



Sudan Defenders
Sudan Human Rights Defenders Coalition

NEWSLETTER

Sudan Defenders

Monthly Newsletter | MAY 2026



Escalating Violations Against Human Rights Defenders in Sudan up to May 2026

Introduction



This issue of the Sudan Defenders Newsletter comes at a time when Sudan continues to face one of the most complex humanitarian and human rights crises in its modern history, as the war enters its fourth year amid ongoing grave violations affecting civilians, human rights defenders, journalists, and humanitarian workers.

This edition highlights key human rights developments during May 2026, including the situation of detained and forcibly disappeared defenders, as well as regional and international efforts aimed at strengthening accountability and protecting civilians. These include the Joint Banjul Statement issued by the African and UN Fact-Finding Missions on Sudan, in addition to showcasing international achievements and recognitions that reflect the resilience and contributions of Sudanese human rights defenders across various platforms. It also reflects the activities of the Alliance and provides analysis of violations committed against

human rights defenders.

This issue is particularly significant as it features the profile of lawyer and human rights defender Najlaa Ahmed Al-Mahi, one of the most prominent figures who dedicated her life to defending victims and promoting the values of justice and human rights. As we remember her legacy and inspiring journey, we reaffirm our commitment to continuing efforts to protect human rights defenders, combat impunity, and defend the values of freedom, dignity, and justice.

We dedicate this issue to all human rights defenders inside and outside Sudan, and to victims, survivors, and their families, affirming that documentation, advocacy, and solidarity will remain our tools in confronting violations, and that the pursuit of justice and peace will remain a collective responsibility that does not expire with time

Editorial Board

Editorial

MAY
2026



With deep pride and a firm belief in the values of freedom, dignity, and justice, we publish this issue of the “Sudan Defenders” newsletter at a time when Sudan is going through one of the most severe and complex phases in its modern history. It is a moment in which human suffering is intensifying and the scale of violations is expanding, while human rights defenders continue to carry out their noble mission amid increasing risks and challenges.

At the heart of this crisis, human rights defenders continue their work under extremely dangerous conditions, facing arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, torture, defamation, and direct targeting due to their efforts in documenting violations, advocating for victims, and defending fundamental freedoms. Despite this, they remain a voice of truth, a living conscience of society, and the last line of defense against a culture of impunity.

This issue reflects part of the current human rights and humanitarian reality in Sudan, drawing on credible reports, testimonies, and objective analysis that aim to document the truth, highlight victims’ suffering, and shed light on the challenges facing justice and accountability. It also confirms

that defending human rights in Sudan is no longer merely a professional or civic activity, but an ethical and humanitarian stance that requires exceptional courage and deep commitment to the values of freedom and dignity.

In this issue, we stand in reverence before the memory of those who passed away while carrying the banner of defending rights and freedoms, foremost among them lawyer and human rights defender Najlaa Ahmed Al-Mahi, founder and member of the Board of Trustees of the Alliance, who represented a unique model of dedication, professionalism, and humanitarian commitment. She left behind a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations of human rights defenders in Sudan and beyond.

The Sudan Human Rights Defenders Coalition reaffirms its commitment to working toward the protection of defenders, supporting victims, promoting the values of justice and accountability, and defending fundamental rights and freedoms, in the belief that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without respect for human rights, justice for victims, and accountability for perpetrators of violations.

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees



Escalating Violations Against Human Rights Defenders in Sudan

up to May 2026

Atbara

Arbitrary Detention of Ayoub Arabi and Samar Suleiman by Port Sudan Authorities **31 May 2026**

Security authorities in Atbara arrested Ayoub Arabi, Director of Tbashir for Relief and Development Organization, and Samar Suleiman, the organization's financial director, following separate criminal complaints filed against them on fabricated charges of "collaboration with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)." Ayoub Arabi has been detained for nearly two months, while Samar Suleiman has remained in detention for approximately eight months without a final judicial ruling. According to a statement from Ayoub Arabi's family, all allegations against him and the organization are completely false. They explained that Ayoub was in El Fasher before withdrawing to Tawila locality prior to the city's fall, noting that he had also been targeted by the RSF due to his humanitarian activities and his role in providing services to civilians during the siege. The family added that Ayoub later traveled to Chad and then to Port Sudan in an attempt to support efforts to secure the release of Samar Suleiman. However, he

was surprised to discover that a complaint had been filed against him by Atbara authorities, prompting him to voluntarily surrender. Legal defense counsel has been appointed, with demands to refer the case to court without further delay after prolonged detention. These developments come amid a complex humanitarian and security situation characterized by restrictions on humanitarian work and sieges on civilians, alongside human rights reports indicating widespread violations that may amount to serious crimes under UN classifications.





Kauda – South Kordofan | 30 May 2026 | SPLM-N Intelligence

Continued Detention of Activist Najla Musa Kaunda for 60 Days Without Charge

The intelligence service of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N) in Kauda, South Kordofan, continues to detain human rights activist and Saferworld staff member Najla Musa Kaunda (also known as Najwa Musa Kenda) for the 60th consecutive day in arbitrary detention without formal charges or presentation before investigation or trial.

She was arrested on 1 April 2026 in Tobo area and later transferred to an undisclosed location in Koya, west of Kauda. Reports indicate that she is being held in incommunicado detention, with almost complete denial of family and lawyer visits, except for one brief supervised visit. There are also reports of deteriorating health conditions, raising serious concerns about her safety and violations of international humanitarian law protections for humanitarian workers. The case is considered arbitrary detention.

Darfur – 30 May 2026 | RSF

Continued Detention of Journalist Adam Issa Ma’ani for 55 Days Without Charges

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continue to detain journalist Adam Issa Ma’ani, correspondent for Radio North Darfur and contributor to the Darfur24 platform, for the 55th consecutive day since his arrest on 5 April 2026, without any charges or disclosure of his place of detention as of 30 May 2026.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), his continued detention is part of a growing pattern of violations against press freedom in RSF-controlled areas, with no official information regarding his legal or humanitarian status.



Port Sudan – 30 May 2026

Security Authorities and Prosecutor’s Office | Continued Detention of Lawyer Mohamed Ezz El-Din for 385 Days Without Trial

Human rights lawyer Mohamed Ezz El-Din continues to be held in arbitrary detention in Port Sudan prison for the 385th day since his arrest on 10 May 2025, without fair trial or regular court appearance.

Reports from the International Association of People’s Lawyers (IAPL) and Sudan Defenders indicate that he was subjected at the beginning of his detention to torture, including electric shocks and beating, resulting in deteriorating health conditions, particularly due to chronic illnesses such as diabetes and high cholesterol.

His detention has continued to be extended without transparent legal procedures, amid allegations carrying potential death penalty charges, and ongoing human rights calls for his immediate release and an end to arbitrary detention.



Damazin (Blue Nile)

Enforced Disappearance of Blue Nile Radio Employee Hassan Hamid Hamd

Information indicates that citizen Hassan Hamid Hamd, known as “Tor Al-Quri Bala,” an employee of Blue Nile Radio and resident of Al-Hijra East in Damazin, was arrested on 13 May 2026 from his workplace by what

is known as the Damazin Security Cell. Since his arrest, his family has been unable to determine his whereabouts or communicate with him, and no official notification has been issued regarding the reasons for his arrest or the authority holding him, raising serious concerns about enforced disappearance.

He is known for producing local radio programs addressing social and cultural issues in the Blue Nile region. His family and human rights advocates are calling on authorities in the Blue Nile region to immediately disclose his whereabouts, allow him to contact his family and lawyer, ensure his physical and psychological safety, or release him immediately.

Nyala – 30 May 2026 | RSF

Continued Detention of Four Women Activists for 86 Days Without Charges

The Rapid Support Forces in Nyala, South Darfur, continue to detain four women human rights activists: Amina Ishaq, Salma Adam Abdulrahman, Heba Musa Ismail, and Rana Yaqoub Mohamed, for the 86th consecutive day inside Nyala prison without formal charges as of 30 May 2026.

Their arrest dates back to 5 March 2026, when RSF intelligence raided their homes following their participation in a women’s rights training workshop, without legal warrants. Reports indicate continued incommunicado detention, denial of family visits and legal counsel, and harsh conditions amid growing concerns for their safety and fair trial guarantees.



Nyala – South Darfur

Journalist Muammar Ibrahim | 217 Days in RSF Detention

As of 30 May 2026, Sudanese journalist Muammar

Ibrahim has spent 217 days in arbitrary detention by the RSF after being arrested on 26 October 2025 while attempting to leave El Fasher following RSF control of the city.

He was later transferred to Dqrees prison in Nyala, South Darfur, where he remains detained under conditions lacking the most basic legal and humanitarian standards. He has not been formally charged or given legal grounds for his detention, and is completely denied contact with his family or lawyer, constituting a clear violation of fair trial guarantees and detainee rights.

Concerns about his health have increased after a statement by the Sudanese Journalists’ Union on 15 May 2026 confirmed a serious health deterioration due to a lack of medical care. The RSF has been fully held responsible for his safety, while the CPJ expressed grave concern over his continued detention without verifiable information.

His case reflects a continuing pattern of arbitrary detention and partial enforced disappearance of journalists and human rights defenders in conflict zones, amid the absence of judicial procedures and denial of basic rights under international humanitarian law.



Khartoum – 30 May 2026

Humanitarian Volunteer Dr. Hamed Al-Naeem | Joint Security Cell and Judicial Authorities

Humanitarian volunteer and doctor Hamed Al-Naeem, a member of the East Gerif Emergency Room, was

arrested on 31 March 2026 without a warrant by the Joint Security Cell and later released on bail on 22 April 2026.

However, legal proceedings continued against him on a non-existent legal charge described as “collaboration with the Rapid Support Forces,” which emergency rooms deny as baseless.

The first court hearing was held on 26 April 2026 at the East Gerif Criminal Court and was postponed to 7 May 2026 due to the absence of the complainant and witnesses. No significant developments have occurred as of 30 May 2026. The case remains open amid growing concerns over targeting humanitarian and medical workers during the conflict.



Egypt / Doha – 16 May 2026

Egyptian Authorities | Detention and Deportation of Journalist Dura Qumbo

The Sudanese Journalists’ Union revealed that Egyptian authorities detained Sudanese journalist Dura Qumbo at Cairo Airport for approximately 16 hours despite prior security clearance for entry, before deporting her to Doha under security escort. According to the statement, her mobile phone and passport were confiscated, she was prevented from completing entry procedures, and she was informed that she was placed on a travel ban list and deported

without the right to appeal. She reportedly described the experience as “systematic humiliation,” including denial of food, water, and medication. The union stated that the incident raises serious concerns about the safety and freedom of movement of Sudanese journalists abroad.



Port Sudan – 18 May 2026

Information Crimes Court | Judicial Authorities | Imprisonment of Journalist Rashan Oshi and Financial Fine

The Information Crimes Court in Port Sudan sentenced journalist Rashan Oshi to one year in prison and a fine of 10 million Sudanese pounds under Articles 25 and 26 in case No. 1296 of 2025 filed by Abdulmuntalib Mohamed Ahmed. The sentence was implemented the same day, with the possibility of converting the fine into an additional six months of imprisonment if unpaid. Local sources confirmed her transfer to Port Sudan women’s prison, while an appeal process was initiated by her legal team. The case stems from a published article accusing a police officer of corruption without sufficient evidence, according to the court. The case has sparked widespread solidarity among journalists who view it as a violation of press freedom.

Global Recognition and Achievements of Sudanese Human Rights Defenders

(May 2026)



United States – International

Rasha Ibrahim and Aya Al-Baz | 2026 Telly Awards

On 23 May 2026, Sudanese journalists Rasha Ibrahim and Aya Al-Baz won two Bronze Awards at the 47th Annual Telly Awards, a significant achievement that highlights the growing international presence of Sudanese media. The awards were granted for two television reports addressing humanitarian and national issues related to Sudan, selected from a highly competitive field of nearly 14,000 media and creative entries submitted from 55 countries and involving major media and production organizations worldwide.

The Telly Awards are among the world’s most prestigious honors in television production, video, and digital media, and have been awarded annually since 1979.

Journalist Aya Al-Baz received a Bronze Award for her report “Reviving the University of Khartoum in Sudan,” which documented the impact of war on higher education institutions and efforts to restore

academic life at the university. The report highlighted the resilience of students and academics in the face of conflict-related challenges.

Journalist Rasha Ibrahim received a Bronze Award for her report “Forgotten Darfur: Fragmented Justice and Widespread Crimes,” which examined the situation of civilians in the Darfur region, with a particular focus on justice, accountability, and ongoing human rights violations.

This achievement reflects the ability of Sudanese women journalists to produce world-class media content despite the challenges posed by war and insecurity. It also underscores the growing international recognition of Sudanese journalism, particularly in humanitarian reporting, field documentation, and visual storytelling.

Rome

Professor Balghis Badri | Minerva Anna Maria Mammoliti Human Rights Award

On 13 May 2026, Sudanese scholar Professor Balghis Badri received the Minerva Anna Maria Mammoliti



Human Rights Award in Rome, Italy, during the award’s 35th edition, in recognition of her contributions to women’s rights, education, and peacebuilding.

This recognition comes as part of a long-standing academic and human rights career. Professor Badri has previously received numerous international honors, including being named among the BBC’s 100 Most Influential Women in the World in 2021.

The award reflects international recognition of her contributions to gender equality, development, and women’s empowerment, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

International IDEA

Tribute to the Late Hamid Khalafallah

On 4 May 2026, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) honored the memory of the late Sudanese researcher and activist Hamid Khalafallah in recognition of his contributions to democracy promotion and civil society initiatives in Sudan.

The tribute acknowledged his role in supporting Sudanese civic initiatives in the period leading up to the Berlin Conference on Sudan, where he helped advance principles of democratic transition and strengthen civil society engagement.

United Nations

Sudan’s Emergency Response Rooms Nominated for the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize

Date: May 2026

The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) included Sudan’s Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs) among the nominees for the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize, marking the second consecutive year that Sudanese grassroots humanitarian initiatives have been considered for the award.

Professor Michal Onderco reportedly nominated the Khartoum Aid Kitchen for the prize in recognition of the extraordinary efforts of volunteers providing

humanitarian assistance despite the ongoing war. Reports have also indicated that the Emergency Response Rooms are among the strongest contenders for this year’s award.

Nairobi

Sudanese Human Rights Initiative Press Freedom Award

Date: 3 May 2026

The Sudanese Human Rights Initiative (SHRI) announced, during the inaugural edition of its awards, that Sudanese journalist Mohamed Al-Fateh Yousif Hima (widely known as “Nyala”) had won the 2026 Press Freedom Award.

The award recognized his courage in journalism and his continued commitment to amplifying the voices of victims and civilians in conflict zones, particularly in Darfur.

Commenting on the award, Nyala stated:

“This award is not merely a personal honor; it is a recognition of the efforts of all Sudanese journalists who work under difficult conditions to deliver the truth and defend people’s right to know.”

France – Paris | Sudanese Journalists Syndicate | UNESCO Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize
On 30 April 2026, UNESCO awarded the Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize to the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate, with the official award ceremony taking place on 4 May 2026 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

The award recognised the Syndicate’s efforts in documenting violations against journalists in Sudan. Since the outbreak of war in 2023, the Syndicate has documented at least 32 journalist deaths and 556 violations against media professionals, while continuing to advocate for press freedom in one of the world’s most dangerous environments for journalism. UNESCO emphasized that the Syndicate represents a model of institutional resilience amid war, and the award was widely regarded as international recognition of the vital role Sudanese journalism continues to play in reporting the truth despite severe security and media challenges.



The Light That Never Fades



Documenting the Life and Legacy of Lawyer and Human Rights Defender

Najla Ahmed Al-Mahi

(22 February 1969 – 3 November 2025)

A tribute to an iconic lawyer and human rights defender whose passing left an irreplaceable void, yet whose legacy continues to illuminate the path of justice and human dignity.

Najla Al-Mahi: The Light That Never Fades

A Life Devoted to Justice, Humanity, and Dignity

“I heard stories about people who disappeared or were subjected to torture. Some survived carrying deep physical and psychological scars, while others never returned. When I witnessed the impact of war on the faces of my people, I felt it was my duty—both to them and to my profession as a lawyer—to stand against human rights violations, discrimination, injustice, and inequality, in order to help secure a better future and a dignified life for my people.”

— Najla Ahmed Al-Mahi, interview with the Human Rights Advocates Program, Columbia University, 2010.

A First Glimpse: Sudan’s Icon in the Global Arena

Najla Al-Mahi passed away in London on 3 November 2025 after a courageous battle with illness that never once diverted her from her mission. She left behind an enduring legacy of legal and human rights advocacy

that continues to inspire defenders across the world.

A British-Sudanese lawyer of exceptional dedication, Najla transformed her professional life into a bridge between the suffering of victims and the language of law. She turned pain into legal arguments, tears into evidence, and fear into a demand for justice. Carrying on her shoulders the hopes and struggles of survivors of torture and conflict-related sexual violence in Sudan and South Sudan, she traveled across the world to challenge impunity and amplify the voices of those whom power sought to silence.

In this profile, adopted and published by the Sudanese Human Rights Defenders Coalition (Sudan Defenders), we pay tribute to a woman who embodied compassion, courage, and integrity—a defender of the vulnerable, a voice for the silenced, and a beacon of justice in times of adversity.

Roots: From the Soil of Al-Jazirah to the Heart of the Cause

Najla Ahmed Al-Mahi was born on 22 February 1969 in

Mustafa Al-Qurashi, in the Al-Halawin area of Al-Jazirah State, central Sudan. She grew up in an environment marked by repression and fear, where she witnessed people silenced by intimidation and dreams buried beneath the weight of injustice.

Rather than allowing those experiences to break her spirit, they became the foundation of her lifelong commitment to justice. From an early age, she resolved not merely to witness oppression, but to confront it—to become a lawyer who would protect what could be saved and document what must never be forgotten.

Those who knew her remember a woman as steadfast as rock when principle demanded firmness, and as gentle as the morning breeze when humanity called for compassion. She regarded the law as a tool for justice, words as a sacred responsibility, and every victim as a story deserving to be heard to its very end.

Education and Formation: Where Knowledge Met Activism

Najla possessed a distinguished academic foundation that made her one of Sudan’s most respected legal and

human rights practitioners:

- Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), Arab University of Beirut, Alexandria Campus, Egypt.
- Master of Laws (LL.M.), Arab University of Beirut, Alexandria Campus.
- Human Rights Advocates Program, Columbia University, New York (2010), one of the world’s leading leadership programs for human rights defenders.

Alongside her academic qualifications, she developed exceptional expertise in documenting torture and conflict-related sexual violence, legislative reform, and strategic advocacy before regional and international human rights mechanisms.

She was not merely a student of law; she embodied a living philosophy in which knowledge, justice, and human suffering converged.

Professional Journey: A Career Written in Service and Sacrifice

Throughout her career, Najla left an indelible mark on both national and international human rights institutions.

REDRESS – London

Najla served as Sudan Project Officer and later coordinated programs on criminal law reform and the prohibition of torture. She led complex legal initiatives that resulted in landmark victories for survivors of sexual violence and helped expose the use of such crimes as instruments of repression.

Sudan Rights Group

She served as Acting Executive Director, providing leadership during one of Sudan’s most challenging transitional periods.

African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) – Accra

As a Human Rights Officer and Advisor, she specialised in documenting and investigating cases of torture and sexual violence in Sudan.

Rights for Peace

As a Legal Advisor, she advanced accountability mechanisms to address discrimination-based crimes and secure justice for victims.

Human Rights Watch

Najla contributed as a research expert focusing on Sudanese women human rights defenders, highlighting the critical role women play on the frontlines of human rights struggles.

Sudanese Human Rights Defenders Coalition (Sudan Defenders)

She was among the founding figures of this coalition, which today proudly preserves and celebrates her legacy through this profile.

Khatim Adlan Centre for Enlightenment – Sudan

She worked as a lawyer and legal advisor on issues of public freedoms and the rights of marginalised groups,





while collaborating with numerous Sudanese and regional civil society organisations.

An Exceptional Legacy: When Advocacy Becomes Identity

What distinguished Najla Al-Mahi was her rare combination of legal brilliance and profound human empathy.

Knowledge Coupled with Humility

She possessed an extraordinary command of legal principles and details, yet shared her expertise generously, never treating knowledge as a privilege reserved for a select few.

A Survivor-Centered Approach

Najla never viewed victims as case files. She saw them as human beings carrying pain and dignity alike. Through her compassion and professionalism, she helped survivors regain trust, confidence, and hope.

Unwavering Commitment to Future Generations

In her final years in London, she dedicated significant time to mentoring and training a new generation of Sudanese lawyers and activists, believing that investing in young defenders was the surest path toward lasting change.

Courage Beyond Circumstance

Neither illness nor adversity diminished her determination. Even during her final months, she continued reviewing legal submissions, communicating with survivors, and supporting colleagues, remaining committed to justice until the very end.

The Final Farewell: The Passing of a Body, the Endurance of a Spirit

After an extraordinary struggle against a serious illness,

Najla passed away peacefully in London on the morning of 3 November 2025, surrounded by her family and her husband and lifelong companion, human rights defender Ahmed Al-Zubair.

Her passing represented a profound loss for Sudan’s women’s movement, the human rights community, and all those privileged to work alongside her.

Yet the truth remains undeniable: Najla did not truly leave. She lives on in every case that secured justice, every survivor whose voice she helped amplify, and every young lawyer she inspired to believe that law can be an instrument of compassion rather than oppression.

Statement by the Sudanese Human Rights Defenders Coalition (Sudan Defenders)

“We, at the Sudanese Human Rights Defenders Coalition (Sudan Defenders), with deep pride, gratitude, and profound sorrow for the loss of an irreplaceable figure, pledge to continue the path that Najla Al-Mahi helped forge—a path of truth, dignity, justice, solidarity, and independence.

We shall never forget you, the mother of human rights defenders. Your life and example will remain a guiding light for all who believe that words are stronger than bullets, that the rule of law stands above the sword, and that every human being, regardless of circumstance, is entitled to dignity.

Your memory lives in our hearts, and your struggle endures in the conscience of every human rights defender in Sudan and beyond.”

“To God we belong and to Him we shall return.”

Profile Published: 30 May 2026

Sudanese Human Rights Defenders Coalition (Sudan Defenders)



Key Activities of the Sudanese Human Rights Defenders Coalition (Sudan Defenders) | May 2026

Sudan Defenders Hosts Virtual Seminar on the Outcomes of the African Commission and the Banjul Declaration on Sudan

Kampala | 30 May 2026

On the evening of 30 May 2026, the Sudanese Human Rights Defenders Coalition (Sudan Defenders) organized a virtual seminar via Zoom entitled:

“Beyond the Banjul Declaration: Opportunities and Challenges.”

The event formed part of the Coalition’s ongoing efforts to enhance awareness of the outcomes of the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) and to discuss the implications of the Joint Banjul Declaration on Sudan issued by the African Commission’s Fact-Finding Mission and the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan.

The seminar brought together thirty one (31) human rights experts and practitioners, including:

- Ahmed Mefreh, Executive Director of the Justice Commission;
- Mohamed Barra, Program Director at Awafi Organization;
- Noura Mohamed, Sudanese Human Rights Defenders Coalition (Sudan Defenders).

The session was moderated by journalist and human rights activist Enas Latif.

Participants examined the key provisions of the Banjul Declaration, including calls for the protection of civilians, the cessation of grave human rights violations, the promotion of accountability and justice, unhindered humanitarian access, and the protection of human rights defenders and humanitarian workers.

The discussion also explored the opportunities presented by the Declaration to strengthen advocacy and accountability efforts in Sudan, as well as the challenges associated with implementing its recommendations amid the ongoing armed conflict and deteriorating humanitarian and human rights conditions.



Speakers emphasized the importance of continued coordination between Sudanese civil society organizations and regional and international human rights mechanisms, documenting violations, supporting victims and survivors, and advancing efforts toward a just and sustainable peace founded on accountability, justice, and democratic civilian governance.

The seminar forms part of a broader series of activities organized by Sudan Defenders to promote human rights dialogue, strengthen advocacy and protection mechanisms, and raise the visibility of Sudan’s human rights situation at both regional and international levels.

Sudan Defenders Holds Policy Dialogue on Integrating Human Rights Agendas into Peace and Negotiation Processes: Opportunities and Challenges

25 May 2026 | Kampala, Uganda

The Sudanese Human Rights Defenders Coalition (Sudan Defenders) convened an extensive policy dialogue in Kampala to discuss a research paper entitled:

“Integrating Human Rights Agendas into Peace and Negotiation Processes: Opportunities and Challenges.”

The event brought together academics, researchers, human rights defenders, and Sudanese civil society actors.

Researcher Shamseldin Dow Al-Bait highlighted the major challenges facing civil society organizations in influencing peace processes. He argued that building a democratic system is a prerequisite for enabling civil society organizations to play meaningful roles in civic education and in promoting the values of human rights, citizenship, and equality, particularly in a context where traditional social and cultural structures often undermine such principles.

He also noted the continued underrepresentation of women and youth in formal political institutions and peace processes despite their pivotal role during the

December Revolution and in supporting war-affected communities.

Dow Al-Bait further identified structural shortcomings within parts of the human rights movement, including the separation between peacebuilding and human rights agendas, weak engagement with grassroots communities, and insufficient analysis of the root causes of conflict and structural exclusion.

He called for a stronger role for human rights organizations in peacebuilding efforts, greater attention to the structural drivers of conflict, deeper engagement with marginalized communities, the adoption of a “localization of rights” approach, and stronger partnerships with grassroots peace organizations, youth groups, and women-led networks. He also stressed the importance of developing early-warning systems to monitor social and political tensions, counter hate speech and racism, and support democratic transformation.

Professor of Philosophy Dr. Hisham Omar Al-Nour observed that civil society organizations frequently rely on imported models and concepts without sufficiently adapting them to Sudan’s realities. He emphasized that Sudan’s multidimensional crisis requires locally generated knowledge capable of addressing political and social challenges through context-specific solutions. For her part, peacebuilding researcher Dr. Hanadi Al-Mak warned of the threats facing Sudan’s unity amid the continuing conflict. She stressed the need for deeper conflict analysis, identification of key actors, and the development of a clear human rights agenda that can be effectively integrated into peace negotiations.

Human rights defender and lawyer Mahjoub Dawoud called for the establishment of a common civil society platform prior to engagement in peace negotiations and advocated for dialogue with all relevant stakeholders to advance inclusive and sustainable peace.

Khalafallah Al-Afif, representing the Khatim Adlan Centre for Enlightenment, emphasized the importance

of integrating transitional justice into peace negotiations and drawing upon both international and national experiences in accountability and justice. He also highlighted the value of early-warning systems as preventive tools against conflict escalation.

Women’s rights activist Winnie Omar stressed the importance of understanding global political transformations and their implications for human rights in Sudan. She criticized the limited international attention given to justice and accountability issues and urged civil society organizations to direct more of their engagement toward local communities within Sudan, revive social solidarity, and challenge prevailing cultures of violence.

The session concluded with several key recommendations, including:

- Ensuring meaningful participation of human rights defenders in peace and negotiation processes;
- Linking such participation to genuine decision-making authority;
- Strengthening the independence and institutional governance of human rights organizations;
- Enhancing the negotiation and political capacities of defenders;
- Redesigning peace processes to include civil society actors from the earliest stages;
- Integrating transitional justice into all peace tracks;
- Adopting inclusive standards that address gender equality, disability inclusion, and the needs of marginalized communities.

In closing, Shawgi Yacoub, Chairperson of the Coalition’s Board of Trustees, reaffirmed the Coalition’s commitment to incorporating the paper’s findings and participants’ recommendations into its future policies and programs in order to strengthen the role of human rights, justice, and civic participation in any future peace and negotiation processes in Sudan.

Participation in the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

May 2026 | Banjul, The Gambia

The Sudanese Human Rights Defenders Coalition participated in the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) held in Banjul, The Gambia, against the backdrop of the ongoing war in Sudan and the grave human rights violations and escalating humanitarian crisis it has generated.

The Coalition’s participation aimed to amplify the voices of victims, survivors, and human rights defenders and to draw attention to ongoing violations against civilians, including extrajudicial killings, conflict-related sexual violence, enforced disappearances, and arbitrary detention.

The Coalition also closely followed the proceedings of both the African Commission and United Nations Fact-Finding Missions on Sudan and welcomed the Joint Banjul Declaration as an important step toward strengthening accountability, protecting civilians, ensuring humanitarian access, supporting survivors, and safeguarding human rights defenders.

Sudan Defenders renewed its call upon the international community, the African Union, and the United Nations to intensify efforts to halt violations, support humanitarian response operations, and ensure justice and accountability.

The Coalition reaffirmed that achieving sustainable peace in Sudan requires the protection of civilians, an end to impunity, and the meaningful participation of civil society, women, and youth in peacebuilding efforts.

Sudanese Human Rights Defenders Coalition (Sudan Defenders)

Banjul, The Gambia | May 2026





Monitoring International Decisions and Positions Related to the Human Rights Situation in Sudan

Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo – Ebola Outbreak | World Health Organization Declares a Global Public Health Emergency

Date: 17 May 2026

On 17 May 2026, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the Ebola outbreak in both the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda constituted a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern” (PHEIC). The declaration came just one day after African health authorities announced the emergence of a new outbreak cluster in Ituri Province in northeastern DRC.

According to WHO, Ebola infections were confirmed in the capitals Kinshasa and Kampala, raising growing concerns about transmission into densely populated urban areas and the expansion of the outbreak across borders.

In Ituri Province, where the outbreak was first detected, authorities recorded 246 suspected cases and 80 deaths believed to be linked to the virus, while laboratory testing

had confirmed only eight cases at that time. WHO noted that the actual scale of the outbreak could be significantly larger than officially reported, indicating that eight of thirteen samples collected from different locations had tested positive.

The organization further emphasized that there remained “substantial uncertainty regarding the true number of infections and the geographic extent of the outbreak,” prompting the elevation of the international alert level. WHO warned that the rapid spread of cases during the initial days of the outbreak, coupled with its appearance in the capitals of two different countries, represented a serious warning sign requiring an urgent and coordinated regional and international public health response.

Preliminary reports also indicated that no approved vaccine was available for the new strain associated with this outbreak, increasing the challenges facing containment and medical response efforts.

Source: WHO, 17 May 2026; The New York Times, 17 May 2026.

Banjul – UN and African Union Fact-Finding Missions Adopt the “Banjul Declaration” on Sudan

Date: 12 May 2026

The joint fact-finding mission of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan adopted the Banjul Declaration during the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights held in Banjul.

The Declaration stated that the conflict in Sudan since April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has resulted in one of the world’s most severe humanitarian and human rights crises. It highlighted escalating patterns of killings, arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearances, conflict-related sexual violence, ethnic cleansing, and attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure.

The Declaration noted that both missions found the Sudanese Armed Forces, the Rapid Support Forces, and their allies responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, while emphasizing that violations attributed to the RSF were particularly widespread and systematic.

It called for an immediate end to attacks on civilians, unhindered humanitarian access, the cessation of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and torture, support for the work of the International Criminal Court, and the establishment of an accountability mechanism—potentially African-led—to investigate serious crimes

and violations committed in Sudan.

The Declaration further stressed that any sustainable solution to Sudan’s crisis requires an inclusive civilian-led political process grounded in justice, accountability, and democratic governance.

Geneva – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Warns That Drones Have Become the Leading Cause of Civilian Deaths in Sudan

Date: 11 May 2026

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, warned of the alarming escalation in the use of armed drones in Sudan, stating that they had become the primary cause of civilian deaths during 2026.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that drone strikes killed at least 880 civilians between January and April 2026, accounting for more than 80 percent of all conflict-related civilian deaths during that period.

Türk noted that parties to the conflict had intensified the use of drones to target populated areas, civilian objects, and critical infrastructure, particularly in the regions of Kordofan and Darfur. He warned that the proliferation of such technology risks pushing the conflict into a more deadly and expansive phase.

He also urged the international community to adopt stricter measures to prevent the transfer of advanced weapons and drones to the warring parties, stressing that the continued flow of military equipment would result



in further civilian casualties, obstruct humanitarian assistance, and aggravate famine and displacement risks.

**Atrocity Prevention and Justice Coalition
Expresses Concern Over Violations and
Violence Against Civilians in Sudan**

Date: 6–7 May 2026

Member states of the Atrocity Prevention and Justice Coalition—including Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom—expressed deep concern regarding continuing serious human rights violations in Sudan and the escalation of military operations in Kordofan and Darfur.

The coalition reported receiving credible information concerning conflict-related sexual violence targeting women and girls, as well as civilian deaths and injuries resulting from attacks on populated areas in Dilling and other locations in South Kordofan State.

The coalition called on all parties to the conflict to immediately cease violence, comply with international humanitarian law, ensure civilian protection, and hold perpetrators of serious violations accountable.

**Banjul – Sudanese Civil Society Organizations
Raise Arbitrary Detention and Enforced
Disappearance Concerns Before the African
Commission**

Date: 26 May 2026

On the sidelines of the 87th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights in Banjul, the Justice Committee organized a meeting between the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa, Maria Teresa Manuela, and several Sudanese civil society organizations.

During the meeting, Sudanese human rights organizations presented growing concerns regarding the situation of detainees in Sudan, including cases of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, and ill-treatment in places of detention.

**London – Human Rights Watch Publishes
New Information Regarding Alleged External
Support to the Rapid Support Forces**

Date: 26 May 2026

Human Rights Watch published a report stating that it had obtained additional information and evidence suggesting that Colombian military contractors passed through military facilities in Abu Dhabi before traveling to Sudan.

The organization reported that a security company based in the United Arab Emirates had been involved in recruiting these contractors since 2024.

Human Rights Watch argued that these findings reinforce concerns regarding the continued flow of military support to parties to the conflict, contributing to the prolongation of the war and increasing the risk of serious violations of international humanitarian law. The organization renewed its call for stronger international oversight of transfers of weapons and conflict-related fighters connected to Sudan.

**Early May 2026 – Fact-Finding Mission
Confirms Systematic Patterns of Violations
That May Amount to War Crimes**

Date: May 2026

Information released by the international fact-finding mission on Sudan indicated that ongoing investigations have documented recurring and systematic patterns of violations against civilians committed by parties to the conflict in various regions of the country.

The mission stated that some of these violations may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity under international law, including extrajudicial killings, sexual violence, forced displacement, and attacks on civilian infrastructure.

The mission further confirmed that it continues to collect, preserve, and analyze evidence and testimonies in support of future international and regional accountability mechanisms addressing crimes and violations committed during the conflict in Sudan.





JOINT BANJUL DECLARATION ON SUDAN

Adopted by the Joint Fact-Finding Mission of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Human Rights Situation in Sudan and the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan

12 May 2026

During the Eighty-Seventh Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (the Commission), held from 24 April to 20 May 2026 in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia;

The Joint Fact-Finding Mission of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Human Rights Situation in Sudan and the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan;

Acting within the framework of the Addis Ababa Roadmap and in accordance with their respective mandates;

Recalling that these mandates include, inter alia, investigating the facts, circumstances, and root causes of violations and abuses of international human rights

law, as well as violations of international humanitarian law committed in the context of the armed conflict in the Republic of the Sudan, with the objective of contributing to accountability and the protection of civilians;

Reaffirming their shared commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Sudan, in accordance with relevant international, regional, and national legal frameworks;

Recalling further that the armed conflict that erupted in mid-April 2023 in Sudan between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces has resulted in one of the most severe humanitarian and human rights crises in the world, characterized by widespread suffering, mass displacement, acute food insecurity, the collapse of essential services, and grave threats to

regional peace and stability;

Deeply concerned by the continued escalation of violence throughout Sudan, and by the persistent patterns of killings, arbitrary detention, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, ethnic cleansing, enforced disappearances, conflict-related sexual violence, starvation, indiscriminate attacks, attacks against civilians and civilian objects, looting, extortion, and forced displacement;

Recalling that both missions have concluded that the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces, together with their allies, are responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including grave violations against children, with violations committed by the Rapid Support Forces being particularly widespread and systematic;

Alarmed by the current situation in Darfur, including El Fasher, as well as in the Kordofan regions, where civilians face heightened risks of atrocity crimes, siege conditions, displacement, deprivation of humanitarian assistance, and ethnically targeted violence, further exacerbating the suffering of vulnerable groups, including older persons and persons with disabilities;

Further concerned that attacks against humanitarian workers, medical facilities, markets, schools, internally displaced persons camps, places of worship, and civilian



infrastructure indispensable to survival continue to aggravate the suffering of the civilian population;

Commending the courage and resilience of victims and survivors, Sudanese civil society, humanitarian workers, journalists, and human rights defenders—particularly women and youth, whose commitment to peace and documentation of violations deserves special recognition—who continue to document violations and assist affected communities despite significant personal risks;

Recognizing the importance of cooperation, complementarity, and coordination among regional and international accountability mechanisms in support of civilian protection, documentation of violations, preservation of evidence, and future justice processes;

Affirming that sustainable peace in Sudan cannot be achieved without addressing the root causes of the conflict, pursuing justice and accountability, ensuring inclusive governance, and restoring dignity and rights to all Sudanese people;

Hereby declare as follows:

1. Immediate Protection of Civilians

All parties to the conflict must immediately cease attacks against civilians and civilian objects and fully comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The protection of civilians must be treated as an urgent and overriding priority.

2. Ceasefire and De-escalation

All parties to the conflict must take immediate steps toward a credible cessation of hostilities and the establishment of a sustainable ceasefire, supported by effective monitoring arrangements and confidence-building measures.

3. Humanitarian Access

All parties to the conflict must ensure rapid, safe, sustainable, and unhindered humanitarian access to all affected populations through all necessary routes and must refrain from attacking or obstructing humanitarian personnel, assets, or relief operations.

4. Sexual Violence and Gender-Based Crimes

Immediate and effective measures must be taken to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence and other gender-based crimes, including by ensuring survivors’ access to medical care, psychosocial support, protection, remedies, and accountability, in accordance with a victim- and survivor-centred approach.

5. Ethnic Cleansing

All forms of ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Rapid Support Forces, particularly those targeting indigenous populations in Darfur, including El Fasher and the Kordofan regions, must cease immediately. Their full return to their areas of origin, restoration of their cultural identity, and protection of their heritage, including mineral resources, must be ensured.

6. Arbitrary Detention and Enforced Disappearance

Practices of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance,

torture, and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment must cease immediately. All persons arbitrarily deprived of their liberty must be released or promptly brought before a competent judicial authority.

7. Accountability and Justice

Serious violations and abuses, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other atrocity crimes committed by the Rapid Support Forces, the Sudanese Armed Forces, and their allies, as well as acts committed by States and entities that aid or abet serious violations and abuses by parties to the conflict, must be subjected to prompt, independent, impartial, and effective investigations aimed at ensuring justice, truth, reparations, and guarantees of non-recurrence.

All relevant actors must fully support and cooperate with the International Criminal Court’s work in Sudan. An accountability mechanism, which may be African-led, should also be established to pursue serious violations committed in Sudan while ensuring complementarity with international criminal justice institutions.

8. Cooperation with International and Regional Mechanisms

All parties to the conflict must fully cooperate with both Fact-Finding Missions and other relevant accountability mechanisms, including by granting access, facilitating communication with victims and witnesses, and preserving relevant records and evidence.

9. Implementation of the Recommendations of the Fact-Finding Missions

All relevant actors, including parties to the conflict, Sudanese stakeholders, the African Union, the United Nations, Member States, as well as regional and international partners, must take concrete and timely steps to implement the recommendations issued by both Fact-Finding Missions.

Particular priority should be given to measures aimed at protecting civilians; protecting human rights defenders and other groups playing a critical role in identifying early warning indicators and documenting human rights violations; ending ongoing violations; ensuring humanitarian access; supporting survivors,

including through interim reparative measures and continued access to medical, psychological, social, and legal assistance; preserving evidence; strengthening accountability; and supporting an inclusive civilian-led pathway toward peace and democratic governance.

10. Role of the International Community

The international community, including the African Union, the United Nations, Member States, and relevant regional organizations, should intensify coordinated efforts to protect civilians, support humanitarian operations, promote accountability, and prevent further escalation, including through targeted measures against those responsible for serious violations or those fueling the conflict.

Other States must refrain from actions that contribute to the escalation of the conflict by preventing the transfer of weapons, equipment, financial support, and logistical assistance to parties suspected of committing serious violations and by utilizing all available diplomatic, political, and preventive tools to halt further mass atrocities.

11. Sudan’s Civilian Future

We affirm that no lasting solution can be achieved through military means alone. Sudan’s sustainable future requires an inclusive civilian-led political process that reflects meaningful and effective participation by women, youth, civil society, and local communities from across the country.

The Fact-Finding Missions reaffirm their commitment to continuing the documentation of violations and abuses, supporting efforts to protect civilians, and contributing to peace, justice, accountability, and dignity for the Sudanese people.

Neither impunity nor military force can secure Sudan’s future. Only a path founded upon protection, justice, and inclusive civilian governance can establish the foundations for lasting peace.

Done in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia, during the Eighty-Seventh Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, on 12 May 2026.





Risk Map:

May 2026



Patterns of Targeting Human Rights Defenders in Sudan

Based on the documented cases included in this bulletin and the provisions of the Banjul Declaration issued by the United Nations and African Union Fact-Finding Missions, available data indicate that Sudan is witnessing a systematic escalation in the targeting of human rights defenders amid a conflict that has continued since April 2023 and a rapidly deteriorating justice and protection system.

Main Patterns of Targeting

Risk Pattern	Description	Targeted Groups	Alleged Perpetrators
Prolonged Arbitrary Detention	Arrests without charges or trial for extended periods	Journalists, lawyers, women activists, humanitarian workers	Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and security agencies in Port Sudan
Enforced Disappearance	Concealing places of detention and preventing communication with families	Journalists and civil activists	Parties to the conflict and various security agencies
Politicization of Justice and the Judiciary	Using judicial processes to criminalize human rights and media activities	Journalists, lawyers, and defenders	Authorities in Port Sudan and relevant prosecution offices
Targeting Humanitarian Work	Arrest and persecution of humanitarian organization personnel	Volunteers, humanitarian workers, and medical professionals	Various parties to the conflict
Restrictions on Freedom of Expression	Persecution of journalists and shrinking media space	Journalists and media institutions	All parties to the conflict

- Overall Risk Trend
- Available information indicates a shift from isolated incidents to a systematic policy targeting:
- Journalists and media professionals
 - Human rights defenders
 - Humanitarian workers
 - Women human rights defenders
 - Lawyers and legal actors

The Banjul Declaration confirms that these violations constitute widespread and systematic patterns that may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, while continued impunity remains a key factor exacerbating the crisis.

Hotspot States: Map of Violations (May 2026)

1- South Darfur (Nyala)

- Risk Level: Very Severe
- Key Cases:
- Detention of four women activists for 86 days without charges.
 - Detention of journalist Muammar Ibrahim for 217 days.
 - Use of Dagees Prison for prolonged detention.
- Patterns:
- Prolonged arbitrary detention
 - Targeting of women human rights defenders

- Absence of legal safeguards

Assessment: Nyala is currently one of the most dangerous environments for human rights work in Sudan.

2- North Darfur

- Risk Level: Very Severe

Key Cases:

- Detention of journalist Adam Issa Ma'an (55 days).

Patterns:

- Enforced disappearance
- Targeting media documentation efforts
- Restriction of access to information

Assessment: A dangerous escalation against journalists and documentation workers.

3- Port Sudan – Red Sea State

- Risk Level: Very High

Key Cases:

- Detention of lawyer Mohamed Ezzeldin (385 days).
- Sentencing of journalist Rashan Oshi to imprisonment and a fine.

Patterns:

- Politicization of the judiciary
- Criminal prosecution of publication-related activities
- Detention without effective trial

Assessment: The judiciary has increasingly become a tool of pressure against journalists and human rights defenders.

4- Khartoum

- Risk Level: Very High

Key Cases:

- Targeting of volunteers and Emergency Response Rooms.
- Prosecution of humanitarian workers such as Hamed Al-Naeem.

Patterns:

- Criminalization of humanitarian work
- Broad and vague security-related accusations
- Lengthy judicial procedures

Assessment: Growing targeting of community-led response initiatives and local organizations.

5- Blue Nile State (Damazin)

- Risk Level: High

Key Cases:

- Disappearance of media officer Hassan Hamed Hamad since 13 May 2026.

Patterns:

- Enforced disappearance
- Lack of judicial oversight

Assessment: A worrying increase in enforced disappearance cases.

6- South Kordofan (Kauda)

- Risk Level: High

Key Cases:

- Detention of activist Najla Musa Kawanda (60 days).

Patterns:

- Detention without charge
- Targeting humanitarian workers

Assessment: Multiple-party violations in areas under local control.

7- River Nile State (Atbara)

- Risk Level: High

Key Cases:

- Detention of Ayoub Arabi, Director of Tabasheer for Relief and Development Organization, for approximately two months.
- Detention of Financial Director Samar Suleiman for approximately eight months.
- Charges related to “dealing with the Rapid Support Forces.”

Patterns:

- Arbitrary detention outside fair trial guarantees
- Use of security-related accusations against humanitarian work
- Slow judicial procedures and prolonged detention without trial

Assessment: This case indicates an expansion of the targeting of humanitarian workers beyond direct conflict zones, with the judiciary being used as a mechanism for prolonged detention.

Overall Risk Index – May 2026			
Region	Risk Level	Trend	Most Targeted Groups
South Darfur	Very Severe	Escalating	Women activists, journalists
North Darfur	Very Severe	Sharp escalation	Journalists and defenders
Port Sudan	Very High	Escalating	Lawyers and journalists
Khartoum	Very High	Escalating	Volunteers and doctors
Blue Nile	High	Escalating	Media professionals and defenders
South Kordofan	High	Ongoing	Humanitarian workers
River Nile (Atbara)	High	Escalating	Humanitarian workers

Overall Risk Indicator for Human Rights Defenders in Sudan

8.8 / 10 – Extremely Severe Risk

- This assessment is based on:
- Multiple perpetrating actors
 - Widespread arbitrary detention
 - Escalating enforced disappearances
 - Targeting of women human rights defenders
 - Politicization of the judiciary
 - Systematic targeting of journalists
 - Continued impunity
 - The Banjul Declaration’s confirmation of widespread

and systematic patterns of violations

Sudan Defenders Recommendations – May 2026

First: Protection of Human Rights Defenders

- Immediate release of all arbitrarily detained persons.
- Disclosure of the fate and whereabouts of forcibly disappeared persons.
- Provision of urgent protection measures for women human rights defenders.

Second: Freedom of the Press

- End the persecution of journalists.
- Cease the use of criminal laws against publication and media activities.
- Guarantee freedom of access to information.

Third: Protection of Humanitarian Work

- End the criminalization of humanitarian action.
- Protect Emergency Response Rooms and local organizations.
- Ensure safe humanitarian corridors for relief operations.

Fourth: Justice and Accountability

- Fully implement the Banjul Declaration.
- Support the International Criminal Court.
- Establish an evidence-preservation mechanism.

Fifth: The International Community

- Support Sudanese civil society organizations.
- Establish emergency protection and evacuation programmes.
- Impose targeted sanctions on perpetrators of serious violations.

About Sudan Defenders

Sudan Defenders: It is the civil alliance of human rights defenders in Sudan, first established in 2009 and re-established in June 2022 in Kampala, Uganda, through the adoption of the Kampala Declaration. The alliance currently includes 47 rights organizations and works to empower and protect human rights defenders through legal, psychological, and logistical support, training, research, monitoring and documentation of violations, and advocacy at national, regional, and international levels. The alliance carries out its activities according to values of independence, transparency, respect for human dignity, and promotes collective action and solidarity among human rights defenders in Sudan and abroad. Its headquarters is located in Kampala, Uganda.



Sudan Defenders
Sudan Human Rights Defenders Coalition



Sudan Defenders

Sudan Human Rights Defenders Coalition

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