



A Report Documenting the Human Rights Violations in Sudan since 15 April 2023, submitted by ACJPS to the ACHPR Hybrid Joint Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan



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Acronyms

1. MI Military Intelligence
2. RSF Rapid Support forces
3. SAF Sudanese Armed Forces
4. SGBV sexual and Gender-based violence
5. UN United Nations

Introduction

The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) submits this report to the African Commission on Human People's Rights (ACHPR) Hybrid Joint Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan to provide insights into the severe human rights violations occurring in Sudan since the war began on April 15, 2023. [ACJPS](#) is a Sudanese non-profit, non-governmental organization focused on monitoring and promoting respect for human rights and legal reform in Sudan. Our vision is a Sudan where all individuals can live and thrive free from fear in a state dedicated to justice, equality, and peace. We are committed to establishing a Sudan that upholds all human rights, the rule of law, and peace, where individual rights and freedoms are respected, and where all persons and groups are guaranteed their rights to non-discrimination, equality, and justice.

ACJPS documented this report through monitors based in Sudan, who collect raw data daily and submit it to the ACJPS head office in Kampala for analysis and synthesis into evidence-based advocacy initiatives. It is a compilation of different press releases, urgent alerts, and human rights reports published by ACJPS since the eruption of the ongoing conflict.

Background of the current Sudan conflict

Gunfights between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) erupted in Khartoum on 15 April 2023 as a result of both sides failing to decapitate each other's leadership. Since then, extreme warfare has quickly spread across the country. There is overwhelming evidence that SAF, RSF, and the allied armed militias have been and are still violating the international human rights and humanitarian law in Sudan. The humanitarian crisis and human rights situation in Sudan have reached an unprecedented scale. There has been indiscriminate targeting of civilians and infrastructure by the warring parties. Almost two years into the war, the death toll continues to rise, with the remains of many victims yet to be located, collected, identified, or buried.

Several intelligence units, police forces, local militias, and some of Sudan's rebel groups from previous civil wars have taken sides in the conflict as well. Others, however, are trying to remain neutral while defending their territory, people, and supporters. Additionally, there have been allegations of involvement from neighboring countries such as Eritrea, Egypt, and Ethiopia in this war. For instance, reports suggest that the RSF hires a small number of mercenaries from across the Sahel and coerces foreign nationals in Sudan into joining the paramilitary group. Both sides have accused each other of the war's toll on civilians.

Despite efforts to end the conflict, the SAF continues to demand preconditions before participating in any negotiations to resolve the war. Civilians advocating for an end to hostilities have faced arbitrary arrests and cruel, inhumane, degrading treatment while in detention. Moreover, civilians continue to suffer at the hands of the warring parties, particularly in cities besieged by the RSF, such as El Fashir in North Darfur and Senar in Central Sudan. The visible consequences of the war, including killings, bombings, and shelling, are accompanied by violations against individuals, such as enforced disappearances, sexual violence, arbitrary arrests, and torture during detention.

The effect of the war on human rights in Sudan.

1. Extrajudicial killings

It is impossible to determine the accurate death toll in Sudan as fighting intensifies, cutting people off from places that document deaths, such as hospitals, morgues, and cemeteries. Furthermore, repeated disruptions to internet services and telecommunications have left millions unable to contact the outside world. Despite these challenges, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's Sudan Research Group estimates the death toll at over **60,000** in the Khartoum region alone during the first 14 months of the war. The study also found that 26,000 people have died directly from the violence, with starvation and disease increasingly becoming the leading causes of death reported across Sudan¹. The report further revealed that regions with a history of conflict had the highest death tolls, specifically Kordofan (80%) and Darfur (69%).

Incidents of extrajudicial killings documented

On April 18, 2023, ACJPS documented that at least 185 civilians, including 13 children, lost their lives in the Khartoum, Kordofan, and Darfur regions² when the war erupted on April 15, 2023.

In June 2023, RSF fighters opened fire on residents of the Um Hamrah neighborhood in Alobid, North Kordofan, following an incident in which three suspected thieves had been killed in the village. The deceased were accused of looting a truck in the village. Unknown to the locals, the men were affiliates of the RSF, and as a result, the RSF retaliated by shooting civilians, ultimately killing at least **20** people on the scene³.

Between October 24 and November 6, 2023, ACJPS documented the extrajudicial killings of **ten** political activists and businessmen in Nyala City, South Darfur. The victims belonged to the Fur, Tama, and Zagawa tribes and resided in the neighborhoods of Aljeer, Alnahda, South Awhada, Alryad, and Alandlus. While the public has blamed unidentified masked men, ACJPS has received reliable information that the RSF was involved in these killings, as they had previously accused the deceased of collaborating with SAF when SAF was still in control of Nyala and the 15th division. All the victims were attacked and killed in the same manner in their homes⁴.

On November 10, 2023, at around 8:00 am, a military aircraft (Antonov) belonging to the Sudanese Air Force unit under SAF aerially bombed Donki Shatta, a village located approximately 18 kilometers northeast of El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur. The incident resulted in the deaths of two female

¹'Invisible and severe' death toll of Sudan conflict revealed <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/newsevents/news/2024/invisible-and-severe-death-toll-sudan-conflict-revealed#:~:text=In%20Khartoum%20State%2C%20between%20April,the%20pre%2Dwar%2>

[Odeath%20rate.](#)

² Sudan: An urgent call for end of violent conflict between the Rapid Support Forces and Sudanese Armed Forces <https://web.acjps.org/sudan-an-urgent-call-for-end-of-violent-conflict-between-the-rapid-support-forces-and-sudanese-armed-forces/>

³Sudan: Security situation deteriorates in Kordofan region amidst a surge of armed conflict across Sudan. <https://web.acjps.org/sudan-security-situation-deteriorates-in-kordofan-region-amidst-surge-of-armed-conflict-across-sudan/>

⁴ South Darfur: Urgent call for authorities to investigate the killing of 10 political activists and businessmen in Nyala city <https://web.acjps.org/south-darfur-urgent-call-for-authorities-to-investigate-the-killing-of-10-political-activists-and-businessmen-in-nyala-city/>

residents, including a child, and injured two other children, who were later transferred to El Fasher Hospital, where they are currently receiving medical attention⁵.

Between October 23 and 25, 2023, SAF and the RSF engaged in a gunfight in Nyala city, the capital of South Darfur, resulting in the withdrawal of SAF from its base in the 16th division in Nyala and allowing the RSF to seize control of the city. ACJPS documented a total of 39 deaths from the gunfight between the two parties. The bodies of the victims remained on the main street until a youth initiative from the Al-Raig neighborhood volunteered to give them a decent burial⁶.

On December 29, 2023, the Air Force Unit of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) launched aerial attacks targeting seven neighborhoods in Nyala City, the capital of South Darfur State. This marks the third assault by the unit in the area since the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) seized the SAF headquarters, known as Division 16 in Nyala, on October 26, 2023, after the withdrawal of SAF troops, including the division commander, Major General Hussein Judawt, who was later spotted at the Wad Sayedna Military base in North Omdurman, Khartoum State. The targeted neighborhoods include those surrounding the former SAF headquarters (Division 16) and the Almatar "Airport" neighborhood, where the RSF headquarters is situated. The affected neighborhoods are Aljeer, Alsalam, and Emam, primarily inhabited by the For and Zaghawa tribes, as well as Dumaia and Almustagbal neighborhoods, which are mostly occupied by the Arab Rezigate tribe, and the Almsanie neighborhood, known as the "industrial area," which is under RSF control. The attacks significantly impacted civilians in these neighborhoods, resulting in the deaths of 30 civilians, including four children, while 22 others sustained injuries⁷.

On July 07, 2023, three residents of the Kinjumia neighborhood of Zalingei were shot dead by a group of RSF fighters and buried in one grave.

On October 2, 2023, RSF fighters shot and killed a mentally ill male civilian in the Al-Muhafzeen neighborhood, also known as "The Conservatives' neighborhood," in Zalingei, Central Darfur State. The incident occurred after all residents fled the area, leaving the deceased behind. Al-Muhafzeen is situated in Northern Zalingei, northeast of the former SAF headquarters that was taken by the RSF.

On October 10, 2023, RSF launched an attack on SAF at the Al-Hasahisa camp, resulting in the deaths of six IDPs and injuries to four others, including two women identified as Kalthoum Aldood Wadi and Amani Alnazir Wadi⁸.

On 21 October 2023, RSF shelled the Al-Hasahisa camp, resulting in the killing of two residents; Mohamed Abdallah Mohamed Yousef (m) and Abdul Monim Mustafa Salih(m).

On October 23, 2023, there was a gunfight between the warring parties, resulting in the death of Ms. Maryam Ismail Abdul Rahman and the injury of her two children.⁹

⁵ Darfur: Forty-one civilians including children killed in Donki Shatta village and Nyala city <https://web.acjps.org/darfur-forty-one-civilians-including-children-killed-in-donki>

[shatta-village-and-nyala-city/](#)

⁶ ibid

⁷ Sudan: 22 civilians killed as a result of Airstrikes by the Sudanese Army in Nyala, South Darfur <https://www.acjps.org/publications/sudan-22-civilians-killed-as-a-result-of-airstrikes-by-the-sudanese-army-in-nyala-south-darfur>

⁸ Violations against the already vulnerable population in Zalingei, Central Darfur

<https://www.acjps.org/publications/violations-against-the-already-vulnerable-population-in-zalingei-central-darfur>

⁹ supra

On 26 October 2023, SAF shelled the Thursday market in Zalingei, resulting in the death of Mr. Mohamed Jumaa and Ms. Hawa Algona Zakarya.

On 17 August 2023, an ACJPS monitor, together with nine other male IDPs, were killed by a group of RSF and allied armed Arabs in Kalma camp located in South East of Nyala in South Darfur State¹⁰.

On 10 November 2023, at around 11:00 Pm, Mr. Bushara Mko, a community and tribal leader from the Zagawa tribe in Elgenina, was shot dead at his home in the Alsalam neighborhood in Elgenina by unknown armed men. Mr. Bushara is one of the historical founding members of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)¹¹.

On 15 December 2023, the SAF Military Intelligence unit, under the supervision of SAF Battalion One

(1) deployed in Al-jazeera State, Central Sudan, arbitrarily arrested 26 male Sudanese citizens from Wad Madani City, the capital of Aljazeera State. The men were taken to the Military Intelligence (MI) detention center in Wad Madani, located next to the Military Hospital, where they were detained. The detainees were arrested from their various places of work within Wad Madani Market, where most of them run businesses such as microfinance, retail shops, electronics, mobile phones, and accessories shops, among other businesses. While in detention, the group was tortured and allegedly executed inside the MI detention center. A reliable source who demanded anonymity informed ACJPS that, for three days, the detainees were subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment, including physical abuse, as they were bleeding on various body parts. He added that they were also forbidden from talking to each other while in detention. On 18 December 2023, the detainees were allegedly executed, and their bodies were discovered in another location. The source informed ACJPS that all the 26 victims who were arrested and eventually killed originated from Darfur and Kordofan states¹².

On 22 August 2023, a group of men dressed in RSF uniform driving two vehicles raided the house of Mr. Ahmed Bargo, a 55-year-old former member of the National Congress Party (NCP) and a resident of the Alnahda neighborhood in Nyala. The group knocked on his door, and when he came to open the door, he was shot dead. They then moved to the next house and, in the same manner, killed Mr. Mohamed Abdul Kareem, a 48-year-old businessman. Both men were community leaders in the Zagawa community in Nyala¹³.

On 21 March 2024, a conflict erupted between two groups of RSF allied militia, i.e., the Rezigate (from the Maharia clan) and Messeria militia, in a Market in Forbraga town, West Darfur state. The Maharia group was accused of stealing a vehicle belonging to one of Messeria militia members from the market. This then led both parties to mobilize their members for a confrontation that quickly escalated into bloodshed. The incident resulted in the death of 11 people and injuring five others. The victims included members of the conflicting parties and some individuals who had visited the market before the outbreak of the conflict. According to a reliable source, the vehicle in question (the root cause of the conflict) was looted from Khartoum by the Messeria militia, who participated in the war in support of the Rapid

¹⁰ Sudan: The continued targeting of Internally Displaced Persons in Darfur Region
<https://www.acjps.org/publications/sudan-the-continued-targeting-of-internally-displaced-persons-in-darfur-region>

¹¹ *ibid*

¹² Al-jazeera State: 26 men arbitrarily arrested and allegedly killed by the military intelligence unit in Wad Madani <https://www.acjps.org/publications/al-jazeera-state-26-men-arbitrarily-arrested-and-allegedly-killed-by-the-military-intelligence-unit-in-wad-madani>

¹³ Shelling and a Rain of Bullets in Nyala, South Darfur <https://www.acjps.org/publications/shelling-and-a-rian-of-bullets-in-nyala-south-darfur>

Support Forces (RSF). This group took part in the looting of several properties belonging to civilians, including vehicles. These items were then transported to various markets across Sudan to be sold at low prices. For example, many vehicles in the Forbraga market were looted or stolen from Khartoum and Aljazeera, as stated by RSF and allied militias from the Maharia and Messeria tribes.

In November 2023, ACJPS acquired a 45-second video connected to a blogger named Ali (not a real name). The video was shared in a WhatsApp group called “Fasal Alkhetab,” an Arabic term loosely translated as “Discourse Chapter,” as well as in a Facebook group named Elgenina. The video depicts five young male civilians standing in a line about four meters away from three armed men dressed in Rapid Support Force (RSF) uniforms. The armed men then opened fire on the civilians, instantly killing two and injuring two others, while the remaining one survived unharmed. Despite several challenges, such as network shutdowns in Darfur, ACJPS proceeded to launch an investigation into the facts surrounding the incident. The investigation was conducted with the assistance of researchers and monitors in three areas: West Darfur, South Darfur States, and Adrie town in Chad. An eyewitness, who was hiding in Ansar Alsuna Mosque, confirmed to ACJPS that the incident occurred in the Alrasafa neighborhood of Ardamata. The incident took place on November 5, 2023, at around 8:00 am in Ardamata town, located a few kilometers from Elgenina, the capital of West Darfur. This followed the seizure and control of the SAF headquarters (Division 15) by RSF on November 4, 2023, as announced by Major Gen. Abdul Rahim Dagalo, the RSF's second-in-command. The group was accused of being members of SPLM/A, formerly led by the late Gen. Khamis Abkar, who also served as the governor of West Darfur before he was killed on June 14, 2023, in Elgenina. However, RSF denies any involvement in the gruesome incident.

Brief testimonies of extrajudicial killings

Ms. Fatimah Yahya Azraq, the mother of Mr. Amir Yagoup Burah (one of the victims who died on the spot), testified, *"My son was a brickmaker who wasn't involved in politics. We moved here two years after being displaced from Monrney. Those responsible for displacing us have now killed my son. Our tribe has been constantly targeted, but revenge belongs to Allah,"* she lamented.

