

Human Rights Council: FORM for Submitting an NGO written statements

NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC (General, Special or Roster status) may submit written statements to the Human Rights Council (HRC).

The written statement is formatted and issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting NGO. English, Spanish and French versions can be published at this time.

In order for your statement to be published before the session, the deadline for submission is exactly two weeks prior to the start of a session. See the deadline on the web site. All submissions are final.

Please fill out **this** FORM and CHECKLIST to submit your statement and send it to the address indicated below. Your information goes after each arrow.

1. Please indicate the contact information for representative submitting written statement (i.e. name, mobile, email) here: → Ulrich Delius, 0049-16095671403, asien@gfbv.de

2. Indicate the Standing Agenda item number (1-10) of statement here: → 4

3.a) If this is an individual statement, indicate here your organization's name as in the ECOSOC NGO database and indicate its consultative status in brackets (i.e. General, Special, or Roster).

→ Society for Threatened Peoples (Special Consultative Status)

or,

3.b) If this is a joint statement, list here the co-sponsoring ECOSOC NGO as they appear in the ECOSOC database and status (in brackets): Group all General NGOs first, group the Special second and group the Roster third. →

4. Indicate here any non-ECOSOC NGO(s) supporting this statement (they will appear as a footnote to the statement title): →

5. Indicate the exact TITLE for this statement here: → Denial of Human Rights in Sudan: Humanitarian crisis and conflict in South Kordofan

Please make sure that:

- This statement is in MS WORD document format (Font Times New Roman 10; no bold; no underline; no italics).
- Check word count: (Go to Tools, Word count, # of words) Indicate the length of text (including footnotes/endnotes) here: →
 - NGOs in general consultative status are allowed 2,000 words
 - NGOs in special consultative status and on the roster are allowed 1,500 words
- Please use the Spell/grammar check on your text. (Go to Tools, Spelling & Grammar)
- Different language versions of one statement should be sent in the same email, but using **a separate form** for each.
- Email this document to: **hrcngo@ohchr.org**

PLEASE PASTE THE FINAL TEXT BELOW: ↓

We are deeply concerned about the serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law being perpetrated in South Kordofan in Sudan. Violence erupted in South Kordofan on June 5, 2011, and had a devastating impact on the civilian population. According to testimonies collected on the ground, areas densely populated by the Nuba people still are subjected to indiscriminate aerial bombings and artillery shelling by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), accompanied by ground attacks by SAF and aligned paramilitary groups such as the Popular Defence Forces (PDF), the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) and the Central Reserve Forces. These attacks have included summary and extrajudicial killings against suspected supporters of SPLM-North and Nuba people. Credible witnesses reported about mass graves, arbitrary arrests and detentions, house-to-house searches, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment during detention, destruction of churches and looting. Eyewitnesses have expressed the fear that ethnic cleansing has been committed and that crimes against humanity and war crimes have been perpetrated by the SAF and aligned paramilitary forces. There are also allegations that SPLA-North has carried out extra-judicial killings.

The attacks have resulted in significant loss of life and have caused the forced displacement of up to 200,000 people in the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan. Despite concluding a framework agreement on June 28, 2011, between the conflict parties on security and political arrangements, fighting and serious human rights violations have escalated in the Nuba Mountains.

Society for Threatened Peoples is welcoming the publication of the “Preliminary report on violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in South Kordofan from 5 to 30 June 2011”, issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in August 2011. This publication provides a detailed overview on allegations and testimonies indicating massive human rights violations. The report is largely based on one submitted by UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) at the end of June 2011. Regarding the disastrous and alarming situation in South Kordofan we deeply regret the delay in the publication of the OHCHR report and his timely limited documentation of human rights violations committed only in June 2011. Furthermore, we regret that the OHCHR report has been watered down from a leaked provisional version of the UNMIS report which became public in mid-July 2011. More research and documentation of human rights violations in the Nuba Mountains desperately is needed.

Due to the restrictions humanitarian agencies often could not provide humanitarian aid to people in need. Access restrictions on humanitarian relief remain the principle challenge to providing humanitarian assistance to the civilian population. Access to South Kordofan remains difficult, as Sudanese authorities are blocking air and road access to and in the Nuba Mountains. Free access for humanitarian relief and human rights monitors must be ensured.

Urgent international attention is needed in order to ensure a political solution to the crisis in South Kordofan. The international community has to ensure that the situation does not escalate to full scale war between Sudan and South Sudan or an escalation of conflict in the Republic of Sudan involving marginalized peoples from Darfur, Blue Nile, Beja from Eastern Sudan and Nubians from Northern Sudan. We are deeply concerned that the UN Security Council has been unable to condemn the violence in South Kordofan, to urge all conflict parties to respect basic human rights and to sign an immediate cease-fire.

Society for Threatened Peoples calls on the Human Rights Council to urge all conflict parties in South Kordofan:

- to guarantee free and unhindered access for national, international humanitarian organisations and human rights monitors to all civilians,
- to create humanitarian sanctuary zones providing shelter for civilians from armed combat,
- to immediately sign a cease-fire agreement,
- to ensure the respect of international humanitarian law especially with regards to the protection of the civilian population,
- to guarantee basic human rights, especially to stop intimidation, torture and murder of human rights defenders and journalists,
- to immediately stop indiscriminate shelling of residential areas in conflict zones,

- to end impunity and to ensure an international investigation of alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes. The perpetrators of these human rights violations should be brought to justice before competent mechanisms.