



# **Sudan Rights Watch Network**

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**Screams Behind the Walls :**

**Torture Violations Against Civilians During the  
April 15 War Darfur-Sudan**

**Report Documenting Cases of Torture Against Civilians**

**March 2025**



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## **1. About the Network**

The Sudan Human Rights Watch Network is a Sudanese network specialized in monitoring and documenting human rights violations, monitoring security incidents and human rights violations in Sudan, with a special focus on the Darfur region, aiming to protect, promote human rights, and raising public awareness of basic rights, public and private in the country.

The network provides accurate and reliable information on the human rights situation, including security violations and incidents, by issuing periodic monthly reports published on official digital platforms. The network also publishes urgent updates on current incidents of critical importance and sensitivity that have profound and decisive implications and impacts. These reports are based on data collected by the network's observers and monitors, who are deployed on the ground throughout Sudan and the region.

The network has an advanced event tracking system, which provides statistical analysis of human rights violations and security incidents, disaggregating their patterns, places of occurrence, the possibility of identifying perpetrators and analyzing the context of their occurrence. All this is in an effort by the Network to strengthen advocacy efforts at various levels, and to support the rights of affected individuals, communities and groups to contribute effectively, urgently and strategically to achieving justice through accountability processes, preserving collective memory, and others, in order to positively participate in building respectful society for human rights in Sudan.





## 2. Executive Summary

This report is based on data collected through structured interviews conducted in February 2025 with victims, survivors, and eyewitnesses across Central, Southern, Northern, and Eastern Darfur, as well as the Adri region in Eastern Chad. Most of the respondents are residents of West Darfur State who endured severe human rights violations, particularly in El Geneina. Many were subjected to torture during arbitrary arrests, detentions, or abductions carried out by warring parties amid the armed conflict that erupted on April 15, 2023. The report provides direct and detailed testimonies on the nature of the accusations, underlying motives, patterns and methods of torture, the tools used, the frequency and duration of detention, and the profound impact on victims' health, psychological well-being, social structures, and economic stability.

Survivors recount being held in harsh conditions, enduring brutal treatment that included severe beatings, finger mutilation, rape, kicking, waterboarding, and suspension in excruciating positions. They also suffered deprivation of food, water, sleep, and exposure to natural light or fresh air for prolonged periods. Additionally, detainees faced verbal humiliation, ethnic discrimination, and sexual violence. The duration of detention ranged from a few hours to several months, with victims being held without clear legal charges. Many were accused of affiliations with the army, joint forces, or intelligence agencies, while others

were targeted based on tribal identity, highlighting the ethnic dimension of these abuses.

These violations have left lasting physical, psychological, and socioeconomic scars on survivors. Many suffer from fractures, chronic wounds, and permanent disabilities. Psychologically, they exhibit severe post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression,





and constant anxiety, contributing to a decline in their overall health and social interactions. Economically, victims and their families face significant hardship, with many losing jobs or sources of income due to disabilities, injuries, or social stigma.

### 3. Introduction

Torture is a grave violation of human rights, directly contradicting international conventions and national laws designed to uphold human dignity, protect individual and collective freedoms, and safeguard fundamental rights. In the context of the armed conflict that erupted in mid-April 2023, civilians—particularly in the Darfur region—were subjected to widespread and systematic acts of torture. These abuses occurred during arrests, abductions, and detentions, often targeting individuals based on various political, ethnic, and security-related accusations.

This report documents and analyzes cases of torture experienced by civilians during this period, relying on firsthand testimonies from victims, survivors, and their families. It seeks to clarify the patterns of these violations, the underlying motives, and their far-reaching health, psychological, physical, and social consequences on individuals and communities.

Additionally, the report examines the broader security, political, and social contexts that contributed to the escalation of these violations. It also explores the legal frameworks governing torture, assessing the possibilities for accountability and justice. Ultimately, this research aims to present recommendations aligned with international standards, proposing mechanisms to strengthen accountability, protect civilians, and ensure that perpetrators of these crimes do not evade justice.





