

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the right to food; the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons; the Special Rapporteur on minority issues; the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

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(Please use this reference in your reply)

6 August 2024

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Special Rapporteur on the right to food; Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons; Special Rapporteur on minority issues; Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 53/4, 49/13, 51/21, 50/6, 52/5, 50/7 and 50/18.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning alleged violations of human rights, international humanitarian law and international criminal law committed in the context of the armed conflict in North and West Darfur, Sudan. These include alleged large numbers of summary executions of civilians particularly of members of non-Arab ethnic groups; the indiscriminate shelling of population centers; the widespread destruction of civilian homes and structures; attacks on health facilities; mass forced displacement of populations with limited prospects for durable solutions to their situation; and the obstruction of humanitarian aid, including adequate provisions of food and medicines; as well as the imminent risk of further deaths of civilians from ongoing attacks and lack of access to life saving services.

The use of starvation as a weapon of war was the subject of a [press release](#) by several Special Procedures mandate holders on 26 June 2024. Concerns regarding the lack of humanitarian assistance and displacement was also the subject of a [press release](#) by several Special Procedures mandate holders on 5 February 2024. The killing of human rights defenders in El Geneina, West Darfur, was raised in communication SDN 4/2023. We regret that no reply has been received thus far from your Excellency's Government.

According to the information received,

As of 5 July 2024, at least 18,760 people had been killed since the beginning of hostilities in April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the non-state armed group known as the "Rapid Support Forces (RSF) including thousands of civilians, many of them women and children. The true number of those killed is likely to be far higher. At least 23 humanitarian workers have been killed and 33 others injured.

Across the country, 82 attacks on health care facilities leading to 54 deaths directly from the attacks and 104 injuries have been documented. There is a severe shortage of medical supplies including lifesaving medicines.

The situations in El Geneina, West Darfur in 2023 and El Fasher, North Darfur in 2024 are illustrative of the violations of international human rights and humanitarian law that are continuing to be committed with impunity in these regions.

El Geneina, West Darfur

On 24 April 2023, the RSF and allied Arab militias attacked El Geneina city in West Darfur. Fighting continued until 19 June 2023 when the RSF took over the city. El Geneina's population prior to the conflict was 540,000, an estimated 60% of whom were members of the Masalit ethnic group.

During this period, RSF forces reportedly fired heavy artillery on civilian neighborhoods, predominantly on areas in the south of the city which was home to majority Masalit and non-Arab neighborhoods. According to reports, RSF fighters also systematically attacked internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps and gathering places which were known to be populated by Masalit IDPs who had escaped from previous large-scale RSF attacks on the Krinding and Abu Zar IDP camps and other locations in the city in 2019 and 2021.

During these attacks, explosive weapons, such as mortar projectiles and rocket-propelled grenades were reportedly used on populated areas. Majority Masalit neighborhoods and IDP gathering sites were also systematically looted, burned and destroyed.

The RSF and allied Arab militias destroyed all hospitals and medical storage facilities in the city. As a result, 237 people died, including 37 women from childbirth complications and 200 dialysis patients.

The RSF reportedly also carried out summary executions. For example, RSF snipers attacked civilians. Prominent members of the Masalit community, including community leaders, human rights defenders, lawyers, teachers and journalists were sought out for attacks and killings by the RSF.

The RSF also attacked people fleeing El Geneina. In a particularly egregious example, on 15 June 2023, the RSF opened fire on a convoy of civilians leaving the city, being escorted by Masalit fighters. The RSF pursued and targeted fleeing individuals and summarily executed men, women, and children. It is estimated that 1,000 people were killed.

In another instance, people fleeing El Geneina for Adré between 14 and 17 June 2023 were stopped at RSF checkpoints. Young men were interrogated about their ethnicity and, if identified as Masalit, often summarily executed. Arab men were able to pass the checkpoints safely.

The exact figures of civilians deceased or injured during the attack on El Geneina and its aftermath are not confirmed but the count currently stands at 12,000 casualties including 7000 individuals killed, 3000 injured and 2000

missing. It is estimated that women and children account for 37 per cent of the casualties.