Mr. Ahmed (not a real name), 30 years old and one of the survivors, testified that “ *We were stopped by a group of RSF men on Almatar, also known as Airport Street, in front of Mr. Alsadiq Mohamed's residence, which is next to Algamar, also known as Moon Pharmacy, west of Ansar Alsuna Mosque. This happened while we were fleeing from the Ardamata IDP camp, as the camp was continuously targeted and raided by RSF and allied Arab militias after the RSF captured the SAF garrison in Armata. When we were arrested, we were ordered to line up and questioned about our involvement with SPLM/SA. After a brief interrogation, one of the men said, “THIS IS YOUR DESTINY,” before firing bullets at us.*”

"About an hour after the shooting, I was taken to Ibn Sina school, where several “war prisoners” were being held, many of whom were nursing injuries. Several days later, a lieutenant officer visited the facility and asked those who wished to go to the hospital for medical attention to step forward. Along with 20 others, I was taken to the Emergency Ward at Elgenina Hospital. While at the hospital, the officers kept hurling insults at the patients, calling them Nwab and Nuna, which mean slaves. Around 7:00 Pm, when the officer had left the hospital, I managed to escape to the Althura neighborhood next to the hospital. I couldn't go far because RSF was patrolling the area. After spending seven days in the Althura

neighborhood, I moved to Ardamata, where I hid for three nights, as youth were being targeted by RSF and the allied Arab militia. As soon as I was able to relocate, I fled to Chad. However, during the journey, I was constantly stopped at checkpoints and interrogated about my tribe, political affiliation, and my destination. When I finally reached the Ardarai refugee camp, I sought medical assistance and was subsequently admitted for six days. ,” Mr. Ahmed narrated

Mr. Adam (not his real name), 26 years old, said, " *Knowing they were targeting the Masalite, I tried to explain to one of the RSF officers that I am a Tarjmawi from Bulbl Abu Jazo in South Darfur. At that*

*moment, one of the three armed men cocked his gun, shouted, “**This is your destiny,**” and began firing at us. Two of the men fell and died on the spot. The RSF officer then checked to see if any of us were still alive. When he touched me and I realized I was alive, he told me to stand up. He then asked me about my tribe, and when I told him I was from Tarjmawi, he instructed me to stand up and return home. I told him that one of the men lying down was my brother, and he allowed me to pick him up and leave. I grabbed my brother (Ali), who had been shot in the head, and moved to Azrni, located northeast of Elgenina, where my brother received medical assistance. We were too afraid to leave, so we spent weeks in Azrni before fleeing to Chad...”*

On March 16, 2024, ACJPS attempted, in vain, to access the crime scene because the RSF had established a checkpoint at the location. A reliable source informed ACJPS that one of the RSF officers appearing in the video, wearing a black face mask, was a prisoner at Ardamata prison who escaped following the outbreak of armed conflict in April 2023 and immediately joined the RSF.

ACJPS was reliably informed that the victims’ families arrived at the scene hours later but did not find the deceased's bodies. They were, however, informed that the bodies had been buried at the cemetery near Almtar Street at Sebera Airport. Another reliable source confirmed that indeed many corpses were buried at the cemetery the following day¹⁴.

A mass grave containing 17 bodies was discovered in Mellit, an area controlled by the Rapid Support Forces. It is alleged that an RSF lieutenant called Mishaal (from the Al- Zayadiya tribe) is responsible for killing 17 young men. Lieutenant Mishaal has been accused of committing several violations in Mellit for example, he was responsible for arresting a young man called Abdulrahman for having video evidence of him killing Mr. Ali Yaqoub in Elfashir. When Mr. Abdulrahman’s brother started searching for him, he, too, was arrested. The two brothers have since disappeared without a trace. Some members of the community then filed a missing person’s report with the Rapid Support Forces and disclosed that the last time the two brothers were seen was during their arrests by Lieutenant Mishaal. RSF conducted an investigation and arrested Lt. Mishaal. Following his arrest, he confessed to killing the two brothers and burying them. Another investigation was conducted into the murder case, and it was discovered that the two brothers had been murdered and buried in a mass grave. Lieutenant Mishaal later confessed to killing and burying them all, along with his assistants. This discovery has since raised tension in Mellit and may result in inter-tribal conflict within the RSF and the community¹⁵.

On August 24, 2024, at around 2:00 pm, 37-year-old Babkir Abakar Logman was shot while riding in a Tuk-Tuk with his two brothers in the Dankog area. The three men were en route to the Koja market within the Abata administration in Central Darfur State when two armed Arab men on a motorcycle opened fire on them. The assailants also robbed the brothers of their money before fleeing. Mr. Babkir later succumbed to his gunshot wounds and was buried in Dankog¹⁶.

On June 12, 2024, three businessmen from the Fur tribe in Nyala town, South Darfur were killed at their home in the West Elsalam neighborhood by three unidentified armed men wearing RSF uniforms¹⁷.

On September 16, 2024, at approximately 1:35 pm, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) Air Force Unit initiated a new series of airstrikes targeting several Rapid Support Forces (RSF) sites in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur State. The targeted locations include the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security

¹⁴ West Darfur: Rapid Support Forces accused of killing civilians in Ardamata town
<https://www.acjps.org/publications/west-darfur-rapid-support-forces-accused-of-killing-civilians-in-ardamata-town>

¹⁵ Darfur region haunted by bullets <https://www.acjps.org/publications/darfur-region-haunted-by-bullets>

¹⁶ ibid

¹⁷ ibid

building, the police offices situated in the Nyala industrial area, and the former National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) headquarters, which is currently under the control of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). These airstrikes resulted in the deaths of **18 individuals**, including **nine** detainees who were injured while attempting to escape from the National Security headquarters. Those who were injured were rescued and transported to Nyala Hospital for medical care¹⁸.

On September 11, 2024, the RSF launched a new series of attacks targeting shelters occupied by civilians (IDPs), including IDP camps, schools, and social clubs in the Kafout neighborhood of Elfashir. Emergency Room shelters were also hit during these attacks, resulting in the deaths of seven civilians, including four children, and leading to the closure of the shelter. The shelling of an IDP shelter caused the deaths of three IDPs, including two females, and injured three others¹⁹.

On September 12, 2024, there was another random shelling in the Kafout neighborhood that resulted in the death of an unidentified male civilian in front of his home.

In a separate incident, a shelling attack in the Alhawara neighborhood, just a few meters from the Kafout Emergency Room shelter, resulted in the deaths of two children who were playing outside their home.

Abusjool IDP camp was shelled by RSF, resulting in the death of 14 civilians while 30 others sustained severe injuries.

On 14 September 2024, SAF aircraft shelled several locations in Elfashir, killing at least five civilians and destroying several houses in Alazmah and Eltjania neighborhoods.

In early January 2025, SAF captured Aljazeera State and launched attacks on different groups of civilians, such as Resistance Committee Members, medical personnel, activists, farmers from agricultural camps like Alshukaba and Taibah, and youth accused of collaborating with RSF. The violations involved the killing of approximately 300 people. In Wad Madani, the capital of Aljazeera, the death toll is estimated at 150 victims, many of whom were left on the streets after being slaughtered like animals, especially in the agricultural camp known as Alknabi²⁰.

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. Mursal'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

¹⁸ South Darfur: SAF Airforce Unit launches airstrike on RSF sites in

Nyala <https://www.acjps.org/publications/south-darfur-saf-airforce-unit-launches-airstrike-on-rsf-sites-in-nyala>

¹⁹ North Darfur: An ongoing battle for the control of Elfashir
<https://www.acjps.org/publications/north-darfur-an-ongoing-battle-for-the-control-of-elfashir>

²⁰ Sudan: Civilians violated as their bodies are used to celebrate a victory by SAF and their affiliates in Aljazeera State <https://www.acjps.org/publications/sudan-civilians-violated-as-their-bodies-are-used-to-celebrate-a-victory-by-saf-and-their-affiliates-in-aljazeera-state>

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 September 17, 2024, at around 3:00 PM, 73-year-old Ms. Khadija Adam Mohamed Abdul Mula was shot by a group of five armed Arab men. The tragic incident unfolded when Ms. Khadija intervened in a disagreement between the armed group and one of her sons at their sugar cane plantation in Aorkom village, located approximately 20 km southeast of Zalingei in Central Darfur State. Ms. Khadija's son accused the armed group of destroying their plantation and confronted them. During the altercation, 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 in the cemetery of the Almuzafeen neighborhood in Zalingei. The five armed men were later arrested and handed over to the 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

Recommendations;

- Launch an independent and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding the killing of civilians and guarantee that findings are published promptly and within a clear timeframe. The findings of investigations conducted by the Sudanese authorities on previous human rights violations in Sudan have never been published.
- Officially and publicly condemn these unlawful killings of civilians. Make it clear that such acts are absolutely prohibited, and that perpetrators will be held accountable.
- Immediately put in place measures to protect civilians throughout Sudan.
- Repeal all legal provisions granting immunities to members of the Sudanese Armed Forces and other militia groups so that perpetrators are prosecuted.
- Establish a compensation fund for all the families of the victims of violation of the right to life.

2. Ethnically motivated attacks

In some parts of Sudan, particularly Darfur and Kordofan, the armed conflict took an ethnic turn between Arabs and non-Arabs. The RSF and their allied Arab militias, including the Third-Front Tamazuj, an armed group that currently controls part of the Darfur Region, have been involved in committing despicable violations against the non-Arab population with the apparent

objective of at least having them permanently leave the region, thus constituting ethnic cleansing. Some of the violations committed include; mass killings, arbitrary arrests, and torture, enforced disappearances and rape. There have also been incidents where the national army has been accused of systematically targeting Arab communities. The vice has further been escalated by political leaders who are at the forefront of

promoting hate speech against particular tribes. For example, the acting Governor of River Nile State publicly spoke against certain tribes.

Incidents of ethnically motivated attacks

ACJPS documented an ethnically motivated attack in the Ardamata locality of West Darfur targeting the Massalite people. The assault, launched by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and allied Arab militia, resulted in the seizure of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) base in Ardamata, leading to the deaths of over 800 individuals, including SAF soldiers and the Massalite people. On November 4, 2023, the Sudanese army withdrew from their base in Ardamata for the first time in more than a century. At around 10:00 am, the RSF took control of the SAF base after four days of intense gunfights between the warring factions. Other groups also participated in the conflict; for instance, the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army/Sudanese Alliance and local volunteers supported the SAF, while the Arab militias sided with the RSF. Around 1:00 pm that same day, several SAF officials, including seven high-ranking officers, evacuated from the base and relocated to other SAF bases in Serba and Kulubs, while others crossed into neighboring Chad, possibly through an arrangement with the RSF, since they exited towards the east, where the RSF had a significant presence. Previously, the SAF had targeted at least five neighborhoods in Elgenina, predominantly inhabited by Arabs, resulting in the deaths of 15 residents and injuries to 18 others, including children. This reportedly incited a revenge attack by RSF-supported allied militias, such as the Armed Arabs and Tama Support militias, which launched severe assaults on the Ardmata neighborhood, particularly the Ardmata IDP camp where the SPLM/SA had settled after their withdrawal from Elgenina in the second week of July 2023, along with residents of the Massalite tribe.

Approximately 870 people, including soldiers, lost their lives, several others were injured, and massive destruction and loss of property during the attacks and the displacement of people to Elgenina and Chad. The attacks were also characterized by different human rights violations like looting, enforced disappearance, and sexual violence against women and girls. Ms. Sharifah (Pseudo name), a 20-year-old survivor, told ACJPS that she was raped by the attackers while fleeing from Ardamata to the Alshati neighborhood located North of Elgenina. “*They threatened to kill my baby when I first resisted...*,” she painfully added.

Reliable sources informed ACJPS that RSF captured approximately 500 people as prisoners of war and that at least 30 people from SAF were injured and transferred to Elgenina Hospital for medical attention²¹.

On October 4, 2024, at around 10:00 am, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) Air Force Unit launched an attack targeting the Alkuma weekly market in the Alkuma locality, located approximately 67 kilometers north of El Fasher in North Darfur. The Alkuma locality is predominantly inhabited by the Al-Zaydia Arab tribe and currently hosts thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who fled from El Fasher and Um Kadada due to the escalating conflict. The incident resulted in the deaths of at least 63 people, including children, while 250 others sustained injuries. Some of the injured were transferred to the Alkuma rural hospital, which has only one general doctor and a few nurses, while those with severe injuries were taken to Eldein Hospital in East Darfur, as the only other accessible and functional hospital in North Darfur, Malite Hospital, has very limited medical supplies and personnel. Meanwhile, hospitals in El Fasher are inaccessible because the city is under siege.

Mohamed Albadri Noreen, an advocate and human rights defender, told ACJPS that the reason for the attack on the Alkuma locality by SAF was to “... *punish the Arab tribes for supporting*

RSF in the

²¹ Ethnic Genocide in Ardamata in West Darfur <https://www.acjps.org/publications/ethnically-motivated-attacks-in-ardamata-locality-in-west-darfur>

ongoing armed conflict, which is very unfortunate because those who have joined the conflict have done so on their own personal a code and such decisions are not made collectively as a tribe..., ”²²

On 14 March 2024, ACJPS documented several incidents of ethnically motivated attacks²³.

On 15 December 2023, a group of six men who were heading to Wad Madani in Aljazeera State were arrested by the SAF MI unit from Aldebaga neighborhood. All six men belong to the Bani Ameer tribe in East Sudan and are workers at a bakery. Mr. Anas Mohamed Noor, one of the victims, was shot in the foot and hand during the interrogation. The group was then transferred to the military intelligence office for further questioning. They were later released with the intervention of the Bani Ameer native administration, which issued a statement demanding their release within 72 hours. Mr. Anas was quickly rushed to the British hospital for medical attention following their release. A source who preferred to remain anonymous informed ACJPS that the arrest was ethnically and politically motivated.

Since May 2023, SAF troops deployed in North State have established checkpoints throughout the state, supervised by MI officers and civilians who have joined the war. A reliable source informed ACJPS that over 500 individuals have been arrested at these checkpoints based on their ethnicity or on suspicion of collaborating with RSF, especially after having their phones searched. The most affected individuals are students and miners in areas bordering North Kordofan State, such as Hamrate Elshikh to Aldaba and Abu Hamad. Members of the Hamar and Kababish tribes are targeted because they are presumed to be affiliated with RSF. During interrogations at the checkpoints, travelers with identity cards issued from Darfur and Kordofan states are often arrested and sent to Division 19 for further questioning, typically for at least two days. Civilians from Chad and the Central African Republic are immediately arrested and taken to Division 19, where they are searched, interrogated, and detained.

Mr. Talha Seneen Madebbo, a resident of the Alamir locality, commonly known as Umbadah in Omdurman within Khartoum State, was arrested by SAF on October 6, 2023. Mr. Seneen is a businessman running an operation at the Omdurman Popular Market. A reliable source informed ACJPS that Mr. Seneen was apprehended following a report from an informant in the neighborhood who accused him of collaborating with RSF due to his affiliation with the Rezigate group. A witness told ACJPS that in November 2023, he saw Mr. Seneen inside the SAF detention center in Karri. Mr. Seneen had been previously arrested by SAF on May 27, 2023, while en route to Alnao Hospital, located in the Althurs neighborhood of Omdurman, to visit his uncle, Mr. Tahlha Mahmoud Modebbo, a former SAF brigadier. He was released six and a half hours later with the assistance of another SAF soldier who was familiar with his family.

On 02 January 2024, Mr. Ahmed (not his real name), a 22-year-old student of Education in Kasala, East Sudan, was arrested by MI officers in Kasala Market. Mr. Ahmed is originally from North Darfur and currently resides in Kasala. He runs an electronics business in the main market to support his studies. Mr. Ahmed was at his shop when he was approached by two MI officers; one appeared to be more interested in the money Mr. Ahmed had in the shop, while the other mobilized two other young men from the Rashida tribe to force him out of the shop. The perpetrators then moved with Ahmed and took him to the office of the detective police located near the office of the traffic police. As soon as they entered the office, the military intelligence (MI)officers informed the other police officers that they had arrested Mr. Ahmed on suspicion that he was a member of the RSF. During the interrogation, he was asked whether he belonged to the Rezigate or Meseria tribes, to which he responded in the negative. The

officers then threatened to imprison Mr. Ahmed if he refused to give them money. When he failed to comply, he was taken to the detention center. Mr. Ahmed was previously arrested in November 2023

²² Ethnically motivated attacks perpetrated by the Sudanese army in Darfur and Kordofan states <https://www.acjps.org/publications/ethnically-motivated-attacks-perpetrated-by-the-sudanese-army-in-darfur-and-kordofan-states>

²³ Sudan war: Arbitrary arrests, torture and ill-treatment behind closed doors <https://www.acjps.org/publications/sudan-war-arbitrary-arrest-torture-and-ill-treatment-behind-closed-doors>

while on a bus from Algadrafi to Kasala. MI officers arrested him at a checkpoint at Algebra for wearing an African-print shirt. They questioned him about RSF, his origin, and whether he had relatives in Kasala. They demanded his phone and asked him to delete some WhatsApp messages, especially comments against the Sudanese Islamic Movement. He was released six hours later.

