

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

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7 December 2021

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 41/12, 44/5, 43/4, 43/16, 43/20 and 41/17.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of the Prime Minister and the Sudanese authorities information we have received concerning the **continuous use of force by military and security forces to suppress peaceful protests taking place in Sudan in response to the military coup of 25 October 2021**. We are particularly concerned by the reported killings, serious injuries, arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances of activists, human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers, doctors and civilians in connection to the peaceful protests.

According to the information received:

On 25 October 2021, following the military coup d'état led by the Head of the Armed Forces, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, civilian Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok was detained and the Government dissolved. In addition, Sudanese military arrested six ministers, government officials, civilian governors and political leaders of the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) alliance, the alliance that led protests that removed President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019, as well as civil society activists. The events followed weeks of political tensions between the military and civilian components of the transitional authorities in Sudan.

Following the coup, General al-Burhan declared a nation-wide state of emergency, without indicating a timeframe, and suspended key articles of the Constitutional Document of August 2019 (Articles 11, 12, 15, 16, 24/3, 71, 72 of the Constitutional Document). The suspended articles inter alia blocked the formation of the Legislative Council and the transition to civilian leadership.

According to the amended transitional Constitutional Document, on 17 November 2021 the military leadership should have been replaced by civilian leadership for the remaining 18 months of the transitional period. The suspended articles also cancelled the Transitional Sovereign Council. As a result, General al-Burhan consolidated power and effectively became the head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. General al-Burhan pledged to form a legislative council that encompasses all the political forces in Sudan, to continue the process towards democracy and to hold elections in 2023.

Since 25 October 2021, large-scale demonstrations were held in Khartoum and other cities across Sudan to demand the release of the Prime Minister and restoration of the civilian-led transitional government. There have been alarming reports of repeated use of lethal and excessive force by military and security forces seeking to disperse and suppress the protests, including the use of live ammunition against unarmed protesters. Between 25 October 2021 and 30 November 2021, as a result of the use of lethal force by military and security forces against protesters, at least **43 people have been killed**, including five children and one woman, and more than 700 were wounded, according to medical sources. Before, during and after the protests, there were reports of acts of repression by the security forces against those associated with the protests, such as physical assaults, intimidation, and widespread arbitrary arrests. According to reports corroborated by witnesses, the military deployed various militarized forces to manage the protests, including Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Military Intelligence (MI), regular police, riot police, and Central Reserve Police (CRP), a militarized police unit. Some of these units were implicated in serious human rights violations against peaceful protesters during the protests of 2018-2019.

On 5 November 2021, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution S-32/1 on the situation of human rights in Sudan, in which it condemned in the strongest possible terms the military takeover on 25 October 2021 and called for the immediate restoration of the civilian-led transitional government. The Council requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to designate without delay an Expert on Human Rights in Sudan to monitor the developing human rights situation until the restoration of its civilian-led government. On 12 November 2021, the High Commissioner designated Adama Dieng as the Expert on Human Rights in Sudan.

On 21 November 2021, the Prime Minister Hamdok was reinstated following a political agreement with the Lt. Gen Abdel Fatah al-Burhan. However, the agreement was rejected by some political parties and by resistance committees and many activists who demanded that the military not be part of any future Sudanese government. The protests have continued since, most recently on 30 November.

Excessive use of force against peaceful protesters

During the protests on 25 October 2021, the security forces used lethal force, including live ammunition, against the protesters, and as a result at least seven protesters were killed in Khartoum (four of whom died on 25 October and three of whom died later as a result of their injuries) and over 140 were injured. The number of casualties in other cities where protests took place are unknown due to the deliberate disruption of internet and communication services by the military authority. From videos that circulated on social media, men in military uniform and plain clothes could be seen beating protestors, including women

On 30 October 2021, during the “March of Millions” mass protest, at least four protestors were killed, and 175 were injured, as a result of the use by military and security forces of live ammunition and tear gas to disperse protestors. According to doctors’ reports, some sustained burn injuries and breathing difficulties caused by tear gas, while others, including women, were beaten. Peaceful protests took place in many locations around the country, including Khartoum, Khartoum-Bahri, Omderman, El Obeid, Wad Madani, Kassala, Gedaref, Kadugli and Nyala south of Darfur. In Omdurman, there was reportedly a heavy presence of security forces, including CRP, riot police, SAF, and RSF.