#### 4. Objectives

This report aims to achieve several key objectives, including:

1. Documenting Cases of Torture – Recording instances of torture against civilians following arbitrary arrests, forced detentions, and abductions. These acts constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and grave violations under international humanitarian law governing non-international armed conflicts.
2. Identifying Perpetrators – Determining the parties and individuals involved in acts of torture during arrests, abductions, and detentions of civilians.
3. Examining Methods and Impact – Analyzing the techniques and tools used in torture while assessing the physical, psychological, social, and economic consequences suffered by victims.
4. Assessing the Scale and Legal Recourse – Investigating the duration and frequency of torture inside detention facilities, identifying the objectives and motives behind these violations, and exploring potential legal avenues for victims to seek justice against perpetrators.
5. Providing Recommendations for Civilian Protection – Offering actionable recommendations to enhance efforts to protect civilians from torture, particularly as the war that began on April 15 continues, with a focus on the Darfur region.
6. Strengthening Advocacy and Documentation – Promoting international and regional advocacy for civilian protection, including victims of torture, while working to build a comprehensive archive of torture cases to support future justice and reparation efforts.





## 5. Methodology

The report is based on data and information gathered through a rigorous research process aimed at directly reaching victims and survivors. The objective was to document their experiences and the impact of the violations they endured as accurately and truthfully as possible.

The report team conducted systematic interviews with victims, survivors, and eyewitnesses who had experienced or witnessed arrests, abductions, and detentions involving severe acts of torture. Each interview followed a structured process, including obtaining informed consent—either manually or electronically—after explaining the objectives of the study and the required data.

To ensure consistency and reliability, the interviews were guided by a detailed questionnaire adapted from the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Torture at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Additionally, a set of general guidelines were developed for the research team, outlining strict procedures to be followed before, during, and after the interviews to maintain ethical and methodological integrity.

The research process followed an integrated approach, starting with the identification of torture cases and legal documentation procedures. This was followed by a structured search for the target group, the design of data collection tools, and the execution of interviews. The final phase involved data transcription, analysis, and preparation for publication. The findings are shared across various digital platforms, including the Human Rights Watch Network – Sudan, in collaboration with its partners.





## 6. Challenges faced by the report

Throughout the research and documentation process, several significant challenges emerged, including:

1. **Difficulty Reaching the Target Group** – Many victims and survivors were hesitant to participate due to fears of potential repercussions. Some refused interviews without explanation, while others cited security risks as a reason for declining.
2. **Social Constraints** – Societal norms and traditions posed significant barriers to disclosure, particularly for women and girls. Concerns about reputation, stigma, and family honor led many to withdraw from interviews or avoid sharing details about their experiences.
3. **Security Risks** – Many victims feared retaliation, as some still lived in proximity to the perpetrators or in areas under their control. Several individuals reported being threatened with death, arrest, or other forms of harm if they spoke out.
4. **Complexity of Violations** – The nature of the reported abuses varied widely. Some cases involved indiscriminate torture, while others were rooted in ethnic, professional, or political targeting. This complexity made it difficult to reach certain victims, especially those connected to groups engaged in ongoing military conflicts, territorial disputes, or power struggles related to land ownership and governance structures.
5. **Legal and Documentation Challenges** – Many survivors, particularly rape victims, did not receive medical examinations or proper healthcare upon release, complicating legal documentation and validation of their cases. Additionally, some victims lost their identity documents due to violence and repeated displacement. This posed a challenge in securing legal and social protections, making it difficult to



6. include them in the study using standard methodological approaches. As a result, their cases remain pending for future documentation through alternative methods.
7. Lack of Trust and Fatigue from Documentation Efforts – Some individuals expressed reluctance to participate, citing repeated interviews with various organizations without any tangible outcomes. They were frustrated by the lack of judicial action, support, or assistance following previous documentation efforts.

## **8. Legal Framework**

Torture is one of the gravest human rights violations and is strictly prohibited under national, regional, and international laws. During the war that erupted on April 15, 2023, in Sudan—particularly in the Darfur region—civilians were subjected to widespread torture during arbitrary arrests, forced detentions, and abductions. These violations occurred in various settings, including victims' homes, workplaces, marketplaces, streets, and even while traveling.

### **8.1 Definition and Context of Torture**

International humanitarian law defines torture as an intentional act that inflicts severe physical or mental suffering on an individual to obtain information, coerce a confession, or punish a victim. Such acts are considered torture when carried out by the state or any person acting in an official capacity.

The Human Rights Watch Network – Sudan expresses deep concern over the increasing prevalence of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment committed by parties to the armed conflict, particularly in Darfur. Testimonies from victims, survivors, and eyewitnesses, collected through interviews conducted by Al-Shabaka Mission, reveal that various war factions systematically tortured civilians inside detention centers following arbitrary arrests and abductions.