Recommendations

We call upon the conflicting parties to end all forms of ethnic-based attacks on civilians in Aljazeera, Darfur, Kordofan, and other conflict areas. We further call upon the AU to issue a joint response to the situation in Sudan and the AU Fact-Finding Mission to investigate and report on these violations

3. Arbitrary Arrests, Prolonged and incommunicado detentions

Since the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan on April 15, 2023, between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), arbitrary arrests have become a widespread tool of repression. These arrests not only violate international law but also serve to suppress dissent, intimidate human rights defenders, and create a climate of fear within the population. Both state and non-state actors, including the SAF, RSF, and allied militias, have been implicated in these unlawful detentions, which are often accompanied by torture, denial of legal rights, and, in many cases, enforced disappearances. The following outlines some of the most notable incidents of arbitrary arrests documented by the ACJPS.

Since the outbreak of the war in Sudan in April 2023, thousands of people have been arbitrarily detained, primarily targeting human rights defenders, political activists, and civilians. While it is difficult to ascertain the exact number of arrests due to the volatile situation, a Redress report cites figures from the **Sudanese Human Rights Commission, which estimated over 5,000 arrests** across Sudan between 2023 and 2024.²⁴ As of today, this number has risen to millions.

In many instances, individuals have been detained without formal charges or trials, held incommunicado, and denied access to legal representation. The arrests are often conducted in an environment where arbitrary detention is not only tolerated but seems to be strategically used as a method of silencing critics and controlling the population. The consequences for the rule of law and fundamental human rights in Sudan are grave, as arbitrary arrests contribute to a broader pattern of human rights abuses in the country.

Although the majority of the detention centers were located in Khartoum, which was highly populated before and at the start of the war, they have now been established across various states in Sudan as the conflict continues to escalate. For instance, military bases, hotels, university hostels, and vacant or abandoned buildings have been converted into detention centers. Victims have reported that the detention centers are poorly equipped, lacking ventilation, maintaining poor hygiene, and facing shortages of food and water.

Incidents of arbitrary arrests and incommunicado detention documented

On January 11, 2023, SAF released 40 detainees from the detention center at the Karri military base in North Omdurman, Khartoum State. The victims were arrested from various locations, including checkpoints and homes, based on their ethnicity (particularly those from the Darfur and Kordofan regions) or for suspected collaboration with the RSF. While 40 detainees were

freed, at least 120 others remain in custody.

²⁴ Redress https://redress.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Sudan-Arbitrary-Detention-Report_EN-v.2.pdf

On February 23, 2024, RSF arrested Dr. Ahmed Hashim Mohamed Tahir at his home in Alfetihab Square 14, located in the Abu Sead locality of Omdurman, Khartoum State. Dr. Hashim serves as the dean of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Bahari, formerly known as Juba University, situated in Khartoum Bahari. He was previously arrested by RSF in November 2023 and allegedly subjected to physical torture during his detention. RSF has repeatedly targeted Dr. Hashim for his work as a researcher, particularly for monitoring and documenting the ongoing armed conflict in Sudan. On February 29, 2024, Dr. Hashim's father-in-law, Mr. Elfatih Osman Abdallah, an imam, was killed by a stray bullet in the same area of Alfetihab during a gunfight between RSF and SAF.

On 01 February 2024, five MI officers in Senga town in Senar State arrested Mr. Elnoor Babkir Ahmed Balah from a market in Senga. Mr. Babkir is a pharmacist by profession, was arrested for watching a video that RSF members shared on a WhatsApp group. He was severely tortured at the MI detention centre in Senga, resulting in the amputation of both his hands. He was released on 5 March 2024.

Mr. Hassan (not real name), a 55-year-old resident of Senga town in Senar State, was released by SAF. Mr. Hassan, who was arrested together with his 25-year-old son from the Senga market by MI officers on 04 January 2024, was taken to the SAF headquarters in Senga for interrogation and detention. He informed ACJPS that he was released that very day after approximately 11 hours, but his son, however, was retained for four days. *"... there were several people in the detention center of different nationalities including four Syrians and at least 80 Ethiopians..."* he testified

On 14 December 2023, Mr. Algoni Mukhtar, a businessman, was arrested by RSF. Mr. Algoni owns and operates an internet café using internet service providers from Libya and Chad since the internet service was shut down in Nyala and other towns in the Darfur region. RSF alleges that the customers use the service to send the GPS locations of RSF bases to SAF, thus arresting Mr. Algoni as the business owner and consequently suspending the operations of the cafe for three days. They then required that he obtain approval from RSF to reopen and operate.

On December 9, 2023, a group of bakery owners in Nyala's popular market were arrested by the RSF after they refused to comply with the RSF's demands to reopen their bakeries. The bakery owners had closed their businesses because they could no longer operate due to looting by RSF officers at the beginning of the armed conflict. The group remains in incommunicado detention, and no one knows their wellbeing. The bakery owners are Ismail Siddiq (m), Abu Bakat Adam (m), Mohamed Jubara (m), and Dafallah Alhaj (m).

On December 15, 2023, a group of six men heading to Wad Madani in Aljazeera State were arrested by the SAF MI unit in the Aldebaga neighborhood. All six men belong to the Bani Ameer tribe in East Sudan and work at a bakery. Mr. Anas Mohamed Noor, one of the victims, was shot in the foot and hand during the interrogation. The group was then transferred to the MI office for further questioning. They were later released after the intervention of the Bani Ameer native administration, which issued a statement demanding their release within 72 hours. Mr. Anas was quickly rushed to the British hospital for medical attention following their release. A source who preferred to remain anonymous informed ACJPS that the arrest was motivated by ethnic and political factors.

Since May 2023, SAF troops deployed in North State have established checkpoints across the region, supervised by MI officers and civilians who have joined the conflict. A reliable source informed ACJPS that over 500 individuals have been arrested at these checkpoints based on

their ethnicity and/or suspicion of collaborating with the RSF after their phones were searched. The groups most affected include students and miners in areas bordering North Kordofan State, such as Hamrate Elshikh to Aldaba and Abu Hamad. Members of the Hamar and Kababish tribes are targeted because they are presumed to be affiliated with the RSF. During interrogations at the checkpoints, travelers with Identity Cards issued from Darfur and Kordofan states are often arrested and sent to Division 19 for further questioning for at least two days. Civilians from Chad and the Central African Republic are promptly arrested and taken to Division 19, where they are searched, interrogated, and detained.

Mr. Talha Seneen Madebbo, a resident of the Alamir locality commonly known as Umbadah in Omdurman within Khartoum State, was arrested by SAF on October 6, 2023. Mr. Seneen is a businessman operating at the Omdurman Popular Market. A reliable source informed ACJPS that Mr. Seneen was apprehended following a report from an informant in the neighborhood accusing him of collaborating with RSF due to his affiliation with the Rezigate group. A witness told ACJPS that in November 2023, he saw Mr. Seneen inside the SAF detention center in Karri. Mr. Seneen was previously arrested by SAF on May 27, 2023, while on his way to Alnao Hospital in the Althurs neighborhood of Omdurman to visit his uncle, Mr. Tahlha Mahmoud Modebbo, a former SAF brigadier. He was released six and a half hours later with the assistance of another SAF soldier who knew his family.

On January 2, 2024, Mr. Ahmed (not his real name), a 22-year-old Education student in Kasala, East Sudan, was arrested by MI officers in Kasala Market. Originally from North Darfur, Mr. Ahmed currently resides in Kasala and operates an electronics business in the main market to support his studies. While at his shop, Mr. Ahmed was approached by two MI officers; one seemed more interested in the money he had in the shop, while the other called over two young men from the Rashida tribe to force him out. The perpetrators then took Mr. Ahmed to the detective police office located near the traffic police office. Upon entering, the MI officers informed the other police officers that they had arrested Mr. Ahmed on suspicion of being a member of the RSF. During interrogation, he was asked if he belonged to the Rezigate or Meseria tribes, to which he responded negatively. The officers then threatened to imprison Mr. Ahmed if he did not hand over money. When he failed to comply, he was taken to the detention center. Mr. Ahmed had previously been arrested in November 2023 while riding a bus from Algadrafi to Kasala. He was detained at a checkpoint at Algebra by MI officers for wearing an African print shirt. He was questioned about the RSF, his origins, and whether he had relatives in Kasala. They demanded his phone and instructed him to delete certain messages on WhatsApp, particularly comments against the Sudanese Islamic Movement. He was released six hours later.

On 28 August 2023, a group of MI officers arrested Mr. Khalid, a 42-year-old engineer, from a coffee shop at Alakshak market in an Arab neighborhood. While at the coffee shop, Mr. Khalid was approached by two men dressed in plain clothes. The officers questioned him about his work before forcefully removing his shirt and assaulted him before forcing him into a military vehicle (green Landcruiser) to an unknown location. *“I spent a total of five days in detention and later taken to the Attorney General’s office where I was threatened to be prosecuted for offenses if I continued writing about the war. The offenses included humiliating the military and its General Command, inciting violence, espionage, and violation of the emergency decree. I was then asked to sign a document pledging not to write about the war on social media again...,”* he narrated. *“I contracted several diseases at the detention center, but I was denied medical attention. There were several detainees, including children, but I can only recall a few, namely Habib Hasaballah, Sufian Mahjoob Salah, and Mohamad Eltijani. I was also informed by one of the soldiers that all of the detainees at the center are members or associates of RSF. I was released on 1 September 2023, at around 03:00 PM, and immediately sought medical attention. However, I still suffer from some health challenges to date ,”* he added

On 19 January 2024, Mr. Haytham Mohamed Dafallah, the Chief Editor of Almidan newspaper, together with his brother Mr. Omer Mohamed Dafallah, were arrested from their residences in East Aljerif in Khartoum by a group of RSF members. The group raided their respective residences and searched their phones and laptops before arresting them and taking them to unknown locations.

On November 13, 2023, at around 4:00 P.m., a group of soldiers from the Joint Forces in Algardarif town, Algardarif State, East Sudan, arrested Mr. Ibrahim (not his real name), a 41-year-old journalist. He is a member of the FFC. During the arrest, the soldiers threatened to kill Mr. Ibrahim, accusing him of spying for the RSF and collaborating with civilian fronts to advocate against the armed conflict. They also threatened to prosecute him and seek a life sentence for publishing false information. Mr. Ibrahim

was detained along with five other members of the resistance committees and was denied drinking water and medication for headaches despite his requests. After about 12 hours in detention, he was released.

On October 8, 2023, the SAF MI Unit arrested Mr. Qatar Mohanad Jebreel Abdallah at Port Sudan Airport in Red Sea State while he was heading to Alduha in East Sudan. Mr. Mohanad is a member of the Bani Halba tribe and formerly belonged to the National Congress Party (NCP), which supports the SAF during the ongoing conflict. According to a reliable source, the reason for his arrest is that a search uncovered a photo of his brother dressed in an RSF uniform on his phone. Mr. Mohanad's late father was one of the founders of the Islamic Movement in the Darfur region and also a leader in the NCP.

Mr. Salih Saeed, aged 55, was arrested by RSF from his home located in Aluhda in Nyala town because of his political position and for allegedly supporting SAF during the current Sudan war.

On 03 December 2023, RSF arrested Mr. Alsadate Ibrahim Burma, a 49-year-old resident of the Skaly neighborhood in Nyala, for unknown reasons. He remains in detention to this day.

The arbitrary arrest of six local gold miners in South Darfur by the RSF. These miners were detained without being given any reasons for their arrest, nor were they charged with any crime. As of the publication date, their whereabouts remain unknown, which raises significant concerns about their safety and the potential for torture or extrajudicial killing. The RSF, which has been involved in numerous human rights abuses in Darfur, seems to be targeting civilians, particularly those in resource-rich areas, in an effort to exert control over local populations. The arbitrary arrest of these miners serves as a reminder of the volatile situation in South Darfur, where the RSF is reported to employ such tactics to maintain its grip on power and suppress local resistance.

On February 15, 2024, at around 10:00 Am, three RSF officers in plain clothes, led by Assistant Lieutenant Saeed, arrested Mr. Abdul Razig Yousef, a 42-year-old resident and community leader in Alhemidiah camp. Mr. Yousef was taken into custody along with three other IDP leaders on the main street near the Popular Yard in Zalingei, Central Darfur State, while they were heading to the office of the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in Zalingei on a Tuktuk (a three-wheeled motorcycle used for public transport). The reasons for his arrest remain unclear. Mr. Yousef had previously spoken to Radio Dabaga about the worsening humanitarian situation of the IDPs.

On 28 February 2024, a group of MI officers arrested Sheikh Al-Amin Mohamed Omer Al-Amin Sofi Sheikh in Omdurman. Sheikh Al-Amin is a religious leader in Algadriah Almuqashfia masjid located in the Wad Al-Banah neighborhood in Omdurman. He was arrested shortly after the seizure of Omdurman by SAF (the town had been under the control of RSF since the outbreak of the armed conflict in April 2023). Sheikh Al-Amin had earlier published a video on social media condemning the acts of SAF, who attacked and violated his followers at the masjid after Subhi (morning prayers). The Sheikh published another video talking about the death of one of his followers who worked as a security guard at the premises. Although the cleric was silent about the perpetrators, he mentioned that the incident happened around the time SAF announced its seizure of Omdurman. On the other hand, there was a video showing two men dressed in plain armed with guns (allegedly SAF affiliates) appealing to Gen. Abdul Fatah Al-Burhan, the SAF high command, to arrest Sheikh Al-Amin or air bomb the masjid because he deserves to die. However, on 26 July 2023, while RSF was still in control of

the area, some RSF officers visited and filmed a video at the Mosque and published it on social media.

On 02 February 2024, nine Sudanese men were arbitrarily arrested by the RSF and allied militias in Arzin, West Darfur. These men were accused of supporting the SAF, a charge that was never substantiated by any evidence. During their detention, the men were subjected to severe torture, and none of them were afforded legal protections or access to a fair trial. This incident highlights the extent to which the RSF and allied militias are willing to engage in human rights abuses to punish perceived opposition.

Arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders and humanitarian workers

Mr. Adam Hassan, a 28-year-old teacher in an IDP camp and human rights defender, was arrested by a group of RSF members on 05 November 2023 in Zalingi city in Central Darfur State. Mr. Adam was arrested from the main street near Morain local market in Zalingi. He was then transferred to Alfong detention center in Zalingi for interrogation.

Mr. Mohamad Ibrahim Osman was arrested by a group of ten RSF members led by Major Ahmed Dahab at about 5:30 am from his home in the Althura neighborhood in Zalingi on November 6, 2023. Mr. Osman is a 49-year-old high school teacher who was accused of working with and collaborating with the Sudanese Army. He was taken to the RSF base in Alfong in Zalingi, where he is currently detained.

Mr. Naj Eldien Alzubir Khamis, a 45-year-old human rights defender, was arrested by a group of RSF officers on October 9, 2023, on the main street in Aldbkar, next to the Zalingi popular Court in the Almuhafzeen neighborhood of Zalingi town. He was also transferred to the Alfong detention center, where he is currently detained.

Mr. Almahi Musa Ahmed Bosh, a 29-year-old human rights defender, was arrested by a group of RSF members driving three military vehicles on 10 October 2023 while on his way from Zalingi market to Alhasahisa IDP camp. Mr. Bosh was then transferred to the RSF detention center located in the Zalingi Eastern neighborhood. The said detention center was previously a Sudanese Army Base that was seized by RSF.

ACJPS documented testimonies from a human rights activist who was detained in March 2024 for one day without contact with her family or lawyer, accused of supporting anti-war activities. Ms. Saham, a 44-year-old mother, was detained along with her 3-year-old daughter by the RSF in April 2024. After being held in a detention facility for a month, she was transferred to another location where she witnessed the torture and rape of other detainees. Ms. Laila, a 48-year-old activist, was arrested in May 2024 and held for eight days without charges. During her detention, she faced verbal abuse and threats.

In South Darfur, on 31 August 2024, a humanitarian worker, Mr. Alfatih Ali, was arbitrarily arrested by the RSF in Nyala. Mr. Ali, who had been providing vital humanitarian assistance in a region devastated by the conflict, was detained without charge and denied access to his family or legal counsel. His family faced significant challenges in attempting to locate him, and his fate remained uncertain for a period of time following his arrest. Humanitarian workers have increasingly been targeted for arrest by armed groups, who perceive them as threats to their control over local populations.

