

69th session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

November 2021 – Banjul, Gambia

ITEM 5 – Activity reports of the members of the Commission and Special Mechanisms

Speaker: Stéphanie WAMBA

Thank you Chair for the presentation of your report.

Since the military coup on 25 October 2021 in Sudan, the military coup leaders and security/military forces have launched an arrest campaign against Sudanese human rights defenders, journalists and political activists.

The military authorities are arresting, threatening and intimidating union leaders and members who participated in the civil disobedience. Bankers, oil engineers, and teaching unions have reported arrests of union leaders and dismissal of union members since the start of the crackdown.

Dozens of women protesters were injured during the protests on 30 October 2021 due to the excessive use of force by the joint forces including police, RSF and the military. According to the Doctors Committee, at least 181 people have been injured in the protests since the coup. In a statement made on 6 November 2021, the Committee announced that “many of those injured are in critical conditions and some with a permanent disability.”

In addition, it has been reported that the joint forces have arrested several resistance committee members in the last couple of weeks. Indeed, a woman member in the resistance committee in Khartoum was detained for 3 days from October 25 to October 27th. She was released after being threatened not to continue her activism. The crackdown on Sudanese WHRDs is increasing everyday especially through arrests, intimidation, house raids and surveillance. Sudanese women activists outside Sudan reported threats and their families in Sudan being questioned.

Honourable Special Rapporteur, on 7 November, more than 90 teachers were arrested after a protest in Khartoum, among them dozens of women members of the teachers committee. The arrested teachers reported use of violence by the police and joint forces and beating of detainees even leading to the miscarriage of one of the protesters. The Doctors [Committee](#) reported several injuries among teacher protesters. Other union activists and workers were also dismissed or intimidated by authorities for participating in the civil disobedience. Journalists reporting on those protests have also been the victims of attacks.

This is why we call on your mandate to urgently issue a statement on the situation of defenders in Sudan to condemn the killings and targeting of defenders as well as the brutal violations they encounter, to highlight the gendered aspect of these violations and call for the immediate release of prisoners, and to request the provision of health services to those injured. We also invite the Commission to cooperate with the newly established Expert on human rights in Sudan by the UN Human Rights Council on 8 November 2021.

I thank you.