

Final Draft 3 July 2025

HRDD Phase 1 Country Assessment Report: Sudan

Submitted to the Executive Board by the Human Rights Advisory Committee (HRAC)

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
1. What is the country’s score on the Human Rights Index?	1
2. What is the country’s score on the Academic Freedom Index?	2
3. Is the country involved in an armed conflict?	2
4. Are there (one or more) indications of serious violations taking place in the country?	3
Annex I Summary and Analysis of Evidence.....	5
Annex II - Excerpts	8
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.....	8
The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	10
Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan.....	10
International Criminal Court.....	12
UN Special Rapporteurs	15
Human Rights Watch.....	15
Amnesty International.....	16
United States Department of State	18

Introduction

This report presents the findings of the Human Rights Advisory Committee (HRAC) under Phase 1 of the HRDD assessment for Sudan. In line with the principles outlined in Section 6 of the Working Principles, and in particular Principles 6.1 and 6.2.1, this report follows the structure set out in the HRDD Country Assessment Tool – Part 1.

Pursuant to its mandate to support Maastricht University in its commitment to contribute positively to the human rights situation in the world—especially where international crimes and serious human rights violations are concerned—this report aims to provide a clear and evidence-based foundation for the Executive Board’s next steps under the HRDD Framework.

1. What is the country’s score on the Human Rights Index?

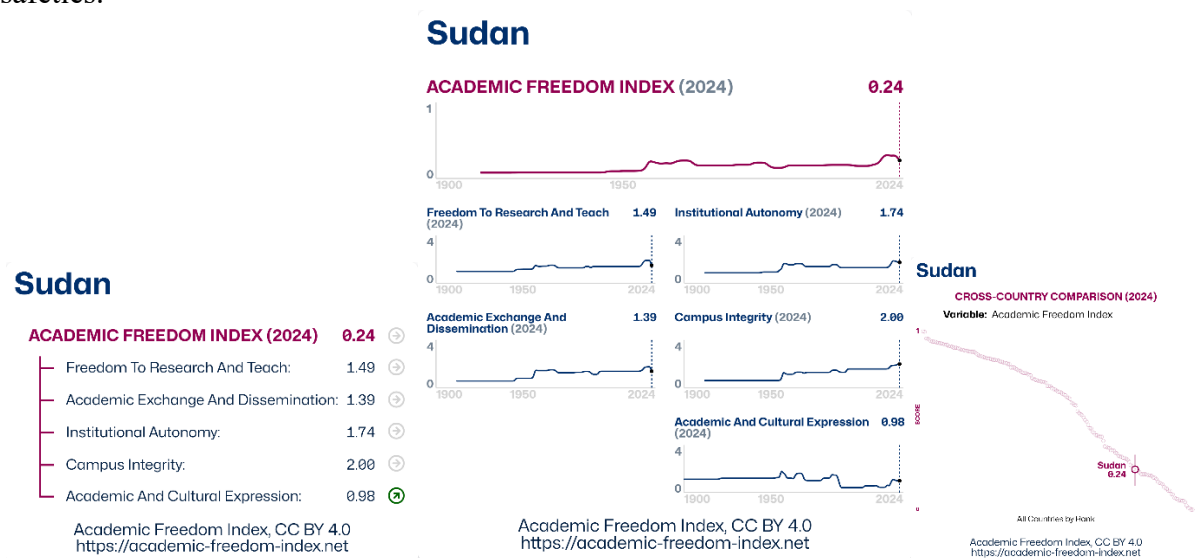
The UN Universal Human Rights Index does not provide a single quantitative score. Instead, it compiles the number and nature of recommendations and observations issued by various UN human rights mechanisms. As of 4 June 2025, Sudan has received 1,845

recommendations and observations across 15 documents from 10 UN mechanisms. While this does not amount to a quantitative score, it reflects significant international scrutiny of Sudan’s human rights record.

2. What is the country’s score on the Academic Freedom Index?

Sudan’s 2024 Academic Freedom Index score is 0.24 (on a 0–1 scale), placing it among the lowest-ranked countries globally. Until 2018, the score had stagnated below 0.2. It rose modestly to 0.24 in 2019 and 0.31 in 2020, but declined again to 0.24 in 2024, reflecting a deterioration amid the current armed conflict.

Despite signs of slight improvement between 2019 and 2023, Sudan’s academic freedom remains extremely low, with serious restrictions on institutional autonomy, expression, and safeties.



Screenshots taken on 2 June 2025.

