

SUDAN

OVERVIEW OF RECENT RESTRICTIONS TO CIVIC FREEDOMS



(Photo by REUTERS/Mohamed Nureldin Abdallah)



INTRODUCTION

The Sudanese revolution, which began in December 2018, toppling dictator Omar al-Bashir and his government, sparked new hope for the restoration of democratic and civic freedoms in the country. Following this, a Transitional Military Council was formed but tensions emerged between the military and opposition movements. In response to this, in June 2019, protesters staged a two-day strike to [push back](#) against military rule during the transitional period and affirm the need for a civilian-led administration. Security forces raided the sit-in, opened fire on protesters, used physical violence against them and set fire to their tents, resulting in over 100 people being killed.

In August 2019 an agreement was reached between the military and civilian representatives to form a transitional government. The period that followed brought renewed hope for civic freedoms in Sudan, with the repeal of the Public Order Law, which had been used to target women human rights defenders (WHRDs), and amendments to the Penal Code of 1991.¹ On 3rd October 2019 the [Juba Agreement](#) for Peace in Sudan [was signed by](#) the Transitional Government leading to important commitments, including on gender equality and women's empowerment, resource-sharing, security arrangements and transitional justice.²

However, ongoing [tensions](#) between military and civilian factions in the government resulted in the 25 October 2021 coup by the military leadership, which sparked mass protests. Security forces [arrested](#) 63 government officials, including Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, six ministers and several members of the country's civilian leadership, such as members of the Transitional Government and Transitional Sovereign Council, who were placed under house arrest or taken to unknown locations. A state of emergency was [declared](#) by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, with the dissolution of the Sovereign Council and Transitional Government. As a result, the World Bank [suspended](#) its disbursement of funds to Sudan, while the African Union [suspended](#) Sudan's participation until 'effective restoration of the civilian-led transitional authority'.

The then-United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michele Bachelet, condemned the coup and called on military authorities to 'abide by the constitutional order and international law, withdraw from the streets, and resolve any differences with civilian leaders serving on the Transitional Council through dialogue and negotiation'. Following [calls from](#) civil society organisations (CSOs), the UN Human Rights Council took urgent action by holding a special session, on 5 November 2021, and adopted a resolution requesting that the High Commissioner designate an Expert on Human Rights in Sudan.

BACKGROUND

1. In July 2020, the government amended the Penal Code of 1991 to, among other reforms, increase the penalty for the crime of torture carried out by public officials to imprisonment for up to three years instead of three months. The amendments also abolished the crime of apostasy and criminalised the practice of female genital mutilation. In February 2021, Sudan ratified the UN Convention Against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. On 8 March 2021, the government announced that Sudan would ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

2. On 3 October 2019, the [Juba Agreement for Peace in Sudan](#) was signed by the Transitional Government and various armed movements, with the stated objective of ending conflicts, fighting impunity and creating sustainable peace in Sudan. The agreement includes important commitments on a range of issues, including power-sharing, gender equality and women's empowerment, resource-sharing and security arrangements, as well as transitional justice, compensation and rehabilitation.



After a turbulent month, a political agreement was [signed](#) on 21 November 2021, with Abdalla Hamdok reinstated as prime minister and the transition to civilian rule restored, with an agreement for the release of political prisoners. On 24 December 2021, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan [issued](#) a decree giving further power to the military by authorising General Intelligence Service (GIS) agents to carry out home searches, surveillance, arrests and detentions and granting GIS agents immunity from prosecution. The decree has been used to [carry out](#) arbitrary detentions and arrests of protesters, civilian political leaders, journalists and human rights defenders (HRDs). Although the state of emergency [was lifted](#) on 29 May 2022, violations have continued. On 2 January 2022 Hamdok [announced](#) his resignation as prime minister due to political deadlock between the civilian and military factions, [sparking](#) further political uncertainty.

Massive pro-democracy protests organised by resistance committees, which have taken place during the coup and its aftermath, [have been met with](#) excessive and lethal force, with physical violence and ill-treatment of protesters in detention. Security forces have [repeatedly denied](#) using live ammunition. During protests, internet shutdowns took place for over 20 days with mobile connections disrupted, resulting in an information blockade.

Women protesters and WHRDs have faced severe repression, with rape and sexual violence [used by](#) the Sudanese military and coup leaders against women protesters. Journalists reporting critically on military rule have been detained and face physical violence. Several media outlets have been raided amid anti-coup protests. Clement Voule, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, has [condemned](#) the 'violent repressions' and called on the military to 'listen to the legitimate demands of the Sudanese people for returning to the constitutional transition'.

