

Address

Prime Minister
Abdallah Hamdok
Khartoum, Sudan

Your Excellency,

Amnesty International welcomes the Sudanese government's decision to repeal the public order laws, which governed among other things, women's presence in public spaces. Many women were arbitrarily arrested, beaten and deprived of their rights to freedom of association and expression under this discriminatory law. Sudan has few laws to protect women and girls. Female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage are not crimes in the predominantly Muslim nation where personal status laws allows girls to be married once they hit puberty or, at the age of 10, with judge's permission. One in four women are married before 18, while nine out of 10 have undergone FGM, the UN says. The crime of adultery, punishable by flogging and fines, is also used discriminatorily against women. The prevalence of sexual violence reflects wider discrimination against women and girls across Sudan by the security forces. Especially in the camps for displaced people women suffer rapes and assaults by militiamen while going out to collect firewood.

We ask the transitional government of Sudan:

- To ratify important instruments related to women's rights including the Maputo Protocol governing the rights of women in Africa, the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.
- To amend the criminal law of 1991, especially Articles 77 and 78 governing consumption of and dealing with alcohol, and Articles 145-158 governing so-called „morality“ including consensual sex, dress code, and other matters on the conduct of individuals in private spaces.
- To abolish the penalty of flogging and other forms of corporal punishments in the 1991 Criminal Act, which violates the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- To adopt legislation that prohibits all forms of early and forced marriage and to raise the minimum age for marriage from 10 to 18 years.
- To ratify Article 141 of the Criminal Act and include provisions in all relevant federal laws for the prohibition of all forms of FGM. All perpetrators of FGM should be criminalized and punished by the law.

Yours sincerely,