



North Darfur: Deep concern over the continued violation of the rights of civilians in El Fasher

Civilian rights in Sudan continue to be violated amidst the fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), along with their allied armed groups, including the popular recruiters. The warring parties continue to employ several war tactics with total disregard for civilian protection. In September 2024, the situation took a turn for the worse when members of the Civilian Protection Forces joined the fight alongside the warring parties. Some of these civilian protection forces include signatories of the 2020 Sudan Peace Agreement (Darfur rebel groups), like the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) led by Mani Manawi, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), led by Jibreel Ibrahim, and two smaller factions that split from the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) i.e., the Sudanese Liberation Army / Front Liberation (SLA/FL) led by Eltahir Hajar, and the Sudanese Liberation Army / Transitional Council (SLA/TC) led by Elhadi Idris. Notably, both Hajar and Idris were former members of the Sudanese Transitional Sovereign Council, but they were dismissed due to the fragmentation caused by the war within the Sudanese high cabinet.

Although the whole of Sudan has been affected by the war, Darfur has particularly suffered a great deal at the hands of the warring parties. RSF took interest in El Fasher, the North Darfur capital, following the outbreak of the war, but later withdrew. However, on 09 May 2024, RSF launched a second wave of attacks in El Fasher in an attempt to capture either militarily or through a deal, as outlined in the 2020 Sudan Peace Agreement. However, the deal fell through after negotiations in June 2024. Following this development, El Fasher witnessed heavy attacks and a siege.

During the attacks, the IDPs were particularly targeted, for example, in Zamzam Camp, which was established in 2004, at least 3,000 IDPs lost their lives, 8,000 were injured, and there were several cases of sexual violence.

Following the attack on Zamzam, RSF called on civilians to evacuate and move out of El Fasher. Shortly after, the city fell under siege, and access to humanitarian assistance to civilians was cut off and denied. Civilians who fled from El Fasher were faced with serious violations, including looting, sexual violence, and extrajudicial killings along the way to Tawilla, Kutum, and Jebel Marra in Central Darfur.

Other developments

The conflict destroyed at least 90% of health facilities in Sudan. In El Fasher, houses were turned into first aid clinics, with no facilities to attend to those who sustained serious injuries; resultantly, many civilians bled to death/succumbed to injuries.

The restriction of humanitarian access in El Fasher then led to a spike in food prices, for example.

- A bag of Millet currently goes for \$1,200
- Sugar: \$1,300
- Container of pound oil: \$1,000
- Flour: \$950
- A bag of Lentil beans locally known as Adasia: \$1,200.

Background

In May 2024, the UN Security Council issued a resolution regarding El Fasher, urging RSF to cease fire, ensure access for humanitarian aid, and allow free movement of civilians. However, no progress has been observed since then. In July 2025, the United Nations Secretary-General proposed a week-long ceasefire to allow humanitarian aid into El Fasher, but the proposal was rejected by RSF due to the mistrust developed between the warring parties. In May 2025, SAF attacked WFP humanitarian trucks in Alkuma, a town located less than 100 kilometers from El Fasher.

The situation in El Fasher exemplifies severe violations of international humanitarian law by the warring parties in Sudan. Therefore, we urge the intervention of the International Criminal Court to target the leaders of these parties and militia groups, as the most effective step to restore peace and protect civilians in Sudan.