3. Is the country involved in an armed conflict?

According to the [Global Conflict Tracker](#), by the Center for Preventive Action, and the [Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts](#) (RULAC) project of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Sudan is involved in multiple non-international armed conflicts.

Armed conflict in Sudan has been ongoing since the outbreak of the Darfur war in 2003, when then-President Omar al-Bashir mobilized Arab-majority militias known as the Janjaweed to fight rebel groups in western Sudan. The Janjaweed were later formalized as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Following the ousting of Bashir in 2019, a transitional process was undermined by power struggles between the military and the RSF leadership.

Sudan is currently a party to the following non-international armed conflicts:

- SAF-RSF Conflict (since April 2023): A nationwide conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the Rapid Support

Forces (RSF), led by Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo. Fighting is concentrated in Khartoum, Omdurman, and Bahri, and extends across Darfur, Kordofan, and Al Jazirah.

- Darfur: Armed conflict against at least two factions of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) - the Abdel Wahid (SLM/A-AW) and Minni Minnawi (SLM/A-MM) factions.
- South Kordofan and Blue Nile: Armed conflict with two factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-North (SPLM-North), one led by Abdel Aziz al-Hilu and the other by Malik Agar.

These overlapping conflicts are rooted in long-standing political, ethnic, and regional grievances.

4. Are there (one or more) indications of serious violations taking place in the country?

The HRAC has concluded that there are serious indications that multiple international crimes and serious human rights violations are being committed in and by Sudan, including:

- War crimes
- Crimes against humanity
- Other serious violations of human rights, such as:
 - Arbitrary deprivation of life
 - Arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance
 - Torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment

This conclusion is grounded in findings from institutions widely regarded as authoritative and independent in the field of international human rights and international criminal law, including:

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) – *Fortieth Report of the Prosecutor to the UN Security Council* (January 2025); public case updates and arrest warrants regarding Sudan and Darfur
- The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) – *Report on the Human Rights Situation in Sudan* (A/HRC/58/29, January 2025); *Report on Detention Facilities in Khartoum State* (6 March 2025)
- The UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan – *Findings on crimes committed in the context of the conflict since April 2023* (A/HRC/57/CRP.6, October 2024); *Press Statement on renewed attacks in Darfur* (14 April 2025)
- The United Nations Special Rapporteurs – *Joint Statement: “Using Starvation as a Weapon of War in Sudan Must Stop”* (26 June 2024)
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – *External Update #106: Sudan Situation* (3 May 2025)

These findings are further corroborated by credible investigations and reports published by leading human rights NGOs and state actors, including:

- Human Rights Watch – *World Report 2025* (January 2025); *World Report 2024* (January 2024)

- Amnesty International – *“They Raped All of Us”*: Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in Sudan (10 April 2025); *The State of the World’s Human Rights 2025* (April 2025)
- United States Department of State – *Genocide Determination and Accountability Statement by Secretary of State Antony Blinken* (7 January 2025)

Taken together, these sources constitute a robust and deeply corroborated body of evidence that clearly meets the evidentiary threshold set by the HRDD Framework for establishing serious indications of international crimes and serious human rights violations committed in and by Sudan.

While this assessment places particular focus on conduct attributable to the Sudanese Armed Forces, acts committed by non-state actors, including the RSF and allied militias, are also relevant to the extent that the first phase of this inquiry seeks to determine whether international crimes and/or serious violations of human rights are being committed in Sudan, regardless of whether they are perpetrated by the state of Sudan or non-state actors.

A summary and analysis of the main sources of evidence relied upon for this conclusion is provided in Annex I, while Annex II presents relevant excerpts from the decisions, reports, and findings of the institutions and bodies cited above.

Conclusion

Based on its mandate under the HRDD Framework and Working Principles, and drawing on a wide range of impartial, independent, authoritative, as well as corroborated sources (see annexes), the HRAC concludes that there are serious indications that international crimes and serious human rights violations, are committed in and by Sudan.

These findings meet the evidentiary threshold set out in the HRDD Framework for advancing from Phase 1 (country-level assessment) to Phase 2 (partner-level assessment). In line with this conclusion, the HRAC will now proceed to assess whether there are serious indications that partner institutions located in Sudan are contributing to these violations.

Now that the HRAC has reached the conclusion that the threshold for Phase 1 has been met, the HRDD Framework foresees that the Executive Board enter into contact with relevant institutions in Sudan to inform them that the University is proceeding to Phase 2 of the assessment. The HRAC would appreciate being kept informed about any responses received and other relevant information arising from this engagement with partner institutions.

