



WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 52nd Session

Agenda Item 2: Interactive dialogue on the oral update of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in the Sudan

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The World Evangelical Alliance is deeply concerned by Sudan's deteriorating human rights situation.

Before the military coup of October 2021, the civilian led transitional government promised to improve and provide protection for Christian minorities. These promises never materialized.

Government interference in the affairs of churches has led to several attempts to demolish Christian places of worship. In January 2023, Sudan's Minister of Guidance and Endowments reinstated an illegitimate committee to administrate the affairs of the Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church. This committee has subsequently sold off agricultural land belonging to the church to investors.

There has been a steady return of criminal cases filed against religious leaders that arose under al-Bashir rule. Some church leaders face the same charges for the second or third time after the courts had acquitted them.

These cases indicate a clear return to past violations with little or no action taken by the authorities to protect the rights of religious minorities in Sudan.

We call for the swift return to civilian rule in Sudan and immediate action to be taken to address violations of the rights of religious minorities.

And we ask the High Commissioner: what are the benchmarks for progress in protecting religious minorities?

Thank you.