Recommendations:

ACJPS strongly urges the following measures:

- The perpetrators must guarantee the safety and well-being of all detainees, grant them immediate and unequivocal access to their lawyers, family members, and medical services, and release them without valid legal charges consistent with international standards.
- Order their immediate release if there are no valid legal charges that comply with international law and standards. If such charges do exist, take them promptly before an impartial, independent, and competent tribunal while ensuring their procedural rights

are guaranteed at all times.

4. Torture, inhumane and degrading treatment of detainees

There are allegations of torture of detainees in these detention centers by both the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). It has severally been reported that some detainees have died as a result of the alleged torture.

Incidents of torture in detention centres

Mr. Alnoor, a male Sudanese citizen aged 34 years old and a resident of the Almamura neighborhood in Khartoum, fled the area together with his family and moved to Wad Madani in Aljazeera State to live with his relatives because of the armed conflict in Khartoum. On 9 May 2023, Mr. Alnoor, together with his friend, returned to Amamura to check on their house. However, when they reached the building, they noticed that the entire flat was occupied by RSF. Unfortunately, they were arrested before they could access their homes, questioned about why they were there, and asked to present their identification documents, to which they complied. However, things took a turn for the worse when the group attempted to cut off Mr. Alnoor's dreadlocks, and he resisted. The group started beating the duo with lashes while another soldier was shooting in the air. They then tied him up, put him in one of their land cruiser vehicles, and forced him to take them to his home. When they reached the premises, they shot at the locks, forcefully entered, and searched the house before asking Mr. Alnoor whether he had a vehicle. Mr. Alnoor answered in the negative, and the group took him to a house in Almamura (RSF temporary detention center) where he was beaten with leather lashes, verbally abused, and his hair cut off. Mr. Alnoor spent the day in detention, and the following day, he was transferred to another detention center in Sports Town, Khartoum, where he found other detainees. It is alleged that the detainees were beaten on a daily basis. Mr. Alnoor told ACJPS that one of the detainees started passing blood while urinating as a result of the torture. On 16 May 2023, Mr. Alnoor was released after he turned down RSF's request to join the forces. On 17 June 2023, SAF aircraft attacked Sports Town and the surrounding areas, but there is no information about what happened to the detainees or their whereabouts²⁵.

On 6 July 2023, at around 09:00 am, a group of SAF soldiers raided the home of Mr. Ahmed (not his real name). Mr. Ahmed is a teacher at Algabas School, located in the Alnhada neighborhood in Nyala. *"I was threatened with guns, and they forcefully entered and searched my house. I was then masked and taken to SAF headquarters in division 16. While in detention, I was beaten on the head and back. I spent 12 days in a small 1x1 meter room without windows. I was then transferred to a mosque where I spent more than eight days, after which an officer with the rank of Captain came and informed the other officers that he did not find my name on any of the lists of the forces i.e, RSF, SAF, Police Forces and National Security and ordered for my immediate release"*, stated Mr. Ahmed.

On 03 September 2023, Mr. Mohammed (not his real name), a motorcycle rider, was abducted by RSF. While in detention, Mr. Mohammed was beaten with guns, hanged facing down, and electrocuted for 10 days. He was later released but was unconscious. He is currently unable to sit, talk, or move his fingers as a result of the torture. In August, Mr. Mohammed was arrested and released three times, and on all occasions, he was accused of spying for SAF.

On August 23, 2023, Mr. Hassan (not his real name), a 48-year-old businessman and resident of the South Alwhda neighborhood, was arrested by the RSF while hawking his goods near the Tulus bus station at Alandlus market in Nyala. He was taken to the RSF office within the market, where he was detained for three days without food or water, and then transferred to the former National Security building (an RSF detention center), where he was held with others for six more days before his release. Unfortunately, after his return, all of his goods were missing.

²⁵ Increase in the number of missing persons and allegations of torture amidst a surge of armed conflict in Sudan <https://web.acjps.org/increase-in-numbers-of-missing-persons-and-allegations-of-torture-amidst-a-surge-of-armed-conflict-in-sudan/>

On 27 July 2023, Mr. Mustafa (not real name), a 45-year-old businessman, was arrested from his home in the Alwadi East neighborhood in Nyala after he had returned from RSF headquarters, where he had gone to make a complaint about the RSF harassing people and that the community had rejected the checkpoint created by RSF in the neighborhood. The RSF officers promised to follow-up with the issues. However, at around 06:00 pm, after he had returned to his house, a group of RSF officers climbed his wall fence, accessed the house, and beat Mr. Mustafa on the face with gun butts in front of his family. They then tied his hands, masked his face, and took him to a detention center where he was detained in one room with 20 other detainees. The following day, he was interrogated about the complaints he made against the RSF members and accused him of working for National security. He was also beaten with electric wires and forced to confess that he works for National security. After 14 days in detention, he was released. He informed ACJPS of the poor living situation in detention centers, that is, a large number of people in one room with no washrooms and one meal a day in the afternoon.

On 16 June 2023, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Badri, a father of five (05) girls and a member of the Arabic Baath Party, was arrested by SAF in Khartoum. Mr. Badri was arrested by the SAF Military Intelligence (MI) Unit from the Hatab area in Khartoum Bahari during a gunfight between SAF and RSF and taken to a SAF base in Hatab, where he was detained. While in detention, Mr. Badri was allegedly tortured as he was shot in the stomach and his foot and denied access to medical attention. He unfortunately succumbed to the injuries on 17 September 2023, but news about his death only circulated on 22 January 2024²⁶.

Mr. Khalid (not real name), a 60-year-old blacksmith from Omdurman, one of the 40 detainees who was released by SAF, testified to ACJPS that *“...on 30 December 2023, at around 09:30 pm while I was in my front yard on a phone call with a colleague, a group of three SAF soldiers armed with automatic guns and wooden sticks approached and interrogated me about the call. Not satisfied with my response, they forcefully got my phone, searched through different Applications such as WhatsApp and accused me of supporting RSF. I was then ordered to enter inside the house where my wife and three daughters were. They kept me in one of the rooms as they searched the rest of the house. I was then taken to a house that had been turned into a detention center within Omdurman, where I was interrogated by a SAF officer dressed in plain clothes. I stayed in that detention center for two days before being transferred to another center in Karri SAF military base for 11 more days. While in detention (at both detention centers) I was beaten using water pipes and wooden sticks. ,”*

He also added that the detention center comprised three small rooms measuring 8x4.5 meters and that there were approximately 188 detainees, including four Nigerians detained in one room, one RSF officer detained alone in another room, and members of the Sudanese Police Forces and National Security in the third room. There was food scarcity, and the detainees were given two meals a day (in the morning and evening), i.e., a few slices of bread, "Dal" or beans, given to groups of 10 detainees, leaving many detainees to only tap water. The detention centers were infested with lice due to poor hygiene. Several days later, an officer who was referred to as a “legal advisor” visited the detention center, interrogated the detainees, and consequently released several detainees. *“During the time I spent in detention, at least nine detainees died as a result of torture and untreated chronic illnesses like kidney failure, and other detainees were ordered to bury the bodies in a grave within the base. On the day of our release, myself and 21 others were put in a van and driven out of Karri base to the main road and left to find our way home without phones and other personal effects such as shoes ,”* he added

On February 23, 2024, RSF arrested Dr. Ahmed Hashim Mohamed Tahir from his home at

Alfetihab Square 14 in the Abu Sead locality of Omdurman, Khartoum State. Dr. Hashim is the dean of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Bahari, formerly Juba University, located in Khartoum Bahari. He was previously arrested by RSF in November 2023 and allegedly subjected to physical torture during his detention. RSF has consistently targeted the academic for his work as a researcher, particularly for

²⁶ Supra

monitoring and documenting the ongoing armed conflict in Sudan. On February 29, 2024, Dr. Hashim's father-in-law, Mr. Elfatih Osman Abdallah, an imam, was killed in the same area of Alfetihab by a stray bullet during a gunfight between RSF and SAF.

On 01 February 2024, five MI officers in Senga town in Senar State arrested Mr. Elnoor Babkir Ahmed Balah, from a market in Senga. Mr. Babkir is a pharmacist by profession, and he was arrested for watching a video that RSF members shared on a WhatsApp group. He was severely tortured at the MI detention centre in Senga resulting in the amputation of both his hands. He was released on 5 March 2024.

On 12 December 2023, at around 10:00 am, while Mr. Khalid, a Tuktuk rider, was transporting goods from Almuashi market in Nyala, he was stopped by RSF officers who were patrolling near the market. The officers accused Mr. Khalid and other transporters of looting and stealing goods from the market. Although they denied the allegations, they were all arrested and taken to a detention center located at the former National Security building, where they were beaten with lashes and water pipes and forced to confess to the alleged crimes. *"When we refused to confess to the crimes, we were detained for eight days in one room and given only one meal a day and one small jerrican of water for all to share. We were released on 21 December 2023 with the intervention of my family, who approached some RSF affiliates,"* he narrated

Ms. Fatima (not her real name), an IDP residing in Utash Camp, testified to ACJPS that, *"On May 20, 2023, Ibrahim, my 42-year-old son who suffers from mental illness, left the shelter in Utash Camp to go to his uncle's home in the Aljeer neighborhood in Nyala, located approximately 8 kilometers southwest of the camp. He was arrested at a checkpoint on Congo Street by a group of RSF officers. During the body search, they discovered he was in possession of a membership card for the Sudan People's Liberation Army, led by Abdul Wahid Noor, issued in 2005. They immediately accused him of being a rebel and a SAF spy. He was then taken to a detention center in the industrial area, where he was held for five months until October 21, 2023. My son continues to suffer from intense pain in his body, especially in his ribs and eyes, but we are still seeking funds to take him to El Fashir in North Darfur for medical treatment,"* she recounted with pain.

On 11 January 2024, the ACJPS obtained a short video clip (23 seconds long) from a WhatsApp group of residents in West Darfur. The muted video shows several male civilians lying on the ground with their hands tied behind their backs. Other men dressed in plain clothes and others in RSF uniforms are seen standing around the group. A few moments into the video, one person among a group is seen lying on the ground, being beaten with a baton and kicked in the head by one of the men who were standing. ACJPS went ahead and launched an investigation into the facts surrounding the incident and discovered that the incident happened in West Darfur State in the Azrni village located approximately 15 Kilometers East of Elgenina in December 2023 at around 11:00 Am. At least eight RSF officers armed with automatic guns known as Kalashnikovs and pistols under the command of a sergeant called Suleiman Barsham were involved. They were also joined by 12 men from the Arab militia who were dressed in plain clothes, eight of whom were armed with Kalashnikovs while the other four were armed with sticks and batons. The perpetrators subjected the group of nine adult men to physical torture as they were beaten with sticks and gun butts on different body parts whilst their hands were tied behind their backs as they lay on the ground on their bellies. The group spent at least 7 hours in that position and were later released after the intervention of the Native Administration of both Gimer and Messeria Jebal tribes. All nine of the victims are tricycle (tuk-tuk) riders dealing in the transportation of goods and people in rural areas. They were arrested while heading to the Azrni weekly market at a checkpoint

established by RSF. Although a total of six passengers were also arrested on that fateful day, they were released unharmed²⁷.

On 06 January 2024, the Military Intelligence Unit in Al-damazin, Blue Nile arrested Mr. Jamal Awad, a human rights defender and an advocate offering legal aid services to victims of arbitrary arrests. Mr. Awad was arrested while he had gone to interview victims of arbitrary arrests including Mr. Baha and taken to the MI base in Shamar where he was detained. Mr. Awad was allegedly tortured while in detention as he was beaten with gun butts and sustained several injuries. He was transferred to the Chinese Hospital in Al-damazin for medical attention²⁸.

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 needed²⁹.

Recommendations:

- Warring parties must cease the use of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment of detainees, as stipulated in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UN CAT) ratified by Sudan.
- The authorities should conduct an effective investigation into the allegations of ill-treatment and torture. This investigation should be thorough and impartial, aiming to identify and hold the perpetrators accountable.
- Sudanese authorities to adopt a comprehensive reform process to ensure legislation adequately defines torture along with appropriate punishments in line with international standards, provide effective access to justice and adequate reparation to victims of torture and ensure impartial and thorough investigations of allegations of torture and ill-treatment by state authorities
- Authorities should expressly denounce the use of torture by state authorities to intimidate or extract confessions from persons in their custody.
- Authorities ought to offer compensation and provide access to free rehabilitation services for victims of torture.

5. Kidnap, Abductions and human trafficking

Abductions in Sudan have become a critical and escalating concern, especially since the outbreak of war in April 2023. Both the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have

²⁷ West Darfur: Nine Sudanese men arbitrarily arrested and tortured by RSF and allied militia in Arzin <https://www.acjps.org/publications/west-darfur-nine-sudanese-men-arbitrarily-arrested-and-tortured-by-rsf-and-allied-militia-in-arzin>

²⁸ Sudan: Seven human rights defenders and activists arrested, detained, and allegedly tortured by the SAF Military Intelligence Unit in the Blue Nile Region

<https://www.acjps.org/publications/sudan-seven-human-rights-defenders-and-activists-arrested-detained-and-allegedly-tortured-by-the-saf-military-intelligence-unit-in-the-blue-nile-region>

²⁹ Sudan: A female human rights advocate abducted and tortured by unknown men in Karima town in Northern Sudan

<https://www.acjps.org/publications/sudan-a-female-human-rights-advocate-abducted-and-tortured-by-an-unknown-men-in-karima-town-in-northern-state>

employed abduction as a tactic to control populations, punish perceived enemies, and exploit women and children. These abductions frequently result in further violations of human rights, including sexual violence, forced labor, and the use of victims as human shields. ACJPS's documentation of abductions, particularly in Darfur, South Darfur, and other conflict zones, provides a grim depiction of the extent of these crimes. The abductions are often executed for ransom, political leverage, or to recruit fighters. In some instances, abductees have endured torture, and even execution. The situation is especially dire for women and girls, who face an increased risk of abduction and sexual violence.

Since the war erupted, abductions have evolved into a new form of trafficking. Both the SAF and the RSF have employed or recruited child soldiers, including those forcibly recruited, most of whom are victims of abductions who are trafficked. On the other hand, the government has also significantly scaled back its anti-trafficking efforts due to the conflict. The SAF commander is considered the head of the armed forces and the de facto head of state. The government has not investigated or prosecuted any cases of human trafficking, nor has it held any officials accountable for the forced recruitment or use of child soldiers. Additionally, the government has failed to report any measures to identify or protect trafficking victims. For the fifth consecutive year, it has not disseminated or implemented standard operating procedures for victim identification and referral for child trafficking victims. The government has also halted previous initiatives aimed at informing and educating the public about trafficking in persons. There has been a sharp increase in the abduction of women and children in conflict zones, with reports indicating that 69 individuals have been abducted and subjected to various forms of violence, including rape and sexual slavery. This report illustrates how abductions have

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 the Alhumidiah camp of Zalingei, Central Darfur State.

The lack of legal protection and accountability for these crimes has further entrenched the suffering of women and girls in conflict areas. These cases are part of a broader pattern where sexual violence is used systematically as part of the armed conflict. The practice of abducting women and girls for sexual slavery has become widespread, particularly in Darfur. ACJPS's report discusses how the war has exacerbated this issue, with women and girls being abducted, forced into sexual slavery, and sometimes sold to armed groups. This form of sexual violence is part of the strategic use of sexual exploitation during wartime, designed to terrorize and destabilize civilian populations.

The abduction of human rights advocates and activists has become an increasingly alarming issue in Sudan. On 28 October 2024,³⁰ ACJPS published a report highlighting how activists, especially women, are targeted for their work. The reported abduction and torture of a female human rights defender show the growing risks faced by those who speak out against human rights abuses during the conflict.

A recurring issue across all reports is the lack of accountability for perpetrators of abductions. In many cases, armed groups operating in Sudan are able to carry out abductions with little to no consequences. The absence of a functioning legal system, particularly in conflict zones like Darfur and South Darfur, makes it difficult to prosecute those responsible for these crimes.

