



# Sudan Rights Watch Network

**April 2025 Report**

## **Darfur Region**

**Bullets, hunger and fear continue to claim lives.**



Sudan Rights  
Watch Network



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April 2025

### List of Abbreviations

<b>RSF</b>	Rapid Support Forces
<b>SAF</b>	Sudanese Armed Forces
<b>Joint Force</b>	Joint Force
<b>IHL</b>	International Humanitarian Law
<b>GC</b>	Geneva Conventions
<b>AP</b>	Additional Protocol
<b>ICC</b>	International Criminal Court
<b>AI</b>	Amnesty International
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross
<b>IDPs</b>	Internally Displaced Persons



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## 1. Introduction

The Human Rights Monitoring Network – Sudan (HRMN-Sudan) is a Sudanese organization specializing in monitoring and documenting human rights violations, as well as tracking security incidents and rights abuses across Sudan, with a particular focus on the Darfur region. The network aims to advance human rights conditions and raise awareness of fundamental rights in the country.

HRMN-Sudan provides accurate and reliable information on the human rights situation in Darfur through periodic reports covering security incidents and violations. It also issues urgent bulletins on critical developments when necessary. These reports are based on data collected directly from field monitors in Darfur and leverage an advanced event-tracking system that delivers statistical analyses of human rights violations, their patterns, and locations.

Furthermore, the network advocates for justice, accountability, and the preservation of collective memory of abuses while supporting the rights of affected individuals and communities to foster a more equitable and rights-respecting society in Sudan.

## 2. Methodology

This report was prepared using data gathered by HRMN-Sudan's field monitors deployed across Darfur's five states. To ensure precise and efficient data collection, the network employs Kobo Toolbox, a platform customized with a detailed survey form designed to capture key information on human rights violations and security incidents.





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The form includes questions on nature, patterns, and context of violations; perpetrator identification; and demographic/humanitarian details to better understand affected groups and their locations. Monitors in North, Central, West, South, and East Darfur submit data, which is then verified by legal analysts to guarantee accuracy. This methodology ensures reliable, secure data collection while upholding integrity, transparency, and credibility at all stages.

### **3. Report Summary**

Human rights violations and the security situation in the Darfur region continued to deteriorate throughout April 2025, driven by the ongoing armed conflict between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and their respective allied groups. Security incidents have been steadily increasing, including the firing of live ammunition in residential areas, targeting of tea vendors, harassment and assault of young girls, armed clashes within neighborhoods, intimidation of civilians through the use of combat aircraft, arbitrary arrests, looting and theft, extrajudicial killings, acts of revenge, extorting civilians under false accusations, forcibly seizing and controlling civilian resources and activities, unlawful assassinations, forced displacement, starvation through siege, and the imposition of militarized economic policies such as dismantling security checkpoints, restricting movement and economic activities, and treating civilians as enemy combatants by accusing them of military affiliations. Other documented violations include the killing of persons with disabilities, burning of civilian homes, deployment of additional military forces, and various other incidents that reflect fluctuating security levels and a continuous deterioration of human rights conditions across all five Darfur states.

### **4. Legal Analysis**

Given the intensity of the ongoing armed violence in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and their allied groups since 15 April 2023, the Darfur



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region has witnessed an unprecedented rise in security incidents and human rights violations against civilians and civilian objects during April 2025.

Under international humanitarian law (IHL), the current conflict in Sudan qualifies as a non-international armed conflict. The Sudan Human Rights Monitoring Network has documented, through direct field monitoring, dozens of security incidents and human rights violations committed against civilians in the Darfur region during this month.

These include air strikes, indiscriminate attacks, drone strikes in populated civilian areas, and the targeting of civilian objects such as hospitals and markets. Such actions have resulted in civilian deaths, injuries, detentions, and disappearances — including children, women, and the elderly alongside extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, torture, looting of civilian property, burning of homes, and the forced displacement of civilian populations. These acts constitute violations of the legal principles governing hostilities during armed conflict, particularly the principles of distinction and proportionality. Under these principles, civilians are entitled to legal protection from attack unless they take a direct part in hostilities, and parties to the conflict are obliged to distinguish between civilian objects and military objectives, ensuring proportionality in the use of force.

The network has documented as detailed in this report a number of deliberate attacks on civilians perpetrated by RSF forces, particularly in Zamzam and Abu Shouk IDP camps in North Darfur. It has also recorded indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks affecting both military and civilian targets without distinction, such as airstrikes carried out by the SAF and indiscriminate drone and artillery fire conducted by the RSF. These acts amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity under the following legal instruments:

- Common Article 3 of the Four Geneva Conventions, regulating the treatment of people who are not directly participating in hostilities.





- Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, concerning the rules on the conduct of hostilities.
- Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions, relating to non-international armed conflicts, ratified by Sudan in 2006.
- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) — while Sudan is not a State Party, the statute's definitions apply given their accurate classification of the crimes cited in this report, alongside the ICC's jurisdiction over the Darfur situation since 31 March 2005, pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1593, which referred the situation in Darfur to the ICC.