This research brief documents civic space restrictions that have taken place since the 25 October 2021 coup and during its aftermath, in which violations have continued unabated. Civic space in Sudan is rated as repressed by the CIVICUS Monitor.

ABOUT THE CIVICUS MONITOR

The [CIVICUS Monitor](#), an online platform that tracks threats to civil society in countries across the globe, rates civic space – the space for civil society – in Sudan as **"Repressed"**.

The data is generated through a collaboration with more than 20 civil society research partners, and input from a number of independent human rights evaluations. The data provides the basis for civic space ratings, which are based on up-to-date information and indicators on the state of freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression. Countries can be rated as:

CLOSED

REPRESSED

OBSTRUCTED

NARROWED

OPEN



FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

Coup: repression of protest

Sudan is a state party to international human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which guarantees the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. The 2019 Sudanese Constitution also guarantees the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. However, in practice, the freedom of peaceful assembly has been consistently repressed, with GIS having been granted further powers under the state of emergency that have been used to crack down on protesters and HRDs.

During the October 2021 coup and in its aftermath, serious violations of freedom of peaceful assembly were documented. Despite human rights organisations [calling for](#) military leaders to respect the right to protest, disproportionate and lethal force was used against protesters. According to [Human Rights Watch](#), on 25 October 2021, three protesters [were killed](#) during pro-democracy protests, which saw a large presence of security forces including the Sudan Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). A further 80 protesters were injured, with reports of security forces using live ammunition.

On 30 October 2021, the 'March for Million' was held in the capital Khartoum and several other cities, with thousands gathering. Security forces used teargas and live ammunition against protesters and [prevented](#) people accessing local hospitals. The Central Committee of Sudan's Doctors [reported](#) that three people were killed. Other injuries [documented](#) include cases of paralysis as a result of a beating with a gun butt, [suffocation](#) and protesters being run over by 'Thatcher' vehicles.

On 13 and 17 November 2021 during protests in Khartoum, 23 people were killed after security forces used lethal force, according to the Central Committee of Sudan's Doctors. An Amnesty International investigation [found that](#) at least nine protesters were killed as a result of gunshot wounds, including by a sniper bullet, with an additional 50 protesters sustaining gunshot injuries. Several reports from activists confirmed that protesters were targeted by snipers on rooftops. On 30 December 2021, security forces [fired teargas](#) into an emergency room at Khartoum teaching hospital, which was filled with protesters who had been injured in a protest.

On 17 January 2022, the Central Committee of Sudan's Doctors [reported](#) that seven protesters had been killed by live ammunition, with at least 163 injured. An investigation by Human Rights Watch [revealed](#) that the lethal response to protests came from the anti-riot police and Central Reserve Police, a militarised police unit. Protesters told Human Rights Watch that anti-riot police fired teargas at protesters who were peacefully chanting, while other police physically attacked protesters. In a [press statement](#), the spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights stated that the Joint Human Rights Office in Sudan found that over a quarter of those injured were hit directly by teargas canisters, which is in violation of international standards.

During protests in May 2022, a protester [was killed](#) after being driven over by a police vehicle. An investigation has been [opened](#) into the 'reckless' conduct of the police patrol driver. In the same month, the Emergency Lawyers group organised several sit-ins outside Khartoum-area prisons in response to torture and ill-treatment of protesters and activists. During the protest several people were [detained](#) under article 57 of the Criminal Code, in relation to 'entering and photographing military areas and works'. The group [submitted](#) a memorandum calling for an independent investigative commission by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

On 30 June 2022, nine people [were killed](#) during protests, while a 20-hour internet disruption was [reported](#). As of [September](#) 2022, at least 117 protesters have [been killed](#) during pro-democracy protests.



In addition, since the coup, hundreds of protesters have been arbitrarily [detained](#) and have faced ill-treatment in detention, with some forcibly disappeared. A report by the Darfur Bar Association, the Emergency Lawyers' Group, People's Legal Aid Centre (PLACE) and Redress [found that](#) two types of arrests have taken place: protesters have been arrested during or after protests and people have been arrested under the emergency law in their homes or at known gathering places. Detainees gave accounts of experiencing physical violence and ill-treatment while being transported to a detention centre, including this 16-year-old:

'I suffered from all kinds of beatings [that] you can imagine, [including] flogging, beating by sticks with nails, kicking with military boots, and an [officer] jumped on my entire body with both legs. I was hit in the eye with a fist [wearing] a large ring, and my forehead and eyes were hit with the butt of the gun. When we got to the police station after three or four hours, we were completely naked. They tore off our clothes with knives.'

