



Sudan Human Rights Defenders Coalition (Sudan Defenders) Call to Protect Civilians and Defenders in Sudan

We, the Sudan Human Rights Defenders Coalition (SudanDefenders), and its independent member organizations, and the undersigned legal persons, address the world and the parties to the conflict in Sudan, regarding the devastation and destruction that have befallen our country as a result of the catastrophic and unjustified war in Sudan, stemming from a brutal power struggle.

The ongoing conflict in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces, the Rapid Support Forces, and their respective allies, which erupted on April 15, 2023, has produced an unbearably tragic reality, resulting in the largest displacement crisis in the world.

According to the December IOM year review published in December 2024, approximately 11.9 million people have been displaced from their homes, including 8.9 million internally displaced persons (53% of whom children), while approximately 3.8 million others have sought refuge in neighboring countries as asylum-seekers or refugees, many of whom live in dire conditions.

The conflict has been accompanied by grave human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including: thousands of unlawful killings, including ethnically motivated killings, lethal attacks on civilians, and summary executions of both civilians and prisoners of war/persons *hors de combat*, mass displacement, sexual and gender-based violence, torture, enforced disappearances, forced displacement, widespread looting, looting of humanitarian supplies, targeting of aid workers, civilian property, and infrastructure, including health centers, hospitals, schools, water and energy sources, and obstruction of humanitarian access—all of which are prohibited under international law and may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

This war has devastated the economy and sowed the seeds of hatred and discord among fellow citizens. This reality has been accompanied by a complete absence of regional and international institutions to contribute to the preservation of the lives of defenseless civilians.

We express our grave concern about the escalation of violence and grave violations in North Darfur, El Fasher, Zamzam and Abu Shouk camps for internally displaced people, and in



Gezira State and Khartoum over the past period, and we call for the warring parties and their allies to be held accountable.

We call on all parties to this war, to:

- Immediate cease fire, stop all forms of violence and attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, and end violence against unarmed civilians, including human rights defenders, in compliance with humanity, reason, wisdom, and national and international norms.
- End the deliberate obstruction of aid and all attacks on humanitarian and health workers, including members of emergency response rooms.
- Respect international humanitarian law: particularly the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution during military operations, allow humanitarian access, protect civilians, provide safe passage for humanitarian aid, including border crossings, and cooperate with international humanitarian organizations and facilitate their access to those affected.
- Restore telecommunications services throughout Sudan and end internet shutdowns and other disruption to communications, which violate the Sudanese people's right to information, hinder the provision of humanitarian and emergency services, affect the security and protection of civilians, and impede monitoring and reporting on ongoing violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.
- The relevant parties must investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law that occurred during the ongoing conflict, in accordance with relevant international standards, and hold those responsible for these violations accountable.

Civil society, human rights defenders, and journalists should:

- Continue documenting and reporting on the conflict, including violations of international law.
- Strive to play a positive role by pressuring the warring parties to negotiate a ceasefire and end the war.
- Ensure genuine, broad-based consultations with all stakeholders, including human rights defenders and civil society organizations, and include their views and concerns in any peace process or other decision-making process that affects them. Their work should be protected, promoted, and supported.
- Strive to establish the principle of protecting civilians and defenders, delegitimizing war, and promoting the values of peace and tolerance.
- Strive to ensure critical, long-term support for Sudanese human rights defenders, including those in exile, to enable them to continue their important work, including



supporting programs for the relocation of human rights defenders, providing safe haven for those threatened, and building capacity.

To the international community:

- Increase emergency funding for the humanitarian response in Sudan, as well as in refugee camps in neighboring countries, including providing medical, food, and shelter assistance to war victims, providing emergency protection for civilians, and providing specific support for protection mechanisms, care, treatment, and support for survivors of torture, sexual violence, and gender-based violence.
- Apply maximum pressure on the parties to the conflict, i.e., urge them to cease hostilities against civilians and human rights defenders.
- Support initiatives aimed at ending the war, including through accountability for grave violations at national, regional, and international levels, including at the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- The international community must play its part today, engaging at all levels, and working to put Sudan back on track and end the war.
- Strengthen the use of universal jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute those responsible for grave violations in Sudan, and ensure they are denied safe havens.

Signatories:

1. Abdelrahman Mohamed Al Gasim
2. Abuzar Osman Suliman Adam
3. Adeela for Arts and Culture
4. African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies
5. Al DAKKA cultural project
6. Alalag press services
7. Aljazeera observatory for human rights
8. AlKhatim Adlan Center for Enlightenment and Development (KACE)
9. Almostagball For Enlightenment and Development Organization
10. Alzahawi Idriss Hassan Idriss - Human Right defender
11. Asha Khalil Elkarib
12. Atrocities Watch Africa
13. AWAFFY Sudanese Organization
14. Central Observatory for Human Rights – Sudan
15. Chaka Orgnization for Peace and Justice
16. Civil society organization Bulk in Darfur
17. Darfur Bar Association
18. Darfur Bar Association
19. Darfur Victims Support Organization
20. Gehan Abdalla Mohamed/

21. Halima Hussein Mohamed
22. Hassan Talab
23. Insaf Hassan Abdalaziz
24. Journalists for Human Rights -JHR- Sudan
25. Lawyer and Human Rights Defender
26. Lawyers for Justice
27. Moneim Adam – Program Director Sudan Human Rights Hub (SHRH)
28. Mothers of Sudan
29. Musa Idrees Amer Gibreel
30. Nahlla Yousif Mohammed Ahmed
31. Najlaa Ahmed
32. National Network for Social Justice
33. No to Women's Oppression
34. Onor Hamad Ali
35. Osman Abuajaj
36. People to People
37. Rania Hassan Hassbala
38. Regional Centre for Training and Development of Civil Society RCDCS
39. Rural Extension Education and Development Organization (REEDO)
40. Salih Mahmoud Mohamed Osman - Lawyer and Human Rights Defender
41. Salma John
42. Sudan Social Development Organization
43. Sudan Human Rights Defenders Coalition (Sudan Defenders)
44. Sudanese Center for Human Rights and Combat Racial Discrimination Cases
45. Sudanese Civil Rights Defenders Network
46. Sudanese Development Call Organization - NIDAA
47. Sudanese Human Rights group (Huqouq)
48. Sudanese organization for justice and human rights
49. Sudanese Organization for Research and Development (SORD)
50. Taa' Altaanith Feminist Association
51. The MagkaSama Project
52. Youth Citizens Observers Network (YCON)

Sudan Defenders

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

#StopTargetingCiviliansAndHumanRightsDefenders

#PeaceForSudan