On 13 November, another peaceful “March of Millions” protest took place, drawing tens of thousands of peaceful protestors, in response to the call by the Forces for Freedom and Change-Central Council (FFC), opposition groups, and resistance committees. The protests took places in Khartoum, Khartoum-Bahri and Omdurman. In Omdurman and Khartoum, military, police and security forces (including some in plain clothes) used large quantities of tear gas and fired live ammunition over protestors’ heads to disperse them and prevent them from assembling. According to medical sources, eight protestors were killed by live ammunition, including three children, in Khartoum and Omdurman (five on the day and three later). More than 120 were injured, with some of them reportedly sustaining serious gunshot injuries. Among the victims was a 13 year-old girl who was reportedly shot in the head while watching the protest from outside her house in the Al-Sahafa neighborhood in Khartoum.

On 17 November 2021, at least 16 people were allegedly killed (15 on the day, one later) in a violent crackdown on peaceful protests and more than 100 people were wounded, 48 of whom sustained gunshot injuries to their upper bodies and heads, according to medical sources. There were also reports of heavy use of tear gas. The doctors' union said most of the casualties had suffered gunshot wounds to "the head, neck or torso". Police issued a statement stating that 89 police officers had also been injured. Police have denied using live ammunition and announced an investigation into the deaths. The statements issued by the military contradict accounts from those who attended the protests and doctors who have been treating the wounded. Reliable eyewitnesses reported seeing the security forces firing, including live

ammunitions and tear gas canisters, directly at the protesters.

During the protests on 25 November, following the 21 November political agreement, 60 cases of injuries were registered by the Central Committee of Sudan Doctors (CCSD) from Khartoum and other locations. These included injuries due to gunshots, rubber bullets, stun grenades and tear gas canisters, which allegedly caused a number of head injuries. One person injured subsequently reportedly died.

On 30 November 2021, as protesters marched from different areas in Khartoum towards the Republican Palace, joint forces reportedly composed of regular police, Central Reserve Police (CRP), Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the army and National Security Forces, used tear gas, and stun grenade to disperse the crowd to prevent them reaching the Palace. According to medical source and eyewitnesses, police and security forces fired tear gas canisters directly at the level of demonstrators. As a result, around 100 protesters were injured, 49 of whom were hit by tear gas canisters, causing severe injuries to the heads and faces in some cases.

Preventing access to and disrupting medical care

On 13 November, according to reports, the security forces forcefully entered the Al Arbaeen hospital in Omdurman, assaulted medical personnel and patients and forcefully removed one of the injured protesters. Anti-riot police also reportedly forced entry into East Nile hospital and arrested a doctor for a short period and harassed other medical staff. On 30 November, military and security forces entered the emergency ward in Al-Faisal hospital in Khartoum and arrested one protestor who had sought refuge inside the hospital. The Prime Minister ordered the police to launch an investigation into this incident, based on a video taken during the incident that was published on social media.

In some instances, military and security forces reportedly prevented access to medical care of wounded protesters, including by preventing ambulances carrying injured protesters from reaching hospitals on 13 November. Similarly, during the protests on 17 November, in some instances ambulances were allegedly prevented from reaching the protest sites in Khartoum to evacuate injured protesters.

Targeting of activists, human rights defenders, protest leaders and participants in protests, including journalists

Since the military coup, activists and civil society leaders linked to the protests, human rights defenders and journalists were allegedly targeted across the country. Security forces arbitrarily arrested dozens of persons, including the Prime Minister, six ministers, advisers to the prime minister, resistance committee members, unionists and civil society activists, and journalists. Resistance committee members were arrested at different locations, including Khartoum, Atbara, E Obeid, Kadugli and Darfur.