This report is intended to inform the Executive Board’s decision-making. The HRAC has/will also share a summary of the findings of Phase 1 for communication to the broader University community.

Annex I Summary and Analysis of Evidence

There are serious indications that multiple international crimes and serious human rights violations are being committed in Sudan. These include war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of human rights, such as arbitrary deprivation of life, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, and torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

The UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan, in its reports and press releases issued in 2024 and 2025, applied the “reasonable grounds to believe” standard and concluded that both the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in the context of the current conflict. The Mission documented arbitrary executions, widespread sexual and gender-based violence, attacks on internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, and reprisals against civilians suspected of supporting the opposing side. In its April 2025 press statement, the Mission reported renewed attacks by RSF forces on IDP settlements and medical personnel in North Darfur and El Fasher, and reprisals by SAF forces in areas they had recaptured. The Mission further expressed concern that the violence remains rooted in long-standing impunity for earlier atrocities in Darfur.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in its January 2025 report (A/HRC/58/29) and March 2025 thematic report on detention practices in Khartoum State, likewise applied the “reasonable grounds to believe” standard. OHCHR found that both SAF and RSF forces committed gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary and incommunicado detention. The March 2025 report documented the widespread use of electric shocks, overcrowded and unsanitary detention conditions, denial of medical care, and detention based on ethnicity. Detainees were subjected to treatment amounting to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and in some cases, death due to neglect. Both SAF and RSF were also found to have detained women and children in degrading and violent conditions.

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), in the Fortieth Report to the UN Security Council (January 2025), stated that there are reasonable grounds to believe that crimes under the Rome Statute have been and continue to be committed in Darfur. These include killings, pillaging, attacks on IDP camps, indiscriminate targeting of civilians, gender-based crimes, and crimes against and affecting children. The Office is preparing new applications for arrest warrants against individuals identified in connection with these crimes. The Prosecutor further noted that the same actors responsible for atrocities in 2003–2004 are perpetrating these crimes, particularly against non-Arab ethnic groups, and that the current criminality is directly linked to Sudan’s legacy of impunity.

Six UN Special Rapporteurs, in a joint statement issued in June 2024, concluded that both the SAF and RSF are using starvation as a weapon of war, deliberately obstructing humanitarian aid, targeting local responders, and exposing millions to the risk of famine. These findings were echoed by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in its External Update #106 (3 May 2025), which reported a rapidly worsening humanitarian crisis across Sudan. UNHCR documented escalating armed clashes and serious human rights violations, including killings, arbitrary detention, and sexual and gender-based violence, particularly in frontline areas such as North Darfur and West Kordofan.

Findings from Human Rights Watch (World Reports 2024 and 2025) and Amnesty International (April 2025) further corroborate these conclusions. Human Rights Watch documented indiscriminate shelling, drone strikes, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and obstruction of humanitarian aid by both parties. The organization also verified mass executions and sexual violence by RSF forces, particularly in Darfur and the greater Khartoum area. Amnesty International reported systematic rape, gang rape, and torture of women and girls by RSF forces, concluding that these constitute war crimes and potentially crimes against humanity. The April 2025 report applied international legal standards and emphasized the widespread and systematic nature of RSF-perpetrated sexual violence.

Many of these institutions—including the ICC Prosecutor, the UN Fact-Finding Mission, OHCHR, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International—have highlighted the role of impunity for past crimes in enabling current atrocities. As the ICC Prosecutor stated, “the renewal of hostilities in West Darfur and the exacerbation of violence throughout 2024 [...] are the direct result of the impunity afforded to perpetrators of earlier crimes.”

Currently, three arrest warrants issued by the ICC remain outstanding in relation to former Sudanese state officials accused of international crimes:

Mr Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir (President of Sudan, 1993–2019):

- Five counts of crimes against humanity (including murder, extermination, forcible transfer, torture, and rape)
- Two counts of war crimes (including attacks on civilians and pillaging)
- Three counts of genocide, allegedly committed between 2003 and 2008 against ethnic groups in Darfur

Mr Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein (Minister of National Defence (2005-2015 and Minister of the Interior (1993-2005):

- Seven counts of crimes against humanity
- Six counts of war crimes, allegedly committed between 2003 and 2004

Mr Ahmad Muhammad Harun (Minister of State for the Interior (2003-2005)):

- Twenty counts of crimes against humanity
- Twenty-two counts of war crimes, allegedly committed between 2003 and 2004

These individuals have not been surrendered to the Court and are not being tried. The failure to enforce these warrants is widely regarded as emblematic of Sudan’s broader crisis of accountability.