## **5. Security Situation**

### **5.1 North Darfur State**

The conflict continues to escalate sharply, further worsening the security situation in North Darfur. On 1, 2, 7, and 10 April, RSF forces shelled El Fasher with artillery, targeting the Al-Qubba and Al-Nasr neighborhoods. On 1–2 April, SAF warplanes bombed RSF gathering points east of the city and conducted an airdrop to supply their forces and allied groups in El Fasher.

On 3 April, the RSF shot down an army aircraft. On 4 April, they shelled Abu Shouk IDP camp in multiple areas, and on 5 April they renewed shelling of Zamzam IDP camp.

On 10 April, RSF forces attacked Um Kadada locality in North Darfur, committing widespread human rights violations, including the killing of civilians inside the town after encountering resistance from residents. On 11 April, RSF forces shelled Zamzam and Abu Shouk camps again, with the shelling of Zamzam continuing until 14 April.

### **5.2 South Darfur State**

The security situation in South Darfur under RSF control remains in steady decline, even after some checkpoints were dismantled and police stations reopened. On 1 April, RSF members





tortured and killed a mentally disabled man in the Kongo neighborhood of Nyala. Between 3–12 April, three people, including two with mental health conditions from Khartoum Beleil and Al-Nahda neighborhoods, went missing.

On 12 April, a dispute between RSF members in Nyala's main market escalated into armed clashes, leaving five people dead and seven injured. The confrontation began after a man of influence, detained at a police station for a crime, was defended by his relatives, who demanded his release. The complainants and the accused belonged to the Beni Halba and Messeriya tribes, leading to an exchange of gunfire.

On 13 April, another armed clash broke out among RSF members near Nyala North Court, causing chaos and fear, forcing troops to scatter towards Al-Salam, Al-Dorwa, and Khartoum Beleil neighborhoods. As a result, the Al-Geneina transport market was closed. RSF elements, after removing checkpoints, have spread across the city's outskirts, particularly along Wadi Berli, posing significant risks to women working in farms and fruit vendors.

### **5.3 East Darfur State**

The security situation in East Darfur, also under RSF control, continues to deteriorate. On 30 March, unidentified motorcycle riders stole fuel from El Daein's main market. The owner, Mohamed Fadl Yaqoub, tried to pursue them and accidentally struck RSF members returning from Khartoum with a stone. They shot him in the left leg.

On 9 April, a violent clash erupted in El Daein's Al-Sikka Hadid neighborhood, killing a father and his three children and injuring eight others, including four children and three RSF members. The incident began when a resident, Bashir Yousif, opened fire during a dispute with his neighbor. RSF forces intervened, leading to a three-hour gun battle. RSF reinforcements arrived with 15 combat vehicles, using heavy weapons (RPGs, Dushka machine guns, sniper rifles), resulting in deaths, injuries, and the burning of multiple homes. Witnesses reported that Bashir's son was run over, his neck broken, and then shot dead. Victims' bodies were buried in an undisclosed location, and





RSF members looted nearby homes and arrested Bashir's wife, accusing her of supplying ammunition.

Later that day, RSF established two checkpoints around the burned house, blocking public access. Looting incidents targeting civilians returning from markets were also reported, involving theft of mobile phones and cash.

#### **5.4 Central Darfur State**

The security situation in Central Darfur fluctuates between bad and worse. On 29 March, armed men wearing kadamoul headscarves killed 16-year-old Mutaz Abkar, a bakery worker in Garseila's northern district, before fleeing north.

On 30 March, heavy, random gunfire erupted in Zalingei and Hamidiya IDP camp for over an hour in celebration of Eid, under RSF control.

On 1 April, armed men allied to the RSF, riding motorcycles, surrounded the village of Abta (35 km northeast of Zalingei) accusing it of harboring a man affiliated with the SAF. Local elders were coerced into paying 500,000 SDG as "movement and fuel costs." The following day, the group returned in greater numbers, heavily armed, firing live ammunition in the air and disrupting civilian life. RSF leadership later intervened, arresting some group leaders.

On the same day, clashes between the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM/AW) and RSF forces near Khor Talba left five fighters dead and several wounded, with RSF soldiers captured.

Between 3–7 April, aircraft repeatedly flew over various parts of the state at varying altitudes. On 8 April, unidentified gunmen killed a young electricity station worker in Zalingei and critically injured two others.

On 9 April, sporadic gunfire continued in eastern Zalingei from early morning until late night. The Director of the Sudan Relief and Humanitarian Operations Agency reported that more than 500





newly displaced families had arrived from Khartoum, Gezira, and North Darfur, requiring shelter and urgent humanitarian aid.

### **5.5 West Darfur State**

In April, West Darfur saw RSF troop movements, with forces mobilized and sent towards Sarba locality and El Fasher. Large numbers of military vehicles entered the state, alongside RSF members on motorcycles. Armed individuals were openly present in markets, with a marked increase in crime rates.

