



South Darfur: A rise in missing persons in Nyala amidst the Sudan war

The African Center for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) expresses deep concern about the increased cases of missing persons in Sudan amidst the ongoing conflict. This is particularly common in the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) controlled areas like South Darfur. We call upon international humanitarian organizations such as the Red Cross and others with similar mandates to intervene in the search for missing persons and pressurise the warring parties to cease the arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearance of civilians. We further call the belligerents to release all victims in their custody. For those who have died, graves must be shown to families/relatives, and bodies must be released for proper burial. The Sudanese authorities must hold perpetrators accountable through fair trials.

The phenomena of missing persons attributed to arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearance have increasingly been reported in Nyala, South Darfur, with information about the whereabouts of the victims not known. ACJPS documents the names of nine Sudanese citizens, including three displaced persons (IDPs) and two children who went missing during the period between the third week of September 2023 and the second week of January 2025 in Nyala, South Darfur.

Names of missing persons

On 11 January 2025, Mr. Abdallah Abdul Rahman Alfadi aged 40, left his home in Alwehda neighborhood in Square 1 at around 10:00 am and was heading to Elgenina bus station in Nyala. However, he went missing and has not been sighted since that fateful day.

Three male IDPs living in the Utash IDP camp have been missing since 23 December 2024. They were last seen on the street heading to Nyala town. They are;

- i. Osman Mohamed Hamed (m)
- ii. Abu Bakar Zain Alabdien (m)
- iii. Haroun Eldouma Idris (m)

On 23 December 2024, at midnight, Mr. Jalal Mukhtar was last seen leaving a local cinema in Nyala. He has been missing since then.

On 20 December 2024, Mr. Jalal Mukhar left his home in the Almatar neighborhood and headed to Nyala town when he went missing. His family has since been unable to contact or locate him, and efforts to do so have proven futile.

Balsam Sabri Mohamed Ali (f) and Abu Talib Mohamed Ali (m) (minors) the kindergarten pupils in Althura North neighborhood in Nyala were reported missing. On 29 November 2024, the children left school but never reached home.

On 27 September 2024, Mr. Abdul Rahman Alhaj left his home in the Khartoum Belil neighborhood of Nyala, South Darfur, and never returned.

Background

ACJPS has severally reported a rise in missing persons attributed to enforced disappearances since the conflict erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in April 2023. The majority of the missing persons are reported in the areas controlled by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). [According](#) to the Sudanese Group of Victims of Enforced Disappearance (SGVED) the as of April 2024, the number of disappeared persons had reached 1,140, including 27 children and 116 women. In some instances, victims have been kidnapped for ransom and their families have been extorted for their release. In other instances (majority), victims have been arbitrarily arrested on suspicion of collaborating with the opposing party and detained in unknown locations.