In addition, the first ICC trial concerning crimes committed in Darfur—against Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman (“Ali Kushayb”)—is nearing conclusion. Mr Abd-Al-Rahman was a senior leader of the Militia/Janjaweed in the Wadi Salih and Mukjar Localities, West Darfur State, Sudan. He was surrendered to the Court in 2020, and the Pre-Trial Chamber found that there were substantial grounds to believe he is responsible for 31 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, committed between August 2003 and at least April 2004. Closing statements in the trial were delivered in December 2024, and a judgment is expected in due course.

Taken together, these findings—issued by courts, United Nations bodies, and independent investigative mechanisms—are based on detailed, corroborated documentation and clearly meet the “serious indications” threshold required under the HRDD Framework.

Finally, we note that in a public statement issued in January 2025, the U.S. Secretary of State concluded that members of the RSF and affiliated militias have committed genocide in Darfur. This determination was based on their deliberate targeting of civilians from specific ethnic groups, including mass killings and sexual violence. It follows earlier findings, made in December 2023, that both the SAF and RSF committed war crimes, and that the RSF committed crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.

Annex II - Excerpts

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights - Situation of
human rights in the Sudan, 20 January 2025, A/HRC/58/29
Covers period from 16 December 2023 to 15 November 2024

Para 45:

“Incidents of arbitrary deprivation of life continued to be reported. The Special Operation Forces and mustanfreen were implicated in cases of summary executions of persons allegedly accused of collaboration with the Rapid Support Forces, particularly after the Sudanese Armed Forces seized control of the Al-Abbassiya neighbourhood in Omdurman in mid-January 2024.”

[Note: The Special Operation Forces are a special armed unit within the Sudanese Armed Forces]

Para 46:

“OHCHR also received reports that summary killings in Al-Gazira, Khartoum and North Kordofan States by the Special Operations Forces and mustanfreen had been largely ethnically motivated based on perceived support for the Rapid Support Forces.”

Para 56:

“Throughout the reporting period, OHCHR monitored a pattern of arbitrary arrests and detentions of civilians by the joint security forces – commonly known as the Cell – composed of the Sudanese Police Force, the General Intelligence Service and Military Intelligence, and accompanied, in some cases, by mustanfreen. Arrests were often directed at activists associated with the Forces of Freedom and Change, resistance committees, emergency response rooms and Taqaddum, and were mostly carried out without due process and accompanied by a search of personal belongings, often conducted in such a way as to elicit humiliation and intimidation. Some of the arrests were allegedly conducted through the abuse of emergency powers in the states controlled by the Sudanese Armed Forces.”

Para 62–63:

“Reports of disappearances and missing persons, including through detention and abduction by parties to the conflict, persisted throughout the reporting period, raising concerns of enforced disappearances.
As at 15 November 2024, a total of 2,309 people had been reported disappeared or missing, including 475 women, 165 boys and 90 girls, raising concerns of possible enforced disappearances.”

Para 64:

“Disappearances also allegedly increased in areas controlled by the Sudanese Armed Forces, including as the joint security forces allegedly arbitrarily arrested and held people incommunicado.”

Para 93:

“The parties to the conflict continued to show utter disregard for international law and for the protection of civilians. They committed gross violations and abuses of international human rights law as well as serious violations of international humanitarian law, including possible war crimes. Further investigations would be needed to establish whether other serious crimes under international law have been committed.”

Para 94:

“Entrenched impunity was one of the drivers of the conflict and has been fuelling it ever since. Accountability, regardless of the rank and affiliation of the perpetrators, is critical to breaking the recurring cycles of violence and impunity in the Sudan and preventing further violations and abuses.”

Para 95:

“There are concerns that the conflict has been building on past discrimination and inequalities, often along ethnic and tribal lines.”

OHCHR – Report on Detention Facilities and Practices in Khartoum State

Published 6 March 2025

Para 1:

“The outbreak of hostilities followed tensions between these two entities [...] and escalated into a devastating conflict marked by gross violations and abuses of international human rights law, as well as serious violations of international humanitarian law, including unlawful killing, arbitrary detention, sexual violence, and forced displacement. The impact on civilians in Khartoum State has been catastrophic, with large-scale displacement, destruction of infrastructure critical to the survival of the civilian population, and an escalating humanitarian crisis. Urban warfare – characterised by the launch of indiscriminate attacks, including through use of explosive weapons with wide area effects, and often without any prior warning, on residential neighbourhoods and other populated areas.”