Some protesters were allegedly arrested while undergoing treatment in hospitals, while others were forcefully arrested during raids on their homes. Many were held incommunicado at unknown locations without access to family or legal counsel in circumstances that may amount to enforced disappearance. Some of the detainees reported that they were held incommunicado for as long as two weeks. There have also been disturbing reports of arrests conducted by armed persons in plain clothes. Among the arrested were children and women activists. Lawyers defending those arbitrarily arrested were also arrested.

There were reports of security forces attacking journalists while they were reporting, arresting them, raiding their homes and offices, and attempting to abduct them. Union activists and workers were allegedly dismissed or intimidated by authorities for participating in civil disobedience.

On 7 November 2021, during a demonstration called by the Teachers' Committee against the coup, the security forces allegedly arrested 87 teachers, including 58 women. Some of those arrested were allegedly beaten during the arrests and in detention. One of the female teachers reportedly suffered a miscarriage while held in detention. All female teachers were reportedly released on the same day after their pictures and fingerprints were taken. While the male teachers were all released on the second day, reportedly after giving written assurances not to participate in similar events in the future.

In line with the commitment to release detainees included in the 21 November political agreement, high profile political detainees have been released, including government officials, political leaders and civil society activists. However, hundreds of resistance committee members and protestors remain in detention at different locations.

Attacks on women human rights defenders and gender-based violence against women

Women's human rights defenders and members of professional associations participating in the protests, were also reportedly targeted with arrests, intimidation, house raids and surveillance, and sexual abuse.

In the context of the protests, including during and after the protests, women in Khartoum and other cities were allegedly beaten and subjected to verbal abuse by members of the RSF and other security forces.

In the early morning of 25 October, military forces raided the dormitories of female students of Khartoum University and subjected them to beating and verbal abuse, and forced them to evacuate the dormitory.

The abuses against women have reportedly increased with the increased militarisation to respond to the protests, as a large number of armed personnel were deployed in different cities and controlled movement, including through checkpoints and road and bridge closures. As a result, women's rights defenders reported that women's freedom of movement was restricted and they had been exposed to various forms of abuse.

Prolonged internet shutdown and restrictions on press freedom

For three weeks, from the morning of the coup on 25 October until 18 November 2021, the military authorities severely disrupted internet and telecommunications. The NetBlocks advocacy group reported that as of 18 November, social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp could still not be accessed through mobile networks without using a virtual private network (VPN). Access to these social media platforms was restored on 24 November 2021.

The internet ban continued despite a ruling by the Khartoum District Court on 11 November, which ordered Sudan's four main internet providers to restore the internet service to all users in the country. However, the Telecommunications and Post Regulatory Authority stated that the ban would continue for security reasons, referring to the order of the "Head of the Armed Forces" on 25 October 2021 to shut down the internet temporarily. Activists said that the internet shutdown had significantly affected their ability to report on human rights violations since the military coup and impeded access to information, including information about medical services. Journalists of online publications and freelancers whose livelihoods depend on the internet were also significantly affected by the internet shutdown. On 25 October, military authorities also suspended the broadcasting of at least eight private radio stations. The suspension was gradually lifted on 1 November, and all private radio stations resumed broadcasting except Hala 96 FM radio station, which remains suspended by the Sudanese Radio and Television Corporation allegedly for broadcasting views perceived to be unfavourable by the military authorities. Such control of the media and online civic space may increase self-censorship, threaten independent voices and diminish media pluralism.