The conflict is legally classified as a non-international armed conflict under international humanitarian law.

Victims reported enduring severe forms of torture, including:

- **Physical abuse:** Beatings with whips, sticks, and plastic hoses; kicking; rape and sexual violence using sharp objects; exposure to extreme temperatures; waterboarding; and forced labor.
- **Psychological abuse:** Verbal racial insults, threats of execution, and deprivation of food, water, and healthcare.
- **Financial extortion:** Some detainees were only released after their families' paid ransoms.

The primary motives for these acts included punishing individuals suspected of loyalty to rival factions, targeting individuals based on their ethnicity, and extracting confessions—particularly from lawyers and human rights defenders. Many victims continue to suffer long-term physical, psychological, social, and economic consequences due to their experiences.

## 8.2 Legal Provisions on Torture

### 1. Regional and International Laws

Sudan is a party to several international treaties that prohibit torture, including:

- Convention Against Torture (1984) – Prohibits torture and mandates states to prevent and prosecute acts of torture.
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) – Article 7 explicitly prohibits torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.





- Geneva Conventions (1949) & Additional Protocols – Prohibit torture and inhuman treatment of civilians and detainees in both international and non-international armed conflicts.
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981) – Article 5 prohibits all forms of torture and cruel treatment.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Article 5 – States that no one shall be subjected to torture or degrading punishment.

## **2. National Laws**

Under Sudan's 1991 Penal Code (amended in 2020), torture is criminalized under Articles 186 to 192, which cover war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes against individuals. Torture is classified as a crime against humanity if committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilians. However, despite these legal provisions, Sudan's judicial system has largely failed to prosecute perpetrators, leaving many victims without justice. As a result, jurisdiction over such crimes may fall under the International Criminal Court (ICC), which prosecutes crimes against humanity when national courts are unable or unwilling to do so.

### **8.3 Criminal Responsibility for Torture**

**Individual Responsibility** – Perpetrators of torture can be prosecuted under universal jurisdiction or before the International Criminal Court if their actions constitute crimes against humanity.

**Command Responsibility** – Leaders and officials who order, condone, or fail to prevent torture can also be held accountable under both Sudanese and international law.



## 8.4 Recommendations for Strengthening Legal Protections

To combat torture and protect civilians, the report calls for the following actions:

### 1. Accountability and Justice

- The Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Sudanese Army, and all armed factions must comply with international and regional laws prohibiting torture.
- Immediate release of all arbitrarily detained individuals.
- Independent investigations into cases of torture, with prosecution of those responsible.
- Public disclosure of detainee lists and locations.

### 2. International & Regional Actions

- The international community must impose sanctions on those responsible for torture.
- Increased financial and institutional support for Sudanese organizations involved in documenting violations and rehabilitating survivors.

### 3. Legal and Institutional Reforms

- Strengthen Sudan's domestic laws to align with international human rights standards.
- Ensure judicial independence and prevent political or military interference in prosecuting torture cases.
- Establish independent mechanisms to investigate torture cases.

### 4. Support for Survivors

- Provide legal, medical, and psychological assistance to victims.
- Implement witness protection mechanisms to encourage survivors to testify against perpetrators without fear of retaliation.



## 9. Firstly: The nature of torture, its patterns, methods and tools:

Survivors and victims of arbitrary arrest forced detention, and abduction have recounted being subjected to multiple forms of brutal torture, often inflicted with sharp instruments and harsh tools. The severity of these acts ranged from verbal abuse and insults to extreme physical and sexual violence, including rape and the amputation of fingers using sharp iron objects.

### 9.1 Methods and Patterns of Torture

#### 1. Physical Violence

- Beating with whips, sticks, fists, and plastic hoses.
- Kicking, hanging from ceilings, and prolonged physical assault.
- Fracturing of bones through extreme pressure and beatings.
- Electrocution with electric wires and exposure to extreme temperatures.

#### 2. Deprivation and Forced Labor

- Denial of food, water, and medical care.
- Sleep deprivation and exposure to extreme weather conditions for extended periods.
- Exploitation as forced labor in agricultural fields for months.

