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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-Third session, 13-30 September 2016**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

Sudan

Mr President

Amnesty International welcomes Sudan's acceptance of recommendations to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and strengthen efforts to prevent torture and inhuman treatment.¹

We note, however, that Sudan rejected recommendations to remove impunity provisions from the National Security Act 2010 and ensure independent investigation and prosecution of human rights violations committed by the National Intelligence and Security Service, the armed forces and the police.² This raises doubt as to Sudan's commitment to ending human rights violations committed by its security forces.

We call on Sudan to promptly investigate all allegations of torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary detention and excessive use of force and to hold those responsible to account in fair trials without recourse to the death penalty.

Amnesty International is pleased to note Sudan's acceptance of recommendations to amend national legislation in line with international human rights law, including with regard to the right to freedom of expression.³

¹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Sudan*, A/HRC/WG.6/25/L.5, 9 May 2016, recommendations 139.6-139.10 (Brazil, Italy, Honduras, Guatemala, Viet Nam, Uruguay, Congo, France, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Lebanon, Togo, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Denmark, Poland, El Salvador, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Indonesia) and 139.96-139.101 (Togo, Norway, France, Cyprus, Czech Republic and Germany).

² A/HRC/WG.6/25/L.5, recommendations 142.14-142.15 (Germany and Norway).

³ A/HRC/WG.6/25/L.5, recommendations 139.15-139.16 (Botswana) and 139.19-5.23 (Burkina Faso); (Canada); (Colombia); (Japan); (Madagascar).

Civic space for opposition political parties, civil society and human rights defenders is restricted in Sudan. Three civil society organisations were shut down in 2015 and dozens more were denied registration.⁴ So far this year, eight civil society activists have been arbitrarily arrested and, in March 2016, four activists were prevented from travelling to Geneva to attend a preparatory meeting ahead of Sudan's Universal Periodic Review. Newspapers are regularly confiscated by the authorities from the printers. So far this year, ten newspapers have been confiscated on 19 different occasions.

We call on Sudan to ensure that human rights defenders, other civil society activists and journalists can carry out their legitimate activities without intimidation, hindrance or harassment.

We remain concerned by the indiscriminate bombardments of, unlawful killings, abductions and gender-based and sexual violence in the conflict areas of Blue Nile, Darfur and South Kordofan. While we welcome Sudan's acceptance of recommendations to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons in these areas and to protect their rights,⁵ we are dismayed at Sudan's rejection of a recommendation to end attacks against civilians, including the use of rape as a weapon of war.⁶ We urge Sudan to end all violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and bring those responsible to justice.

Thank you, Mr. President.

⁴ In January 2015, the NISS shut down three civil society organizations on the basis that they were violating their registration licenses. They were the Mahmoud Mohamed Taha Cultural Centre, the National Civic Forum and the Sudanese Writers' Union. Sudan: *Entrenched repression freedom of expression and association under unprecedented attack* ([AFR 54/1364/2015](#))

⁵ A/HRC/WG.6/25/L.5, recommendations 139.128-139.136 (Ukraine, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Greece, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives and Portugal).

⁶ /HRC/WG.6/25/L.5, recommendation 8.22 (Austria).