Para 32:

“The findings of this report reveal gross violations and abuses of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law by both the RSF and the SAF in detention facilities across Khartoum State. Both parties have engaged in arbitrary detention of civilians, often holding them indefinitely without charges, legal representation, or judicial oversight. Detainees were subjected to severe forms of torture and ill-treatment, including beatings, electric shocks, and inhumane detention conditions, leading to malnutrition, preventable deaths, and denial of medical care.

Women and children were held in degrading conditions, and ethnic-based detention and torture were widespread.”

“The RSF reportedly repurposed civilian infrastructure into places of detention and recruited children as guards. Reports include psychological torture, death threats, forced labor, outbreaks of disease, and threats or acts of execution, especially in response to escape attempts.”

Para 89:

“OHCHR has reasonable grounds to believe that both the SAF and the RSF have subjected persons deprived of liberty to conditions of detention that amount to, at a minimum, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.”

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR – External Update #106: Sudan Situation

Published 3 May 2025

“Sudan continues to face a rapidly worsening humanitarian crisis, marked by intensifying armed clashes and insecurity across multiple states, including the first reported drone strikes in Port Sudan and Kassala. Access constraints persist, and serious human rights violations such as killings, arbitrary detention, and sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) are rising, particularly in frontline areas like North Darfur and West Kordofan.”

Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan

Human Rights Council, Findings of the investigations conducted by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan into violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and related crimes, committed in the Sudan in the context of the conflict that erupted in mid-April 2023, 23 October 2024, A/HRC/57/CRP.6

Covers period from mid-April 2023 to September/October 2024

Para 239:

The Fact-Finding Mission “finds that SAF committed acts of killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools, and deprivation of essential humanitarian assistance for children. These acts constitute violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, in particular under the CRC and CRC-OP-AC, and echo the six grave violations against children in times of conflict.”

Para 255:

“The Fact-Finding Mission finds that both the RSF and SAF arbitrarily arrested and detained civilians, including children, in violation of fundamental guarantees under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Individuals, including children, were not informed of the reasons for their arrest, or any charges brought against them, and often held in unofficial detention locations in inhumane

conditions, in some cases resulting in deaths, and without access to legal assistance or judicial oversight in violation of the ICCPR and CRC.”

Para 265:

“The Fact-Finding Mission finds that both the SAF and RSF intentionally inflicted severe physical and mental pain or suffering on its victims, including children, with the purpose of intimidating, coercing or obtaining a confession from them or as a form of punishment or on a discriminatory basis. These acts amount to violations of international humanitarian law of violence to life and person, in particular cruel treatment and torture, and outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment. They also amount to violations of international human rights law, in particular under the CAT and CRC.”

Para 276:

“The Fact-Finding Mission finds that both RSF and SAF imposed broad internet shutdowns by cutting access to information and communication through internet and media services and curtailing free speech of journalists and the media incompatible with the right to freedom of opinion and expression under the ICCPR and ACHPR.”

Para 285:

“The Fact-Finding Mission finds that both the SAF and RSF have engaged in actions contrary to their obligations under international humanitarian law regarding unimpeded and rapid passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need, despite the repeated calls by the United Nations Security Council to allow and facilitate the full, rapid, safe, unhindered, and sustained passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need.”

Para 290:

“The Fact-Finding Mission finds reasonable grounds to believe that the RSF and its allied militias committed the war crimes of violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture; committing outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment; rape, sexual slavery and any form of indecent assault; pillage of towns or places; conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 or using them to participate actively in hostilities; intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population; and ordering the displacement of the civilian population for reasons related to the conflict.”

Para 291:

The Mission finds “reasonable grounds to believe that the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) committed the war crimes of violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment, and torture; and committing outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment.”

Para 294:

“On this basis, the Fact-Finding Mission finds reasonable grounds to believe that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and its allied militias committed the crimes against humanity of murder; torture; enslavement; rape, sexual slavery, and acts of a sexual nature of comparable gravity; persecution on the basis of intersecting ethnic and gender grounds in connection with the foregoing acts; and forcible displacement of population.”