- Sudanese authorities must take immediate action to investigate all reported abductions, particularly those involving women and children. Perpetrators must be identified and prosecuted in accordance with international law. This includes holding armed groups accountable for the systematic use of abductions and sexual violence

³⁰ <https://www.acjps.org/publications/sudan-a-female-human-rights-advocate-abducted-and-tortured-by-an-unknown-men-in-karima-town-in-northern-state> (10/28/2024)

- Sudan must prioritize the protection of women and children, especially in conflict zones. This includes creating safe spaces for displaced persons, offering legal protection, and ensuring that vulnerable individuals are not subjected to abduction or sexual violence.
- The international community, including the African Union and the United Nations, must increase efforts to monitor abduction cases and provide technical support to Sudan's judicial system. International bodies must also ensure that Sudan upholds its obligations under international law and human rights conventions.
- Victims of abductions, including survivors of sexual slavery, must receive immediate psychological, legal, and medical support. This includes providing access to safe shelters, healthcare services, and legal recourse for victims of sexual violence.
- The Sudanese authorities and international organizations must work together to raise awareness of the issue of abductions and sexual violence in Sudan. Public advocacy campaigns should be launched to educate communities about the risks of abduction and the resources available to survivors.

The rise in missing persons attributed to enforced disappearances

The issue of missing persons and enforced disappearances in Sudan has worsened since the outbreak of war. As of January 2025, ACJPS is still documenting and monitoring the increasing cases of missing persons attributed to enforced disappearances, particularly in areas where fighting has intensified, such as Darfur. The rise in missing persons is directly linked to the escalating violence, arbitrary detentions, abductions, and enforced disappearances employed by both factions as tactics of war. As of January 2025, there has been a substantial increase in the number of missing persons, reaching into the thousands.

There is a new trend of forced disappearances across Sudan, particularly in areas such as Khartoum, West and Central Darfur, River Nile, White Nile, and Gedaref states. Many of these incidents involve civilians who are detained on suspicion of supporting opposing forces or because of their ethnic or political affiliations. The lack of transparency surrounding these disappearances, coupled with the impunity for those responsible, worsens the situation.

Since the outbreak of war in Sudan on 15 April 2023, mass graves have become alarming indicators of enforced disappearances committed across the country. Reports from human rights organizations, including the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) and the United Nations, have documented the discovery of several mass graves, particularly in Darfur and Khartoum, where bodies of civilians, including women and children, have been found. In El Geneina, West Darfur, a UN report from July 2023 confirmed the existence of a mass grave containing at least 87 bodies, while additional graves have since been found in the area, allegedly linked to targeted ethnic killings. ACJPS recorded at least 1,100 cases of enforced disappearances as of January 2025, many involving activists, journalists, aid workers, and civilians suspected of opposing the warring factions. Women and children have been particularly vulnerable, with many abducted and subjected to sexual violence, slavery, or forced recruitment.

Enforced disappearances have disproportionately affected women and children, who are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and exploitation. Women and children are often detained in conditions that are not suitable for their age or health, subjected to torture, and deprived of basic necessities. A striking case documented by ACJPS involved a 44-year-old

woman named Saham- not her real name, who, along with her three-year-old daughter, was detained for over two months by the Rapid Support Forces in 2024. Saham's case was a rare example of a woman who was spared physical violence due to her perceived connection to the United Nations, while many others were subjected to torture and sexual violence.

Many detainees, including women and children, are held in secret or makeshift detention centers, where they endure inhumane conditions. Detailed accounts from survivors of enforced disappearances describe being held in overcrowded, unsanitary environments, sometimes for months, without any legal recourse. These unofficial detention sites are often situated in remote areas, making it challenging for families to find their loved ones.

Refugees and Migrants at Risk: The war in Sudan has forced millions to flee, with a significant number seeking asylum in neighboring countries. However, migrants, particularly women and children, face vulnerability to abductions, trafficking, and enforced disappearances during their journey. Sudanese refugees are detained under harsh conditions in countries like Egypt, where women and children are subjected to forced returns, arbitrary detention, and disappearances. Testimonies from Sudanese refugees, including those recorded by Amnesty International, have highlighted cases of enforced disappearances at border points, where security forces arrest refugees and hold them incommunicado.

Incidents of missing persons attributed to arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances

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.

ACJPS obtained the names of at least 91 people who went missing in 2023 in Khartoum.

1. Abdeen Salah Youssef (m) from Alazhari neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 18th April, 2023
2. Abdul Gadir Bala (m) from Industrial Area neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Went missing on 15th April, 2023
3. Abdul Gadir Mohamed Abdul Gadir (m) from an area around SAF headquarters in Central Khartoum. Went missing on 15th April, 2023.
4. Abdul Rahim Bakhit Abdul Rahim (m) from East Nile neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Went missing on 26th April, 2023
5. Abdul Rahim Bakhit (m) from Omdurman. Went missing on 27th April, 2023.
6. Abdulla Osman Abdullah (m) from Alduom East neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 15th April, 2023

7. Abdullah Ismail (m) from Alryad Alhuria neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 29th April, 2023
8. Abu Bakar Mohamed Osman (m) from Alnuzha neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 21st April, 2023

9. Adam Bakhit Mohamed Fad Allah from Alshiglah neighborhood in Omdurman. Went missing on 15th April, 2023
10. Adam Jamal Eldien (m) from Jabrah neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 28th April, 2023
11. Adil Alagib Farah (m). Went missing on 15th April, 2023 from Khartoum International Airport
12. Adil Salah Sharaf Eldien Suleiman (m) from Almanshia neighborhood in Khartoum. Went Missing on 21st April, 2023
13. Ahmed Zachariah Aldood (m). Went missing on 15th April, 2023 from Khartoum International Airport.
14. Ali Mohamed Ali Tarar (m) from Khartoum. Went missing on 29th April, 2023
15. Ali Omer Tuto Kafi (m) from Khartoum. Went missing on 20th April, 2023
16. Aljazuli Osman Fageer (m) from Al-haj Youssef neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Went missing on 29th April, 2023
17. Almahadi Ahmed Almahadi (m) went missing on 28th April, 2023 from Central Khartoum Market
18. Almudathier Suliman Adam (m) from Althura, Square 7 in Omdurman. Went missing on 18th April, 2023
19. Alnoor AL Bashir Alskekh (m) from Karari neighborhood in Omdurman. Went missing on 16th April, 2023
20. Alwathiq Abu Damir Mohamed (m) from East Nile neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Went missing on 23rd April, 2023
21. Amaal Abadi Aldaw (f) from Althura neighborhood in Omdurman. Went missing on 20th April, 2023
22. Awad Mohamed kHalifa (m) from Air Port Street in Khartoum. Went missing on 15th April, 2023
23. Ayoum James Manyol Arul (m) from Algadsia neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 19th April, 2023
24. Azil Awad Aljazuli (m) from Alamarat neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 20th April, 2023
25. Badur Eldien Abdullah (m) from East Nile neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Went missing on 23rd April, 2023
26. Bashir Ismail Ahmed Elyas (m) from Almualim neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 15th April, 2023
27. Dahab Ali Abdul Aziz (m) from Aabic Market in Khartoum. Went missing on 16th April, 2023
28. Doud Musa Mohamed Ibrahim (m) from Khartoum. Went missing on 15th April, 2023
29. Elteyeb Mutwakil (m) from Khartoum Bahari. Went missing on 20th April, 2023
30. Esam Eldien Adam Isa (m) from Omdurman. Went missing on 28th April, 2023.
31. Faris Abdul Hameed bahar (m) from Aljrafa neighborhood in Omdurman. Went missing on 15th April, 2023
32. Farooq Zahir (m) from 60th Street in Arkawet neighborhood, Khartoum. Went missing on 15th April, 2023
33. Hamam Abdullah Al-Mubarak (m) from Kafori neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 15th April, 2023
34. Hashiem Mohamed Alaskan (m) from Khartoum. Went missing on 15th April, 2023 and was last seen near SAF club in Khartoum
35. Hassan Mohamed Adam (m) from Alsaahafa neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 15th April, 2023
36. Ibrahim Abdul Kareem Ahmed (m) from Burri neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 16th April, 2023
37. Ibrahim babakir Ibrahim (m) from Khartoum. Went missing on 15th April, 2023

38. Ibrahim Babkir (m) from Khartoum ii neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 20th April, 2023
39. Ibrahim Fakhar Eldien awad salih (m) from Alryaad neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 30thApril, 2023

40. Ibrahim Humida Agabeen (m) from Alfetihab neighborhood in Omdurman. Went missing on 24th April, 2023
41. Ismail Abbas (m). He went missing on 15th April, 2023
42. Ismail Abdul gadir Aljali (m). He went missing on 24th April, 2023
43. Jafar Sulfab Mohamed Sulfab (m) from Aldroshab neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Went missing on 20th April, 2023
44. Khalid Muzaz Saad Ibarhim (m) from Alamarta neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 20th April, 2023
45. Mahmoud Munstaris (m). He went missing on 21st April, 2023
46. Mamdoh Jamal Mohamed Ahmed (m) from Burri neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Went missing on 16th April, 2023
47. Maysoun Mahjoob Mohamed (f) from Hai Adobate neighborhood in Omdurman. She has been missing since 4th April, 2023
48. Mazin Ahmed Hassan (m) from Alhalfaia neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Has been missing since 15th April, 2023
49. Mazin Taha (m) from Jabara neighborhood in Khartoum. He went missing on 15th April, 2023
50. Mohamed Abu Bakar Hamada (m) from Arkawet neighborhood in Khartoum. He went missing on 19th April, 2023
51. Mohamed Adam Ibrahim Alhaje (m) from Alamir (Umbada) neighborhood in Omdurman. He went missing on 26th April, 2023
52. Mohamed Ahmed (m). Went missing on 20th April 2023 from Khartoum Arabic Market
53. Mohamed Alhadi Isa Obid (m) from Eldom East neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 20th April, 2023
54. Mohamed Alhaj Mohamed (m) from Jabraah neighborhood in Khartoum. He has been missing since 16th April, 2023
55. Mohamed Alhashimi Atif (m) from Shambat neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. He went missing on 16th April, 2023
56. Mohamed Bashir Mukhtar (m) from Alengaz neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 25th April, 2023
57. Mohamed Bashir Mukhtar Abakar (m) from Alengaz neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 25th April, 2023
58. Mohamed Elyas Hameed (m) from Alkalakla neighborhood in South Khartoum. Went missing on 15th April, 2023
59. Mohamed Fadlaah Alamin (m) was last seen 15th April, 2023 from SAF headquarters square in Khartoum
60. Mohamed Fadul Allah Alamin (m) was last seen on 14th April, 2023 near SAF headquarters in Khartoum
61. Mohamed Haneef Allah (m) from Alhuria neighborhood in Khartoum. He has been missing since 19th April, 2023
62. Mohamed Hasan hashem (m). Went missing on 15th April, 2023 at Sudanese Army Forces Club neighborhood in Khartoum
63. Mohamed Hassan Mohamed Alneam (m) was last seen on 15th April, 2023 at Khartoum International Airport
64. Mohamed Hassan Mohamed Nameem (m) has been missing since 15th April, 2023 and was last seen at Khartoum International Airport
65. Mohanad Mahamoud Zain (m) from Alfetihab neighborhood in Omdurman. Has been missing since 24th April, 2023
66. Muhi Eldien Bashir Abdul Bagi (m) from Haj Yosef Almagoma neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Has been missing since 22nd April, 2023
67. Mujahed Shaish Eldien (m) from central Khartoum. Went missing on 15th April, 2023
68. Muneer Maki Segen Harwat (m) from Khartoum. Has been missing since 16th April,

2023

69. Murad Endook Wisk (m) from Aljereef neighborhood in Khartoum. Has been missing since 16th April, 2023
70. Murtada Abbas Eltelib (m) from East Nile neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Went missing on 16th April, 2023

71. Musab Abdullah Elteyeb (m) from Jeyad neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 15th April, 2023
72. Mustafa Gisim (m) from Alsaahafa neighborhood in Khartoum. Went missing on 17th April, 2023
73. Mustafa Mohamed Alhassan (m) from Khartoum Sport town. He went missing on 15th April, 2023
74. Muzamil Abdula Rahman Baba Allah (m) from Kafwrie neighborhood in Khartoum. Has been missing since 24th April, 2023
75. Najm Eldeen Mohamed (m) from Alryad Alhuria neighborhood in Khartoum. He has been missing since 29th April, 2023
76. Omer Abdul Raheed Hussen (m) went missing on 18th April, 2023 from Doctors Guest House in Khartoum
77. Omer Abu Bakar Alsmami (m) from East Nile neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Has been missing since 15th April, 2023
78. Omer Abu Bakar Alsmami (m) from East Nile neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Went missing on 15th April, 2023
79. Omer Alsafi Omer Nimir (m) from Alklakla neighborhood in Khartoum. Has been missing since 30th April, 2023
80. Omer Youssef Ahmed Garad (m) from Omdurman. He has been missing since 29th April, 2023
81. Qurashi Ahmed Quarshi (m) from Abu Hamah neighborhood in Khartoum. Has been missing since 17th April, 2023
82. Rwa (f) from Helat Hamad neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Went missing on 18th April, 2023
83. Saas Abdul Salam Mahmoud (m) from Khartoum ii neighborhood in Khartoum. He has been missing since 18th April, 2023
84. Saif Eldien Idris Eldoma (m) from Khartoum Bahari. Has been missing since 19th April, 2023
85. Sidiq Ismail Mohamed (m) from Omdurman. He has been missing since 23rd April, 2023
86. Tariq Mohamed Allusion(m) from Althura neighborhood in Omdurman. Has been missing since 16th April 2023 around 04:00pm
87. Wale Eldien Mohamed Ahmed (m) from Khartoum Bahari. Went missing on 18th April, 2023
88. Wali Eduen Adam Hameed (m) from Khartoum Bahari. Has been missing since 17th April, 2023
89. Yair Abdullah Ibarahim (m) from Al-Haj Youssef neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari. Has been missing since 28th April, 2023
90. Yasir Mohamed Abdullah Bakar (m) from Alhuria neighborhood in Khartoum. Has been missing since 19th April, 2023
91. Yassin Awad Hama Shuaib (m) Has been missing since 15th April, 2023 and was last seen at Arabic Market in Khartoum.

Recommendations

- Sudanese authorities must uphold their international obligations under relevant regional and international treaties that they ratified by **promptly conducting independent, transparent, and effective investigations** to determine the fate and whereabouts of all forcibly disappeared individuals.
- Sudanese authorities must release the victims immediately. Where victims are in state custody, we urge the authorities to either release them or bring them before the courts. For those who have died, we call for their graves to be shown to their families and for

their bodies to be released for proper burial.

- We urge Sudanese authorities to adopt the ICPPED as a crucial step toward preventing, and ultimately eliminating, the unacceptable practice of enforced disappearances.

- ACJPS calls for laws that grant immunity to perpetrators to be amended, detention centres and controlled sections of prisons outside the normal custodial system, where victims are frequently held incommunicado to be we call for regional and International human rights bodies to collectively and strongly demand Sudan to end all enforced disappearances and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable.
- We call for Urgent investigation on cases of enforced disappearances and prosecute those responsible.
- Civil society groups must **continue documenting cases** of enforced disappearance to ensure evidence is preserved for future accountability measures.
- There is an urgent need to provide protection and support to former victims of enforced disappearances and their families. This includes legal assistance, psychological support, and measures to ensure their safety from retaliation by perpetrators.
- The African Union and the United Nations must **enhance their monitoring efforts in Sudan**, provide technical assistance to the country's judicial system, and advocate for the prosecution of those responsible for enforced disappearances.
- The Sudanese government should cooperate with international partners to ensure the protection of displaced persons and refugees. Measures should be taken to prevent their enforced disappearance during their migration, and urgent action is needed to ensure they are not subjected to arbitrary detention or forced returns.

6. **Conflict-related sexual violence**

Since the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan, ACJPS has documented a significant rise in conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The escalation of sexual violence in the context of the conflict is deeply alarming and demands urgent international attention. The conflict has tragically transformed into a war targeting women's bodies, showing a clear pattern of SGBV. UN experts have raised concerns about the widespread use of rape and sexual violence against women and girls by the RSF in Sudan. This grim reality is evident in the distressing rise in reported cases, particularly affecting conflict-affected regions such as Darfur and Khartoum States, amongst others. Survivors, primarily women and girls, have endured brutal acts of rape, abduction, and sexual slavery. Accurately quantifying the number of SGBV cases presents a significant challenge due to the complexities of documentation amid the conflict. However, between November 13 and December 20, 2023, dozens of displaced women and girls in South Darfur were subjected to rape while leaving the camp to work or collect firewood, according to the ACJPS monitoring report.

