



61st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Item 2: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Sudan

26 February 2026

Joint oral statement

Mr. President,

Lawyers for Lawyers, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, and Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada thank the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission and the High Commissioner for their reports.

The findings confirm not only the brutal and systematic targeting of civilians but also the progressive dismantling of Sudan's justice system by both parties to the conflict. Lawyers representing individuals accused of links to the RSF, or belonging to marginalised ethnic groups, are at increased risk.

Since April 2023, at least 16 lawyers in Sudan have reportedly been killed, and dozens more forcibly disappeared, arbitrarily detained or prosecuted in connection with their professional activities, forcing some into hiding or exile. Reports also indicate raids on law offices, confiscation of privileged materials, and restricted access to clients in prison. This year alone, at least 31 lawyers were reportedly suspended or disbarred by disciplinary bodies lacking a recognised legal mandate.

These practices severely undermine the independence of the legal profession, fair trial rights, and access to justice, with the number of practising lawyers having decreased in several regions.

We urge the Council to respond robustly to the ever-worsening situation in Sudan, continue monitoring the situation of lawyers, and ensure the International Fact-Finding Mission is able to continue its work in Sudan effectively, in advance of accountability.

Thank you.

This statement was delivered by:

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