Sudan: UN Fact-Finding Mission deplores Darfur killings as conflict enters third year, warning ‘darkest chapters’ may lie ahead”

Press Release, 14 April 2025

“The latest attacks by RSF forces – which began on 11 April and targeted Zamzam and Abu Shouk settlements for internally displaced people, as well as El Fasher itself – have killed more than a hundred civilians, including nine medical personnel of Relief International.”

“The Fact-Finding Mission also received alarming reports of reprisal attacks carried out by the SAF and its allies in areas recaptured from the RSF. It is investigating such attacks, including reports of detention and extra-judicial and arbitrary executions of RSF members and those believed to have supported the RSF in areas previously under its control, in particular in Al-Dinder and Sinja in Sennar state, and Wad Madani in Al-Gezira state, between September 2024 and January 2025.”

“Newly acquired areas in Khartoum, over which the SAF announced full control on 7 April, have reportedly seen harsh retaliation from the SAF and its allies, including public executions without fair trials of civilians accused of collaborating with the RSF and mass arrests in districts like Al-Kalakla and other parts of southern Khartoum, with detainees' fates currently unknown.”

International Criminal Court

International Criminal Court – Investigations and Arrest Warrants Related to the Situation in Darfur, Sudan- ICC Public Records and Case Summaries

The ICC has been investigating crimes committed in Darfur, Sudan, since 1 July 2002, following a UN Security Council referral in March 2005 (UNSC Res. 1593). The referral was based on the findings of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur (UN Doc S/2005/60), which identified widespread atrocities and destruction. The Commission highlighted two core facts:

- 1.65 million internally displaced persons in Darfur, and over 200,000 refugees in Chad.
- Large-scale destruction of villages across all three states of Darfur.

The ICC opened its investigation in June 2005. The charges in its cases reflect grave and ongoing patterns of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed by Sudanese government officials, Janjaweed/militia leaders, and Resistance Front commanders.

1. Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir (President of Sudan, 1993–2019)

Arrest Warrants Issued: 4 March 2009 and 12 July 2010

Time Frame of Alleged Crimes: *2003 to 2008*

Charges:

- Genocide: by killing, causing serious bodily or mental harm, and by deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to destroy ethnic groups.
- Crimes against humanity: murder, extermination, forcible transfer, torture, and rape.
- War crimes: intentionally directing attacks against civilians and pillaging.

2. Ahmad Muhammad Harun (Minister of State for the Interior; later Minister of Humanitarian Affairs)

Arrest Warrant Issued: 27 April 2007

Time Frame of Alleged Crimes: *2003 to 2004*

Charges:

- 20 counts of crimes against humanity: including murder, persecution, forcible transfer, rape, inhumane acts, imprisonment, and torture.
- 22 counts of war crimes: including attacks against the civilian population, destruction of property, rape, pillaging, and outrages upon personal dignity.

3. Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein (Minister of National Defence; former Minister of Interior; Presidential Representative for Darfur)

Arrest Warrant Issued: 1 March 2012

Time Frame of Alleged Crimes: *2003 to 2004*

Charges:

- 7 counts of crimes against humanity: persecution, murder, forcible transfer, rape, inhumane acts, imprisonment, and torture.
- 6 counts of war crimes: murder, attacks against civilians, destruction of property, rape, pillaging, and outrages upon personal dignity.

4. Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman ("Ali Kushayb")

Transferred to ICC Custody: 9 June 2020

Initial Appearance: 15 June 2020

Time Frame of Alleged Crimes: *August 2003 to at least April 2004*

Charges:

- 31 counts including:
 - War crimes: murder, pillaging, attacks against civilians, outrages upon personal dignity, and intentional attacks against protected persons.
 - Crimes against humanity: murder, persecution, forcible transfer, rape, imprisonment, and torture.

Confirmation of Charges: 9 July 2021

Trial Status: Closing statements concluded *11–13 December 2024*; judgment pending.

Fortieth Report of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to the United Nations Security Council pursuant to Resolution 1593 (2005), January 2025

Page 2:

“In relation to the present allegations of core international crimes, and in particular with respect to its investigation in relation to crimes allegedly committed in West Darfur since April 2023 following the commencement of armed hostilities between the Sudanese Armed Forces (‘SAF’) and the Rapid Support Forces (‘RSF’), the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC (‘OTP’ or ‘the Office’) has been able to collect sufficient evidence to confirm that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a wide range of crimes under the Rome Statute have been committed and continue to be committed in Darfur, including killings, pillaging, attacks against internally displaced persons camps, indiscriminate targeting of civilian populations, gender-based crimes, and crimes against and affecting children.”

Paragraph 7:

“The renewal of hostilities in West Darfur and the exacerbation of violence throughout 2024 in Northern Darfur and elsewhere are the direct result of the impunity afforded to perpetrators of earlier crimes. Victims and witnesses’ testimonies as well as CSO reports, and other open-source information indicate that several of the conflict leading actors and their affiliated groups were also directly engaged in criminality in Darfur in 2003–2004. Based on its investigations and evidence and information collected by the Office, it is clear that the same pattern of criminal behaviour is being undertaken by the same actors against the same ethnic minorities, in particular non-Arab groups. The large-scale criminality witnessed since 2023 has clear and direct links to the armed conflict that began in 2003.”

Paragraph 8:

“The scale and toll of continued violence and criminality for over 20 years have had a significant impact on the civilian population and their humanitarian situation. This resulted in one of the worst forcible displacements of civilians and loss of life in the region, especially of marginalised ethnic groups. The ongoing armed clashes from April 2023 until this day have only exacerbated these unsustainable conditions for all the civilians that remain in Darfur. The perpetrators responsible for alleged international crimes have used this ongoing volatile environment to shield themselves from accountability.”

Paragraph 15:

“The Office has made significant progress in preparing applications for warrants of arrest against individuals responsible for crimes in Darfur. In particular, the Office is now taking final steps to present an application for an arrest warrant against one individual relating to alleged crimes committed in West Darfur, and intends to file further applications for warrants of arrest for other identified individuals in the coming reporting period.”

UN Special Rapporteurs

“Using starvation as a weapon of war in Sudan must stop”

Joint Statement, 26 June 2024

Experts: Michael Fakhri (right to food), Balakrishnan Rajagopal (adequate housing), Tlaleng Mofokeng (health), Pedro Arrojo-Agudo (safe water and sanitation), Reem Alsalem (violence against women and girls), Paula Gaviria Betancur (internally displaced persons)

“Both the SAF and the RSF are using food as a weapon and starving civilians.”

“The extent of hunger and displacement we see in Sudan today is unprecedented and never witnessed before,” the experts said. “The SAF and RSF must stop blocking, looting and exploiting humanitarian assistance.”

“The deliberate targeting of humanitarian workers and local volunteers has undermined aid operations, putting millions of people at further risk of starvation,” the experts said. “Local responders are risking their health and lives and working across battle lines.”

Human Rights Watch

World Report 2025

“Conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) continued with the warring parties, in particular the RSF, committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other violations of international humanitarian law.”

“The RSF and allies committed widespread unlawful killings, including mass executions, sexual violence, targeted civilian property, and repeatedly used heavy explosive weapons in densely populated areas. The SAF and allied forces indiscriminately bombed populated areas and deliberately destroyed civilian infrastructure, committed acts of sexual violence and summary executions, torture of detainees, and mutilated bodies.”

“Both parties willfully obstructed aid. The country’s health system has been decimated, with repeated attacks and incursions into hospitals as well as ongoing occupations of healthcare.”

“Both parties have violently attacked, harassed, and unlawfully detained local volunteers. These violations and crimes occurred in a context of impunity given the parties’ ongoing failure to hold their forces accountable.”

“The capital, Khartoum, remained an epicenter of fighting. Both the RSF and SAF carried out attacks using explosive weapons in populated areas. According to Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), the international data gathering organization, 110 artillery fire incidents were recorded in August alone.”

“The Sudan Doctors Union said an airstrike on a market in an RSF-controlled area south of the capital left at least 46 dead on September 10; the SAF and the RSF

exchanged blame on the incident. In SAF-controlled parts of Omdurman, shelling, reportedly by the RSF, impacted two healthcare facilities in June and August, killing at least three people. Another reported RSF shelling on September 23 hit a market in Omdurman, killing at least 15 civilians according to SAF aligned health officials.”

“Human Rights Watch verified two videos posted on pro-SAF accounts in January and March showing drones attacking unarmed people in civilian clothes in Bahri, then under RSF’s control; the two incidents killed at least one, possibly two people, and injured four or five others.”

“Both warring parties have deliberately targeted local responders through intimidation, unlawful detentions, violent attacks, and other abuses. Dozens of local responders were killed. The RSF have in several instances sexually assaulted local responders.”

“The SAF reportedly carried out airstrikes in multiple RSF-controlled territories in Darfur, leaving civilian casualties.”

“The warring parties have willfully obstructed aid movement in violation of international humanitarian law.”