On 7 April, the state's civil administration imposed a curfew from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM for one month. Tensions were reported in Kreinik locality and the Um Shalaya administrative unit, where a trader, Khalid, from Dor Street village east of El Geneina, was detained. Traders staged a strike demanding his release. RSF demanded 50 billion SDG for his release; 9 billion was paid, but he remained in custody.

## **6. Human Rights Violations**

### **6.1 North Darfur State**

Human rights violations continued to worsen in North Darfur during April. The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) maintained sustained artillery shelling of Abu Shouk IDP Camp and the city of El Fasher between 1 and 7 April, resulting in the burning of numerous civilian homes. On 7 April, RSF shelling of Abu Shouk Camp injured three people, including women.

On 10 April, RSF forces attacked Um Kadada locality, killing 56 civilians, including women and children, and leaving more than 14 others missing. On the same day, the RSF launched further artillery attacks on Abu Shouk Camp, killing eight civilians, including women and children, and injuring at least 22 others.

On 12–13 April, RSF forces attacked Zamzam IDP Camp, indiscriminately targeting the entire settlement. The assault killed at least 15 displaced persons and injured no fewer than eight





others. Five staff members of Relief International were also killed. The attack resulted in the burning of the camp's market, destruction of shops and homes, and triggered a mass displacement from the camp towards other areas in the state, particularly El Fasher and Tawila.

## **6.2 South Darfur State**

On 2 April, farmer Abdel Salam Idris was killed by unidentified armed men inside his farm in Nyala's Museih area (southeast of the city). On the same day, Nidal Mohamed was killed following an altercation between an RSF member and a civilian at a tea shop in Nyala's Jikik market. The RSF member opened fire, killing her and injuring two others inside the shop.

On 11 April, a 14-year-old girl, Farha, was assaulted by RSF personnel while returning from a mango orchard in El Geneina to her home in western Nyala's Domaya district. Two armed men in RSF uniforms stopped her, attempted to harass her, and when she ignored them and called for help, they began beating her. Upon hearing her cries, bystanders approached, prompting the perpetrators to flee.

## **6.3 East Darfur State**

On 5 April, RSF forces arrested lawyers Abdel Rahim Haroun and Adam Abkar in El Daein, accusing them of communicating and coordinating with the Port Sudan government. Abdel Rahim Haroun was released after five days in detention following the payment of 5 million Sudanese pounds by his family. Adam Abkar remained detained until 11 April, when he was temporarily released to attend a family event, only to be re-arrested the same evening without being charged or brought before a court.

## **6.4 Central Darfur State**

On 5 April, at approximately 7:30 PM, an RSF member opened fire with a Kalashnikov rifle on Dr. Abubakr Atem Saleh (29 years old), striking him in the right leg between the thigh and knee. He was transported to a local health unit, where he later died from his wounds. The incident occurred in the village of Abta, 35 km northeast of Zalingei. After learning of the victim's death, the





perpetrator notified his commander and fled to an unknown location. The RSF subsequently detained the perpetrator's father, transferring him to Zalingei and placing him in prison.

### **6.5 West Darfur State**

In April, West Darfur witnessed several human rights violations. On an unspecified date, clashes broke out between RSF members and traders in the N'Djamena market in El Geneina's western district, involving aerial gunfire. The market was temporarily closed and reopened the next day.

On 6 April, at approximately 7:00 PM, a violent dispute occurred in the Ardeba market in El Geneina, resulting in the killing of a restaurant owner, Samani Mohamed. Witnesses reported that he had received threats from unidentified individuals two weeks earlier. The perpetrators, believed to be the same individuals, escaped in a Toyota double-cabin vehicle and did not apprehend.

On 9 April, around midnight, unidentified gunmen killed a resident in Um Dwein district of Al-Omda Masar village. The perpetrators remain at large.

On 10 April, an attempted armed robbery occurred along the road between Kreinik and Mourayat, approximately 15 km east of Kreinik. A group of motorcycle-riding assailants opened fire to a commercial vehicle, but the driver managed to escape to Mourayat.

## **7. Recommendations**

1. Immediate cessation by RSF forces of all targeting civilians in IDP camps and residential neighborhoods, particularly in North Darfur State.
2. Ensure adequate civilian protection in conflict-affected areas of Darfur in accordance with international humanitarian law and the Four Geneva Conventions.
3. Guarantee unhindered humanitarian access to conflict-affected populations, ensuring the safety of medical and relief convoys.





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4. Undertake decisive interventions to curb ongoing violence and violations against civilians across the region.
5. Urge local, regional, and international actors to intensify monitoring, documentation, and reporting of human rights violations against civilians.
6. The international community should adopt firm measures addressing violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by all parties to the conflict.
7. Local, regional, and international actors should exert pressure for the formation of a national investigative committee, supported by regional and international mechanisms (African Union, UN Security Council), to verify and document acts of violence and violations committed against civilians.



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