

Committee for Justice

Thank you Madame Chairperson. Under this year's theme, we wish to highlight how ongoing violations continue to silence minority communities and limit their ability to contribute to peacebuilding, accountability, and transnational justice efforts. The situation of Bedouins in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and minority communities in Sudan's Darfur region illustrates these challenges and shows how intersecting factors, such as ethnicity, gender, age, language, socio-economic exclusion, and displacement, deepen their marginalization. North Sinai's Bedouins have endured a decade of severe violations, more than 150,000 Bedouins have been uprooted under the so-called counter-terrorism campaigns in the last decade, depriving of communities of their land, livelihoods, and representation. Recent evidence exposed mass graves of civilians, including Bedouins, in north Sinai, which reveals a pattern of enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, and extrajudicial executions, leaving Bedouins fearing reprisals if they seek accountability or redress. In Darfur, minority communities, such as [inaudible], continue to face war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity by the [inaudible] forces and their militias. Systematic attacks against members of these communities have included the killings and burning of villages, forced displacement, and widespread sexual violence. While reporting channels, such as the UN fact-finding mission, exists, they require far greater support to ensure that affected communities' testimonies are preserved, their voices are amplified and reflected in future justice efforts. Therefore, we urge the Forum to call upon the Arab Republic of Egypt and [inaudible] in Sudan to ensure accountability for these violations and to guarantee safe and meaningful spaces for minority communities to speak, organize, and participate in sharing their future. This includes enabling their representation within state institutions and advancing legal amendments that formally recognize and protect them as minority groups. We also encourage renewed efforts to establish an international treaty on minority rights.