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Briefing by Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu
Under-Secretary General / Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of
Genocide

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to join this enhanced interactive dialogue at the Human Rights Council on responding to the human rights and the humanitarian crisis caused by the ongoing armed conflict in Sudan. This has been, and continues to remain, tremendously concerning from the perspective of my mandate.

As the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, I am mandated to raise early warning and make recommendations to the Secretary

All parties to the conflict continue to fight without distinction, proportionality and precaution. The evident intent is to win, rather than to protect civilians.

Heavy weaponry has been used in densely populated areas. Airstrikes continue. Properties have been destroyed and looted. Civilians persist to be disproportionately impacted – they are killed, detained, tortured, and dispossessed of their homes and land. Disturbing videos and photographs of these violations and abuses are being posted on social media.

Violence against women and children, including conflict-related sexual violence, remains rampant, and used as a tool of terror.

According to the International Organization for Migration, over 10.7 million people are displaced within the country – with many displaced twice or more times.

In August, famine was declared in Zamzam camp near El Fasher, North Darfur. Many other areas in Darfur and beyond are assessed to be at high risk, with more than half of the population facing crisis levels of hunger.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

According to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the crime of genocide is defined as any of a series of acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.

The hate speech and ethnic-based attacks that unfolded in front of our eyes in Darfur, especially

Derogatory language, such as ‘blacks’ and ‘slaves,’ has been prevalently used as an element of incitement to violence, amplified through social media platforms. My Office has received reports of rampant hate speech and incitement of violence campaigns, with large-scale information operations glorifying the commission of violence, including against specific protected groups.

Leaders have called upon civilians to take up arms.

The attacks in and around North Darfur potentially suggest similar dynamics, with reports of indiscriminate violence, including sexual violence, shelling, looting, and razing of residential and commercial structures. Internally displaced persons camps, as well as medical facilities, have not been exempt from such attacks.

Civilians are impacted disproportionately. They include a large number of non-Arab communities, including the Zaghawa, the Fur, the Masalit and others. They also include Arab civilians, with reports of targeted attacks against them. As the fighting continues, the risks of reprisals and deepening ethnic cleavages are only escalating.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Impunity for serious violations of international human rights, of genocide and related crimes, or of their incitement, constitutes a risk factor for the commission of such crimes.

Allow me to once again emphasize: All marks of the risk factors and indicators of genocide and related crimes are still present in the country, only aggravating as the fighting prolongs.

Against this backdrop, the international community, including UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Sudan, Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, and