We express serious concern at what appeared to be severe violations of the right to life of peaceful protesters by Sudanese military and security forces. We express our strong concern at the alleged use of excessive and lethal force by security forces, including the use of live ammunition and the improper use of less lethal weapons such as shooting of tear gas canisters at peaceful protesters in multiple locations. We are further concerned at what appeared to be a new tactic of the firing of tear gas canisters directly at demonstrators in order to cause severe injuries at the 30 November 2021 march, after the Prime Minister instructed the security forces to refrain from the use of live ammunitions. The use of force against protesters was

unnecessary and largely disproportionate since it was directed at protesters who were all unarmed and during protests that were mostly peaceful, except in some occasions when it was reported that protesters threw stones at security forces personnel. The types of injuries to the heads and chests sustained by the protesters, and multiple reports received of snipers shooting at protesters, indicate a strategy of deliberate killings of protesters. The repeated targeting of protesters at different locations during the protests and the campaign of arresting resistance committee and protest leaders before, during and after protests also demonstrates the existence of a plan by authorities to prevent and suppress protests, which also constitutes a violation of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, of association and of the freedom of expression. Furthermore, the excessive use of force against peaceful protesters in disregard of internationally recognized principles of legality, proportionality, necessity and precaution, killing and causing serious injury amongst the ranks of protesters contravenes the absolute and non-derogable prohibition against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, according to international human rights law and *jus cogens* norms.

We are deeply concerned at the continuous impunity for violations committed by security and military forces against peaceful protesters, including the gender-based violence aimed at the repression of and committed against women, girls including women human rights defenders. The use of excessive force and repression against peaceful protesters documented since 25 October 2021, follows a long-standing pattern, and the tactics used are reminiscent of those used against peaceful protesters against the administration of Omar al Bashir in 2018-2019 by the security forces, including the RSF.¹ We remain concerned that previous attempts to hold Sudan's security services accountable for violations committed against peaceful protesters, including sexual and gender-based violence, such as during the 3 June 2019 in Khartoum, have not been concluded and the findings have not been made public.² We would like to remind Sudanese authorities that states have a duty to investigate all cases where authorities have used firearms or potentially lethal force outside the immediate context of an armed conflict. Such investigations must be undertaken in accordance with relevant international standards, including the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death (2016) and must be independent, impartial, prompt, thorough, effective, credible and transparent.

We also express our strong concern at the large number of alleged arbitrary detentions including of peaceful protesters, human rights defenders, women human rights defenders, protest leaders, resistance committees members, and individuals detained for political reasons, and that many have been held incommunicado and in conditions constituting enforced disappearance. We would like to remind Sudanese authorities that the arrest or detention as punishment for the legitimate exercise of the rights as guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) is arbitrary, including freedom of opinion and expression (art. 19), freedom

¹ Joint Urgent Appeal we have sent to the Sudanese authorities: SDN 1/2019, dated 14 February 2019. In a response received by the then Sudan authorities, dated 20 February 2019, a number of “investigating bodies” were set up to investigate alleged violations during the protests in 2018-2019. We regret that we have not received further information on the outcome of these.
See: [OHCHR | Sudan: Khartoum massacre victims and their relatives still waiting for justice one year on](#)

of assembly (art. 21), freedom of association (art. 22).³

Moreover, we are deeply concerned about the conditions under which persons were arrested and detained, as the lack of procedural guarantees and judicial oversight strongly violated their rights to due process and increased the risks of torture and ill-treatment and enforced disappearance. The failure to acknowledge deprivation of liberty by State agents and the refusal to acknowledge detention, even if for a short duration, constitute an enforced disappearance in violation of the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, acceded by Sudan on 21 August 2021. Procedural safeguards upon arrest and during the first hours of deprivation of liberty are essential to prevent possible violations, such as torture. These safeguards include immediate registration, judicial oversight of the detention, notification of family members as soon as an individual is deprived of liberty, and the assistance of a defense lawyer of one's choice.

