



PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
POST-CONFLICT CONSTITUTIONS
WAR CRIMES PROSECUTION

PILPG Circle of Former Ambassadors to the UN Human Rights Council Statement in Response to the Crisis in Sudan

The Public International Law & Policy Group's Circle of Former Ambassadors to the UN Human Rights Council expresses grave concern about the worsening security and humanitarian situation in Sudan and joins worldwide support for a swift resolution of the armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

On April 15, with Sudanese civilian and military stakeholders days away from signing a political framework agreement to usher in a new transition to civilian democratic rule in Sudan, fighting erupted between the SAF and RSF, destroying critical infrastructure in the capital city of Khartoum, killing hundreds, and forcing thousands to flee the country. This outbreak of hostilities has disrupted efforts to restore the transition towards a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan, further endangered regional stability, and exacerbated existing humanitarian crises across the region.

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 164,000 people have fled Sudan since April 15, and the International Organization for Migration estimates that 736,000 people are newly displaced in the country. Humanitarian efforts are increasingly violated by the looting of humanitarian facilities, including the World Food Program's main compound in Khartoum.

The Public International Law & Policy Group's Circle of Former Ambassadors to the UN Human Rights Council releases this statement following the efforts of the Human Rights Council over the past few months and in light of the upcoming Human Rights Council session in June 2023.

In response to the ongoing conflict in Sudan, the dramatic worsening of the security and humanitarian situation, and the mounting international pressure being applied for a ceasefire, the PILPG Circle of Former Ambassadors to the UN Human Rights Council:

- Strongly condemns the ongoing fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, which threatens the safety and security of the people of Sudan, has caused the loss of life of innocent people, and created chaos and instability throughout the entire country;
- Laments the loss of lives and the violations of international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law;
- Expresses deep concern for the sexual and gender-based violations and abuse of women and girls;
- Reiterates the concern that ongoing fighting exacerbates existing humanitarian crises across the region and highlights the risk of a food insecurity crisis and millions falling into hunger as a consequence of the conflict;

- Acknowledges with interest the 36th Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council of the ongoing conflict in Sudan held on May 11, 2023 and welcomes the HRC commitment to enhancing the interactive dialogue on the human rights situation in Sudan, which will be held in the upcoming fifty-third session of the council.
- Recognizes that Sudan is a re-elected member of the Human Rights Council and acknowledges the interest for the engagement of Sudan in the HRC process through constructive and inclusive consultations of all concerned parties; and
- Is encouraged by UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths' proposed "declaration of commitments" to representatives of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces to "guarantee the safe passage of humanitarian aid" on May 12.

Joining the international community's appeal to all parties to implement an immediate cessation of hostilities without pre-conditions and in compliance with international humanitarian law, the PILPG Circle of Former Ambassadors to the UN Human Rights Council:

- Urgently calls on all actors involved in a conflict to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access, as well as to protect civilians and ensure the safety of humanitarian personnel and enable the continued delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to the people of Sudan. The fighting must end to guarantee their protection and allow space for dialogue and mediation.
- Welcomes and supports collective regional and international coordinated mediation efforts, including those of the United Nations, African Union, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and the League of Arab States, which are essential to bring Sudan back onto the path towards peace and stability and to respect the aspirations of the people in Sudan for a peaceful, stable and democratic country.
- Reaffirms its steadfast support and solidarity with the people of Sudan, especially women, and youth, who led a peaceful revolution starting in 2018. The recent outbreak of violence is a setback, but it should not derail the ongoing efforts toward a civilian transition. The future of Sudan lies in returning to civilian leadership.

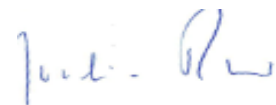
The PILPG Circle of Former Ambassadors to the UN Human Rights Council remains attentive in the future Security Council and other UN bodies and regional stakeholders' actions on the human rights situation in Sudan toward fulfilling all parties' obligations under international humanitarian law, de-escalating violence, and establishing a democratic and peaceful future in Sudan.

May 19, 2023

Zorica Maric Djordjevic
Former Ambassador of Montenegro, Chair



Dr. Joachim Rücker
Former Ambassador of Germany



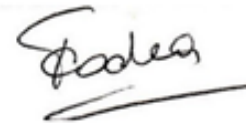
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Former Ambassador of the United States of America



Yvette Stevens
Former Ambassador of Sierra Leone



Filloreta Kodra
Former Ambassador of Albania



Tudor Ulianovschi
Former Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova

Tudor Ulianovschi

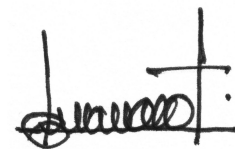
Amanda Ellis
Former Ambassador of New Zealand



Vojislav Suc
Former Ambassador of Slovenia



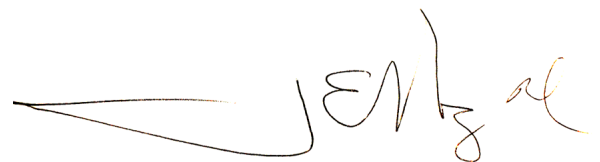
Jorge Lomonaco
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Francisco Villagrán de León
Former Ambassador of Guatemala



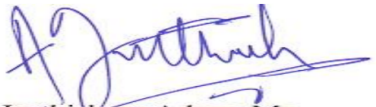
Juan Esteban Aguirre



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