

**United Nations Human Rights Council, 53rd Session**  
**19 June to 14 July 2023**  
**Item 3 – Interactive dialogue with the Special Adviser on the Prevention of**  
**Genocide**

**Speaker: Humanists UK Representative: Felix Baur<sup>1</sup>**

Humanists UK welcomes the attention given by the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the unfolding situation in Darfur.<sup>2</sup> We also thank the Human Rights Council for its debate on the severe human rights violations against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and the blockage of international aid.<sup>3</sup>

Following decades of atrocities, the ethnic violence in Darfur has reached a new high as Sudan enters its third month of its current civil war. Nomadic 'Arab' groups affiliated to the RSF militia have been committing atrocities and spreading hate speech against the Masalit community. They reportedly assassinated the governor who accused them of 'genocide', and are now killing people fleeing the decimated city of El-Geneina in West Darfur to neighbouring Chad.<sup>4</sup>

In Myanmar, the persecution and systematic abuses of its Rohingya population have continued throughout and following the military junta's coup. While hundreds of thousands have fled to neighbouring states, in Myanmar itself, the junta massively obstructs international aid following a devastating cyclone. They consciously reinforce the humanitarian disaster and leave particularly marginalised communities at risk – first and foremost Rohingya in villages, or arbitrarily confined to camps.<sup>5</sup>

In what way will the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide contribute to the recent debates and calls for action of other UN bodies on the ethnic violence and oppression in Sudan and Myanmar from the perspective of her mandate?

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<sup>1</sup> Humanists UK is the operating name of the British Humanist Association.

<sup>2</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 'Comment by UN Human Rights Spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani, raising alarm on killings of people fleeing El Geneina in West Darfur, Sudan', 24 June 2023. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2023/06/comment-un-human-rights-spokesperson-ravina-shamdasani-raising>

<sup>3</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 'Myanmar Authorities Must Ensure Full Legal Recognition of the Right to Citizenship of All Rohingya People, Deputy High Commissioner tells Human Rights Council – Council Concludes Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on his Annual Report', 21 June 2023. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/06/myanmar-authorities-must-ensure-full-legal-recognition-right-citizenship-all-rohingya>

<sup>4</sup> UN News, 'Sudan: OHCHR calls for 'urgent action' to end militia attacks on people fleeing El Geneina', 24 June 2023. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/06/1138072>; Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, 'Non-international armed conflicts in Sudan', updated 15 May 2023.

<https://www.rulac.org/browse/conflicts/non-international-armed-conflicts-in-sudan>

<sup>5</sup> Human Rights Watch, 'Bangladesh: New Risks for Rohingya Refugees', 18 May 2023. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/05/18/bangladesh-new-risks-rohingya-refugees>; Human Rights Watch, 'Myanmar: Junta Blocks Lifesaving Cyclone Aid', 20 June 2023. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/06/20/myanmar-junta-blocks-lifesaving-cyclone-aid>