Furthermore, we are seriously concerned at the reported cases of arbitrary detention of children in the context of the protests. In this regard, we would like to remind the Sudanese authorities that the arbitrary detention of children constitutes a violation of article 37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Sudan is a party since 2015. In particular, article 37(b) of the said Convention prohibits the unlawful or arbitrary detention of children and provides that the arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time. This was reiterated in the Human Rights Committee's General Comment No. 35, which stated that "children should not be deprived of liberty, except as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, taking into account their best interests as a primary consideration with regard to the duration and conditions of detention, and also taking into account the extreme vulnerability and need for care of unaccompanied minors."⁴ Further, in accordance with article 37(c) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, states must ensure that every child deprived of liberty is treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age.

We are also concerned at the declaration of state of emergency since 25 October 2021, without time limit, and the continued state of emergency after signing the political agreement on 21 November 2021, which the authorities apparently have used to justify human rights violations such as arbitrary detention and the internet shutdowns. We remind the Sudanese authorities that while under the ICCPR, States are allowed to suspend the protection of certain rights during emergencies, this must be of an exceptional and temporary nature, and invoked only when the situation amounts to a public emergency which threatens the life of the nation. States parties to the ICCPR may suspend the protection of rights only where necessary to deal with the emergency, and only for as long as the emergency exists. However, States in no circumstances can derogate from certain human rights, such as the right to life, prohibition of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, arbitrary deprivations of liberty or by deviating from fundamental principles of fair trial,

³ CCPR/C/GC/35

⁴ CCPR/C/GC/35, para. 18.

including the presumption of innocence, as the category of peremptory norms extends beyond the list of non-derogable provisions as given in article 4, paragraph 2.⁵ The fundamental guarantee against arbitrary detention is non-derogable, insofar as even situations covered by article 4 cannot justify a deprivation of liberty that is unreasonable or unnecessary under the circumstances. The requirements of strict necessity and proportionality constrain any derogating measures involving security detention, which must be limited in duration and accompanied by procedures to prevent arbitrary application, including review by a court within the judiciary.⁶ Further, under paragraph 3 of article 4 of the ICCPR, when State parties resort to their power of derogation under article 4, they commit themselves to a regime of international notification, and are obliged to immediately inform the other States parties, through the United Nations Secretary-General, of the provisions it has derogated from and of the reasons for such measures. Notification by States parties should include full information about the measures taken and a clear explanation of the reasons for them, with full documentation attached regarding their law. Additional notifications are required if the State party subsequently takes further measures under article 4, such as extending the duration of a state of emergency.⁷

Furthermore, we are concerned at the prolonged blanket shutdown of internet and telecommunication services, imposed from the beginning of the protests on 25 October until 21 November 2021, which was used as an apparent tactic to limit the ability of people to mobilise and spread information about the protests, as well as to document human rights violations. These restrictions imposed at a time of unrest, also severely restricted the access to medical services, as well as limited the ability of families to search for those arrested or provide vital help to those harmed as a result of the use of force against protesters. We would like to remind Sudanese authorities that blanket internet shutdowns violate human rights law, namely the rights to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and freedom of association, as such blanket shutdowns do not meet the specific criteria of necessity and proportionality provided under Articles 19, 21 and 22, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Sudan is a party.

While we do not wish to prejudge the accuracy of these allegations, the above mentioned allegations seem to contravene articles 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 19, 21 22 and 24.1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) ratified by Sudan on 18 March 1986, the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, recently ratified by Sudan, on 10 August 2021, and Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Sudan is a party since 2015; as well as a number of related standards including the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, especially its Article 4 (b) and (c); the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (also known as the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders); the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, adopted by the Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/65, and the

⁵ GENERAL COMMENT ON ARTICLE 4, CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.11

⁶ CCPR/C/GC/35, para 66 and 45.

⁷ Ibid

recommendations on the management of peaceful assemblies as found in A/HRC/31/66. Furthermore, the abovementioned allegations would also seem to contravene articles 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 13 of the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance and articles 1, 2, 12, 17-21, and 24 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, acceded by Sudan on 21 August 2021.

The full texts of the human rights instruments and standards recalled above are available on www.ohchr.org or can be provided upon request.

