

# AFRICAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE STUDIES



## **Yasir Arman, a Sudanese opposition figure detained by Interpol in Kenya on fabricated and politically-motivated charges**

**(11 March 2025)** On March 5, 2025, at around 12:30 am, Mr. Yasir Saeed Arman, the Chairperson of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement- Revolutionary Democratic Current who is also the former political advisor to Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, the previous Sudanese Prime Minister, as well as a leader in the former Taqaddum coalition was arrested and detained by Interpol upon arrival at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Kenya. The 65-year-old's detention was prompted by a **Red Notice** issued by the International Criminal Police Organization, commonly known as Interpol, following criminal charges and arrest warrants issued against him and several other members of Taqaddum by Sudanese authorities.

A Red Notice, [according to Interpol](#), is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action. It is based on an arrest warrant or court order issued by the judicial authorities in the requesting country, in this case, Sudan. Interpol [explains](#) that Red Notices are issued for fugitives wanted either for prosecution or to serve a sentence in relation to serious ordinary law crimes following criminal proceedings in the country issuing its request.

The charges against Mr. Arman and members of the Taqaddum coalition, which led the Sudanese authorities to request a Red Notice from Interpol, were filed by the Sudanese Investigation Committee at the Port Sudan Central Police Station in July 2024. Established by the Sudanese authorities, the Investigation Committee is currently tasked with investigating war crimes and human rights violations committed during the ongoing irregular conflict in Sudan. It consists of representatives from various ministries and the Human Rights Commission, and it is chaired by the Attorney General. Previously, it was known as the investigative committee for crimes committed by the Rapid Support Forces.

The aforementioned charges relate to crimes against the state, mutiny within national forces, sedition, crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes as defined in the 1991 Sudanese Criminal Act, amended in 2009. Specifically, Mr. Arman and his colleagues are facing charges under Articles 24 (criminal conspiracy), 25 (abetment), 26 (assisting), 50 (undermining the

constitutional system), 58 (abetment of mutiny), 62 (inciting feelings of unrest among disciplined forces and abetment of disturbing order), 63 (calling for opposition to public authority by use of violence or criminal force), 186 (crimes against humanity), 187 (crimes of genocide), and 189 (war crimes against property and other rights). Additionally, they are charged with acts of terrorism under Articles 6, 7, and 8 of the Sudanese [Anti-Terrorism Act](#) of 2001. Most of the accused previously held high positions within the Sudanese Transitional Government, which was overthrown by the joint coup led by SAF and RSF in October 2021.

The charges stemmed from a meeting in 2024 between Taqaddum, a pro-civilian coalition led by Dr. Hamdok Abdalla, and the leaders of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a belligerent in the ongoing Sudan conflict, held in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. This meeting concluded with the signing of a memorandum aimed at fostering dialogue and ending the ongoing war in Sudan. Notably, the other belligerent, the Sudanese Armed Forces, was not represented at this meeting.

Since the Addis Ababa meeting, Sudanese authorities have designated members of Taqaddum as partners and accomplices in war crimes being committed by the RSF in the ongoing armed conflict in the country. This stance was reinforced by a statement from the Sudanese Attorney General, Mr. Alfatih Isa Tayfor, during an interview with Al-Jazeera TV on September 24, 2024. In this interview, Mr. Tayfor asserted, “*We have evidence of the involvement of Taqaddum leaders in war crimes*”. He further added that the Sudanese authorities had requested Interpol to issue Red Notices for members of the coalition who have been charged with crimes against the state in response to pending arrest warrants against them. ACJPS believes that these charges are fabricated and likely intended to silence the accused and hinder their participation in the ongoing peace negotiations in Sudan.

Other arrest warrants have been issued against General Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, the RSF Commander, and his brother, General Abdul Rahim Daglo, the RSF second-in-command. Since February 18, 2025, General Abdul Rahim Daglo has been in Kenya, participating in political events in Nairobi. During one of the events he attended on March 3, 2025, a document for a new Sudanese Constitution was adopted by a new coalition formed following the split and dissolution of Taqaddum in February 2025.

Although Mr. Yasir Arman was released by Interpol the next day, on March 6, 2025, his belongings, including personal documents, were seized and confiscated. These actions against Mr. Arman call into question the professionalism of Interpol in conducting arrests without sufficient evidence, particularly in cases where there are indications that the charges are fabricated and politically motivated.

ACJPS urges Interpol to refrain from implementing Red Notices that result from politically motivated charges or prosecutions and to abide by a professional code that requires keeping abreast of the politics of nations requesting red notices. Specifically, for Sudan, Interpol should be

informed about the Sudanese authorities' targeting of opposition political leaders and activists with fabricated charges to frustrate their engagement in the peace negotiations.

We also call upon the Kenyan government to respect its role in facilitating peace negotiations between the Sudanese warring parties and avoid promoting the agenda of Sudanese authorities that hinders the involvement of opposition leaders in the negotiations, such as in intimidating and harassing them through detention based on fabricated charges.

*Mr. Yasir Saeed Arman's arrest history*

- Mr. Arman joined the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in 1986 while he was a university Student, just like many other northern Sudanese did at that time.
- In 2010, he was arrested along with several other SPLM colleagues while protesting the adoption of the Media and Publication Law.
- Before leaving Sudan in 2010, he was nominated by SPLM as a presidential candidate to contest against the former president Omer Al-Bashir, but the SPLM decided to withdraw from the election last minute for reasons which are still unknown.
- In July 2019, during the transitional period, he was arrested and "deported" to Juba, South Sudan. He returned to Sudan in 2020 following the signing of the Sudan Peace Agreement in October of that year.
- In October 2021, Mr. Arman was again arrested following the successful coup that overthrew the transitional government in Sudan.