The conflict has also worsened ethnically targeted sexual violence, particularly in El Geneina, West Darfur, where hostilities have escalated since April 24, 2023. The alliance of Arab militia groups with the RSF and Sudanese Alliance Forces with the SAF has intensified attacks against the Masalit, Zaghawa, and Fur female communities. The failure of civilian protection mechanisms, including law enforcement and healthcare services, has left survivors without medical care or legal options.

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Despite ongoing documentation efforts, survivors of SGBV face significant challenges in accessing justice, such as legal immunity for perpetrators, statutes that complicate proving rape, and entrenched societal stigma. Moreover, while gender-based violence in conflict is frequently portrayed as a crime against women, men are also targeted in ways that reinforce

dominant gender

31 The response of the UN Mechanisms to the Situation in Darfur since 15 April 2023 <https://web.acjps.org/the-response-of-the-un-mechanisms-to-the-situation-in-darfur-since-15-april-2023/>

norms, including sexual humiliation, feminization, genital mutilation, and sex-selective killings. This report provides detailed documentation of these violations, including firsthand testimonies from survivors and witnesses collected through ACJPS's extensive field network. These accounts, rigorously verified through multiple on-ground sources, offer crucial evidence of the systematic nature of these crimes, identify perpetrators, and illustrate the devastating impact on individuals, families, and communities.

Incidents of Conflict-related sexual violence

(For security reasons, pseudo-names have been used in the testimonies from victims)

In 2023, ACJPS documented an incident where seven university girls were abducted by the Sudanese Alliance Forces and sexually violated for 14 days. On 25 May 2023, Sudanese Alliance Forces created a checkpoint near Alzahra girls' hostel near Elgenina University, located west of Elgenina town. At around 10:00 pm, a group of soldiers dressed in plain clothes led by Mr. Abdallah alias Abutalateen raided the hostel that was occupied by 17 students originally from North, South, East, and Central Darfur states who had stayed and were unable to return home because of the armed conflict. The girls were divided into two groups. Ten girls stayed in the hostel while seven girls were moved to a vacant five-bedroomed house that had been abandoned by its owners in the Alnahda neighborhood. The girls who were moved to the private house in Alnahda were sexually abused from the day of their abduction. Their nude pictures/videos were recorded, and the perpetrators threatened to publish them on social media. The girls were also forced to do chores like cooking and washing clothes. On 9 June 2023, RSF launched heavy attacks in the area, forcing the Sudanese Alliance Forces to withdraw, allowing the detainees/victims (the seven girls) to escape. The group sought refuge in the house of one of the victim's relatives in Elgenina where they received medical attention. Through fundraising and donations from well-wishers, they were able to go to their respective homes. ACJPS was able to contact some survivors who narrated their traumatic experiences. All the names used in testimonies are not real to protect the victims from reprisals.

Ms. Najiah-not her real name, one of the survivors, shared with ACJPS that “...we were sexually abused from day one when they raided the hostel, and this occurred in the presence of others. We endured this every other day, even while on our menstrual periods. The perpetrators used weapons to coerce us into compliance...”

“We were subjected to physical torture, including beatings with gun butts, and I sustained injuries on the head as a result,” Ms. Fatima narrated, another survivor from the incident.

Ms. Amina- not her real name, another survivor, said she was unable to escape because there was tight security at the premises as the perpetrators were armed with automatic guns inside and around the house. She stated that one of the guards was called Idris alias Jinja (because he is slim-bodied). Additionally, the house was located in an area where there were serious gunfights between the warring parties, making it even more difficult to escape.

“Most of our phones were confiscated after the raid, and although one of us still had a phone, it was impossible to communicate with our families because telecommunication services had been shut down. We were forced to cook large amounts of food daily, and when we ran out of maize flour, we had to grind maize by hand. We were also made to stay naked to prevent our escape. Despite our pleas, we were never provided medical attention,” Ms. Miriam recalled.

ACJPS has received credible information indicating that between November 13 and December

20, 2023, at least 33 female IDPs living in Kalma camp in South Darfur experienced sexual violence outside the camp. However, this figure is believed to be higher, as many cases remain concealed due to stigma

and the collapse of institutions; for example, there are no operational police stations available to report violations. ACJPS interviewed some of the victims, who shared their harrowing experiences.

Victims' Testimonies

On 25 December 2023, at around 09:00 am, Ms. Mona, a 24-year-old resident of center 7 in Kalma IDP located East of Nyala, the capital of South Darfur State was from the camp heading to her workplace in Nyala town when she was stopped by three armed men dressed in RSF uniform at Barley Valley. She was asked to introduce herself and where she was headed. She responded and said, *"I am from Kalama camp, and I am going to work. They then got closer and pointed their guns at me, while one aggressively held my right and ordered me not to move when I tried to resist. He (the one who held my hand) then stripped off my clothes and raped me as his colleagues watched. After the despicable act, they left me lying down and walked away. I remained at the scene in severe pain until about 1:30 pm when I gathered some energy and returned to the camp where I got medical attention..."*

Ms. Huda, a 23-year-old resident of Center 8 of Kalma camp, narrated that *"on 24 December 2023, at around 04:00 P.m, I was working at a garden in Majok with two other female IDPs from Kalama camp, namely Ms. Maryam aged 34 from Center Zero, and Ms. Khadija aged 30 from Center 8. We were approached by four masked men armed with automatic guns. Two of them were dressed in RSF uniform, while the other two were dressed in plain clothes and riding on camels. They pointed their weapons at us and threatened to kill us if we did not abide by their orders. They then tied our hands with scarves and took us further into the garden, where we were raped. After the men had left, we managed to return to the camp at around 07:00 p.m., and we received medical attention..."*

On 20 December 2023, at around 05:00 P.m., Ms. Amina, aged 19, and Ms. Fatima, aged 19, both residents of Center 7 at Kalama IDP camp, testified that while they were on their way from Nyala town to the IDP camp, they were stopped by five armed men riding on Motorcycles. Three of the men were dressed in plain clothes, while the other two were dressed in RSF uniforms. The two girls were taken under a tree, where they were threatened with being killed if they resisted. The men took turns raping the girls before leaving.

On 12 December 2023, at around 10:00 am, three female residents of Kalma IDP camp, namely Ms. Zahara from Center Zero, Ms. Naima, aged 42 from Center 6, and Ms. Aisha, aged 28 from Center 6, were sexually violated. The three women left the camp to collect firewood when they were approached by four men armed and riding on motorcycles. The men were dressed in sports shirts and trousers that looked like RSF uniforms. They randomly shot in the air and immediately stepped down from the motorcycles and moved towards the women. Two of the women tried to run away, but they were caught and raped. The already frightened Ms. Zahara stayed and begged for mercy, but they fell on deaf ears because she was assaulted and also raped. The three women managed to return to the camp at around 08:00 P.m. but did not receive medical attention until three days later.

On 13 November 2023, at around 11:00 Am, Ms. Alawia aged 15 and Ms. Rashida aged 12 residents of center 4 in Kalma camp were stopped by two armed nomads riding on a camel while on their way to Labado Street located north of camp. The two girls were threatened with weapons before being sexually violated.

On 21 November 2023, ACJPS further documented 51 incidents of sexual violence against

women and girls in Zalingi and Garsilla localities in Central Darfur.³² The victims/survivors identified men dressed in the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) uniforms, allied Arab militias, and, in some cases, men in Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) uniforms as the perpetrators. Twenty-three of the incidents

³² Central Darfur: 51 women and girls sexually abused in Garsilla and Zalingi towns
<https://web.acjps.org/central-darfur-51-women-and-girls-sexually-abused-in-garsilla-and-zalingi-towns/>

involved rape, 26 were of gang rape, and three were of attempted rape.

Below are some of the incidents documented

- From May 17 to 20, 2023, ACJPS documented incidents in which three women were raped by unknown gunmen in the Garsilla locality while they went to fetch water.
- From May 5 to July 2, 2023, there were nine incidents in which women and girls were sexually assaulted in Alestsd Stadium, Alwehda, Althewra neighborhoods, and the Alhasahisa IDP camp. The survivors reported that the assailants were men dressed in RSF uniforms, while others wore plain clothes. The perpetrators were riding motorcycles and armed with automatic rifles known as “Kalashnikovs.”
- Between 15 September to 25 October 2023, a total of seven women and girls were raped in Zalingi town. Seven women, including a 12-year-old girl from Center 1 in Alhasahisa IDP camp, were raped by armed men dressed in SAF uniforms. Alhasahisa IDP camp is located approximately 1500 meters from the SAF headquarters. Showing the level of impunity and lawlessness in the country.
- After SAF had withdrawn from the area (Zalingi), RSF and affiliated armed Arab Militia accessed Alhasahisa IDP camp through Zalingi High School and a cemetery in Dodo village and raided the camp. During the raid, the attackers sexually violated 32 women and girls from centers 1,5,6, 7, and 10 within the camp. The violations occurred between the period of 29 October to 3 November 2023.
- From May 5 to July 2, 2023, there have been at least four cases of sexual harassment (improper touching of bodies) in the same neighborhoods of Zalingi, committed by the same perpetrators against women and girls found in the streets while heading to water sources or accessing other services.

ACJPS spoke to one of the survivors, Ms. Aisha (Psuedo name), a 28-years-old woman who painfully narrated her traumatic experience

“... On 29 October 2023, at about 11:00 am, while I was moving from Alhashisa IDP camp in Zalingi heading to Nyala town in South Darfur, I was stopped by two armed men; one was dressed in RSF uniform and the other in plain clothes. The men asked me where I was from and where I was headed, and I answered. They then asked me whether I was married, and I told them that I was widowed and that my husband had died last year. I was then forcefully taken to a building (that appeared to be a clinic/medical facility) where I was raped by both of them. I was also verbally abused as they called me a prostitute used by SAF soldiers. After the gruesome acts, the men left me in bad shape as I was unable to leave the premises until about 04:00 or 05:00 pm....”

The testimonies indicate that rape is a systematic practice in areas of conflict by mainly the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and bandit groups that take advantage of the chaos. All names used in this release are pseudonyms to protect victims.

Ms. Fatima, a 28-year-old victim of sexual violence, narrated that “on 20 July 2023, at about 06:00 pm while I was on my way home from my workplace, a white saloon vehicle suddenly stopped next to me and the driver who was dressed in full Rapid Support Forces (RSF) uniform offered me a ride to my destination. I thanked him but politely declined and continued walking since I was about to reach my home in the Railway neighborhood in

Nyala. While I was approaching South Darfur Police station, another vehicle stopped next to me, and the driver asked me to get in. I got into the vehicle because I thought it was probably one of my customers since he called me by my name, but after I got in, I quickly realized that I did not know/recognize him. He immediately rolled the

windows up, locked the doors, and drove towards the South Darfur State Assembly building south of Aldman Hotel. Scared for my life, I asked him where he was heading but he did not respond and continued driving to the hotel. He asked me to get out of the car, but I refused. He pulled a gun, and I immediately got out. He then took me inside the hotel to a room on the third floor. While heading to the room, I could hear screams from people in other rooms asking for help, and they sounded like they were being tortured and abused. He then left me alone in the room and returned after a while and asked me for sex but I resisted. He then started beating me into submission with a leather lash, consequently injuring my hand and back. Amidst my screams, he raped me, and this continued for all the five days that I was in his custody. On the third day, I got to know that he was called Jabir when he was talking on the phone. During the day, the perpetrator would lock me in the room, go somewhere, and return in the evening with food. On 27 July 2023, in the afternoon, I managed to escape during a gunfight between SAF and RSF as he moved out and forgot to lock the door. I later received medical attention,”

Ms. Marwa, a 25-year-old resident of the Al-Emtidad neighborhood in Nyala, South Darfur narrated that, *“On 26 June 2023, around 09:00 am, while I was on my way from home to the supermarket, three armed men wearing masks got out of a saloon car, pointed guns at me, and ordered me to get into the vehicle. Although there were some witnesses (people on the street), they did not intervene. As soon as I got into the vehicle, I was masked, and they drove off. I noticed that they did not drive far away before we they stopped. When we reached the destination, I was unmasked and noticed that we were in a church (New Testament church). I was left in the church alone for a while and later joined by one armed man dressed in plain clothes. He tried to remove my dress, but I resisted. He eventually raped me and left. After a while, another man came and interrogated me about my tribe and state of origin, among others, and he discovered that we were from the same village. He promised to protect me and help me escape. The next day at around 07:00 pm, he indeed helped me escape and took me to Ali Buhia Mosque, where I later received medical attention,”*

In another incident, on 3 December 2023, Ms. Muna, aged 20, and Ms. Amina, aged 26, residents of the Marching IDP camp located approximately 65 kilometers north of Nyala, South Darfur State, were raped by four RSF officers, while they were working in a Tobacco farm. The men who came riding on motorcycles threatened the women with guns, and each of them took turns raping the women.

In 2024, ACJPS followed up on one of the incidents documented of the rape of Amina, aged 15, and Lilia, aged 22, both residents of the Alezaa neighborhood in Nyala, South Darfur State, who were abducted on 15 August 2023, and subjected to sexual slavery. ACJPS ascertained that the kidnappers belonged to a group of robbers from the Alwadi neighborhood in Nyala, South Darfur. The men joined RSF after the outbreak of the armed conflict on 15 April 2023. The kidnappers demanded a sum of 7,000,000 Sudanese Pounds (approximately 6,520 USD) in exchange for their release. The family of the girls engaged in negotiations of the sum and mode of payment and the parties agreed on 6,000,000 Sudanese Pounds (approximately 5,357 USD). The payment of the first installment of 4,000,000 Sudanese Pounds (approximately 3,571 USD) was made through a third party in the Domaya neighborhood located approximately 10 kilometers West of Nyala town. The

balance of 2,000,000 Sudanese Pounds (approximately 1,785 USD) was later paid through a mobile money app known as Bankak (Your Bank) as instructed by the kidnappers. The girls were then released after full payment at 05:00 am the following day after 12 days. The survivors/girls testified that they were taken to a two-roomed house. They were allegedly kept in one room and not allowed to move except when going to the bathroom, and food was brought for them in the room.

On 18 August 2023, three other girls were brought to the house. *"The other room was used by the kidnappers to make phone calls to families demanding ransom and used as a brothel with both men and women coming in and out of the room. The second group of victims were not sexually abused but subjected to indecent assault,"* one of the girls added.

In another incident, on 30 September 2023,³³ the bodies of Ms. Janah Ageed, aged 22, from center 8 in Utash IDP camp in Nyala, South Darfur, and Ms. Suhair Musa, aged 18, from center 2 in Utash IDP camp in Nyala, South Darfur were found in Al-Reyad neighborhood in Nyala. The two women went missing on 27 September 2023 at about 05:00 pm while on their way to the camp from their workplace, Al-Muashi market. According to an eye witness, the two women were abducted from the main road in Al-Muashi on 27 September 2023 by two armed men dressed in RSF uniform driving a Hyundai car locally known as Click. Their families started searching for them for three days until they discovered their dead bodies with marks and bruises indicating that they were tortured.