The bodies of individuals killed were initially not collected due to the continuous presence of RSF snipers and many were therefore preyed upon by scavengers. On 17 June 2023, the RSF permitted Sudanese Red Crescent Volunteers to collect bodies, which were buried in at least 13 mass graves following standard emergency body recovery procedures and temporary disposal standards. This included one grave on the outskirts of the city in an area called Al-Turab Al Ahmar (Red Soil), which contained the bodies of 87 individuals, including those killed by the RSF and others who died from untreated injuries. The bodies of seven women and seven children were among those buried.

El Fasher and surroundings, North Darfur

A sudden increase in fighting was reported in El Fasher in April 2024 and it further escalated in May 2024. El Fasher, home to 1.8 million residents and IDPs, is the only regional capital city in Darfur which is still controlled by the SAF and is currently encircled by RSF forces.

As of 22 July 2024, the reported death toll has reached 750 in El Fasher, since the escalation of the fighting on 10 May, but the exact number has not been confirmed. More than 4,700 others have been injured, and around 143,000 people have been displaced.

The conflict has featured extensive attacks from both the SAF and RSF which do not appear to respect the principles of distinction, proportionality and/or precautions which has led to the killings of civilians and in some instances may have been planned and directed against civilians and protected objects.

Examples of such incidents include:

- On 25 April 2024, SAF carried out airstrikes in the Malleit locality, killing seven herders. Based on the information available, there were no military objectives in the area and no warning was given. The casualties from the attack appear to be excessive to the concrete and direct military advantage which could be anticipated, rendering the attack disproportionate.
- On 6 May 2024, SAF airstrikes targeting RSF positions to the east of El Fasher reportedly killed 16 civilians with no warning given. The casualties from the attack appear to be excessive to the concrete and direct military advantage which could be anticipated, rendering the attack disproportionate.
- On 22 May 2024, an SAF airstrike on the Kebakabia locality killed 9 civilians including 3 children (one girl and two boys). Based on the information available, there were no military objectives in the area and no warning was given.

- On 26 May 2024, artillery shells fired by the RSF targeting SAF positions near the Awlad Areef neighborhood killed eight civilians with no warning given. The casualties from the attack appear to be excessive to the concrete and direct military advantage which could be anticipated rendering the attack disproportionate.
- On 27 May 2024, RSF fired several artillery shells into civilian neighborhoods killing 9 civilians and injuring 13 others playing football in the Abu Shouk neighborhood. Based on the information available, there were no military objectives in the area and no warning was given.
- On 2 June 2024, RSF artillery shelling in the neighborhood of Tumbasi killed 9 civilians. Based on the information available, there were no military objectives in the area and no warning was given.

Almost two square kilometers of urban areas of El Fasher have been destroyed. RSF is reportedly particularly destroying neighborhoods with significant Zaghawa populations.

Camps for internally displaced persons, have been targeted and attacked multiple times, including:

- On 16 May 2024, artillery shells were reportedly fired on Al Israa internally displaced persons gathering site. This attack reportedly killed 2 civilians and injured several others.
- On 20 May 2024, artillery shells fired by the RSF landed on El Fasher's main market and Abu Shouk IDP camp. Seven civilians were killed and one injured.
- On 22 May 2024, RSF fired artillery shells on Abu Shouk IDP camp, killing 10 civilians including 8 children.
- On 7 June 2024, RSF carried out artillery shelling on various areas of the city killing 8 civilians including 3 children in Abu Shouk IDP camp.

Health facilities, which are protected objects, have been attacked multiple times. In particular, it appears that hospitals are being deliberately, systematically and intentionally attacked by the RSF. This includes:

- Baber Nahar Pediatric Hospital, which was damaged on 11 May 2024, killing one member of the medical staff and injuring another civilian.
- The Saudi Maternity hospital, which was damaged on 19 May 2024 by artillery shells fired by RSF, injuring 9 civilians. It was struck again by another RSF artillery shell on 21 June 2024, killing a pharmacist and damaging the hospital. The Saudi Maternity hospital is the only health facility in the city with surgical capacity.

- The Al Janobi Hospital which, from 25 May to 3 June 2024, was subjected to 3 attacks, killing 2 civilians and injuring 14 others. On 8 June 2024, the hospital was raided by RSF. Medical staff were reportedly assaulted, materials looted from the onsite pharmacy and an ambulance seized. It was the only facility equipped to manage mass casualties.

