



PRESS STATEMENT

HUDO CENTRE CONDEMN THE MOVE BY SUDAN'S NCHR TO HONOUR HEMETI AS THE PERSON OF THE YEAR

The NCHR honouring the head of paramilitary forces which violently suppresses civilians in Sudan is an insult to Sudanese civic and peaceful movement as well as human rights defenders.

Sudan's National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR) has named the country's main militia commander/ Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (also known as Hemeti) as human right person of the year 2022. The NCHR's decision is controversial given the fact that Hemeti is thought to have been instrumental in the military coup of 2021, which continued the reversal of Sudan's democratic transition.

Mr. Hemeti has been involved in many human rights abuses/ violations in the country over the last 20 years. Mr. Hemeti's role in Darfur region where he led the government-backed notorious- militia 'Janjaweed' in 2000s is well-known. He is still accused of genocide and widespread atrocities in Darfur region and other warring states. The militia he led eventually transformed into the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). This RSF paramilitary has contributed actively in the violent suppression of the peaceful protesters, killing and wounding civilians.

The NCHR, praising Mr. Hemeti for his apology for state violence in the past is not the sufficient form of justice especially to the victims. He should be taken before court to achieve justice. Regardless of the criteria used to honour him, Hemeti's political and economic role has been widely rejected by Sudanese civic and human rights movements.

Honouring such a person as the Human Rights Person of 2022 is an insult to the human rights principles. Honouring lawbreakers puts the institutional structure of the National Commission on Human Rights under scrutiny and disrepute.

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