In another testimony, Ms. Fatima, a 28-year-old victim of sexual violence, narrated that *"On 20 July 2023, at about 06:00 pm while I was on my way home from my workplace, a white saloon vehicle suddenly stopped next to me, and the driver who was dressed in full Rapid Support Forces (RSF) uniform offered me a ride to my destination. I thanked him but politely declined and continued walking since I was about to reach my home in the Railway neighborhood in Nyala. While I was approaching South Darfur Police station, another vehicle stopped next to me, and the driver asked me to get in. I got into the vehicle because I thought it was probably one of my customers since he called me by my name, but after I got in, I quickly realized that I did not know/recognize him. He immediately rolled the windows up, locked the doors, and drove towards the South Darfur State Assembly building south of Aldman Hotel. Scared for my life, I asked him where he was heading but he did not respond and continued driving to the hotel. He asked me to get out of the car, but I refused. He pulled a gun, and I immediately got out. He then took me inside the hotel to a room on the third floor. While heading to the room, I could hear screams from people in other rooms asking for help, and they sounded like they were being tortured and abused. He then left me alone in the room and returned after a while and asked me for sex, but I resisted. He then started beating me into submission with a leather lash, consequently injuring my hand and back. Amidst my screams, he rapped me, and this continued for all the five days that I was in his custody. On the third day, I got to know that he was called Jabir when he was talking on the phone. During the day, the perpetrator would lock me in the room, go somewhere, and return in the evening with food. On 27 July 2023, in the afternoon, I managed to escape during a gunfight between SAF and RSF as he moved out and forgot to lock the door. I later received medical attention,"*

Ms. Marwa, a 25-year-old resident of the Al-Emtidad neighborhood in Nyala, shared her experience as a sexual violence victim with ACJPS as follows.

"On 26 June 2023, around 09:00 am, while I was on my way from home to the supermarket, three armed men wearing masks got out of a saloon car, pointed guns at me, and ordered me to get into the vehicle. Although there were some witnesses (people on the street), they did not intervene. As soon as I got into the vehicle, I was masked, and they drove off. I noticed that they did not drive far away before we they stopped. When we reached the destination, I was unmasked and noticed that we were in a church (New Testament church). I was left in the church alone for a while and later joined by one armed man dressed in

plain clothes. He tried to remove my dress, but I resisted. He

33 Fourteen female IDPs including children sexually violated in South Darfur

<https://web.acjps.org/fourteen-female-idps-including-children-sexually-violated-in-south-darfur>

eventually raped me and left. After a while, another man came and interrogated me about my tribe and state of origin, among others, and he discovered that we were from the same village. He promised to protect me and help me escape. The next day at around 07:00 pm, he indeed helped me escape and took me to Ali Buhia Mosque, where I later received medical attention,”

ACJPS also documented several violent incidents and testimonies of 14 females, including children from Utash and Kalma IDP camps in South Darfur, who were sexually violated by men in the uniforms of RSF, Arab militia, and unidentified masked men. They are discussed below:

On 22 November 2023, Ms. Fatima (not real name) an IDP aged 17 years old and a resident of Center 2 in Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur, was in the company of two other women moving from a farm located in the Ungongah area in the East of Belil locality when they were attacked by a group of three masked men. The men had lashes and sticks and started beating them. Luckily, the other two women managed to escape, leaving Ms. Fatima. Ms. Fatima narrated, *“Left alone, I was immediately stripped naked, and one of the men held my hands so I could not fight back. Amidst screams, I was raped by all the three men. Although they were wearing masks, I recognized that they were Arabs from their accents. After they had done the despicable act, they left, but I stayed at the scene for a while before moving to the camp. I reached the camp at around 10:00 pm and immediately received medical attention because I had sustained injuries in my private parts. A few days later, I started experiencing difficulty and discomfort while passing urine,”* Ms. Fatima painfully narrated to ACJPS.

On July 7, 2023, at around 5:00 pm, eight female internally displaced persons (IDPs) aged between 17 and 21, whose identities have been concealed by ACJPS for protection, were sexually assaulted. Five of the women lived in Center 8, while the other three resided in Center 6 at the Utash camp. The women, who held various jobs such as tea vending, housework, and waitressing, often gathered in the yard in Almerikh, also known as the "Airport" neighborhood in Nyala, South Darfur State, to travel together as a group to the Utash IDP camp, located approximately 3 kilometers from the yard. On that tragic day, the women assembled and began their journey to the camp. When they reached Factory Street, they encountered a checkpoint established by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) next to the plastic gallon factory. A group of about 10 armed men dressed in RSF uniforms then forcefully stopped them. At gunpoint, the women were taken inside the factory, where they were raped.

On 4 July 2023, at around 06:00 pm at the valley located between the Alrayad neighborhood and neighborhood 17 in Nyala, South Darfur State, three armed men dressed in plain clothes stopped three women while on their way from their places of work in Almuashi market to Utash IDP camp where they resided. The women aged 23, 25, and 30 and residents of Centers 2 and 4 in Utash camp were sexually violated by the unidentified group.

On 21 May 2023, at around 10:00 am, two female IDPs from Center 3 in Utash camp in Nyala town went to a home belonging to an RSF officer in the Al-Matar/Airport neighborhood in Nyala where they worked as domestic workers. The women found the officer's wife, who had already prepared clothes that were to be washed and assigned them other house chores before heading out to the local market called Almalaga (a popular market for vegetables), located approximately one kilometer from the residence. Shortly after the officer's wife had left, two armed men dressed in RSf uniform (suspected to be guards) entered the house and

started interrogating the women, asking questions like which tribe they belonged to, and the women answered that they belonged to the Fur tribe.

“After questioning us, the men moved to one of the rooms, later returned, and asked us to have sex with them. When we resisted, one of them pulled out a knife and put it on my neck while another pointed his gun at my colleagues. Under duress, we moved to a guest room that was furnished with three single beds, a sofa, and a TV screen. We were raped and warned not to say a word about it. They also threatened to kill us if we did. After we had been violated, we resumed the house chores

before heading back to the camp, where we received medical attention,” one of the victims recollected.

In a different incident, on 26 October 2023, Ms. Hawa, a 19-year-old woman, was on her way from the AL-jeer neighborhood in Nyala, also headed to the Turkish Hospital, when she was abducted in a Toyota Hilux without a number plate from the main street. Later, the unknown abductors contacted her family and demanded they pay 22 000 000 Sudanese Pounds if she was to be released. Several eyewitnesses who saw the vehicle suspect it to belong to a group of criminal brothers who have taken advantage of the war to commit crimes. They allegedly recently got out of prison after the outbreak of the war in April 2023.

On 15 July 2023, at around 10:00 am, approximately 15 armed men in RSF uniform and others in plain clothes stopped a passenger van carrying four male and female university students in the area of Adnerw Valley, located 30 kilometers from Nyala. The students were studying in Khartoum, but after the outbreak of the war, they fled to Elfashir, and then they used the van to travel to Nyala. The male detainees were separated from the females, and later, the driver was ordered to leave with the males. The female detainees, aged between 18 and to 23-years-old, were forcefully taken to the valley and raped and later traveled to Nyala in another car. The victims later received medical care.

From May to August 2023, at least 13 women and a child living in Kalma IDP camp were sexually abused while they moved out of the camp for several reasons, including to work. The victims are from centers 4,5,6,7 and 8 within the Kalma IDP camp. The incidents happened in different locations and were perpetrated by armed men in RSF uniforms and others from the Arab militia. Out of the 13 victims, two were aged 17-years-old.

In one of the testimonies, the mother of one of the victims told ACJPS that she never imagined her daughter, Ebtisam, aged 33 years old, to be a victim of rape. With tears in her eyes, she narrated, *"On 3 August 2023, my daughter Ebtisam left the camp to go to the Italian Hospital in South Darfur for a check-up as she was suffering from heart disease and was on medication. After completing the check-up, she moved to the pharmacy of the hospital to get medicine, but it was out of service because the medicine got finished and it was never restocked because of the war. The other commercial pharmacies were also closed. She was then advised by a security officer of the hospital to consider buying the medicine from the Turkish Hospital located in the Southern direction of Nyala. Ebtisam followed his advice and went to the Turkish hospital, where she found the medication. After she purchased her medicine, she started heading back to the camp at around 03:00 pm on a tuk-tuk (motorcycle taxi). She was joined by two other male passengers who were headed to the Jabel neighborhood. When they reached in front of Yashfin Clinic, located on Aldeian Street, three armed men with masked faces in RSF uniforms suddenly appeared on the road and stopped the driver with gun threats. They asked the three passengers and the rider to step outside. After that, the three men were ordered to move ahead and not look back. I suspect that they stole the tuk-tuk. Standing there terrified, one of the armed men asked Ebtisam her name. She answered and added that she was from the hospital because she was sick. He then asked her to go to where he was standing but she refused. He loaded his automatic gun and told her that one bullet was enough to kill her if she didn't obey his orders. She had no choice but to go to him. On reaching where he was, he ordered her to keep moving ahead and enter the clinic. After that, he ordered her to enter one of the rooms labeled "doctor's room". In the room, there was a bed with a mosquito net and a desk beside two chairs. The armed man tried to forcefully remove her clothes, but she resisted. While*

Ebisam was crying and telling him that she was sick, he threatened her with his automatic gun again before raping her. After the rape, he moved out to let a second man rape her before he did the same and moved to call the third one. She was raped, including by having anal sex, which caused her heavy bleeding. The men then asked her to leave, but she was unable to walk. One of them carried her and placed her on the side of the road, where she stayed until sunset when

two women found her. The woman thought that she was injured by a bullet because of the heavy bleeding. They took her to their house located in the East Alwadi neighborhood. In the morning, they hired a tuk-tuk that brought her back home.” Ms. Ebtisam was taken to the doctor and she received treatment but the bleeding continued until she passed away on 8 August 2023. She had earlier been advised by the doctors not to engage in sexual intercourse because of the heart disease.

Ms. Alzina, a woman aged 22 years old living in center 5 of Kalma camp, told ACJPS that “On 15 July 2023, at around 10:00 am, we moved together from the camp with my friend Khalda to the garden in Magok neighborhood next to Nyala Valley to work as gardeners to plant onions and tomatoes in the garden of Mr. Abdallah (not a real name). While working, three armed men and a fourth who was holding a lash in his hand, all in RSF uniforms, appeared and asked us what we were doing. We told them that we were hired to plant onions and tomatoes. They then asked the whereabouts of the garden owner to which we responded that he had not yet come. They then sarcastically asked us whether we were not aware that there was a war going on that we moved out of our homes. We responded that we had to work to buy food and water. The one who was holding a lash responded that they were going to show us the food. He came closer and started beating us while instructing us to run towards the valley. Two of the armed men followed us until we reached the valley. One of the men held my hand and the second one held Khalda’s hand while threatening to kill us with their guns if we didn’t accept to do what they asked of us. At this moment, Khalda started crying. The one who was holding my hand sat down and asked me to sit down as well before they started raping us. After a while, one of the three armed men who remained in the garden started calling his colleagues and asking whether they had not yet finished. The one who was raping me, whose name is Jebreel, requested him to give them more time. The rape took approximately one hour before they released us and threatened to take us with them if they found us again. We returned to the camp where we received medical services”.

Forced prostitution and sexual slavery

Forced prostitution and related violations constitute crimes against humanity under Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which addresses “*violation of the dignity of the person, particularly through humiliating and degrading treatment.*” In 1949, the UN General Assembly adopted the [Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others](#). This convention supersedes several earlier conventions that addressed various aspects of forced prostitution and also encompasses other facets of prostitution. It penalizes the procurement and enticement of prostitution, as well as the maintenance of brothels.

Forced prostitution can generally be defined as the act of compelling someone to engage in one or more sexual acts with another person to obtain financial or other benefits in exchange for food, money, housing, drugs, and so on. The benefits gained from forced prostitution do not necessarily have to be received by the victim herself; they can also be received by a third party. The European Institute for Gender Equality defines forced prostitution as a form of slavery that is incompatible with the protection of human dignity and fundamental rights.

The Sudanese Criminal Code classifies sexual offenses as adultery, even if the pregnancy is a result of rape. This legal framework poses significant issues, as forced prostitution remains undefined despite amendments made in 2009.

Children born from forced prostitution and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence are the most vulnerable victims of these heinous crimes. The lack of access to healthcare for both mothers and children exacerbates their suffering. Women and girls face significant health risks, including exposure to sexually transmitted diseases like HIV and hepatitis B. Young girls are especially susceptible to forced prostitution and its related health dangers. Safe abortion is not an option

without accessible healthcare. Additionally, malnutrition and food scarcity further complicate the challenges faced by victims, pushing them into prostitution.

In Sudan now, women and girls have resorted to offering sex to soldiers and fighters in exchange for food and money due to the dire economic conditions resulting from the war (the loss of sources of income, no access to humanitarian aid, cities under siege, and restriction of movement). Victims have testified that in some cases, intimacy has turned into rape and physical or verbal abuse. One victim testified to ACJPS that “...*Sometimes the soldiers do not pay what was agreed upon before becoming intimate; instead, we are beaten, bullied, and verbally abused. I was once called a filthy whore and told that I did not even deserve a single pound...*”

Victims of forced prostitution face significant stigma from society, compounded by challenges such as unwanted pregnancy, subsequent motherhood, lack of housing, and legal recognition of their newborn.

ACJPS has monitored an increase in forced prostitution in Nyala city, South Darfur. We have tracked the existence of several houses used for the practice, involving groups of women and girls aged between 17 and 25 years. One such place began its activities early on at the beginning of the war and, to date, is still used as a brothel and a safe house for keeping abductees awaiting payment of ransom. The facility operates under the protection of RSF officers and is supervised by an RSF major.

Forced prostitution in Nyala city

The division of the city into two parts, specifically northern and southern Nyala, by the local ceasefire committee resulted in the early displacement of residents in May 2023. Those who remained in the city lived in constant fear of being targeted due to their ethnicity, profession, or political beliefs.

After the outbreak of the current war, thousands of people fled the city of Nyala, especially from the areas surrounding the SAF’s 16th Division headquarters, which the RSF captured and converted into an RSF base and detention center. The SAF has continued its attempts to reclaim their headquarters by heavily bombing the surrounding area, which further drives residents out of the city center and turns Nyala into a ghost town.

Those involved in forced prostitution have taken advantage and occupied the abandoned houses in the guise of selling food and tea to RSF fighters stationed at checkpoints and within the headquarters. These houses are brothels for forced prostitution, where pimps actively host girls and women after spotting them in markets. It is reported that sometimes, deals are made between the customer and the girl or woman at the marketplace, and upon payment, they are directed to the brothel.

Some of these houses (brothels) are located at the cinema, Jamhoria, Mazad, Imtidad and the Al Wadi neighborhoods. These houses are used for sexual slavery and the keeping of captives/abductees before payment of ransom by their families. These facilities enjoy the protection of RSF officers.

Ms. Mariam (a pseudonym), aged 26, a vendor at Al-Andalus Market in Nyala, says that prostitution has become widespread these days. She attributes this to the difficult economic situation. She adds that some women have children who need to feed and drink and that husbands are not providing, thus forcing them into prostitution. She added that selling tea no longer covers the costs of food and other necessities. Ms. Mariam continued to say that the girls go with whoever pays more money. “... *Some girls don't have work in the market,*

but they come with their friends to look for clients. Women have now formed groups, cooperating to find clients. There is no fixed amount but it is just based on agreement and usually ranges between 20,000 and 50,000 Sudanese pounds. In some cases, girls have ended up getting pregnant, especially those between the ages of 17 and 20. I know

five girls who got pregnant this way. Sometimes, the customers fail to pay and instead verbally and physically abuse the girls.”

Another witness told ACJPS that some women offer themselves to men for food and drinks instead of money. Ms. Hawa (a pseudonym), a 29-year-old vegetable vendor, said that the practice of prostitution has increased since the outbreak of the war last year. She added that some women have become so desperate that they will go with a man for very little money. She pointed out specific buildings and houses in Al-Wihda Quarter, located south of Al-Andalus, known for these activities. She revealed that she was forced into the trade due to the economic situation and that her job barely meets her family's needs. Ms. Hawa mentioned that she has four children whose father left before the war and hasn't returned. She expressed her desire to quit the trade as soon as she finds a different way to make a living.

Ms. Nadia (a pseudonym), a 45-year-old businesswoman in the business brewing and selling local liquor known as "Marisa" in the Riyadh Quarter north, said, “... before the war, I only made liquor and had regular customers who would come to my home to buy and drink the liquor. After the war, things changed, and some male customers approached me, suggesting I bring female companions to my home to spend time with them. I agreed and prepared one of the rooms with a large bed and a table for an amount between 30,000 and 50,000 Sudanese pounds, depending on the agreement and their financial capabilities. Most of the frequent visitors are thieves, RSF soldiers, and militia. I later started bringing them some women who were willing to have sex for money, usually for only 20,000 pounds or less...,”

According to Mr. Abdallah (a pseudonym), a human rights defender in Nyala, the primary motivation behind forced prostitution is the dire economic situation and the harsh living conditions. This particularly impacts married women who are forced to provide for their children or dependents. The unmarried girls aged 17 to 22 are usually lured into the trade for financial benefits.