Health facilities have also been hit by SAF airstrikes. For example, a private clinic in Kabkabia locality which was hit by an airstrike thought to have been carried out by the SAF on 28 May 2024 killing 3 civilians inside.

At least one incident of summary executions by the RSF has been reported: on 3 June 2024 the RSF reportedly summarily executed at least 3 individuals who were fleeing the conflict traveling from El Fasher to Mellit. Reportedly, RSF stopped two commercial cars on the road, and after establishing their ethnicity, shot the three men at point blank.

At present, more than 800,000 people living in El Fasher and surrounding areas lack provision of their basic needs including food and water. Provision of humanitarian assistance is extremely difficult due to movement restrictions, instability and attacks against humanitarian workers. Local community volunteers are providing what assistance they can at great personal risk. On 11 June 2024, eight such volunteers were killed in Tambasi neighborhood in El Fasher by an RSF artillery shell.

The restricted access to food is leading to malnutrition. Malnutrition rates are high particularly amongst children and women in IDP camps. Children are dying from malnutrition every day in the Zamzam IDP camp hosting people displaced from El Fasher. As of March 2024, Zalingei camp has seen a prevalence of severe malnutrition at 15.6%; as of April 2024, in Zamzam camp 29.4% of children aged 6 to 59 months were suffering from severe malnutrition as well as 33.3% of pregnant and breastfeeding women.

While we do not wish to prejudge the accuracy of the information received, we express serious concern that grave violations of human rights and of international humanitarian and criminal law are in the course of being committed by both the SAF and the RSF.

Attacks directed at civilian population and objects and indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks

We are extremely concerned by reports of extensive attacks which are either directed at the civilian population or fail to respect the principles of distinction, proportionality and/or precautions. In particular, we are concerned about the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas, which would in nearly all instances result in indiscriminate attacks on civilians and their property; amount to prohibited area bombardment; or amount to disproportionate attacks causing incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects (see A/77/190).

We would like to recall that all parties to the conflict are under an obligation to distinguish between combatants and civilians and to direct attacks only against

combatants (see also rules 1, 6 and 7 of the International Committee on the Red Cross, [study on customary International Humanitarian Law](#) (“the Customary Rules”). Indiscriminate attacks are prohibited (rule 11 of the Customary Rules). Further, launching an attack which may be expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, or damage to civilian objects, which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated, is prohibited (rule 14 of the Customary Rules). Parties to the conflict must “do everything feasible to verify that targets are military objectives” (ICRC study, rule 16) and take all feasible precautions to avoid and minimize incidental loss of civilian life (rule 15 of the Customary Rules). We further remind that extensive destruction of property not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully or wantonly constitutes a war crime (rule 156 of the Customary Rules).

Furthermore, we remind that practices inconsistent with international humanitarian law, entailing a risk to the lives of civilians and other persons protected by international humanitarian law, would also violate article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), that Sudan acceded to on 18 March 1986. The right not to be arbitrarily deprived of life is a *jus cogens* obligation and should be respected and protected at all times, without possible derogation or exception even in times of war or security emergencies.

We also wish highlight that, according to the UN Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1974, “attacks and bombings on the civilian population, inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children...shall be prohibited ... [and] condemned” (para. 1). The Declaration further holds that “all the necessary steps shall be taken to ensure the prohibition of measures such as persecution, torture, punitive measures, degrading treatment and violence, particularly against that part of the civilian population that consists of women” (para. 4), and “all forms of repression and cruel and inhuman treatment of women ... including imprisonment, torture, shooting, mass arrests, collective punishment, destruction of dwellings and forcible eviction, committed by belligerents in the course of military operations or in occupied territories shall be considered criminal” (para. 5). As such, indiscriminate attacks on civilians, particularly women and children, are impermissible under well-established international standards.