#### 3. Ethnically Motivated Torture

- Many survivors reported intensified torture based on their ethnic identity.
- Members of the Masalit, Tanjar, Fur, and Zaghawa tribes were specifically targeted, suffering double torture and arbitrary arrests due to their ethnicity.
- Some were detained solely for belonging to these groups.





#### 4. Targeting of Professionals and Activists

- Lawyers, human rights defenders, civil society leaders, and displaced community leaders were particularly vulnerable.
- Some were arrested and forced into labor because of their skills in farming or driving.

### 9.2 Testimonies from Victims and Survivors

#### Case 1: A.A.H. – Resident of Al-Hamidiya IDP Camp, Central Darfur

*"They arrested me and ordered me to come with them. When I refused, four of them grabbed me by my legs and hands, dragged me outside, and started kicking and beating me with fists and sticks. They tied my hands behind my back with a wire, forced me onto my stomach, and one of them fell on my right arm, breaking my shoulder and twisting my ribs. They then brought an electric wire, whipped me with it, and sprayed me with cold water, all while hurling insults at me."*

*"They told me, 'We have five methods of torture to use on you, but if you confess, we will release you.' They struck me on the head, shoulders, and back with whips and sticks, pierced my right ear and toes with sharp iron objects, and tore all my clothes."*

#### Case 2: A.A.S. – Beaten and Accused of Being a Soldier

*"They beat me with a sharp whip, hit me with the back of a gun, and kicked me with their boots. They kept insisting I was an army soldier, while I kept telling them I was just a civilian."*



### **Case 3: A.A.A. – Detainee in Nyala**

*"We were detained in a crowded place with large numbers of prisoners. Some men were raped with sharp objects. We were denied food and medical care. Many died from starvation, and the only way to get food was if we could pay for our release—if they even allowed it."*

### **Case 4: A.M.Y. – Resident of El Geneina, Witness to a Child's Death**

*"They deprived us of food, water, and movement. They beat us with sticks and whips at gunpoint. They even shot at us, and a ten-year-old girl from our neighborhood died in my arms from her wounds."*

*"Another time, they sexually assaulted and raped some of us while searching us."*

### **Case 5: J.A.K. – Subjected to Beatings, Starvation, and Attempted Execution**

*"While traveling towards the Adri region in eastern Chad, we were stopped and tied up. A group of nine of us was taken to an unknown forest, where they beat us with iron rods and rifle butts. We were left without food or water for long periods, exposed to the sun and severe beatings. They shot a nine-year-old boy among us."*

*"They filmed us while torturing us, relishing in our cries of pain. They also attempted to slaughter me."*

### **Case 6: A. – Kidnapped and Forced into Labor**

*"They kidnapped me and forced me to work on a farm along Tawila Road in North Darfur. I was made to drive a tillage vehicle for them. The second time they captured*





*me, they tied me up using nine iron locks—four on my hands, three on my legs, and two more binding me to a tree."*

#### **Case 7: A.J.S. – Repeated Rape and Forced Domestic Work**

*"They beat me with sticks, hit my head with the back of a gun, and whipped me with plastic hoses. Three RSF members raped me repeatedly for 17 days. Every day, they took turns. They also forced me to cook for them daily. They tortured me more severely because I am from the Masalit tribe."*

#### **Case 8: Group Detention and Ethnic Insults**

*"They took us—eight young men—on one of five vehicles, beating us with whips and sticks. They accused us of being Sudanese coalition intelligence officers. They detained us in several places, where we saw many other prisoners."*

*"They interrogated us about the whereabouts of Governor Khamis Abkar, calling us spies. We spent two days without food or water while they hurled racist insults at us, calling us 'Nuba' and accusing us of ruining the country. They told us, 'We've executed many here. You'll be next.'*

#### **10.Secondly: The Origin and Nature of the Accusation, Motives, and Reasons:**

One of the most common accusations against victims and survivors was their alleged affiliation with parties to the armed conflict. Many detainees were accused of supporting the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) or armed opposition groups. The motives behind these accusations varied and often served multiple purposes, including:

- Extracting forced confessions to obtain intelligence or fabricated admissions.
- Intimidation and coercion to pressure victims into supporting the perpetrators.





- Inflicting racial and ethnic persecution, particularly against marginalized communities.
- Extorting ransoms from detainees and their families.
- Exploiting victims forced labor, particularly in agriculture and manual labor.