Similar accounts were [documented by](#) Human Rights Watch. One mother told the organisation:

'I saw my son bleeding and badly beaten. He was topless. When I requested that my son be medically examined, the police told me: 'We will release your son without charges, but you will not sue us''

Redress has [highlighted](#) that the health of protesters in detention continues to deteriorate. For example, on 5 May 2022 Saif al-Islam was detained under article 182 of the Criminal Code on criminal mischief. He has allegedly been subjected to 'severe torture while in detention'. A medical examination revealed that he suffered injuries to his bladder and stomach, leaving him requiring hospitalisation. However, he has not received hospital treatment and remains in detention at the time of writing.

Most of those arrested have been [charged](#) under Code 1991 on charges of public nuisance, breach of public safety and offences related to 'public tranquillity', including rioting. Some protesters have been charged with offences such as possession or use of drugs or indecent dress, while in a few cases protesters have faced charges for more serious crimes, such as criminal damage or 'causing wounds'. However, minors who were detained have not charged. Instead, their parents have been summoned and asked to sign a 'personal pledge' to ensure their child refrains from participating in future protests. Many detainees have been denied access to legal representation and their families. Some detainees have been [forcibly](#) disappeared as they have been held in unknown locations.

Between 25 October 2021 and 10 April 2022, the UN Expert on human rights in Sudan [documented](#) the arbitrary arrest and detention of 1,293 people for opposing the coup or protesting against it, of whom 143 were women and 157 were children, including two girls. This figure does not include those held for short periods and released without charge and it is estimated that the real figures are much higher. At the time of writing, arrests and detentions are ongoing.

Medical staff have also [faced](#) intimidation and detention for assisting injured protesters. For example, on 24 January 2022, nine Médecins Sans Frontières staff members [were detained](#) in Khartoum by Sudanese authorities. They were detained overnight and questioned about the organisation's activities before being released the next day.

Women human rights defenders and protesters targeted

Women participating in pro-democracy protests have been targeted by arbitrary detention and sexual violence. In a statement signed by several women's rights groups, International Service for Human Rights [stated that](#) during and after protests in Khartoum and several other cities, Sudanese women protesters faced physical violence and verbal attacks from the RSF and other security forces.



On the night of 25 October 2021, women students from Khartoum University were verbally abused, beaten and forced out of their accommodation during a military raid. During protests on 30 October 2021, several women protesters were injured as a result of excessive force: in protests in Omdurman, one woman protester was injured in the shoulder by a bullet while another was injured on her leg with a teargas canister. On 9 November 2021, Dr Nazeifa Awad, a member of the Central Committee of Sudan's Doctors, reported being sexually harassed by security officers during an arrest.

On 13 November 2021 in South Darfur, at least 12 women were arrested during protests, and another six women were reportedly detained in Omdurman. On 17 November 2021, nurse and women's rights activist Sit Alnfor Bakar [was killed](#) while performing her duty as an emergency field nurse during protests when security forces shot her in the chin. Bakar Sit Alnfor was an artist and activist working on women's rights and empowerment. On the same day, at least nine women protesters were arrested in Khartoum, while two women protesters were detained in Madani.

The Sudanese Woman's Monitor has [documented](#) serious injuries to women protesters. On 21 March 2022, 19-year-old student Najat Babikir was shot in the eye during protests in Bahry, resulting in her immediately losing sight in one eye. The Central Reserve Forces were carrying shotguns and fired directly at protesters. Several other women protesters have sustained the same injury.

Rape and sexual violence are being [used by](#) the Sudanese military and coup leaders as a weapon to silence women protesters. A [statement](#) by then-UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, highlighted that there have been 25 allegations of rape, gang rape and other forms of sexual violence against women, girls and men since 25 October 2021. Bachelet added that the attacks appear 'directed at dissuading and deterring protesters – women and girls in particular from giving public expression to their views, as is their right'. Similarly, an OHCHR [report by](#) an expert on human rights in Sudan stated that 'sexual violence was used to punish women for taking part in protests and to intimidate them into staying away from future protests'.

