

Human Rights Council – 40th Session

Interactive Dialogue with Commission on South Sudan

12 March 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan for its report and is pleased that the Government of South Sudan continues to support the Commission's work.

Australia welcomes the signing of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution to the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) but remains concerned by continuing insecurity and obstructions impeding humanitarian assistance.

Australia condemns in the strongest possible terms on-going violence against civilians, including sexual and gender-based violence in South Sudan. Its use as a tactic of warfare by all parties to the conflict, the increased normalisation of such violence and the barriers to justice and security for women and girls remain deeply concerning. Australia calls on the Government of South Sudan to hold the perpetrators to account and to take active steps in addressing violence in all its forms.

Australia deplores the serious human rights violations and abuses committed by all parties to the conflict, as well as the shrinking civic space for journalists and civil society due to increased censorship and self-censorship. Reports of arbitrary arrests, detention and torture carried out by the National Security Service and SPLA Military Intelligence are deeply concerning. We urge the government to end forced disappearances.

Australia supports the continuation of the Commission's mandate. We ask the Commission what steps must be taken to ensure justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence in South Sudan.

231 Words