



The Sudanese Human Rights Monitor (SHRM) and the African Centre For Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS)

No Sustainable Peace in Sudan Without Justice and Accountability

Memorandum to the Sudan Conference, Berlin April 15, 2026

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Introduction

The current situation in Sudan, as reflected in multiple field reports and independent media coverage, indicates a significant deterioration in the nature and conduct of the conflict. What initially emerged as an armed struggle for power has evolved into a pattern of widespread and systematic violence directed against civilians and the foundations of civilian life. Reports from conflict-affected regions, including Greater Kordofan and El Fasher, document recurring violations such as extrajudicial killings, forced displacement, widespread sexual violence, and the deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure through aerial bombardments and drone attacks.

These violations are accompanied by the systematic looting of civilian resources and the destruction of livelihoods, suggesting a deliberate strategy aimed at terrorizing and destabilizing Sudan populations. Vulnerable groups including women, children, and persons with disabilities, have been disproportionately affected, facing heightened exposure to violence and exploitation.

In parallel to the ongoing hostilities, both primary parties to the conflict, as well as affiliated armed groups, have engaged in targeted repression of civil society actors, including journalists, healthcare workers, and emergency volunteers. Such repression has taken the form of arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, targeted killings, and intimidation campaigns.

This pattern of conduct appears designed to isolate victims, suppress documentation of violations, and obstruct accountability. The resulting environment of impunity not only facilitates the continuation of abuses but also undermines humanitarian access and the protection of civilians. Moreover, the systematic erosion of civic space poses a serious threat to any future prospects for democratic transition and transitional justice in Sudan.

Conflict Resolution and End-of-War Initiatives

The war in Sudan continues, along with the grave violations that accompany it, many of which amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. At the same time, the limited international efforts have failed to end the war or even achieve a humanitarian truce. The SHRM and ACJPS emphasize that any peace process that ignores accountability and justice will be fragile and doomed to failure, inevitably leading to a resurgence of violence, as witnessed in recent Sudanese experiences. This cycle of fragile transitions without justice must end.

Despite limited international and regional attention to the suffering of the Sudanese people, a few initiatives have emerged some of which remain active to mediate between the warring parties. High-level diplomatic initiatives including the Quintet, the Quartet, the Jeddah Process, and the Manama negotiations present a frustrating paradox: their limited impact and emphasis on the military following a traditional top-down approach that largely excludes Sudanese civil society. For example, the five-party framework aims to unify civilian blocs, yet many grassroots organizations, including local resistance committees, reject processes detached from local realities. Meanwhile, while international actors coordinate at the highest levels, technical “de-escalation” efforts repeatedly fail to establish safe humanitarian corridors for displaced persons and the volunteers providing aid. There is also deep concern that prioritizing solutions centered on the military could result in “stability at any cost,” effectively reproducing a version of the pre-war status quo and marginalizing demands for justice and accountability.

This skepticism is compounded by the Sudanese government’s roadmap, presented by the Sudanese Armed Forces leadership in late 2025 and early 2026. While the plan ostensibly calls for a Sudanese-Sudanese dialogue, the authorities have offered no meaningful goodwill gestures to political forces or civil society. Meanwhile, the Rapid Support Forces leadership is attempting to consolidate a de facto government in Darfur, daily demonstrating its inability to protect civilians, let alone ensure accountability for crimes committed by its own forces. There is a justifiable fear that both sides, along with their regional allies, are working to entrench military rule in Sudan rather than paving a genuine path toward the democracy promised by the 2018 revolution. The multiplicity of initiatives observed does not create integrated paths to peace but instead fosters competing plans for post-war influence.

In light of the catastrophic situation in Sudan, and the escalating violations against civilian lives and property, the SHRM and ACJPS call for an ethical and legal roadmap aimed at establishing a sustainable peace based not merely on a ceasefire, but on the foundations of justice. Any political settlement that disregards the rights of victims or perpetuates impunity will only sustain the conflict. Therefore, we adhere to the following demands as a binding framework for the international community and mediators to ensure a genuine civilian democratic transition that restores sovereignty to the people and holds perpetrators accountable.

Governing Principles for any Peace Arrangements

1. Sudanese led Process: The peace and political processes aimed at restoring the Sudanese people's right to self-determination must be led by Sudanese actors and include the broadest possible spectrum of representatives. Sudanese civil society must be integrated into all current and future efforts.