In one example, on 18 March 2022, an 18-year-old woman protester was [gang raped](#) by three members of the Central Reserve Forces who threatened to kill her if she moved or screamed. The girl [was found](#) by residents and taken to the hospital for medical attention. A month later in April 2022, two women leaving a protest in Port Sudan [were forced](#) out of a car by members of the joint forces and beaten. When the forces attempted to sexually assault the woman, the driver fought back and was beaten, requiring hospitalisation. On 16 June 2022, at least two young women protesters were arrested and sexually assaulted by police officers, with lawyers reporting that one woman was brought to the police station with 'shredded clothing and several injuries'. As of 22 March 2022, 16 women have [reportedly](#) been raped during protests in Khartoum.

HRDs have faced killings, physical attacks and judicial harassment, and WHRDs face multiple forms of repression, including sexual violence. On 20 January 2022, Ameira Osman, head of the No to Women Oppression Initiative, a women's rights organisation, [was arrested](#) by around 30 armed plainclothes security officers who had no arrest warrant. They raided her home in Khartoum in front of her family, including her children, and took her to an [unknown location](#). Her family expressed concern about her health as Osman is partially paralysed and needs a walking aid and medication. On 6 February 2022 Osman was released on bail.

On 7 August 2022, Sulima Ishaq, head of the Violence Against Women Unit in the Ministry of Social Affairs, was [summoned](#) by the prosecutor under article 47 of the criminal law of 1991 (offense against the state). Ishaq was interrogated in relation to a statement made by the head of the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission at the UN Security Council in March 2022, which detailed sexual violence perpetrated against women protesters. The case is an attempt to intimidate Ishaq and other women's rights groups and defenders who are documenting gender-based violence by the military and other armed forces and militias.



Women groups are also [facing](#) continuous surveillance of their offices, which has led many groups to relocate their offices or postpone their work.

Civil disobedience movement repressed

Teachers, bankers and [other workers](#) who have joined anti-coup protests and engaged in civil disobedience have also [faced](#) repression. According to the teachers' union, on 7 November 2021, 87 teachers who were striking and staging civil disobedience actions outside the education ministry were [arrested](#) under the Emergency Law and assaulted, resulting in one teacher sustaining a broken leg. The teachers were protesting against the appointment of a new director of the national education body, who is alleged to be closely associated with the former dictator al-Bashir. They were met with [excessive force](#), including live ammunition and teargas. On 29 March 2022, the Sudanese Teachers Committee [stated](#) that the head of the committee in the Omdurman district had been arrested and taken to an unknown location due to his earlier participation in a strike.

Bankers have also joined the civil disobedience movement. Since the coup, Sudan has faced a severe economic crisis with a massive cash shortage. In November 2021, the Sudanese Bankers Association [announced](#) a protest in front of banks across Sudan. However, it was [reported](#) that five bank managers at different banks who participated in the strike were fired and replaced through a decree issued by al-Burhan.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Restrictive media regulatory laws

In 2021, the Sudanese government began a process of reforming several media regulation laws, which included the Radio and Television Corporation Act and the Press Council Act. In its [analysis](#), Article 19 welcomed some parts of the proposal on the Press Council Act, such as the inclusion of important protections, including the 'protection of sources, guaranteeing access of journalists to state institutions and meetings or prohibition of prior censorship'. However, it notes major concerns with the plan. These include the proposal to set up an independent Press Council with no safeguards from political or economic interference. The proposal also requires journalists to obtain a licence and foreign correspondents to register with the Press Council, without specifying the standard required to do this, or the repercussions if a journalist fails to do so. Such a requirement could become, Article 19 fears, a 'political tool, used to prevent critical or independent journalists from publishing'. The proposal also states that the Press Council has the power to hold journalists accountable if they fail to adhere to 'standards' but does so in vague and broad terms without defining the standards or limitations.

The Radio and Television Corporation Act deals with broadcast regulation. Article 19 highlighted [concerns](#) that the proposal fails to ensure a politically independent regulatory body in terms of its composition, operations or funding. The body comprises members appointed by the council of ministers who have 'experience and competence in the field of press, media, radio and television', without specific criteria. It does not exempt government or political party officials from joining. The board of governors is responsible for appointing the Director General, based on very broad criteria that do not explicitly mention independence from government. Additionally, the Director General could be given wide powers. The proposal also states that the regulatory body requires ministerial approval for funding sources.