“Both parties have prevented aid from reaching civilians in Darfur.”

“The RSF subjected women and girls in areas under their control in Khartoum, Bahri, and Omdurman to widespread sexual violence, and to forced and child marriages. Sexual violence by SAF was reported as they took over parts of Omdurman in early 2024.”

“Both the SAF and the RSF have mistreated detainees in a context of widespread unlawful detention and enforced disappearances of hundreds. Human Rights Watch analyzed videos posted between August 2023 and July 2024 showing the RSF and the SAF, and allied forces, executing prisoners, torturing, and ill-treating them. In the case of the SAF, the videos also showed the forces mutilating bodies.”

World Report 2024

“Since the fighting started, both forces have repeatedly used heavy explosive weapons in densely populated areas, resulting in numerous civilian casualties and destruction of civilian property and critical infrastructure.”

“Since the start of the conflict, both the SAF and RSF have used heavy explosive weapons in densely populated areas across the Khartoum, including Omdurman and Bahri areas, killing thousands of civilians, damaging critical infrastructure, and leaving millions without access to necessities. The fighting destroyed many homes and other civilian objects.”

Amnesty International

**“They Raped All of Us”: Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in Sudan
Report, 10 April 2025**

Page 5:

“According to Amnesty International documentation and that of others, RSF soldiers raped and gang raped women and girls in Khartoum and its sister cities of Bahri and Omdurman.”

Page 6:

“In addition to rape and gang rape, RSF soldiers also subjected women and girls to other forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment including beatings, cutting them with sharp blades and pouring hot and melting liquid on their body, inflicting women with severe bodily injuries.”

“The sexual violence cases documented in this report occurred in the context of the ongoing non-international armed conflict in Sudan and amount to war crimes.”

“In addition, the evidence collected for this report and that reported previously by Amnesty International and by other human rights organizations and UN mechanisms since the onset of the conflict in Sudan in April 2023 suggests that the acts of rape and sexual slavery may have been committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack by the RSF against the civilian population of Sudan. This evidence suggests further that the rape of women and girls was itself carried out by the RSF in a manner that was both widespread and systematic. Any acts of rape carried out in this context, where the perpetrator was aware of the wider context, may amount to crimes against humanity.”

Page 25:

“The sexual violence documented by Amnesty International in this report amounts to violations of international human rights law by the RSF. Rape, gang rape and other forms of sexual violence violate numerous human rights, including the rights to equality and non-discrimination, to physical integrity, and the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment.”

Page 26:

“The acts of rape and gang rape perpetrated by RSF members against women and girls in Sudan that are documented in this report amount to war crimes, as they occurred in the context of an armed conflict which the perpetrators would have been aware of.”

Page 27:

“The acts of rape documented in this report are a continuation of a pattern of violence by the RSF against the civilian population of Sudan, which has persisted throughout the course of the two years of the Sudan conflict. The evidence collected and reported by Amnesty International therefore suggests that these acts of rape may have been committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack by the RSF against the civilian population of Sudan.”

Amnesty International – The State of the World’s Human Rights
Annual Report, April 2025

Page 346:

“All parties to the conflict continued to commit serious violations and abuses of international human rights law, and violations of international humanitarian law, resulting in mass civilian casualties.”

“Women and girls were subjected to widespread conflict-related sexual violence. Looting and destruction of civilian property violated economic, social and cultural rights. A near-total telecommunications blackout restricted the right to freedom of expression and the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver aid. Impunity persisted for conflict-related violations and abuses.”

United States Department of State

Genocide Determination and Accountability Statement

Press Statement by Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, 7 January 2025

“On April 15, 2023, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) launched a conflict of unmitigated brutality that has resulted in the world’s largest humanitarian catastrophe, leaving 638,000 Sudanese experiencing the worst famine in Sudan’s recent history, over 30 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, and tens of thousands dead.”

“In December 2023, I concluded that members of the SAF and the RSF had committed war crimes. I also determined that members of the RSF and allied Arab militias had committed crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.”

“The RSF and RSF-aligned militias have continued to direct attacks against civilians. The RSF and allied militias have systematically murdered men and boys—even infants—on an ethnic basis, and deliberately targeted women and girls from certain ethnic groups for rape and other forms of brutal sexual violence. Those same militias have targeted fleeing civilians, murdering innocent people escaping conflict, and prevented remaining civilians from accessing lifesaving supplies.”

“Based on this information, I have now concluded that members of the RSF and allied militias have committed genocide in Sudan.”