those arrested and detained included opposition leaders, political activists, civil society activists, journalists, university professors and students, and professionals such as doctors, lawyers and engineers.

44. Reports also included allegations of instances of torture, ill-treatment and other human rights abuse in detention by Sudanese authorities during the period under review. Formal charges were not filed against most of the detainees, according to civil society sources, and access for families and lawyers to visit those detained was routinely denied. Information received suggested that at least 100 women were among those detained between December and 11 April.

1. Protest organizers

45. Opposition leaders engaged in organizing the protests were frequently arrested or detained. On 22 December, 14 opposition leaders from the National Consensus Forces, a coalition of opposition parties, were arrested during a meeting at the headquarters of the Baath Party in Omdurman. On 28 December, the head of the Sudanese Congress Party and a senior leader of the Communist Party, among other opposition leaders, were arrested. The head of the Sudanese Congress Party in Northern Kordofan and eight other party members were sentenced at the end of December 2018 to six months' imprisonment under the state of emergency decree. The deputy Chair of the National Umma Party was arrested on 30 January for a few hours and reportedly interrogated by the Director of the National Intelligence and Security Services. Two leaders from the Sudanese Professionals Association were reportedly arrested in Khartoum by the National Intelligence and Security Services on 4 and 11 January, respectively.

2. Professionals, journalists and students

46. Dozens of medical professionals were reportedly arrested and detained during the period from December to February. About 20 professors from Khartoum University were arrested in the capital for a few hours on 6 January, allegedly for their participation in a peaceful sit-in protest. At least 15 engineers were arrested on 23 January during a sit-in in front of the Sudanese Engineers Syndicate in Khartoum. In a statement issued on 17 March, the Sudanese Journalists Network reported that more than 90 journalists had been arrested since the protests began in December.¹³ Allegedly, members of the riot police dispersed protesting students and raided public spaces and buildings at the University of Khartoum on 8 March, arresting an unknown number of students.

3. Torture and inhuman treatment

47. The Independent Expert received reports of the deaths of at least six people inside the detention facilities of the National Intelligence and Security Services between December and February. This included two cases in Southern Kordofan, two cases in Khartoum, one case in Al-Gedaref, and one case in Kassala. The case in Kassala, according to credible reports, concerned a schoolteacher named Ahmed al-Khair, who allegedly died under torture in the detention facilities of the National Intelligence and Security Services in the town of Khashm al-Qirbah on 2 February. He was reportedly arrested a few days prior for participation in protests. The National Intelligence and Security Services issued a statement denying responsibility for the death. The state Attorney General in the city of Kassala, under the direct supervision of the investigative panel established by the country's Attorney General, initiated an investigation into the case and reported the outcomes in a press conference on 7 February, concluding that the victim had been subjected to severe torture that had resulted in his death. The National Intelligence and Security Services was requested to make the security officers who were involved in this incident available to the prosecution, but did not do so.

¹³ Available at www.facebook.com/857752900918065/posts/2612431242116880?sfns=mo.

4. Darfur

48. The Independent Expert received reports that about 23 Darfuri university students had been arrested on 23 December 2018 by the National Intelligence and Security Services in the city of Sinar and transferred to Khartoum. They were reportedly accused by the National Intelligence and Security Services of having been recruited by the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid, and trained by Israeli forces to spread chaos in the country. Footage of the students describing their involvement was broadcast on the Sudan TV network.

49. Reports also indicated that four lawyers had been arrested by the National Intelligence and Security services in Nyala on 9 January as they were on their way to the office of the Governor of South Darfur to reportedly submit a petition against the Government alleging excessive responses to protests. Additionally, about 40 lawyers and political activists were arrested in Nyala on 12 January, allegedly for their participation in a sit-in in which protesters called for the resignation of President al-Bashir.

5. Government response

50. On 29 January, the Director of the National Intelligence and Security Services ordered the release of all those who had been detained in anti-Government protests up to that point. The Independent Expert received reports, however, that about 100 detainees had been released up to the end of January, and that a number of opposition leaders, political activists, civil society members, doctors and university professors continued to be detained thereafter. More arrests were carried out in later weeks and months.

