

## Press Statement

### Submission of Petition for Independent Investigations into Targeted Atrocities Against South Sudanese Nationals in Wad Medani in the Republic of Sudan

24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Press Release**

*For Immediate Release*

Today, a total of 3,292 concerned individuals, primarily South Sudanese residing in over fifty countries, have submitted a petition to the United Nations Human Rights Council's Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan. The petition calls for an immediate and independent international investigation into the targeted atrocities committed against South Sudanese nationals in Wad Madani, Republic of Sudan.

These atrocities, including grave human rights abuses and cold-blooded killings, were reportedly perpetrated by members of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) following their takeover of Wad Madani from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in January 2025. Such acts constitute flagrant violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The documented crimes—marked by deliberate and systematic targeting of civilians—may also amount to crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Harrowing evidence, including disturbing visual documentation, indicates that SAF forces carried out extrajudicial killings, torture, and other inhumane acts, specifically targeting individuals based on their South Sudanese nationality. These grave abuses demand urgent action to ensure accountability and justice for the victims.

We therefore call on the Fact-Finding Mission to launch an immediate, independent, and comprehensive investigation into these atrocities, collect and safely preserve evidence for future accountability, identify perpetrators and patterns of abuse, and provide targeted recommendations not only to hold those responsible accountable but also to prevent further violations. Additionally, we urge the Mission to collaborate with regional and international mechanisms in the pursuit of justice for the victims of atrocities.

Wad Madani is home to a population of diverse nationalities including South Sudanese who have lived and worked there for decades. Many remained in the city after South Sudan's independence, while others sought refuge following conflicts in South Sudan. These individuals are civilians pursuing their livelihoods, with no affiliations to the armed groups involved in Sudan's ongoing conflict. The deliberate targeting of South Sudanese civilians in Sudan is unacceptable and must be stopped immediately. We call on all warring parties to cease attacks against South Sudanese in Sudan and to end atrocities against their own people as well. The war must not be used as a justification for ethnic or nationality-based persecution.

As petitioners, we stand ready to support the Fact-Finding Mission by facilitating access to victims, witnesses, and additional evidence. We further urge the Mission to reflect the urgency and gravity of these atrocities in its forthcoming oral update at the 59th session of the Human Rights Council, as well as in its comprehensive report at the 60th session. The international community must act decisively to ensure justice for the victims and to deter further crimes against civilians in Sudan.

**\*\*\*End\*\*\***

## Media Advisory

We, the petitioners, comprise 3,292 concerned individuals, primarily South Sudanese residing in over fifty countries worldwide. We have come together to demand accountability and justice for the victims of grave human rights abuses committed against South Sudanese nationals by members of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) following the SAF's takeover of Wad Madani from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in January 2025.

For media inquiries, please contact us through the following e-mails:

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As of the submission date, the petition had 3,292 signatories, with the number continuing to grow. The latest count of signatories can be accessed through the online version of the petition here: <https://chng.it/c8vCCBmCLQ>