

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS BEING PERPETRATED AGAINST THE SUDANESE
PEOPLE**

WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Council recently opened a special session on the human rights impact of the ongoing conflict between rival military factions in Sudan, with the High Commissioner for Human Rights strongly condemning the wanton violence taking place in the country in which both sides have trampled international humanitarian law, notably the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution; and

WHEREAS, the Sudanese military launched attacks in densely occupied civilian areas, including airstrikes, causing immense damage and destroying the hopes and rights of millions of people; and

WHEREAS, since April 15, 2023, at least 487 civilians have been killed, notably in Khartoum, El Geneina, Nyala and El Obeid, with the real figure likely being much higher; and

WHEREAS, more than 154,000 people have fled the country and an estimated 700,000 more have been displaced inside the borders of Sudan. Those who have remained in areas affected by the conflict are at continued, severe risk. In Khartoum, clashes between the 2 armed forces, shelling and airstrikes have taken place in heavily populated residential areas, and millions of people are now struggling to access food, fuel and currency. In parts of Darfur, as well as the Blue Nile and Kordofan regions, the violence between military groups has triggered interethnic clashes; and

WHEREAS, since the onset of hostilities, an alarming number of lives have been lost, and the collapse of basic infrastructure and the disintegration of critical services, including hospitals, has compounded the plight of the population. The pressing situation necessitates an immediate and prolonged cease-fire; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, pause in our deliberations to condemn the human rights violations being perpetrated against the Sudanese people and express our support for an immediate cease-fire and negotiations to end the conflict and foster the establishment of a government led by civilians.