Separately, the Press and Publications Act of 2009 [regulates](#) the Press and Publications Council, which has been given wide powers to sanction media outlets and journalists over reporting on specific topics such as those that are 'inconsistent with religion, noble belief, customs, or science' or are security-related. The act has also been used to restrict the press under the guise of protecting 'public order and morals'.



Cybercrime law used to target critical expression

The Cyber Crime Law of 2018 has been used to muzzle independent journalism, even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020 the government [signed amendments](#) to the law to introduce criminal penalties for spreading ‘fake news’ online. Yet the law has never been made publicly available, limiting debate on its contents. According to Article 19, there are several [concerning](#) parts of the law that violate international standards on freedom of expression. These include vague and overly broad definitions that mean even legitimate actions might be subject to punishment. The law sets out offences related to content and speech which may be used to target HRDs and journalists. It prohibits the spread of ‘fake news’ which could make the work of journalists challenging, particularly when reporting on breaking news developments. Journalists [have expressed](#) fears to the Committee to Protect Journalists that the army will weaponise these amendments to ‘silence criticism, rather than fight disinformation’.

Internet shutdowns

Following the coup, an information blockade took place with internet and mobile services shut down or disrupted in response to protests. The shutdowns have affected the ability of HRDs and CSOs to monitor and document violations and have increased risks to their work. Data from [Netblocks](#) revealed that internet disruption continued until 18 November 2021. However, restrictions on social media access remained until 24 November 2021. This comes shortly after a court [ordered](#) the three main telecommunications providers to restore access, and ruled to arrest their CEO’s for failing to comply. Earlier on 11 November 2021, after several other court [decisions](#) ruled to restore the internet, the military [ordered](#) a stop to internet access which it says ‘overrides any decisions from other parties’.

The disruption of internet services has taken place at key moments in the aftermath of the coup. For example, on 17 November 2021, when lethal force was used against protests, fixed-line telecommunications networks [were cut](#) for several hours. Again on 25 December 2021, mobile internet was disrupted for 16 hours ahead of planned protests. On 30 December 2021, internet services were again cut for 10 hours. In January 2022 mobile services were disrupted during protests against military violence and during the first pro-democracy protests of the year.

Internet disruption has created challenges for journalists and HRDs seeking to document the violations that have taken place since the coup. As [noted by](#) Marwa Fatfta, Middle East and North Africa Policy Manager at Access Now, ‘We don’t know the full extent of brutality being inflicted upon people in Sudan. The internet blackouts are doing their job, and providing cover for the military’s violent takeover and hijacking of a possible democratic future for Sudan’.

Press and media freedom violations

Shortly after the coup, repression against journalists and the media took place, including arbitrary detentions, office raids and physical attacks.

On 25 October 2021, the headquarters of Sudanese Radio and Television in Omdurman were [raided](#) by the military and its employees were arrested. On the same day, Maha Al-Talb, a correspondent for Bloomberg and Al-Sharq, was [detained](#) and spent hours in police custody. On 26 October 2021, Maher Abugoukh, head of state TV’s news and current affairs programmes, was arrested after he spoke critically about the coup. Fayez Al-Seleik, a columnist for El Demokrati, was [detained](#) after being interviewed by Al-Jazeera’s Khartoum bureau. Days later, on 28 October 2021, the headquarters of El Demokrati were [raided](#) and its editor, El-Haj Warrag, was arrested.



Later, on 14 November 2021, El Musalmi El Kabbashi, Sudan bureau chief for Al-Jazeera in Khartoum, was [arrested](#) by security forces after they raided his home. El Kabbashi [was released](#) on 16 November 2021, with the reasons for his arrest unknown. On 17 November 2021, journalist Ali Farsab, who works for local newspaper Al-Tayar, was physically [assaulted](#), shot and detained by Sudanese authorities. While covering an anti-coup protest, an officer fired at Farsab, with the bullet grazing his head, and military forces assaulted him, resulting in a broken finger and collarbone.

Shortly before the coup, pro-military protesters physically attacked journalists. As [documented by](#) the Committee to Protect Journalists, on 21 October pro-military protesters attacked Ahmed Hamdan, director of news for local independent daily newspaper Al-Dimuqrati, resulting in a head injury that required stitches. On the same day, a BBC crew was also physically assaulted without sustaining injuries. On 23 October 2021, the headquarters of Sudan News Agency, an independent agency, was stormed by supporters of al-Bashir and his party in order to halt a press conference being held by civil society. During this incident, journalist Al-Ahmadi Farah was beaten by supporters, resulting in a broken hand. On the same day, journalist Marwan Negm El-Din, an Al-Jazeera correspondent, was prevented from reporting after pro-military protesters grabbed his phone.