The warring parties continue to commit various violations against the population without consequences. For example, a detainee may be subjected to sexual violence and other forms of torture in official or unofficial places of detention as long as there is a belief that those accused are “not deserving” of fair treatment. Most times such detainees end up being falsely imprisoned for prolonged periods without being charged or presented before the courts of law.

According to the Unit for Combating Violence against Women and Children under Sudan's Ministry of Social Development, 132 cases of rape were verified between April 15 and September 11, 2023. Additionally, the UN Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) independently documented 73 cases of sexual violence during this period, with evidence suggesting the systematic use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, particularly by the RSF, though assaults by SAF were also reported.

The scale and nature of these violations represent serious breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights standards. Reports from Sudanese civil society organizations indicate that survivors faced additional challenges due to the collapse of judicial and law enforcement institutions, making the documentation and prosecution of these crimes extremely difficult. The situation was further complicated by the breakdown of essential services, including healthcare facilities that would typically support survivors. This prompted multiple civil society organizations to call on the UN Human Rights Council to establish an international commission of inquiry into these violations, emphasizing the need for accountability and justice for survivors.

On February 13, 2023, at around 8:30pm, three SAF officers approached a female patient inside Al-Damazin Hospital in ³⁴Blue Nile, where she was seeking medical attention. The soldiers, dressed in plain clothes, introduced themselves as medical doctors and suggested taking the woman to a Health Insurance Clinic, claiming she would receive better medical services than at the government

³⁴ Blue Nile: Sexual assault against a female patient by SAF soldiers in Al-damizin town. <https://web.acjps.org/blue-nile-sexual-assault-against-a-female-patient-by-saf-soldiers-in-al-damizin-town/>

hospital. Believing they were indeed medical doctors, the woman complied, left the hospital with the officers, and boarded a tuk-tuk (motorbike taxi).

While on their way, they made a stop next to a cemetery. The soldiers then forcefully took the woman into the cemetery and removed some of her clothes, and attempted to rape her. Fortunately, she was able to escape from the trio, and she ran away barefoot, thus sustaining injuries from stones and thorns. She was rescued by residents in the neighborhood who heard her screams. She was taken back to the hospital for medical attention and later proceeded to Al-damazin Central Police Station to report the case vide case No. 1176/2023. The soldiers faced three charges: rape under article 149, joint acts in execution of criminal conspiracy under article 21, and causing wounds under article 138 of the Sudanese Penal Code, 1991. The trio was arrested by the police, interrogated, and later released when they returned to their military unit. The following morning, a police investigator visited the crime scene and found clothes belonging to the victim. The incident occurred during curfew hours, which begin at 7:30pm. Only official forces and individuals with permission are permitted to move during curfew. Although ACJPS obtained the names of the soldiers, they have been kept confidential for security reasons; however, the soldiers are between the ages of 18 and 26.

On 16 December 2024, ACJPS documented different forms of sexual violence against civilians, including ³⁵rape, gang rape, sexual exploitation, forced prostitution, and abduction for sexual purposes as well as allegations of forced marriages and human trafficking for sexual purposes across borders, have been committed by forces commanded by both the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Army (SAF). The perpetrators use firearms, knives, and whips to intimidate or coerce the victims.

Middlemen (pimps) in the trade of forced prostitution

In the illegal trade of forced prostitution and sexual slavery, there exist third parties known as “pimps” who either engage the victims directly or through social media platforms such as WhatsApp groups. These pimps receive partial compensation from perpetrators before recruiting a victim, and the balance is paid upon completion of the “business”. The pimps have also been lured into this illegal practice because of the current economic crisis caused by the war. They are subjected to threats associated with the nature of their street-based work, making them vulnerable to exploitation and coercion. Sometimes, they are forced to facilitate forced sex between a soldier/fighter and a victim who is in a similarly bad humanitarian situation.

Mr. Mustafa (a pseudonym), a taxi driver, informed ACJPS that there is a popular tea shop in the Al-Andalus neighborhood of Nyala, South Darfur used for the trade. The shop is run by a woman in the guise of selling tea. “... *I used to frequent that particular tea shop. One time, I noticed 4 to 5 girls, aged between 17 to 25 years, sitting near the shop owner. Out of curiosity, I asked the owner about them. She revealed that the girls were waiting for customers. I then inquired about the fee and she told me that it ranged between 20,000 to 50,000 Sudanese pounds (approximately 7-20 US dollars), depending on the agreement and the customer's financial standing. She further informed me that she was merely a pimp who earned between 10,000 and 20,000 Sudanese pounds as commission from a transaction....,*”

According to the UN Human Rights Council’s Sudan’s Fact-Finding Mission’s report, girls

as

³⁵ South Darfur: At least thirty-three female IDPs including children from Kalma Camp sexually violated by RSF and allied militia <https://www.acjps.org/publications/south-darfur-at-least-thirty-three-female-idps-including-children-from-kalma-camp-sexually-violated-by-rsf-and-allied-militia>

young as nine through to women aged 75 have been subjected to widespread sexual violence, including rape and gang rape by the conflicting parties. Additionally, the report states that women and girls have been subjected to forced and child marriages. Men and boys have not been spared either, but unfortunately, they have shied from reporting because of the stigma associated with it, according to the mission's report. Although it is difficult to obtain accurate statistics on the number of sexual violence cases due to worsening security conditions, disrupted communications in several areas of Sudan, and survivors' preference for silence, as of 30th July 2024, the number of reported sexual assault cases in Sudan had reached 505 since the start of the conflict and the majority of the cases are from the Darfur region according to the [open source information](#).

Many survivors have sought to terminate their pregnancy when they become pregnant from rape but have unfortunately failed to do so due to the broken healthcare system in Darfur. ACJPS [documented](#) incidents where **six** out of **fourteen** women and girls who were sexually violated from Kalma and Utash IDP Camps in South Darfur State got pregnant due to failure to get medical attention.

Female victims of enforced disappearance and human trafficking in the context of the war, especially in the Darfur region, have been revictimized with sexual violence, too. These women and girls are subjected to various forms of sexual assault, including individual and gang rape, forced prostitution, and sexual slavery, among others. This type of violence is not limited to only women; underage boys are subjected to sexual violence in similar detention sites, according to the report of the international fact-finding mission on Sudan. In South Darfur, the famous Al-Daman Hotel in Nyala, the New Covenant building of the Coptic Church, and the stock market are used as detention centers by the RSF for abducted victims, including street vendors. ACJPS monitoring indicates that the victims are forcibly detained and imprisoned in a house or room for a period ranging from several days to several months, during which they are deprived of their freedom and subjected to several violations, including sexual violence, physical assault, and forced labor. The victims often free themselves only during a cross-fire with the SAF after the perpetrators flee. Still, in Nyala, perpetrators include criminals from the Al-Wadi neighborhood who have joined the RSF and taken advantage of the war to commit crimes.

Recommendations

- We demand an independent, transparent, and impartial investigation into all allegations of rape, sexual slavery, and threats of sexual violence. The perpetrators—many of whom continue to enjoy impunity—must be identified, prosecuted, and convicted without delay. This includes lifting legal immunities that shield criminals from accountability.
- To ensure justice, the Sudanese authorities must immediately appoint a special prosecutor to handle these cases and provide victims the option of pursuing criminal prosecutions. Survivors must be guaranteed full protection from retaliation and intimidation by local authorities. Furthermore, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) must cease all obstruction and allow victims unhindered access to medical treatment, rehabilitation services, and humanitarian aid.
- Survivors of these crimes must not be abandoned. We demand that they receive immediate and long-term access to free medical, psychological, and legal support. The cycle of impunity must end. The world is watching.

7. **Recruitment of Child Soldiers**

The ongoing conflict has seen the systematic recruitment of children by both opposing sides, which constitutes a grave violation of international humanitarian law and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This practice perpetuates a disturbing trend in Sudan's conflict history, where children

have been repeatedly exploited for military purposes. The gravity of this situation is intensified by the extensive nature of violations against recruited children, which include exposure to extreme violence and death, forced participation in violent acts against civilians and other children, psychological trauma from witnessing and taking part in conflict, physical abuse and exploitation, disruption of educational and developmental opportunities, and exposure to sexual violence. Of particular concern is the decline of protective mechanisms that typically shield children from such exploitation. The collapse of civilian infrastructure and social services has created conditions where children, especially those from vulnerable communities, face a heightened risk of recruitment. ACJPS has documented numerous instances where children have been systematically targeted for recruitment, particularly in conflict-affected areas.

These current violations mirror historical patterns, such as the mandatory military training imposed on university students and public servants during the Popular Defense Forces era. However, the current conflict presents unique challenges due to its urban nature and the involvement of multiple armed groups, each competing for control over territory and resources.

The psychological impact on child soldiers is a particularly concerning aspect of this crisis. Documentation by ACJPS shows that recruited children often suffer from severe emotional trauma due to their experiences, resulting in long-term psychological effects that persist well beyond their involvement in hostilities. These impacts are worsened by the limited availability of psychological support services in conflict-affected areas.

Incidents of Recruitment of Child Soldiers

On 13 November 2023, the RSF released a video featuring Ahmed Adam Abdul Gadir, a 60-year-old former coordinator of the PDF in North Darfur and mayor of Azgrfa village, home to the Barti tribe. The RSF arrested Ahmed on 20 September 2023 while he was returning from Umkadada, east of El-Fashir, North Darfur's capital. In the video, he discusses mobilizing PDF members in North Darfur to join the SAF at the request of a Sudanese Military Intelligence officer.

ACJPS monitoring indicates that the RSF has been recruiting child soldiers in Central Darfur since the conflict began in April 2023. Members of the native administration affiliated with the RSF facilitate this recruitment. ACJPS documented two child soldiers injured in combat in ³⁶Zalingi City, where child soldiers have been spotted at RSF checkpoints, including at the town bridge and the appeal court building. At least ten child soldiers were confirmed at these locations.

Both Arab and Fur members of the native administration recruit child soldiers from various localities in Central Darfur, including Zalingi, Aringa Hella Bida, Wad Salih, Umdakhon, and Saraf Omrah. Recruits are taken to military training sites in Zalingi, such as the public housing neighborhood, the West neighborhood, the old stadium, and the Faculty of Education at Zalingi University. They receive a starting fee of 10,000 Sudanese Pounds for their participation in combat.

The presence of child soldiers among RSF forces in Central Darfur was first noted on May 17, 2023, during clashes with the SAF in Zalingi. Ahmed (not his real name), a teacher, informed ACJPS that after the RSF seized the SAF headquarters, he recognized one of his 17-year-old students among the RSF fighters. A human rights defender in Central Darfur also reported

observing at least eight child soldiers in RSF vehicles since October 30, 2023. ACJPS has also documented the recruitment of child soldiers in South and Central Darfur.

³⁶ Zalingi, Central Darfur: Urgent call to RSF to end the recruitment of child soldiers <https://web.acjps.org/zalingi-central-darfur-urgent-call-to-rsf-to-end-the-recruitment-of-child-soldiers/>

In Nyala, South Darfur, an ACJPS monitor accessed the town after the RSF seized it. While exact numbers remain unclear, the recruitment of child soldiers has increased following the SAF's withdrawal from Division 16. Mohamed (not his real name), a 15-year-old from the Al-Wehda neighborhood, told ACJPS that he joined the RSF in mid-June 2023 under Major Sadam Mohamed Yagoup Al-Nazir. He was assigned as an RSF Military Intelligence operative, provided with a weapon and communication device, and participated in battles in October 2023.³⁷ He later rejoined after the RSF took control of SAF Division 16 on October 26, 2023, and is now training with approximately 100 recruits at SAF gardens in Nyala.

Ali (not his real name), a 17-year-old from Al-Andlus, Nyala, joined the RSF on October 28, 2023, through RSF official Mohamed Zain, along with about 200 others, mostly children. They began daily training at the SAF headquarters in Nyala. Only earlier recruits were given weapons. On October 31, 2023, three child soldiers from their group were killed in Zalingi. They were promised two months' pay but have yet to receive it.

Abdallah (not his real name), a 17-year-old from Kabra, Central Darfur, joined the RSF on 4 July 2023 due to financial hardship. Tribal leader Sheikh Ajeeb oversaw his recruitment. He was trained to use automatic weapons and told that the SAF had seized money from banks in Nyala, which they had to fight to reclaim. He quit in September, unable to continue fighting.

Hasan (not his real name), a 16-year-old from Kas, South Darfur, joined the RSF in August 2023 under Officer Abdallah Idris, also known as Bata. After completing his training, he took part in several attacks in Nyala. Recruits were promised payment for successfully capturing the SAF headquarters but have yet to receive any compensation.

On November 22, 2023, ACJPS reported that the RSF arrested 66 children, ages 14 to 16, in West Darfur, allegedly for recruitment into the armed conflict. They were detained at the former Sudanese- Chadian Forces base, which the RSF took over on April 15, 2023. On November 15, 2023, the RSF released a video featuring several detained children who claimed that the SAF had recruited them. RSF blogger Abdul Monim Alrabi, a former affiliate of the National Congress Party, questioned them on camera. The children identified Waleed Gism Alsayed as the recruiter. On November 5, 2023, another video showed Waleed in handcuffs being escorted by RSF members. Sources informed ACJPS that the children were coerced into making these claims, with some receiving 500,000 Sudanese Pounds (approximately \$450). Nine children were released after the video aired, with warnings not to disclose any details. The remaining children continue to be held in RSF custody.

On December 18, 2023, ³⁸ACJPS documented child soldiers taking part in battles at the SAF base in Furbarnaqa in June 2023. Their presence has since been confirmed in Division 16 in Nyala, Division 21 in Ardamata (West Darfur), and Division 20 in El Daein (East Darfur).

ACJPS has identified community leaders and officers affiliated with RSF who are responsible for recruiting child soldiers in South Darfur; however, their names are withheld for security reasons. Most of the children who are recruited come from Tembisko, Bulbul Abu Jazo, Sania Deliba, Kabra, Adal al-Fursan, Umm Jannah, Umm Zaifa, Umm Dafouk, Umm Dukhan, Rhyd al-Bardi, Furbarnaqa, Khazan Jadid (Sheria locality), and Natika and Kas (west of Nyala). Recruiters receive between 250,000 and 400,000 Sudanese Pounds (\$232 to \$357) per child. Many child soldiers, despite being promised

37 Shelling and a rain of bullets in Nyala, South Darfur <https://web.acjps.org/shelling-and-a-rain-of-bullets-in-nyala-south-darfur-2/>

38 Sudan: The continued use of child soldiers in the armed conflict in South Darfur <https://web.acjps.org/sudan-the-continued-use-of-child-soldiers-in-the-armed-conflict-in-south-darfur/>

payment, remain unpaid and resort to looting, particularly in Nyala's Al-Geneina Park market, Popular Market, Al-Jabal Market, and the Main Market.

On November 16, 2023, ACJPS estimated that one million children had been displaced due to the SAF- RSF conflict, making them vulnerable to violations. Child recruitment has increased in marginalized areas of Darfur and Kordofan. Reports and videos circulating on social media confirm that children as young as 14 have been deployed in combat. In September 2023, the SAF released 30 child soldiers to the International Committee of the Red Cross. Witnesses report that local leaders use coercion, fear, and promises of material gain to recruit children. Many, struggling to survive, view armed groups as their only option.

Recommendations

- Sudanese authorities and armed groups to immediately cease the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, ensuring strict compliance with international legal obligations.
- Sudan to adopt and implement national legislation that criminalizes the recruitment and use of child soldiers, ensuring accountability for perpetrators.
- Sudan to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms, including the UN Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict, and allow independent investigations into child recruitment practices.
- CSOs to advocate for the demobilization, rehabilitation, and reintegration of child soldiers through comprehensive psychosocial support, education, and vocational training programs.
- Encourage regional and international actors to exert diplomatic pressure on Sudan to comply with its obligations under international law regarding the protection of children.
- Recommend that the Fact-Finding Mission document and report all instances of child recruitment and share with relevant international accountability mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court and UN bodies.