Sudan

Sudan is a Member State of the African Union (AU), the League of Arab States (Arab League) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: African System and Arab System

Sudan has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR). Sudan has not accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights. Sudan has also ratified the Arab Charter on Human Rights, and its compliance with the treaty is monitored by the Arab Human Rights Committee, which may make recommendations to the State concerning its human rights obligations.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Sudan to the African human rights system. For example, the Commission held that Sudan violated the Charter when authorities arrested, detained, and tortured three human rights defenders because of their involvement with the International Criminal Court. See ACommHPR, Monim Elgak, Osman Hummeida and Amir Suliman v. Sudan, Communication No. 379/09, 15th Extra Ordinary Session, 7-14 March 2014. Additionally, the Commission has issued provisional measures to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Sudan.

Sudan has fallen behind in submitting its periodic reports to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted several missions to Sudan, including a fact-finding mission in 2004 and a mission on the rights of women in 2003. The State has submitted its reports to the Arab Human Rights Committee.

Sudan has ratified the following regional human rights treaties:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Arab Charter on Human Rights
United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Sudan is subject to the oversight of various UN human rights bodies, including the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review and thematic special procedures. In 1993, the Commission on Human Rights established an Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Sudan to monitor and report on human rights conditions in the country. As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Sudan’s policies and practices are monitored by UN treaty bodies. It has accepted the complaints procedure of one of the treaty bodies.

Sudan has ratified the following UN human rights treaties:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Sudan has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the ICCPR.

Sudan has also ratified the optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Sudan has a duty to submit State reports to the UN treaty body associated with each treaty Sudan has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Sudan has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Sudan has ratified the Optional Protocol allowing individuals to submit complaints against the State alleging violations of the CRPD. Additionally, certain UN treaties include inquiry procedures, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Sudan has accepted the inquiry procedure of the CRPD.

Sudan has not extended a standing invitation to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups must seek specific invitations from Sudan to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Sudan has prepared numerous reports concerning visits to the country.

For more information on Sudan’s engagement with UN human rights bodies, visit http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/SDIndex.aspx.

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