



## **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CENTRAL DARFUR SINCE ITS SEIZURE BY RSF**

**Reporting period: November 2023 to November 2024**

### **Introduction**

In November 2023, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) captured and took control of the Sudanese Armed Force (SAF) headquarters in Zalingei, the Central Darfur capital following serious gunfights since 15 April 2023. Short-lived normalcy returned to Central Darfur following a ceasefire agreement between the conflicting parties and the local ceasefire committee until the last week of May 2023, when gunfights resumed. This continued until November 2023 when the RSF finally captured Zalingei.

Central Darfur State was captured under the command of RSF's Major General Ali Yagoup Musa who was killed during a gunfight in May 2024 in Elfashir, the North Darfur capital. Following the death of Mr. Yagoup, his deputy Mohamed Adam also known as Banjoz was immediately promoted as the Major General and appointed as the RSF command to Central Darfur.

However, since Banjoz took over his new position, Central Darfur has witnessed a deterioration in the security and human rights situation with an increase in violations such as extra judiciary killing, arbitrary arrests, and looting among others.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

#### **i. Extra Judiciary killing**

Two masked men armed with automatic guns shot and killed 17-year-old Hafiz Adam Yagoup and injured Mr. Baangie Mursal a 33-year-old during the incident in August 2023. Mr. Mursal was quickly evacuated to Zalingei Hospital in Central Darfur State for medical attention. The two victims (who are neighbors) were shot during an incident where the unknown armed men stole motorcycles right in front of Mr. Mursla's home in Zalingei. Mr. Hafiz followed the thieves and attempted to get back the motorcycles and was shot and killed in the process.

In September 2024, a group of men armed with automatic guns, attacked a family while on their way from the Kalgo area to Kobalo in Central Darfur. It is alleged that the attackers wanted to steal their property. During the attack, the victims were beaten with leather lashes and shot at resulting in the killing of Ms. Halima Adam Isa (the mother)

and injuring Mr. Abdeen Mohamed Adam Aboh. Ms. Halima was later buried at the cemetery in Kalgo village.

On 17 September 2024, at around 03:00 PM, 73-year-old Ms. Khadija Adam Mohamed Abdul Mula was shot by a group of five armed Arab men. The unfortunate incident unfolded when Ms. Hadija intervened during a disagreement between the armed group and one of her sons at their sugar cane plantation in Aorkom village located approximately 20 km South East of Zalingei in Central Darfur State. Ms. Khadija's son accused the armed group of destroying their plantation and confronted them. During the scuffle, Ms. Khadija intervened and was shot in the chest. She was taken to Zalingei Hospital but was pronounced dead 30 minutes after her arrival. She was buried at the cemetery in Almuzafeen neighborhood in Zalingei. The five armed men were later arrested and handed over to RSF.

Sometime in October 2024, at around 10:00 pm, two unknown armed men shot and killed 27-year-old Mr. Abdul Salam Ishaq a resident of Rotingaz IDP camp in Central Darfur. Mr. Abdul Salam was shot in the chest near a local cinema.

On 26 October 2024, at around 05:00 pm, three armed Arab men raided a house belonging to 23-year-old Ms. Siadah Haroun Adam Araba in Rotingaz in Central Darfur. The armed Arab men were on their way when they saw her inside the house and raided it. They attempted to steal her mobile phone but she resisted. This agitated one of the raiders who shot several bullets in her chest killing her instantly.

On 10 September 2024, 17-year-old Anwar a resident of the Western neighborhood in Zalingei, Central Darfur State died in Zalingei Hospital as a result of the alleged torture while in detention. He was arrested on 07 September at around 8:00 pm by a group of RSF fighters and taken to the former SAF headquarters where he was detained. Mr. Anwar was later released when his family approached RSF and paid a sum of 80,000 Sudanese Pounds for his release.

## **ii. Arbitrary arrests**

On 01 September 2024, the Rapid Support Force (RSF) in Zalingei, Central Darfur arrested Mr. Salih Ahmed Salih an IDP living in Khamsa Dagaig camp. Mr. Salih was allegedly arrested for filming/documenting violations happening at the camp. He was taken to the RSF detention center located in Alfoq within Zalingei.

On 02 September 2024, a group of RSF fighters arrested Mr. Belal Ahmed Belal a 33-year-old activist from Unshalial in Central Darfur. Mr Belal was accused of collaborating with the national army (SAF) and military intelligence. He was arrested a few days after the SAF attacked the Morni area in Central Darfur. Mr. Belal remains detained incommunicado to date.

On 15 September 2024, at around 08:00 am, a group of RSF fighters in three Landcruiser vehicles arrested Mr. Saad Yassin from the International Medical Corps

(IMC) office. Mr. Saad was taken to the former national security detention center in Zalingei. The reason for his arrest remains unknown.

On 15 September 2024, in a separate incident, Mr. Abu Bakar Kasab former employee of Zalingei University was arrested by a group of RSF fighters.

On 15 September 2024, Mr. Izz Eldien, a businessman was arrested by the RSF. Mr. Izz owns several buses known as Abu Salah Travel Buses in Zalingei in Central Darfur.

On 10 August 2024, at around 04:00 pm, a group of RSF fighters driving a Toyota Hilux vehicle arrested Mr. Abdul Salam Omer Abakar commonly known as Merawi from his home in Almohafzeen neighborhood in Zalingei. Mr. Omer is a member of the Zalingei Resistance Committee. He was taken to the former national security building where he was detained. He was briefly allowed visits by family on the day of his arrest but later he was denied receiving visitors. The reasons for his arrest were never disclosed.

