

Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 48th session

Item 10: Enhanced ID on the report of the HC on the Sudan

Delivered by Gloria Leccese

6 October 2021

Thank you, Madam President.

The World Evangelical Alliance welcomes the report of the Human Rights Commissioner and its recommendations.

We welcome efforts made by the Sudanese government in upholding the rights of its citizens and its commitment in improving the situation of freedom of religion or belief in Sudan.

However, discrimination and violence against Christians is still continuing. Despite recent legal reforms local Christians and leaders are reporting that their situation has not significantly improved since the Omar Al-Bashir era.

Faith leaders and churches from the Sudanese Presbyterian Evangelical Church and the Sudanese Church of Christ, predominantly Nuban denominations, are still targeted by acts of violence and discrimination.

In May 2021, a Sudanese Church of Christ building in the city of Omdurman was demolished following threats from local authorities and residents. The same building was previously burned down in August 2020 and was in the process of being rebuilt.

We urge the government of Sudan to ensure the protection of religious minorities and bring its legislation in compliance with Article 18 of the ICCPR.

And we ask the High Commissioner to include safeguard mechanisms for religious minorities in her further reporting on Sudan.

Thank you.