

**Joint statement by International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), Sudanese Women Rights Action (SUWRA), WHRDMENA Coalition, African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies, Sudan Documentation Centre, Noura center for combating sexual violence, Sudan Monitor Platform, Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), Canada for Africa Group (Canafgroup), The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), CIVICUS, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Vital Voices Global Partnership, Global Fund for Women, FIDH**

**36th Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council on the human rights impact of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan**

**11 May 2023**

**Speaker: Sara Abdelgalil**

We commend Sudanese activists and volunteers, leading the response to the grave humanitarian crisis, despite the imminent threats to their safety and lives including false accusations of treason, threats from both parties in the conflict, assassination lists, and smear campaigns against defenders including women and youth.

Since the start of the war, hundreds were killed and thousands injured including women and children. At least four women medical workers were killed. The exchange of fire between the two parties in residential areas and in front of health facilities resulted in the killing of pregnant women on their way to give birth and preventing women from seeking healthcare and food for their children.

Sexual assaults by men in uniform from both fighting parties were reported including at least seven cases of rape. Cybersecurity alerts are increasing due to the rise in hate speech and harassment against women activists in social media.

Most essential services are not working, including electricity, water and healthcare with no sexual and reproductive health care and support for SGBV survivors, and communications, internet and banking, hindering thousands of people from leaving Khartoum. Displacement of tens of thousands of women and children increased the humanitarian crisis on the borders.

We urge:

- an end to the war, protection of civilians including activists, open humanitarian corridors, protection of women from SGBV
- Establishment of an international investigation
- Identification of means to provide emergency relief services needed, and to support the work of local volunteers and activists.