51. Starting from the end of February, the Government established emergency courts in Khartoum to prosecute individuals associated with protests. Reports suggested that hundreds of people had been tried before the emergency courts in the period from 28 February to the end of March. The sentences handed down ranged from seven days' imprisonment and a fine up to a maximum of five years' imprisonment. Civil society groups expressed serious concerns about the fairness and due process of the trials and the lack of rights to legal representation for defendants.

52. Credible reports indicated that many opposition leaders had been released in March, including the leader of the Sudanese Congress Party and four opposition leaders from the Communist Party and the Baath Arab Socialist Party after months of arbitrary detention in connection with the nationwide protests. About 54 detainees, including 36 women, were released by mid-March, according to a statement issued by the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies on 19 March.¹⁴

6. Following the removal of President al-Bashir

53. Immediately following the removal of President al-Bashir, credible reports confirmed the release of hundreds of protesters and political detainees from detention facilities across the country. However, the release of dozens of Darfuri detainees, including the 23 Darfuri university students arrested in Sinar, was delayed for a few weeks.

54. A significant wave of arrests was carried out by the National Intelligence and Security Services and the Rapid Support Forces as part of the joint security action of 3 June (see para. 40 above). Three leaders of the North Agar faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, including the deputy Chair of the faction, Yasir Arman, were reportedly deported to South Sudan on 10 June after a brief time in detention. Civil society groups raised concern about the reports of hundreds of missing people following the joint security action.

55. The Deputy Chair of the Transitional Military Council, Lieutenant General Dagalo, announced on 24 June the release of all detainees associated with armed movements as a goodwill gesture, which was met with positive reactions from the Sudanese Revolutionary

¹⁴ See www.acjps.org/sudan-niss-releases-fifty-four-detainees-as-seventeen-peaceful-protesters-join-hundreds-who-remain-in-detention/.

Front, a constituent group of the Forces for Freedom and Change that also includes armed movements. Only detainees from the Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi – 235 in total – were released in early July.

56. Following his removal, President al-Bashir was reportedly under house arrest in Khartoum until he was transferred to Kober prison in the capital on 17 April. About 23 senior leaders from the formerly ruling National Congress Party were also reportedly held in Kober prison, including acting Chair Ahmed Haroun; the Party's Vice-President, Osman Kibir; former Vice-President Taha; and Nafi Ali Nafi. The Independent Expert also received information that a team from the national commission for human rights had visited Kober prison in mid-June, had met with the 23 leaders and had reported publicly about their detention conditions. The Independent Expert was also informed that other National Congress Party members had been detained in other detention facilities in Khartoum and other states.

D. Restrictions on freedom of expression and harassment of journalists

57. A series of restrictive measures were imposed on the media in the Sudan after the start of protests and through the period after the removal of President al-Bashir. During the period under review, members of the security services arrested dozens of journalists, while several national newspapers were banned and the journalism licences of Sudanese journalists and work permits of foreign journalists were withdrawn. The ministry responsible for telecommunications frequently blocked social media platforms, particularly in December and January, and enforced a complete shutdown of the Internet in June.

58. Several national and international journalists reported intimidation by security agents while covering the demonstrations in Khartoum; some, including a correspondent for CNN, were allegedly violently beaten. On 26 December, the correspondent for the London-based Alaraby television network was ordered by authorities to leave the Sudan within 24 hours.

59. Sources reported that at least eight journalists, including two women, from the *Al-Tayyar* national newspaper were arrested on 27 December in Khartoum by the National Intelligence and Security Services for protesting against media restrictions in front of the newspaper's office. Their mobile phones were reportedly searched and the journalists were released after a few hours.

60. Credible reports indicated that members of the National Intelligence and Security Services had detained 28 journalists for several hours on 14 January ahead of a planned sit-in to protest the pre-publication censorship of Sudanese newspapers.

61. Civil society groups reported that eight journalists and media professionals from the *Al-Tayyar*, *Al-Jarida* and *Alyoum Altali* newspapers were arrested by police on 17 January and charged with public nuisance. They were all released on bail the same day. A court reportedly dismissed the charges by the end of February.

62. On 21 January, the licences of Sudanese journalists and work permits of foreign correspondents working for the Al-Hadath, Al-Jazeera and Anadolu Agency news networks were withdrawn and renewals were denied.

