



Sudan war: Call for an immediate cessation of war to enable students to sit for the National examinations.

The African Center for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) calls upon the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and their allies for an immediate ceasefire following the announcement schedule for the Secondary School National Examinations by the Sudanese Federal Ministry of Examination to be held in the last week of June 2025. A truce between the warring parties will enable students' safe passage to the examination centers across the country.

ACJPS further urges the Sudanese authorities and warring parties to adhere to and respect the rights of children, including the fundamental right to education. Children are entitled to attend school and receive a quality education, as provided for under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the 2019 Sudanese Transitional Constitution. The current circumstances in Sudan, however, make it impossible for children to enjoy this right.

The first cohort that sat their examination in December 2024 experienced several challenges during the exam period, for example, approximately 400,000 students from RSF-controlled areas, especially in Darfur, were prevented from sitting the exams by banning movement to exam sites in safer areas. Additionally, several students from areas with intense gunfights were unable to take the exams due to the restriction of movement and the high risks involved. High transportation costs were another challenge to the students during the exam period.

We applaud the education ministry for administering exams and considering students in exile by establishing exam centers in 15 other countries. However, the high examination fee of 100,000 Sudanese pounds (approximately 60 US dollars) for students in Sudan and 110 US dollars for students living in exile further frustrates these efforts. This sum is paid through the Sudanese Embassy in the respective countries as a requirement to sit for the exam, and it includes a supervision fee charged by the examination center. These high fees come at a time when at least 15 million Sudanese are either displaced or living as refugees, struggling to survive.

Although the scheduled dates will coincide with the beginning of the rainy season, this will not be an obstacle for the students if the warring parties lay down their guns and facilitate the safe passage of students to exam sites across the country.

Background

More than two years since the outbreak of the armed conflict in Sudan, war rages on, and children are bearing the brunt, with their futures hanging in the balance. The largest [displacement crisis](#) in the world has had catastrophic consequences for the country's education system, bringing it to the brink of collapse. The vast majority of Sudan's children have lost more than two entire school years starting in April 2023 due to school closures. Since then, [54 percent of schools](#) across the country have been in active conflict or unstable zones, and 18 percent of schools are being used as shelters, posing barriers to education access for millions of children.