Survivors and victims identified the perpetrators as Rapid Support Forces (RSF) members, affiliated militias, or allied groups, based on their uniforms, military insignia, combat gear, and distinctive speech accents.

### 10.1 Patterns of Accusations

#### 1. Accusations of Military Affiliation

Many detainees were falsely accused of being soldiers or spies for the Sudanese army. These accusations were often used as a pretext for torture and prolonged detention.

A displaced man in a camp recounted:

- "They accused me of belonging to the army, even though I repeatedly told them I was just a displaced citizen. They hung me up in a room, hurling insults at me, including 'You're just a slave here.'"
- A.A.S. recalled:
- "They told me, 'You are an army soldier,' while I kept insisting that I was just a civilian. Then they said they would kill me. I told them, 'Go ahead, death is one.'"
- M.I.A. shared:
- "They accused me of being affiliated with the army and demanded that I hand over a weapon they claimed I owned. They also said I had friends in armed movements fighting alongside the army and that I was one of those guarding neighborhoods from looting and attacks."



## 2. Ethnically Motivated Accusations

Victims from specific ethnic groups, particularly the Masalit, Tanjar, Fur, and Zaghawa, reported being singled out for intensified torture and abuse solely based on their identity.

- A survivor stated:

*"When RSF personnel arrested us, they first asked about our tribes. When they learned we were Masalit, they intensified the torture, looting, and sexual assaults against us."*

- Another detainee explained:

*"Because I belong to the Tanjar tribe, they subjected me to double torture, believing that my tribe supported the other side in the conflict."*

## 3. Accusations Linked to Civil Resistance and Self-Defense Initiatives

Some victims were accused of participating in local self-defense initiatives, such as the civil guarding efforts in Nyala, where citizens attempted to protect their neighborhoods by blocking roads and digging trenches to deter attacks and looting.

M.I.A. shared:

- *"They accused me of being one of those guarding the neighborhoods, even though we were only protecting our homes from attacks."*

## 4. Accusations as a Pretext for Forced Labor

In many cases, detainees were falsely accused of crimes to justify forcing them into agricultural labor under duress and at gunpoint.



- **A survivor recounted:**

*"They made sure not to beat us too severely because they needed us for agricultural labor. I was forced to drive a tillage machine for them."*

#### Accusations Against Human Rights Defenders and Activists

Lawyers, human rights defenders, and activists were targeted for documenting violations and exposing crimes committed by the RSF and allied militias.

- **A detained lawyer explained:**

*"I was arrested because I documented violations and crimes committed by the RSF. They tortured me to force me to give them information."*

- **Another human rights activist recounted:**

*"The RSF detained me because of my work as a lawyer and my belonging to the Masalit tribe."*

- **Accusations of Espionage and Political Affiliation**

Some detainees were accused of being part of political or armed movements, often as a justification for prolonged detention and brutal torture.

A survivor stated:

*"They accused me of being part of the Sudanese coalition, linked to the governor of West Darfur, whom they had executed. They claimed I was spying for the coalition and demanded I confess and provide them with information."*

The systematic use of fabricated accusations served as a mechanism for coercion, persecution, and exploitation. The RSF and its allied forces used these false charges to



justify arbitrary detentions, racial and ethnic violence, forced labor, and financial extortion. These testimonies provide clear evidence of the targeted and organized nature of these crimes, underscoring the need for urgent action to ensure accountability and justice for the victims.

### **Recommendations for Action**

1. International legal action against perpetrators for crimes against humanity.
2. Documentation and exposure of human rights violations through independent investigations.
3. Protection and legal support for human rights defenders and civil society activists.
4. Support for survivors, including rehabilitation and psychosocial care.

### **11. Third: Aspects of the effects of torture on victims:**

The victims and survivors of forced arrests, abductions, and detentions experienced profound and devastating impacts on their health, physical and psychological well-being, and social and economic lives. These effects varied in

severity, but all survivors shared the common trauma of violence and violations that disrupted their lives in multiple ways.

#### **Physical Health Consequences**

Many victims suffered severe physical injuries that caused lasting pain, disability, and loss of normal functioning. These injuries often resulted in broken bones, deep cuts, and internal damage, which affected their ability to work and support their families.