63. The Sudanese Journalists Network issued a statement on 27 January reporting that security agents had arrested the editor-in-chief of *Al-Midan* newspaper, an outlet affiliated with the Communist Party, and other journalists of that newspaper, including in the cities of Kosti, Nyala and Port Sudan.¹⁵

64. President al-Bashir issued an order on 9 February for security services to stop targeting media professionals and to release them from detention. Many journalists were reportedly released following the order, but the targeting and arrest of journalists continued.

¹⁵ Available at www.facebook.com/857752900918065/posts/2531227210237284?sfns=mo.

65. Sources reported that a group of national newspapers had been banned several times from the end of December, including *Al-Jarida*, *Al-Midan*, *Akhbar al-Youm*, *Al-Baath* and *Al-Tayyar*. The ban on most newspapers was lifted on 17 March, but remained in force against *Al-Tayyar*.

66. The editor-in-chief of *Al-Tayyar*, Osman Mirghani, was arrested on the evening of 22 February after criticizing on the Sky News Arabia television channel the state of emergency declared that day by President al-Bashir. A group of special procedures of the Human Rights Council issued an urgent appeal on 28 March expressing concern about his continued detention. The Government responded the next day, providing clarifications on the case and reporting his release.¹⁶

67. Civil society groups reported that the Transitional Military Council had closed down the Khartoum offices of Al-Jazeera on 30 May and had withdrawn its licence without providing justification. Al-Jazeera journalists had also been banned from reporting in the country with immediate effect.

68. The Transitional Military Council imposed a countrywide shutdown of the Internet on 10 June, following the joint security operations of 3 June on the mass sit-in in Khartoum. The Transitional Military Council spokesperson was quoted as saying at a press conference, held in Khartoum on 11 June, that social media constituted a threat to national security in the Sudan. He provided no indication of when it would be restored. The Internet shutdown has severely restricted the freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly in the Sudan, and has also hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Civil society groups reported that on 23 June, the Khartoum general court ordered the Zain telecommunications company to restore Internet services, based on its favourable consideration of a suit brought by Abdel-Alheem Hassan, a Sudanese lawyer. Credible reports indicated that Internet services had been completely restored on 9 July.

69. The Sudanese Journalists Network said in a statement on 17 June that Abdelrahman El-Amin, editor-in-chief of the *El-Sayha* newspaper, a Sudanese outlet, had been dismissed from his job after criticizing the Rapid Support Forces. The Sudanese Journalists Network pointed to “mass dismissal processes” at official media institutions, in particular the Sudan TV network, where the director had been dismissed and television producers had been barred from entering the newsrooms. The group also reported that journalist Ammar Mohamed Adam had been detained in Khartoum by members of the Rapid Support Forces, who had questioned him before handing him over to the political department of the National Intelligence and Security Services.¹⁷ The group mentioned that the National Intelligence and Security Services office in White Nile State had also summoned Rashid Oshi, an *Al-Tayyar* correspondent in Kosti.

70. The Sudanese Journalists Network warned on 17 June of the imminent collapse of a number of press institutions due to the failure of publishers to pay their journalists. The *Al-Rai al-Aam*, *Alwan* and *Masadir* newspapers halted printing from the end of May, while their staff members received no information about their jobs.

71. Sources also reported that security forces led by the Rapid Support Forces stormed the premises of the Sudanese Professionals Association in Khartoum on the evening of 29 June, preventing a press conference ahead of rallies that were planned by the Forces for Freedom and Change for 30 June.

E. Women’s rights

72. Against a backdrop of long-standing deprivation of rights and an economic crisis, many Sudanese women joined the protests and called for human rights improvements and a change in government.

¹⁶ See <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TmSearch/Results>.

¹⁷ Available from www.facebook.com/243633812656082/posts/891285534557570?sfns=mo.

73. Sources reported that nine women had been arrested by security forces on 7 March during their participation in the Sudanese women's advocacy march organized by the Sudanese Professionals Association and opposition allies from the Forces for Freedom and Change. The women were referred to the emergency court in Khartoum and sentenced on 9 March to one month in prison and 20 lashes. The court of appeal in Khartoum nullified the sentence of the emergency court on 12 March.

74. Reliable sources reported the arrest of the deputy Chair of the National Umma Party, Mariam al-Mahdi, and her sister, Rabah al-Mahdi, by security forces on 7 March for their participation in the protests calling for the resignation of President al-Bashir. The two political leaders were presented to the emergency court in Khartoum, where they were sentenced to prison terms and fines. The sentence of the deputy Chair was believed to be the first court ruling against a leading political figure since the imposition of the state of emergency at the end of February. She was subsequently transferred to the women's prison in Omdurman, where she was imprisoned for one week and then released.

75. Credible reports refer to a presidential order issued on 8 March to release all women detained in the women's prison in Omdurman. According to human rights groups, about 37 women who had been arbitrarily detained by security forces were released, without having received sentences from the emergency courts.

76. The Independent Expert received allegations of dozens of instances of rape, gang rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and men that reportedly took place during the joint security operations led by the Rapid Support Forces in Khartoum on 3 June and the following days. A women's union in Khartoum issued a statement on 24 June alleging that some 5,000 female vendors had been subjected to sexual violence and other abuses by members of the Rapid Support Forces, security forces and the military, and reported that five women who had disappeared after the 3 June violence remained missing. Human rights groups reported that women had allegedly been raped inside a clinic attached to the University of Khartoum, where they had run for safety from the security officers. It is possible that a number of other cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence went unreported, as many survivors likely did not seek medical treatment because of fear of reprisals, general insecurity in the city or limited options for medical and other assistance.

F. Human rights situation in Darfur

77. During the period under review, the security situation and protection of human rights, especially of internally displaced persons, remained fragile in Darfur. According to information received by the Independent Expert, active clashes between government forces and armed groups were relatively infrequent and were localized in remote mountain areas.

78. The effective protection of vulnerable populations in Darfur requires urgent attention, especially in light of the planned withdrawal of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) by June 2020. Due to security concerns, a substantial part of the population in Darfur require protection, while at least 2 million civilians need humanitarian assistance, with over 25 per cent residing in 60 camps and gathering sites for internally displaced persons. Across Darfur, civilians continued to be subjected to killing, assault, abduction, conflict-related sexual violence and arbitrary arrest and detention. Human rights violations and abuses also persisted in localities with no active military operations, including in areas from which UNAMID withdrew in July 2018. Weak local mechanisms to hold perpetrators of abuses accountable and a generalized state of impunity further eroded the security situation and protection of human rights.

79. Since April, the political developments and protests in the capital and across the country had some ripple effects in Darfur, where thousands of protesters demonstrated in major towns and an increase in the number of documented violations was reported. Many of the protests in Darfur in the first half of 2019 were violently repressed by State security forces, including by members of the Rapid Support Forces. According to information received by the Independent Expert, at least 47 civilians were killed and 186 others were injured in various regions of Darfur between 11 April and 12 June. On a number of occasions, State security services suppressed dissent or acts of solidarity with the protests in

Khartoum by carrying out arbitrary arrests and detentions in Darfur. Between 11 April and 12 June, at least 163 civilians were arrested and detained in relation to protests in Darfur, according to reports received.

80. In an atmosphere of violence and uncertainty, upholding the priorities of the protection of civilians and of human rights in the mandate of UNAMID is of paramount significance, including through continued monitoring and reporting of the human rights situation in the whole of Darfur. The Independent Expert supports the strengthening of the mission's civilian presence to ensure a positive impact on protection of civilians. Meanwhile, the Human Rights Section of UNAMID continues to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to protect and promote human rights through its state liaison functions. Particularly notable is the positive engagement and collaboration of the national commission for human rights in the past year on investigations of alleged human rights violations.

V. National accountability mechanisms

81. In response to the violations reported in December during the nationwide protests in the Sudan, a national fact-finding committee was established by President al-Bashir on 1 January and chaired by the Minister of Justice. The committee was tasked to conduct investigations on the allegations of human rights violations committed during the protests since 19 December. As far as the Independent Expert has been made aware, its findings were not made public. Human rights organizations raised concerns in relation to the independence and impartiality of the national fact-finding committee and in January called for international accountability mechanism to be set up by the Human Rights Council. Another investigation committee was set up by the office of the Attorney General in January and part of its findings were shared with the Independent Expert on 29 January.

82. The national commission for human rights also established a fact-finding committee, according to a statement dated 11 January, with the tasks to receive and verify allegations of human rights violations. As far as the Independent Expert is aware, at least as of the end of June, the findings of this committee had not been published either.

83. The Transitional Military Council and the Forces for Freedom and Change announced on 14 May the establishment of a joint investigation committee on the alleged assaults on protesters on 13 May but no further information about those efforts have been reported.

84. Following the events of 3 June in Khartoum, the Transitional Military Council announced the establishment of another national investigation committee. However, the Attorney General was reportedly removed by the Transitional Military Council on 20 June. The findings of this committee on the 3 June events were not disclosed to the public by the end of June. Human rights groups raised concerns about the independence and impartiality of this national investigation committee and called for an international fact-finding mission. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported to the Human Rights Council on 24 June that on 6 June she had requested to rapidly deploy a monitoring team to examine allegations of human rights violations committed since 3 June, but had received no response from the Government.

85. On 16 June, former President al-Bashir appeared at the prosecutor's office in Khartoum on charges of corruption and money laundering. The country's former leader was advised that he had one week to raise objections to the charges with the Attorney General. Furthermore, a group of Sudanese lawyers allegedly initiated legal proceedings against the former President on charges of orchestrating the military coup that brought him to power in 1989. No information was received on investigations initiated against the former leaders of the National Congress Party regarding crimes committed against peaceful protesters in the past year.

VI. Technical assistance and capacity-building

86. The Security Council, in its resolution 2429 (2018), requested the Government of the Sudan to engage in discussions with OHCHR on the establishment of a country office with a full mandate for human rights protection and promotion. The establishment of a country office was one of the benchmarks for the UNAMID exit from Darfur proposed by the Secretary-General to the Security Council. In its resolution 39/22, the Human Rights Council conditioned the termination of the mandate of the Independent Expert on the opening of a country office of OHCHR in the Sudan that was declared operational by both OHCHR and the Government of the Sudan (see paras. 1–2 above). OHCHR informed the Independent Expert that a proposal had been made to establish a fully mandated country office in the Sudan, following a technical mission to the country. However, there had been no subsequent negotiations with the Government due to the developments on the ground, which did not allow for the deployment of an OHCHR negotiating team to the country.

87. UNAMID continued providing support to national institutions, government entities and the army. It established state liaison functions in four Darfur states (East Darfur, West Darfur, North Darfur and South Darfur). Fifty-eight staff, including police advisors of UNAMID, have been co-located with nine United Nations agencies to strengthen the capacities of national partners and national human rights institutions, namely in respect of rule of law (police, justice and corrections), to prevent a relapse into conflict, and to provide durable solutions for the displaced populations and host communities.

88. In the state liaison functions areas, human rights remain a critical tool in the process of improving livelihoods and enhancing stabilization and development through the integration of rights-based approaches, capacity-building education and infrastructure programmes. Since January, human rights staff have been co-located with agencies, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), working in the areas of operation covered by the state liaison functions, in order to support national partners, including government and justice entities, the national commission of human rights and civil society and community-based organizations.

89. The rolling out of the state liaison functions offers a great opportunity for delivering technical cooperation and capacity enhancement. Through this platform, 120 Government of the Sudan police officers have been trained in compliance with international standards of arrest, use of force, detention and treatment of persons in custody. 120 officers from the Sudanese Armed Forces were trained in international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as in the issue of conflict-related sexual violence. The platform has also enabled the training of 240 rural court judges in Darfur on the effective implementation of their mandate, resulting in an increase in the number of disputes adjudicated by rural courts. The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission and the national commission for human rights have been supported with training on a human rights-based approach.

90. On 10 December, a framework of cooperation agreement was signed between UNAMID and the national commission for human rights. The framework sets out key areas for support and engagement, including on human rights monitoring and reporting, human rights education, institutional capacity-building, reporting for and follow-up to the universal periodic review, rule of law measures and transitional justice processes. UNAMID donated 12 vehicles to the national commission for human rights to support the commission's decentralization efforts, ease its mobility challenges and strengthen plans to operationalize its branch offices in Darfur and countrywide.

91. UNAMID established a human rights capacity-building partnership with the Sudanese Armed Forces, providing a series of targeted training sessions for the senior leadership of the Armed Forces. UNAMID further engaged the Darfur Bar Association and several civil society organizations, building their capacity in a bid to strengthen the national protection system and enabling national ownership of human rights protection engagements.

92. UNAMID further established a human rights-mainstreaming partnership with the national commission for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, aimed at

supporting a human rights-based approach to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes in Darfur. The Human Rights Section of UNAMID and the national commission for human rights are currently preparing a substantive joint session.

VII. Conclusion and recommendations

93. The Independent Expert takes note of the challenges facing the Sudan, the country's authorities and other stakeholders in ensuring and sustaining a peaceful transfer of power to a civilian-led transitional authority. He encourages both the Transitional Military Council and the Forces for Freedom and Change, as well as other political stakeholders and armed opposition movements in the Sudan, to engage constructively with the mediation efforts and the joint proposal of the Ethiopian mediator and the special envoy from the African Union and to resume talks to ensure the swift transfer of power to a civilian-led transitional authority.

94. The Independent Expert commends the positive engagement of Sudanese authorities with OHCHR to work towards the establishment of a country office with a full mandate, also noting the interruption of this engagement following the removal of President al-Bashir.

95. The Independent Expert underlines that the countrywide developments in the Sudan have important security and human rights ramifications for Darfur. He encourages the African Union and the United Nations to broaden the scope of the political strategy accompanying the exit of UNAMID beyond the political challenges and grievances in Darfur, transforming it to serve as a country strategy. Such a country strategy should also focus on key protection challenges and efforts to support a civilian-led transition that will strengthen the rule of law in Darfur. As long as UNAMID is deployed, there is a need to maintain a strong mandate on human rights monitoring and continuous risk assessment under the human rights due diligence policy of the United Nations.

96. The Independent Expert takes note of the national fact-finding committees established by the Government of President al-Bashir in January and by the Transitional Military Council in June to address the human rights violations that were reported as resulting from the responses by security forces to the protests, as well as the investigation carried out by the office of the Attorney General. He expresses concern, however, about the extent of the independence and the impartiality of those committees, taking into consideration that their findings were not disclosed to the public as of the preparation of the present report in July.

97. On the basis of his appraisal and assessment of the situation, the Independent Expert reiterates all the recommendations previously made and which have not been implemented. In particular, he makes the recommendations below.

1. Sudanese authorities

98. The Independent Expert calls upon the authorities in the Sudan to:

(a) Take concrete measures to reform the security apparatuses in accordance with international human rights standards, with priority given to withdrawing the law enforcement powers of the National Intelligence and Security Services, and conduct a screening exercise for the leadership of State security entities to ensure the exclusion of individuals implicated in human rights violations;

(b) Make public the findings of national investigative committees into allegations of human rights violations committed in the course of security force responses to the protests since December 2018, and cooperate fully with international accountability mechanisms that may be established by the African Union or the United Nations;

(c) Consider resuming its discussions with OHCHR on the establishment of a fully-mandated country office in the Sudan and take the measures necessary for the operationalization of that country office;

(d) Adopt a holistic approach to development and effectively implement a poverty reduction strategy, as previously recommended by the Independent Expert (A/HRC/39/71, para. 76 (e)), to address the root causes of the economic and governance crises in the country;

(e) Take all steps necessary to ensure the peaceful transfer of power to a civilian-led transitional authority;

(f) Develop and adopt legislation to establish transitional justice mechanisms, begin a process of national reconciliation and ensure justice for victims of human rights violations.

2. Armed opposition movements

99. The Independent Expert calls upon the armed opposition movements to:

(a) Engage in negotiation and dialogue with the transitional authorities to achieve peace and stability in the interest of the people of the Sudan;

(b) Take all steps necessary to ensure their participation in a national dialogue for a peaceful and democratic transitional process in the Sudan.

3. International community

100. The Independent Expert calls upon the international community to:

(a) Continue providing technical and financial support to the Government of the Sudan to ensure a peaceful and sustainable transfer of power to a civilian-led transitional authority and the building of democratic institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights in the country;

(b) Consider providing financial and technical support for an international accountability mechanism, which may be established by the African Union or the United Nations, to conduct impartial and thorough investigations into the allegations of human rights violations against peaceful protesters that have been made since December 2018;

(c) Consider providing technical and financial support for the development and implementation of national transitional justice mechanisms, in accordance with the Transitional Justice Policy adopted by the African Union in February 2019;

(d) Consider providing technical and financial support for the development and implementation of a national development strategy that addresses the root causes of the economic crisis in the Sudan;

(e) Continue its advocacy with all stakeholders in the Sudan to support the establishment of an office of OHCHR in the country in order to assist the Sudan in meeting its human rights obligations, and provide the technical and financial support required for this purpose.