Arrests of journalists continued in 2022. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, since 12 January 2022, at least six journalists have been arrested and subsequently released while covering protests. For example, on 13 January 2022, security forces [stormed](#) the office of Al Araby TV in Khartoum and arrested some of its crew, including reporter Wael Mohammed Alhassan, office supervisor Islam Saleh, camera operator Mazen Onour and his assistant Abu Baker Ali. The outlet was filming protests from the rooftop when the raid occurred. The crew was detained in an unknown location before being released and the reasons for the arrests are unknown. On 5 April 2022, [freelance journalist](#) Mohamed Sulaiman al-Obied, who has worked for the BBC, and photographers Mutaz al-Naeem Adam and Mohamed al-Fatih were arrested by military forces in Omdurman. The reasons for their arrests remain unknown, with reports that they were denied access to legal representation and their families. At the time of writing the journalists remain in custody.

In January 2022, the authorities [revoked](#) the licence of Al-Jazeera's Mubasher channel and revoked the accreditation of two of its journalists on the basis of 'unprofessional coverage of the Sudanese affairs' and the reporting of 'incorrect information that damages the country's interest and social fabric'. On 15 January 2022 Sudanese newspaper El Hadatha [announced](#) it would cease operations due to increasing pressure. In a statement, the management said 'the coup put an end to the press and media freedoms brought about by the glorious December Revolution'.

Women journalists have faced repression. On 13 January 2022, freelance journalist Shamael Elnoor [was beaten](#) by military forces with rubber hoses while covering a protest. She sustained bruises due to the assault. On 16 June 2022 three women journalists were [subjected to](#) arrest, intimidation and sexual violence. Journalist Hanady Osman was arrested by a police officer in Khartoum and questioned over her role in funding protests. She was released after 12 hours and had to sign a declaration stating that she would not take part in protests. On the same day, Zamzam Khatir, a woman journalist from North Darfur state, was threatened with legal action by the state police chief during a press conference over a story she published about police officers. Shirin Abubakr was summoned by prosecutors in an attempt to pressure her to reveal her sources in relation to a story about prosecutors staging a strike.



RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Sudanese authorities

- Respect the right to peaceful assembly and ensure that security forces respond to ongoing and future protests in line with the country's international human rights obligations
- Immediately cease the unnecessary and disproportionate use of force – including the use of live ammunition – against peaceful protesters
- Release protesters who are unlawfully detained, drop all charges against them and refrain from any further arbitrary detention of protesters
- Conduct independent, impartial investigations into the killing of protesters and human rights violations by military forces during protests to ensure the perpetrators are held to account
- Immediately end the targeting of WHRDs, women's rights groups and women protesters, including sexual and gender-based violence, and protect the rights of WHRDs to advocate for women's rights and human rights in general
- Conduct an immediate investigation into the violations and gender-based violence against women protesters and WHRDs to ensure the perpetrators are held to account
- Engage in inclusive and wide consultations with civil society, including WHRDs, to foster a peaceful and democratic transition
- Respect the right to freedom of expression, refrain from physically attacking and arbitrarily detaining journalists and release journalists who are currently in detention
- Reinstate the broadcasting licence of Al-Jazeera in Khartoum and refrain from targeting media outlets through raids
- Respect the rights of citizens to access information by halting all disruptions to and shutdowns of telecommunications services
- End arbitrary arrests, torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and establish credible mechanisms of oversight over detention practices
- Recommit to the power-sharing agreement that was developed before the coup and foster a peaceful transition with civilian authorities to lead to democratic elections

To the United Nations

- Sudan's international partners and multilateral organisations, including the UN and the African Union, should continue to issue calls to Sudan's authorities that ongoing violations, including arbitrary arrests and detentions, will not be tolerated.
- The UN Human Rights Council should take action to enable continued scrutiny, including monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in Sudan by the High Commissioner and the UN's designated Expert.

To the European Union, the USA and other development partners

- Coordinate actions and emphasise that the Sudanese military should abide by its commitment made in the power-sharing agreement to foster a civilian-led transition