One survivor described his injuries:

*"I had a broken neck and twisted ribs. After my release, a general practitioner gave me antibiotics and painkillers, but no X-ray was done. I had to seek traditional treatment*



*from a 'visionary,' who confirmed the fractures. The pain was unbearable, and I couldn't sleep. As the main breadwinner for my family, my arrest and injuries had a severe impact on my entire extended family."*

Another survivor recounted:

*"I suffer from back, shoulder, and head injuries due to severe beatings. I received no healthcare during my detention. After being released, I sought medical help and was prescribed antibiotics. My family was terrified, especially as they searched for me everywhere, unable to find any information about my whereabouts."*

A.A.S. described:

*"I left detention with significant eye damage and frequent back injuries from the torture. After my release, my daughter took me to another city for treatment, where I received care from a charity doctor. My back injuries are still painful and haven't healed. My family's financial situation collapsed because everything we owned was looted."*

## **1. Psychological and Emotional Consequences**

The psychological impact of torture and abuse was often long-lasting, manifesting as stress, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Survivors reported sleep disturbances, memory issues, mood swings, and a deep sense of isolation. Many also experienced severe emotional distress due to the trauma inflicted on their families, who suffered from fear, confusion, and the loss of their loved ones.



G.A.K. shared:

*"I still suffer from stress, anxiety, and sleep disruptions because of the trauma. My mother was severely affected, with health complications for her and my sisters. The detention also had a heavy economic toll, as I am the main provider for my family."*

A.A.S. described:

*"The psychological impact of being detained multiple times is overwhelming. They killed my father and others in front of me. The sexual assaults I endured, along with the looting of our property, have left me mentally scarred."*

A.J.S. recounted:

*"I am extremely stressed and under pressure due to my ordeal. My mother was shocked, sick, and cried incessantly, fearing that I had been killed or disappeared. I still have a severe back injury, and I struggle with the emotional trauma from sexual violence. I couldn't bring myself to seek medical help because I feared being stigmatized and labeled as a rape victim."*

## **2. Social and Economic Consequences**

The effects of torture and detention extended beyond the individuals to their families and communities, creating social isolation, stigma, and economic collapse. Many survivors were the primary breadwinners, and their detentions caused economic paralysis for their families. Additionally, some families experienced tensions in their social relations, particularly in communities where rape and sexual violence were involved, leading to the forced migration of victims' families to escape stigma.



M.I.A. described her family's struggle:

*"I have a severe knee injury and muscle damage in my leg. There are injuries on my back and hands from repeated beatings. After my release, I was treated by a local doctor and therapist, but my family's financial situation worsened as I lost my job at the bakery. I had to start a small freelance business just to survive."*

A.A.A. recounted:

*"I have many visible scars from the torture. My family was very worried when they heard about my arrest. They tried to search for me but couldn't find me. The community in our area was already tense, and after the incident, they became even more fearful. We lost everything, and my family is now struggling with both emotional and economic hardship."*

## **12. Fourthly: Duration and extent of repeated violations and the possibility of litigation**

The arbitrary arrest forced detention or abduction of victims and survivors, during which many violations and forms of violence were perpetrated against them, lasted between at least forty (40) minutes and a maximum of more than nine (9) months. While the number of victims are subjected to these violations and torture in various methods and tools used, between one to five (5) times. During the period of detention, the perpetrators did not allow the families of most of them to visit them, while the families of some of them were allowed to pay ransoms or sums of money only to be released.

As for the possibility of litigation after their release with money or after they managed to escape from detention, more than 98% of them confirmed that they were unable to register a report or file a lawsuit with any party in their geographical and social





context against the perpetrators and aggressors, because the latter are the party controlling their military and security contexts, and therefore it is difficult to file any complaint for legal litigation. Few were able to, and the proceedings did not go far, due to the ongoing conflict and the absence of official relevant authorities. In their areas, including judicial institutions and police agencies, to achieve justice and legal redress.

