



Oral Statement by the International Bar Association

62nd Session of the Human Rights Council

Urgent debate to discuss the human rights situation in and around El Obeid, North Kordofan, in the context of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan

3 July 2026

The Serious Risk of Genocide and Ongoing Obligation to Prevent

The IBA's Human Rights Institute is highly concerned about the serious risk of genocide in El Obeid, North Kordofan, following the massacres in Darfur.

Some 500,000 people are at risk of large-scale grave violations. If we are to learn anything from the atrocities in El Fasher, it is not to ignore the warnings and red flags that are flashing before our eyes.

The duty to prevent genocide, as explained by the ICJ in its 2007 judgment, is to be triggered at the instance a State learns or should normally have learned of the serious risk of genocide. From that moment onwards, States are to employ all means reasonably available to them, to prevent genocide so far as possible. The serious risk of genocide in Sudan has existed since 2023, at least. Yet, States have been failing to take decisive actions and so failing to prevent the genocide.

The IBAHRI calls this Council to:

- Investigate into the serious risk of genocide in Sudan and identify all means reasonably available to stop the atrocities;
- Take all possible actions to support the implementation of all recommendations contained in the reports of the Fact-Finding Mission.
- Support any accountability efforts to bring perpetrators to justice, including with a referral of the situation in the whole of Sudan to the ICC.

Thank you.

Contact:

Dr Ewelina Ochab

Senior Programme Lawyer

International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute

ewelina.ochab@int-bar.org

Francesca Restifo

Senior Human Rights Lawyer and UN Representative

International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute

francesca.restifo@int-bar.org