Principle 10 of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement underscores that internally displaced persons shall be protected against arbitrary deprivation of life, including through murder, or summary or arbitrary executions (principle 10(1)). Attacks or other acts of violence against internally displaced persons who do not or no longer participate in hostilities are prohibited in all circumstances, including direct or indiscriminate attacks or other acts of violence, and attacks against their camps and settlements (principle 10(2)). Furthermore, the property and possessions of internally displaced persons shall in all circumstances be protected, in particular against acts including pillage, direct or indiscriminate attacks or other acts of violence, being made the object of reprisal, or being destroyed or appropriated as a form of collective punishment (principle 21(2)). Property and possessions left behind by internally displaced persons should be protected against destruction and arbitrary and illegal appropriation, occupation, or use (principle 21(3)).

Attacks directed at medical facilities and workers

We are also gravely concerned at alleged incident of attacks on medical facilities. We remind your Excellency's Government that under rule 25 of the Customary Rules "medical personnel exclusively assigned to medical duties must be respected and protected in all circumstances." Furthermore, rule 28 provides that "Medical units exclusively assigned to medical purposes must be respected and protected in all circumstances." Targeting of medical and humanitarian personnel is considered a grave violation. This includes either to attack medical personnel, including causing their death, or failing to take appropriate measures to protect them. Personnel engaging in medical tasks must always be respected and protected. The targeting of healthcare workers, hospitals, and healthcare facilities, including ambulances, contravenes the fundamental right of individuals to access essential healthcare services, a matter of acute significance during times of conflict. Making medical personnel units or transports the object of attack also constitutes a war crime (rule 156 of the Customary Rules).

Under the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, competent authorities are under an obligation to ensure internally displaced persons have safe access to essential medical services (principle 18 (2d)) and all wounded and sick internally displaced persons as well as those with disabilities should have access to physical and mental healthcare without distinction on any grounds other than medical ones (principle 19). We also wish to recall principle 26 which notes that persons engaged in humanitarian assistance, their transport and supplies shall be respected and protected. They shall not be the object of attack or other acts of violence.

Obligation to respect and protect the right to life

We would like to highlight that States are obliged to take adequate preventive measures in order to protect individuals against reasonably foreseen threats of being murdered or killed by armed groups and to take special measures of protection towards persons in vulnerable situations whose lives have been placed at particular risk because of specific threats or pre-existing patterns of violence, including human rights defenders humanitarian workers, journalists, prominent public figures, children in situations of armed conflict and members of ethnic minorities (Human Rights Committee, general comment 36).

Obligation to investigate violations of the right to life

We recall the duty of your Excellency's Government to investigate alleged or suspected violations of article 6 including in situations of armed conflict in a prompt, effective, thorough, independent, impartial and transparent manner, and that all persons identified by the investigation as having participated in crimes of extra-legal or arbitrary killings, should be brought to justice and punished with sentences commensurate with the gravity of the crimes committed (general comment 36). Failure to properly, independently and reliably investigate the killing, with a view to holding accountable those responsible, would in itself constitute a grave violation under international humanitarian law. In this respect, we refer to the United Nations Revised Manual for the Effective Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions also known as the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death (2016) ("The Minnesota Protocol"), which provides detailed guidelines on the duty to investigate potential unlawful deaths "promptly,

effectively and thoroughly, with independence, impartiality and transparency.”

We would like to highlight the importance of ensuring the protection of the bodies and human remains of victims of potentially unlawful death including to facilitate investigations and respect the rights of families of victims. In this regard we note that parties to a conflict must take all possible measures to search for the dead in a timely manner, especially following the cessation of hostilities, to prevent the despoilment of remains; and prevent the mutilation or mistreatment of dead bodies (rules 112 and 113, of the Customary Rules). The dead must be disposed of in a respectful manner and their graves respected and properly maintained (rule 115). Additionally, parties to the conflict must record all available information prior to disposal of remains, mark grave locations and endeavour to facilitate the return of remains where requested to the next of kin or the party to the conflict to which they belong (rules 114 and 116).

Under the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, competent authorities should endeavor to establish the fate and whereabouts of internally displaced persons reported missing and cooperate with relevant international organizations engaged in this tasks, as well as inform the next of kin on the progress of the investigation and notify them of any result (principle 26(2)). They should also collect and identify the mortal remains of those deceased, prevent their despoilation or mutilation, and facilitate the return of those remains to the next of kin or dispose of them respectfully (principle 16(3)). Grave sites of internally displaced persons should be protected and respected in all circumstances and internally displaced persons should have the right of access to the grave sites of their deceased relatives (principle 16(4)).