In view of the urgency of the matter, we would appreciate a response on the initial steps taken by the Sudanese authorities to safeguard the rights of the concerned individuals in compliance with international instruments.

As it is our responsibility, under the mandates provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to our attention, we would be grateful for the observations of the Sudan Prime Minister and civilian and military authorities on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and/or any comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Please provide information on the types of orders and guidelines provided to the military and security forces managing the protests since 25 October 2021, and on any measures taken to mitigate against the use of excessive or disproportionate force by the military and security forces during the protests.
2. Please provide information on measures taken by the Sudanese authorities, including the military leadership, to carry out an immediate, impartial, and transparent investigation, in accordance to applicable international standards, including the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death (2016), into the reported excessive and lethal uses of force leading to the death and serious injury of protesters. Additionally, please provide information on the outcome of the investigations into previous alleged human rights abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence, against peaceful protesters, including the outcome of the national independent investigation committee investigating allegations of human rights violations on 3 June 2019.
3. Please provide information on the factual and legal basis for the arrest and detention of peaceful protesters and human rights defenders, and including children, keeping in mind international norms and standards as stated, inter alia, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

4. Please include information on how many detained protesters have since been released, and how many of these were children below the age of 18 and women, Please provide information on whether those still detained have been charged with a recognizable criminal offence, have been granted access to a lawyer of their choice, have been promptly brought before a judge to determine the validity of their detention, and if information on their deprivation of liberty has been provided to their relatives, representatives or counsels. Please specify if among those still detained there are children, individuals below the age of 18, and the circumstances under which they may remain detained.
4. Please provide information on the measures envisaged to ensure the compilation and maintenance of registers of persons deprived of their liberty and guarantee that every person deprived of his or her liberty is held solely in recognized places and supervised places of deprivation of liberty; and is brought before a judicial authority without delay and allowed to challenge the lawfulness of the deprivation of liberty.
5. Please provide information on the steps taken to engage in a meaningful dialogue with the protesters and how their legitimate claims will be addressed and be reflected in the transitional process and future policies.
6. Please indicate what measures have been taken to ensure that human rights defenders, including women's rights activists and defenders, in Sudan are able to carry out their peaceful and legitimate work in a safe and enabling environment without fear of threats, acts of intimidation, arbitrary arrests or harassment of any kind.
7. Please provide detailed information on measures that have been taken, or foreseen, to ensure the right of victims of gross human rights violations and their families to adequate redress, reparation and compensation.
8. Please indicate what measures have been taken to prevent, investigate and punish acts of gender-based violence against women and girls in the context of peaceful assemblies.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to immediately halt the alleged violations and prevent their recurrence, including publicly condemning the violence against peaceful protesters and immediately removing military and security units and personnel allegedly involved in the commission of human rights violations from managing the protests.

We also call for all those arrested in relation to exercising their freedom of peaceful assembly, of association and of expression, on or after 25 October 2021 to be released immediately and unconditionally.

We further call on the Sudanese authorities to revoke the state of emergency imposed by the military since 25 October 2021, and refrain from invoking it as a justification of arbitrary arrests, clamping down on peaceful protests or internet shutdowns.

We also call on the Sudanese authorities to ensure the protection of the constitutional order to safeguard the basic freedoms of political participation, freedom of peaceful assembly, of association and freedom of expression.

We may publicly express our concerns in the near future as, in our view, the information upon which the press release will be based is sufficiently reliable to indicate a matter warranting immediate attention. We also believe that the wider public should be alerted to the potential implications of the above-mentioned allegations. The press release will indicate that we have been in contact with your Excellency and the Sudanese authorities to clarify the issue/s in question.

This communication and any response received from your Excellency and the Sudanese authorities will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) within 60 days. They will also subsequently be made available in the usual report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Clement Nyaletsossi Voule
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Luciano Hazan
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Morris Tidball-Binz
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Irene Khan
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Mary Lawlor
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Nils Melzer
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Reem Alsalem
Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences