



### **Sudan: A Female Human Rights Advocate Abducted and Tortured by an Unknown Men in Karima Town in Northern State**

The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) expresses deep concern over the safety and well-being of human rights defenders/activists in Sudan amidst the ongoing conflict. ACJPS calls upon the Sudanese authorities to carry out an independent and impartial investigation into the kidnapping and alleged torture of Ms. Ezdihar Juma Saed, a women human rights defender. Sudanese authorities must end the practice of harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders while performing their roles. Additionally, they should guarantee the enjoyment of all rights for human rights defenders provided in regional and international treaties ratified by Sudan.

On 24 October 2024, Ms. Ezdihar Juma Saed, an advocate and human rights defender, was abducted from the main street by an unknown group of men while on her way from Karima Court in Karima town, Northern Sudan. Ms. Ezdihar was whisked away in a private vehicle after the abduction. While in captivity, she was psychologically and physically abused as she sustained broken limbs. After her release, Ms. Ezdihar was rushed to Karima Hospital but was later transferred to Marawi Hospital, still within Northern State, as it was sufficiently equipped to carry out the surgery needed.

The police forces, local government of Northern Sudan, Military intelligence, and other advocates in Karima have followed up on the case. However, no more information has been released to the public regarding her abduction.

#### **Profile**

Besides her successful legal career, Ms. Ezdihar has held several positions in Sudan;

1. During the period between 2005 to 2006, she served as the head of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Northern Sudan State,
2. She was appointed cabinet minister as the SPLM representative following the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Agreement, a position she held from 2005 to 2006.
3. She ran for the governor position in Northern Sudan during the 2010 general elections.

4. She also participated in several peace talks/negotiations since 2011 as part of the SPLM delegation.
5. Since the eruption of the armed conflict in Sudan, Ms. Ezdihar has provided legal aid to a number of victims of human rights violations.