Obligation to protect civilian objects, the right to adequate housing and the right to food

With regard to the protection of civilian objects such as homes, residential areas, markets and others, we further wish to emphasize that everyone is entitled to the right to adequate housing, which is enshrined in article 25.1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), as well as in article 11.1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which Sudan acceded to on 18 March 1986. The right to housing should not be equated with merely having a roof over one’s head but should rather be seen as the right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity (ICESCR general comment No. 4). We further wish to draw your attention to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing (A/77/190), in which, *inter alia*, he calls for the recognition of domicile – the systematic and deliberate mass destruction of homes during violent conflict - as a distinct crime under international law.

Article 25 of UDHR and article 11 of ICESCR also recognize the right to food. The right to adequate food refers to the possibilities either for feeding oneself directly from productive land or other natural resources, or for well-functioning distribution, processing and market systems (para. 12 of general comment No. 12 of the ICESCR), therefore protecting such civilian objects from attacks. Any measure taken by a State or other entity to prevent the access to adequate food could amount to a violation of the obligation to protect the right to food. The obligation to fulfil (facilitate) means that the State must pro-actively engage in activities intended to strengthen people’s access to and utilization of resources and means to ensure their livelihood, including their access to land to ensure their food security (para. 15). The

right to be free from hunger and malnutrition is not subjected to progressive realization as it must be fulfilled in a more urgent manner (para. 1). Furthermore, as recalled by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food in his report on right to food and conflict (A/HRC/52/40), international humanitarian law prohibits attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, including foodstuffs, agricultural areas for the production of foodstuffs, crops and livestock.

Mass forced displacement with limited prospects for durable solutions

We are seriously concerned by the reported mass displacements of populations. We remind that it is a violation of international humanitarian law for a party to a non-international armed conflict to order the displacement of the civilian population, in whole or in part, unless an evacuation is required to protect the security of the civilians involved or because of imperative military reasons (rule 129 of the Customary Rules). This displacement includes forced transfer caused by physical force, the “threat of force or coercion, such as that caused by fear of violence, duress, detention, psychological oppression or abuse” (ICC Elements of Crime, art. 7(1)(d)).

We would also like to refer your Excellency’s Government to the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which are based on international human rights and humanitarian law. Principle 5 states that all authorities shall respect their obligations under international law, including human rights and humanitarian law, to prevent and avoid conditions that might lead to displacement. Principle 6 states that every human being shall have the right to be protected against being arbitrarily displaced from his or her home or place of habitual residence. The prohibition of arbitrary displacement includes displacement in situations of armed conflict, unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand (principle 6(b)).

Prior to any decision requiring the displacement of persons, the authorities concerned shall ensure that all feasible alternatives are explored in order to avoid displacement altogether. Where no alternatives exist, all measures shall be taken to minimize displacement and its adverse effects (principle 7(1)). The authorities undertaking such displacement shall ensure, to the greatest practicable extent, that proper accommodation is provided to the displaced persons, that such displacements are effected in satisfactory conditions of safety, nutrition, health and hygiene, and that members of the same family are not separated (principle 7(3)). Displacement shall not be carried out in a manner that violates the rights to life, dignity, liberty and security of those affected (principle 8).

Additionally, principle 9, highlights that States are under a particular obligation to protect against the displacement of minorities, and other groups with a special dependency on and attachment to their lands.

Under principle 18, all internally displaced persons have the right to an adequate standard of living. At the minimum, regardless of the circumstances, and without discrimination, competent authorities shall provide internally displaced persons with and ensure safe access to: (a) Essential food and potable water; (b) Basic shelter and housing; (c) Appropriate clothing; and (d) Essential medical services and sanitation. Special efforts should be made to ensure the full participation of women in the planning and distribution of these basic supplies.

Furthermore, we are deeply concerned by the dire, and sometimes fatal, conditions in IDP camps, particularly for children, pregnant women, and women facing multiple and intersecting vulnerabilities. We recall that children affected by armed conflict are entitled to special respect and protection (rule 135 of the Customary Rules) and that the specific protection, health and assistance needs of women affected by armed conflict must be respected (rule 134 of the Customary Rules). We would also like to highlight that under principle 19 of the aforementioned 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, “special attention should be paid to the health needs of women, including access to female health care providers and services, such as reproductive health care, as well as appropriate counselling for victims of sexual and other abuses.”

Under principle 28, competent authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions, as well as provide the means, which allow internally displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country. Such authorities shall endeavour to facilitate the reintegration of returned or resettled internally displaced persons.

Obstruction of humanitarian assistance

With regards to reports that restrictions imposed on the entry of humanitarian aid are a major obstacle to reaching individuals in need, we remind that under international humanitarian law, parties to armed conflicts are required to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief for civilians in need, and are in breach when they: (i) impede access of humanitarian relief to civilians; or (ii) arbitrarily deny consent to enable humanitarian relief operations; or (iii) restrict freedom of movement of humanitarian relief personnel, other than temporarily when it is required by imperative military necessity (rule 55 and 56 of the Customary Rules). We emphasise that when the civilian population is not adequately supplied, no party to an armed conflict may arbitrarily withhold consent to offers of legitimate humanitarian services from an impartial humanitarian body. We further emphasize that the intentional infliction of conditions of life, inter alia, the deprivation of access to food and medicine, calculated to bring about the destruction of part of a population, constitutes a crime against humanity when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack.

Under principle 25 of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, all authorities concerned shall grant and facilitate the free passage of humanitarian assistance and grant persons engaged in the provision of such assistance rapid and unimpeded access to the internally displaced. Consent thereto shall not be arbitrarily withheld, particularly when authorities concerned are unable or unwilling to provide the required humanitarian assistance. Under principle 26, persons engaged in humanitarian assistance, their transport and supplies shall be respected and protected. They shall not be the object of attack or other acts of violence.

Disregard for the specific needs of pregnant and lactating women

International law mandates specific protections for pregnant women, in recognition of intersecting vulnerabilities. For example, article 38 of Geneva

Convention IV states that pregnant women and mothers of children under seven years shall benefit from any preferential treatment to the same extent as the nationals of the State concerned. It is part of customary law that the specific protection and needs of women affected by armed conflict must be respected in both national and international settings. While common article 3 of the Geneva Convention and Additional Protocol II refer to specific aspects of the general rule to attend to the needs of women by requiring respect for the person, prohibiting violence to life. According to the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women, women are entitled to the equal enjoyment and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil and any other field, including inter alia, the right to life.

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 your Excellency's Government to safeguard the rights of the above-mentioned person(s) 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 your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Please provide information on the alleged unlawful killings carried out by Sudanese forces and any measures taken to ensure SAF forces respect the right to life of all individuals and hold members of their forces accountable for violations to this non-derogable right.
3. Please provide information on the steps taken to ensure the remains of the deceased are treated in a respectful manner with information recorded in order to facilitate identification as required by international law.
4. Please provide precisions on measures taken by the SAF to ensure attacks comply with the principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions as required by international law.
5. Please provide information on the steps taken to ensure that all allegations of potentially unlawful killings by SAF forces are investigated as required under international law and in line with applicable standards, including the *Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death (2016)*.
6. Please provide information about measures taken to ensure that protected and civilian objects such as homes, markets, IDP camps, foodstuffs, agricultural areas, crops, livestock, hospitals and all medical facilities are not targeted, as required by international law.
7. Please provide information on the measures that have been taken to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance, including adequate

food, safe drinking water and medicine, and to protect humanitarian workers.

8. Please provide information on the measures in place to prevent displacement caused by SAF actions and to provide assistance to internally displaced persons, as well as measures envisaged to foster durable solutions to displacement for displaced persons.

We would appreciate receiving a response within 60 days. Past this delay, this communication and any response received from your Excellency's Government will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#). They will also subsequently be made available in the usual report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to halt the alleged violations and prevent their re-occurrence and in the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person(s) responsible for the alleged violations.

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's Government's to clarify the issue/s in question.

Please be informed that a letter on this subject matter has been also sent to Rapid Support Forces.

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

Morris Tidball-Binz

Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Michael Fakhri

Special Rapporteur on the right to food

Tlaleng Mofokeng

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

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Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons

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Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences

Dorothy Estrada-Tanck

Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls