



Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'Homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

UN Human Rights Council: 62nd Session

Urgent debate to discuss the human rights situation in and around El Obeid, North Kordofan, in the context of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan

Oral Intervention

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

3rd July 2026

Delivered by: Magdi Elnaim Hussein

El Obeid Under Siege: Warnings of a Repeat of the El Fasher Tragedy

Mr./Madam President,

We thank the co-sponsors for convening this urgent debate.

El Obeid shelters over half a million people, in addition 100,000 displaced by earlier violence in Darfur and Kordofan, although some recent estimates suggest that the number may be significantly higher. For eighteen months they have lived under siege-like conditions. Ground reporting now documents a substantial RSF troop build-up, daily drone strikes, and deliberate targeting of the city's power station, fuel depots, and water infrastructure cutting off hospitals and safe water alike.

We hold the RSF and its regional backers directly responsible for these attacks and for any further violations arising from a siege or assault on the city. We equally remind the Sudanese Armed Forces of their obligations: to refrain from operating out of residential areas, from airstrikes on populated neighborhoods, and from using alleged RSF collaboration as a pretext for arbitrary arrest. All parties must comply fully with the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II and respect their commitments in the Jeddah Declaration, May 2023.

We recall the High Commissioner's warning that we have seen this playbook before. In El Fasher, identical warnings went unheeded, and civilians paid the price: the atrocities committed against them were later found by the Fact-Finding Mission to bear the hallmarks of genocide. We renew our call for this Council to name and hold accountable the external actors enabling these atrocities, including all regional players involved, and to mandate the Fact-Finding Mission to urgently investigate.

The world does not lack information or knowledge about the situation; it lacks the political will to act. Act to

We call for an immediate end to military mobilization, unrestricted humanitarian access, and, most importantly, the flow of arms into Sudan.

Thank you