*"The duration of my detention was from eight o'clock until one o'clock in the afternoon. It took more than two hours to negotiate my release. My family and I could not report litigation because it is difficult to achieve any justice, because the authorities in our context are also the perpetrators. Even if we pay money, it will be in vain, so I will pay it to treat what I am suffering from."*

*"I spent two days in a room designated for detention, interrogation and torture. They didn't give me any food or drink, they never allowed anyone to visit me, my family didn't know where I was being held, and people were already afraid to get closer. All official judicial institutions were out of service for litigation. The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) were in military and security control of all aspects of the area and were the culprits. Therefore, it is difficult to go to them to file a lawsuit in search of justice."*

*"I was detained twice. The first time we were in our house with my family members for 4 hours, the day and place where they killed my father. The second time was with others, from eight in the morning until five in the evening."*

A.A.A. recounts: *"They held me for more than four months and three days. My weapon was fired after paying 500,000 Sudanese pounds. During detention, I was transferred between several places. I couldn't litigate, because there is no one to go to file any lawsuit and the RSF is both the controlling party and the culprit."*





*"I was arrested more than five times; once for an hour, once for two hours, and once for 40 minutes at separate intervals. I couldn't litigate because there was nobody to file the case with."*

*"The first time I was kidnapped was for 34 days. The second for 9 months. After I returned, I went to the police to confirm the file of the report that my family had recorded, during the period of my disappearance for them."*

*"For 17 days, three RSF officers tortured and raped me in turns every day. I have not filed any complaints, there is no one in the first place where I can go to bring me judicial justice."*

### 13. Results and analysis

Through the cases monitored and analyzed, the report comes up with the following results:

- 1. Widespread violations against civilians:** The report documented widespread cases of torture of civilians in various areas of the Darfur region, where the RSF targeted individuals on suspicion of supporting the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), the other party to the conflict, their political orientation, or their ethnicity, etc.
- 2. Systematic methods of torture on victims:** Testimonies and testimonies of victims and survivors revealed the use of harsh physical and psychological torture methods, including severe beatings, finger pulling out, deprivation of food and water, and sexual assaults. Survivors also reported cases of rape of men and deaths under torture in various detention centers.
- 3. Unlawful arrest, detention and abduction:** The report documented arrests and detentions carried out without any legal process, as detainees were transferred to secret sites affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces, which increased enforced



4. disappearances, and complicated the search for missing persons by their families and human rights organizations.
5. **Targeting the most vulnerable:** Testimonies reported that victims of the elderly, women, children and patients were subjected to some of them to cruel acts that they could not bear, while children were severely beaten and insulted and insulted and their families, which constitutes a grave violation of international humanitarian law and human rights.
6. **Gender-based targeting:** The report documented cases of detention and detention of girls and women who were subjected to rape, sexual harassment, physical assault and tribal-based practices.
7. **Targeting on ethnic and professional grounds:** The report documented cases of arrest, detention and extensive torture practices, based on the ethnic and identity basis of the victims. According to the observed cases, members of Negro and African tribal groups were targeted and not the Arab ones. Racist words were also uttered, and racist acts were practiced against them that they were of certain ethnicities and that they were the ones who caused the destruction and destruction of specific areas and cities.
8. **Targeting based on professional and community activity:** The report revealed widespread cases of detention, detention, and torture practices based on occupation, nature of work, and community activity. Some victims reported additional torture because they were elders of a camp for displaced

people, lawyers and human rights defenders, and some because they were part of resistance committees and neighborhood guard and protection committees during the intensification of the conflict, when looting and threats were widespread.



**9. Extended effects on torture cases:** Torture and violations suffered by victims and survivors have caused physical injuries with severe health effects and profound long-term psychological damage to victims and their families, especially rape cases. Deprivation of eating, drinking, defecation and exposure to light and fresh air has various effects on their mental and physical health. The methods of torture they were subjected to had negative repercussions on their economic lives with their various extensions, and the extent to which they continue to earn their livelihood. Leading all This is due to widespread fear and mistrust in the state apparatus and the authorities, now and in the future.

**10. Impunity for perpetrators:** The report noted that no serious measures have been taken to hold perpetrators accountable for these violations so far, amid growing fears that these crimes will continue in the absence of the state apparatus, relevant institutions and effective accountability mechanisms, which reinforces a culture of impunity among perpetrators in the country, especially in the Darfur region.

#### 14. Conclusion

The physical, psychological, and social consequences of torture and detention were far-reaching, affecting not only the individuals who endured it but also their families and communities. These survivors faced life-altering injuries, long-term psychological trauma, and devastating economic losses, which compounded their suffering. The collective toll on families, especially those who lost their primary breadwinners or suffered the stigma of sexual violence, exacerbated the challenges they faced.

The ongoing need for comprehensive support—including healthcare, psychological counseling, and legal assistance—is critical for survivors to begin the process of recovery. Moreover, international attention to hold perpetrators accountable for these violations is essential to prevent further harm and ensure justice.





## 15. Recommendations

Based on the findings and analysis of this report, the following recommendations are put forward to address the documented violations and ensure accountability, justice, and protection for victims:

### 1. Adherence to International and Regional Laws

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and all parties to the conflict must:

- Immediately release all arbitrarily detained individuals.
- Conduct independent investigations and hold those responsible for violations accountable.
- Adhere to the principles of international humanitarian law and cease all forms of torture and ill-treatment.
- Disclose the identities and locations of all arbitrarily detained and forcibly disappeared persons.
- Allow families and human rights organizations access to detainees and publish lists of those in detention.

### 2. Combating Torture and Ending Impunity

To prevent impunity and ensure justice:

- The international and regional community must impose targeted sanctions on individuals and entities responsible for acts of torture and human rights abuses.
- State parties to the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols must actively combat crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Sudan.



### 3. Urgent Protection of Civilians

The international community and human rights organizations must take urgent action such as:

- Halt ongoing violations against civilians, particularly in Darfur, where war crimes and crimes against humanity persist.
- Enhance local, regional, and international interventions to safeguard civilian populations under international protection.

### 4. Strengthening Fact-Finding Missions

- The work of the UN Human Rights Council's Fact-Finding Mission and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights must be reinforced.
- Cooperation and support should be extended to these bodies to enable comprehensive investigations into war crimes and human rights violations.

### 5. Accountability for Perpetrators of Violations

- All individuals involved in torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and unlawful detentions must be prosecuted, regardless of their military rank, command position, or social status.
- National, regional, and international justice institutions—including the International Criminal Court (ICC) and emerging African and UN truth commissions—must be supported in their efforts to investigate and prosecute war criminals.

### 6. Enhancing Civilian Protection in Darfur

- International and domestic monitoring mechanisms must be deployed to prevent further violations.





- The role of United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) missions in Darfur must be strengthened to ensure transparent and professional documentation of crimes.
- Warring parties must be engaged diplomatically to:
- Establish safe humanitarian corridors in affected areas.
- Ensure secure passage under international supervision for civilians and humanitarian aid.

#### **7. Ensuring Humanitarian Access**

- The RSF, SAF, and other parties must immediately grant humanitarian and medical organizations unrestricted access to:
- Provide medical care to detainees and survivors of torture.
- Deliver psychosocial rehabilitation programs for victims.

#### **8. Reforming National Legislation to Combat Torture**

- Sudanese laws must be aligned with international conventions against torture, particularly the UN Convention Against Torture and its additional protocols.
- All legal immunities protecting perpetrators from prosecution must be abolished.
- Legislative reforms should ensure zero tolerance for impunity in cases of torture and ill-treatment.

#### **9. Legal and Institutional Reforms**

To strengthen Sudan's legal framework and accountability mechanisms:

- Domestic laws must be harmonized with international human rights standards.
- Judicial independence must be reinforced to ensure fair and impartial prosecution of perpetrators.



- Independent commissions of inquiry should be established at the national, regional, and international levels to investigate and prosecute torture-related crimes.

## **10. Protection of Victims and Witnesses**

- Comprehensive legal, medical, and psychological support must be provided to victims of torture and their families.
- Effective witness protection mechanisms must be established to safeguard those who testify against perpetrators.

## **11. Awareness and Training**

Strategic training programs should be implemented for:

- Security forces and personnel are responsible for arrests and detentions, focusing on human rights and the prohibition of torture.
- Community members to increase awareness of legal rights, detention procedures, and mechanisms for reporting violations.
- Public engagement and advocacy should be strengthened to combat torture and promote accountability.



## 16. References and Sources

1. Convention against Torture 1984.<sup>1</sup>
2. Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948.<sup>2</sup>
3. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966.<sup>3</sup>
4. Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols.<sup>4</sup>
5. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981. <sup>5</sup>
6. Sudanese Criminal Code of 1991, amended 2020.<sup>6</sup>
7. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/ar/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-against-torture-and-other-cruel-inhuman-or-degrading>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/ar/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/ar/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.icrc.org/ar/publication/basics-rules-Geneva-conventions-their-additional-protocols>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.african-court.org/wpafc/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/019-African-Charter-Arabic-1.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://sudantransparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A-%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9-1991-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84-%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9-2020%D9%85.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/ar/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/rome-statute-international-criminal-court>

