

# AFRICAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE STUDIES



## **Red Sea State: Weapon contamination silently killing, injuring, and hindering access to resources in the Tukar locality**

**(4 March 2025)** The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) strongly urges the Sudanese authorities to address the urgent issue of weapon contamination in the Tukar locality of the Red Sea state. The locality is home to numerous unexploded landmines planted since 1987, posing a significant threat to the lives and livelihoods of the local population. The destructive capabilities of these unexploded landmines have resulted in the indiscriminate loss of lives and limbs among civilians. Moreover, the local economy has been adversely affected, as residents have refrained from income-generating activities such as agriculture and grazing due to apprehensions of triggering explosions, leading to a dire humanitarian crisis in the area.

As background, in 1987, following the discovery of land mines in several areas within the Tukar locality, particularly those bordering Eritrea, the Sudanese authorities declared a state of emergency in the locality. In 2007, this emergency status was lifted following the signing of the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement between the Sudanese Government and the East Sudan Front, despite the continued presence of several unexploded land mines. Since then, these unexploded land mines have resulted in fatalities, injuries, and severe restrictions on the movement of residents, significantly impacting their daily income-generating activities and placing them at risk of poverty.

On February 16, 2025, a group of peaceful protesters demonstrated in front of the Red Sea administration building in Port Sudan City. They demanded that the local government of the Red Sea state take immediate action to demine and address the landmine-induced humanitarian crisis in the Tukar locality. The dire situation for residents in South Tukar, in particular, is reported to be exacerbated by the lack of public services and by heavy rainy seasons that flood and destroy their property.

The centre strongly urges the Sudanese authorities to take immediate and decisive action to neutralise and remove all landmines from the Tukar locality. This action is imperative in accordance with the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention), which Sudan ratified in 2008.

Furthermore, we emphasise the urgent need for the Red Sea state regional government to adopt a comprehensive humanitarian action plan that addresses the dire humanitarian crisis affecting the residents of the Tukar locality. This plan should ensure the long-term sustainability of their daily lives and provide them with the necessary assistance and protection.