A group of three RSF fighters raided a local cinema located in the Alhasahisa IDP camp in Zalingei, Central Darfur. The cinema is owned by Mr. Abdul Gani Abakar Mohamed an electrician working at Zalingei University. The group moved straight to the back of the cinema where they hid and waited to arrest Mr. Abdul Gani. He was whisked away to an unknown location. Fortunately, Mr. Abdul Gani was released later that night.

On 14 October 2024, a group of RSF fighters arrested Mr. Matar Moahmed Ali, a 32-year-old member of the Coordination of National Democratic Force. Mr. Matar was arrested in front of his workplace located at the main market in Zalingei and taken to the Alfoq detention center within Zalingei.

On 05 October 2024, at around 10:00 P.m., RSF fighters driving Landcruiser vehicles raided Al Faisal local cinema located in the Kanjomia neighborhood in Zalingei, Central Darfur State. The audience was assaulted and several of them were arrested.

Mr. Faisal Abakar a club owner and Mr. Mustafa Taha a businessman who owns a small canteen at the club offering several services including mobile phone charging were arrested by RSF fighters. The two were taken to the detention center in Alfoq and released at around 01:00 P.m. of the next day. The RSF fighters also stole approximately 18 mobile phones that were charging in the canteen.

### **iii. Lotting and theft of civilian property**

On 13 September 2024, two men armed with automatic guns and riding a motorcycle raided Mr. Najem Eldien Al-Mubarak's residence in the Alhumididh neighborhood in Zalingei, Central Darfur. Mr. Najem was put at gunpoint and robbed of his produce and 11 million Sudanese Pounds. His neighbor, Mr. Mohamed Abdallah known as Gemarawi a local businessman in Zalingei got out and attempted to help Mr. Najem and he was shot and died on the spot. The two-armed men fled the scene but found an RSF checkpoint. They then opened gunfire on the RSF fighters at the checkpoint resulting in the death of one of the RSF fighters. The raiders then fled to the Tibah neighborhood. The following day, the RSF command in Central Darfur, Mr. Mohamed

Adam Banjoz accompanied by several other RSF fighters went to Taiba neighborhood and arrested several people however it is unclear whether the attackers were among those who were arrested.

On 18 September 2014, unidentified armed men raided Mr. Hamaad Abdul Basheer Mohamed's home in the Alkrank neighborhood of Zalingei with the intention of stealing. He tried to resist and he was shot in the foot.

Sometime in October 2024, two unknown gunmen men raided Mr. Awad Allah Adam Mohamed's residence in the Althura neighborhood in Zalingei. Before the war, Mr. Awadlaah worked as a teacher at Azoom High School. The unknown gunmen shot Mr. Awdallah and his son in the foot before stealing their smartphones. The victims were rescued and taken to Zalingei Hospital for medical attention.

#### **iv. Kidnap and Abductions**

On 21 October 2024, at around 11:00 am, three-armed men dressed in plain clothes known as Jalabiah abducted Mr. Gamar Eldien Ismail Abdallah Tahah from his farm located north of Azoom Valley to an unknown place. Mr. Taha an IDP is a resident of Center 7 in Alhumidiah camp of Zalingei, Central Darfur State.

#### **v. Injuring of civilians**

On 18 September 2024, an RSF fighter shot 24-year-old Ibrahim Musa Berima at Alhasahisa camp injuring his left foot. Mr. Musa is a resident of the Alwahda neighborhood in Zalingei.

On 10 September 2024, at around 09:00 P.m., Mr. Nasur Eldien Mohamed Ateem was shot by three unidentified men armed with automatic guns on the main road in the Almohafzeen neighborhood of Zalingei. Mr. Nasur is a businessman dealing in fuel in the Zalingei market, Central Darfur State. The group has been accused of carrying out several robberies within the neighborhood. Mr. Nasur was shot in the foot but because there were no functional medical facilities in Zalingei, he was transferred to Nyala Hospital in South Darfur for medical attention.

### **OTHER DEVELOPMENTS**

#### **Incidents in North Darfur State**

On 10 October 2024, Mr. Mohamed Adam Hussein also known as Lewa was shot dead at his family home in Saraf Omrah in North Darfur State.

On 24 September 2024, Four RSF fighters (two of whom were armed with automatic guns) arrested Mr. Abdul Aziz Adam Mohamed from Saraf Omrah market in North Darfur. Mr. Abdul Aziz is married to Mr. Salih Adam's daughter (a local community leader. He was arrested and taken to the former local council offices (currently occupied by RSF as their intelligence office) for interrogation. Mr. Abdul Aziz was accused of collaborating with SAF following the aerial attack on Saraf Omrah in North Darfur by SAF. He was released on 29 September 2024.

On 29 September 2024, Mr. Mustafah Salih, a 35-year-old teacher and a member of the Sudanese Teachers Association was attacked and stabbed by unknown men while leaving a pub owned by his wife in Nyala, South Darfur. Mr. Mustafah previously taught at Um Almomneen High School located in Zalingei, Central Darfur, but relocated to Nyala, South Darfur following the eruption of the war in Zalingei.

**Recommendations:**

**ACJPS calls upon the;**

- √ Sudanese authorities to uphold their international obligations under relevant regional and international treaties which Sudan ratified by immediately carrying out independent, transparent and effective investigations into the killings, arbitrary arrest and alleged torture of detainees and bring the perpetrators to book.
- √ Warring parties cease the extra judicial killing, arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention, and enforced disappearance of civilians.