2. **No Amnesty for International Crimes:** No peace agreement should grant immunity or amnesty for war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide, in accordance with UN standards and international law.
3. **Victim-Centricity:** Justice mechanisms must be developed through direct consultation with victims and their families to ensure the restoration of both their rights and dignity.
4. **Judicial Independence:** Accountability must remain a legal obligation, not a bargaining chip or instrument of political negotiation. The judicial process must operate independently from political considerations.

Procedural Demands and Recommendations

1. **Strengthening International Documentation and Investigation Mechanisms:**
 - **Supporting the Fact-Finding Mission:** We call on the international community to provide full support to the UN International Fact-Finding Mission and ensure its access to all affected areas.
 - **Cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC):** Obligate all parties to the conflict to cooperate unconditionally with the ICC and to immediately surrender those wanted by it.
2. **Reforming the National Justice System:**
 - **Repeal Legal Immunities:** Abolish all legal provisions in Sudanese laws (including the Armed Forces Act, the Rapid Support Forces Act, and the National Security Act) that prevent prosecution of perpetrators.
 - **Independence of Judiciary and Prosecution:** Restructure judicial institutions to ensure independence from military and militia control, and provide special protection for judges and prosecutors.
3. **Transitional Justice and Reparations:**
 - **Develop a comprehensive transitional justice program** through broad consultations undertaken by an independent national mechanism, including all stakeholders in Sudan, internally displaced persons, refugees, and the diaspora.
 - **Ensure criminal accountability** for those suspected of committing international crimes including war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and gross human rights violations before and during the current conflict.
 - **Establish truth commissions** in accordance with international standards to investigate gross human rights violations.
 - **Establish mechanisms for reparations** to victims of violence and damage to civilian property, funded primarily by assets confiscated from perpetrators inside and outside Sudan.
4. **Institutional Reform and Social Cohesion:**
 - **Work with stakeholders** to develop actionable proposals for justice and security sector reform with international support.
 - **Promote community reconciliation** and social cohesion at local and national levels by drawing upon local heritage, traditional institutions, and experienced consensus figures.

Recommendations for the European Union, the African Union, and their partners:

1. Political and Strategic Action:

- Launch a strategic dialogue with human rights groups, civil society organizations, and local stakeholders in Sudan to develop a comprehensive human rights strategy informing EU policy.
- Initiate or join a trans-regional coalition for justice to ensure accountability remains central in all peace negotiations.
- Engage at the highest levels with parties to the conflict (Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces) and their regional backers (specifically the UAE) to end hostilities.

2. Protection of Civilians:

- Increase humanitarian funding within Sudan and refugee camps in neighboring countries, prioritizing support to local and grassroots organizations.
- Negotiate unconditional access for aid delivery through all possible routes, including cross-border, cross-line, and air transport.
- Provide targeted funding and support for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.
- Press all conflict parties to end internet shutdowns and restore essential communications for aid delivery and monitoring of human rights violations.

3. Accountability and Justice Mechanisms:

- Provide full resources and political support for international investigations, including UN and African Commission Fact-Finding Missions.
- Ensure the ICC has sufficient resources to investigate crimes in Darfur and expand jurisdiction across Sudan.
- EU member states should activate universal jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute suspected international criminals.
- Encourage establishment of hybrid or international judicial mechanisms alongside the ICC in post-conflict Sudan.
- Support creation of an entity and trust fund dedicated to reparations for victims.

4. Arms Embargo and Targeted Sanctions:

- Intensify international pressure to cut off war supply lines by urging the UN Security Council to expand the arms embargo to all Sudanese territory.
- Impose strict, targeted sanctions on senior leadership of both warring parties and affiliated entities.
- Activate accountability mechanisms against states and external parties providing military or financial support to combatants.

5. Support Human Rights Defenders:

- Protect human rights defenders in exile with resettlement programs and safe havens.
- Condemn targeted attacks, including extrajudicial killings and harassment of civil society members in Sudan.
- Provide technical support and training for digital documentation of violations.

6. Migration and Refugee Protection:

- Establish secure legal pathways for Sudanese seeking international protection in Europe.
- Adhere strictly to the principle of non-refoulement.
- Support neighboring countries to keep borders open and provide safe access for asylum seekers and urge them to abide by their international obligations towards refugees and asylum seekers in their countries.