



Human Rights

FACT SHEET

Human Rights mandate

UNMIS Human Rights section derives its mandate from Security Council Resolution 1590. The resolution states that UNMIS shall support the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) by performing various activities, including the following:

- Assisting the parties to the CPA in promoting the rule of law, including through an independent judiciary, and protecting the human rights of all Sudanese people through a comprehensive and coordinated strategy aiming to combat impunity and contribute to long-term peace and stability;
- Assisting the parties to the CPA to develop and consolidate the national legal framework;
- Ensuring an adequate human rights presence, capacity and expertise within UNMIS to carry out human rights promotion, civilian protection and monitoring activities;
- Contributing towards international efforts to protect and promote human rights in Sudan, as well as coordinating international efforts towards protection of civilians, with particular attention to vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons, returning refugees, women and children, within UNMIS' capabilities and in close cooperation with other UN agencies, related organizations and non-governmental organizations.

UNMIS Human Rights falls under the responsibility of the Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General. It also maintains links with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, with the UNMIS Chief Human Rights Officer serving as the High Commissioner's representative in Sudan. UNMIS Human Rights coordinates with the Human Rights section of the UN African Union Hybrid Mission in Darfur with regard to issues that fall under both missions' mandates.

Human Rights activities

- Investigating, monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in Sudan, including making recommendations to the Government of National Unity (GoNU) and the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS).
- Seeking accountability for serious violations of human rights through documentation and reporting and advocacy with authorities.
- Providing human rights training for the police, prosecutors and judicial authorities.
- Visiting places of detention to assess the legality of detentions, detained persons' access to justice, and monitoring any alleged ill-treatment and/or torture of detained persons.
- Monitoring the work of rule of law institutions to ensure compliance with international and national human rights laws and standards.
- Providing analysis and recommendations on proposed legislation to ensure it is in line with Sudan's human rights obligations.
- Providing analysis and recommendations on enabling legislation for the National Human Rights Commission and the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission as well as building the capacity of these institutions.
- Building the capacity of executive and legislative bodies working on human rights, including in the conduct of investigations and reporting.
- Supporting civil society groups, including the media, and strengthening their capacity in human rights, in particular in monitoring and reporting.
- Conducting awareness-raising activities through radio programmes, public information campaigns, publications, university lectures, and international celebrations such as Human Rights Day and International Women's Day.
- Mainstreaming human rights within the UN, raising awareness among UN partners on human rights concerns and coordinating action on human rights issues.

Achievements and future plans

- Release of public reports on Arbitrary Arrest and Detention in North and Southern Sudan.
- Monthly Human Rights Bulletin, which is shared with the GoNU and GoSS, detailing cases of concern, areas of progress, and activities carried by the Section.
- Facilitated the release of unlawfully detained persons and arranged legal representation for vulnerable people, including death row inmates.
- Increased awareness of human rights standards among key actors, particularly in relation to draft legislation in both North and Southern Sudan.
- Increased awareness on human rights amongst the population, including through universities, radio programmes and campaigns.
- Increased capacity of civil society to monitor and report on human rights concerns.
- Establishment of a Human Rights Forum with the GoNU to discuss and advocate for human rights concerns.
- Expanded coverage of UNMIS Human Rights in all states of Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile states and Abyei).

UNMIS Human Rights will continue to exercise its mandate and implement activities. During the recently held elections and referendum, it strengthened its monitoring of civil and political rights, in particular freedoms of expression, association and assembly and the enjoyment of political rights.

Challenges

- Lack of access to all detention centers.
- Curtailed access to remote locations in the mission area.
- Low human rights awareness amid targeted audience.
- Insufficient funding.

External link

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sudan:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/SDIndex.aspx>

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

Ebeid Khatim Street
P.O. Box 69
Khartoum, 11111
Sudan

PHONE:
(249) 187-086000

FAX:
- Inside Sudan: 0 187 086200
- Outside Sudan: +1 917
3673523

E-MAIL:
ecomment-pio@un.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.unmis.org