



Sudan Rights Watch Network

Darfur...

Living in a Zone of Danger and Death

Monthly Periodic Report | January 2026



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1. Executive Summary

This report presents a comprehensive picture of the security, human rights, and humanitarian situation in the five Darfur states (West, Central, North, South, and East Darfur) during the month of January 2026, within a context marked by escalating violence, deterioration of the rule of law, and the widening scope of violations against civilians, alongside limited and unstable humanitarian responses and local community efforts attempting to fill the gaps left by a collapsed state.

The Darfur states witnessed the continuation of military operations using drones, armed clashes, and ambushes, in addition to widespread insecurity within cities and along roads connecting localities. These developments resulted in large numbers of civilian deaths and injuries, destruction of private property, and increasing internal displacement, particularly in North, West, and Central Darfur. Incidents of armed robbery, organized looting, and random shooting were repeated, especially in markets and residential neighborhoods, with the use of both heavy and light weapons, and the emergence of criminal patterns linked to motorcycles and combat vehicles.

The report documented a widespread pattern of serious human rights violations, including:

- Arbitrary arrests and forced interrogations, particularly targeting men, civil activists, emergency room workers, and traders.
- Kidnapping and ransom demand as a systematic method, with detainees threatened with transfer to notorious prisons.
- Torture and ill-treatment inside detention facilities, and the deprivation of detainees from basic legal guarantees, including the right to know the charges against them, contact their families, and access lawyers.
- Gender-based violence, including attempted rape and sexual assaults, particularly in shelter centers and displacement areas, amid near-total impunity.

The information received indicated a serious deterioration in prison conditions, particularly in Zalingei, Nyala, and Daqreis prisons, where detainees suffer from overcrowding, lack of healthcare, poor sanitation, food shortages, and the spread of diseases, leading to rising mortality rates, especially among the elderly and those with chronic illnesses. These conditions constitute a blatant violation of the minimum international standards for the treatment of prisoners.

Despite the extension of the opening of the Adre crossing and the subsequent entry of humanitarian assistance, the humanitarian response remained insufficient compared to the growing scale of needs. Many areas continue to face access difficulties, particularly El Fasher and parts of West and Central Darfur. The report also recorded the outbreak of epidemics, foremost





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among them measles, amid a weakened health system, collapsed medical infrastructure, and shortages of staff and medicines. In contrast, emergency rooms, community initiatives, and national organizations played a central role in providing essential services, despite being subjected to administrative and security pressures and restrictions.

The political and administrative environment was marked by instability, with decisions issued to dissolve and reconstitute certain bodies, and interventions in humanitarian work, including the closure of offices of national organizations without sufficient transparency. There was also the increasing use of traditional and informal mechanisms to address cases of a legal and human rights nature, which weakened citizens' trust in justice and entrenched impunity. Despite the risks, civil society, youth, and women's initiatives continued their activities in relief, peacebuilding, health, education, and combating hate speech. However, these efforts face increasing challenges, including arrests, defamation, lack of protection, and an unfavorable working environment.

2. Introduction:

The [Sudan Rights Watch Network](http://www.sudan-watch.net/) is a Sudanese network specifically concerned with monitoring, documenting, and assessing the human rights situation, in addition to tracking security events and human rights violations in Sudan, with a particular focus on the Darfur region, with the aim of promoting and protecting human rights in all their forms and at all levels, increasing human rights awareness, and strengthening advocacy efforts for accountability and justice.

The SRWN seeks to provide accurate and highly reliable information collected exclusively from the field on the human rights situation and security incidents, through the issuance of in-depth monthly periodic reports, in addition to weekly reports and urgent bulletins in accordance with developments on the ground. The SRWN also issues statements, letters, and speeches related to events and public occasions connected to human rights issues. The Network has an advanced event-tracking system that provides statistical analyses and professional, well-founded readings on human rights violations and the security situation.

3. Methodology

This report was prepared based on data and information collected by the field monitors of the "Sudan Rights Watch Network – Sudan" deployed across the five Darfur states. To ensure accurate, efficient, and professionally rigorous data collection, the SRWN uses the data collection tool (Kobo Toolbox), where a detailed survey form was developed within the tool and specifically designed to collect key and detailed data on human rights violations, security events, the situation of civil society, and various aspects of citizens' lives.





This approach facilitates the collection of more reliable information and ensures its secure storage, while guaranteeing the application of standards of integrity, transparency, and credibility at all stages of work. The SRWN follows a process of review, auditing, and verification of the validity of data and information through an integrated and interlinked team specialized in each stage separately.

4. Legal Review and Analysis

The information contained in the report indicates that the situation in the Darfur states legally falls within a non-international armed conflict in accordance with Common Article (3) of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocol II of 1977, due to the presence of: (1) organized and ongoing armed hostilities; (2) effective control by organized non-governmental armed forces over large parts of the territory; and (3) the use of heavy weapons (drones, hand grenades, firearms) against targets within civilian areas. Accordingly, all parties to the conflict are obligated to respect the rules of international humanitarian law, regardless of their legal or political status.

The shelling incidents that resulted in the deaths of dozens of civilians, including the shelling of villages, markets, and populated areas, constitute a grave violation of the principles of (1) distinction; (2) proportionality; and (3) precautions in attack. These principles are firmly established in Article 48 of Additional Protocol I and in customary rules No. 1 and 14 of customary international humanitarian law (International Committee of the Red Cross). Such acts may also amount to war crimes under Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, namely intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population.

The incidents related to the arrest of civilians (doctors, community leaders, activists) without judicial warrants, without notifying their families, and their detention in undisclosed locations constitute a direct violation of: (1) Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; (2) Article 6 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; and (3) the United Nations principles for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance. These practices constitute a continuing crime if the fate of detainees is not disclosed and may amount to a crime against humanity if proven to be part of a systematic or widespread policy, pursuant to Article 7 of the Rome Statute.

The documented conditions inside Zalingei Prison, including overcrowding, lack of healthcare, absence of sanitation, and food shortages, constitute cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, a violation of Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and a breach of





the Convention against Torture of 1984, to which Sudan is a party. They also represent a clear violation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

The documented attempts of rape, stabbings, and sexual assaults constitute a grave violation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) – despite Sudan’s reservations, the prohibition of sexual violence is considered a peremptory norm – as well as Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Sexual violence in the context of conflict also constitutes a war crime and a crime against humanity under the Rome Statute.

The repeated incidents of armed looting, shooting in markets and social gatherings, and the use of hand grenades in civilian areas indicate a serious failure of the state or de facto authority in its duty to protect the population and its positive obligation to guarantee the right to life and personal security. This violates Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 4 of the African Charter.

Accordingly, collective and individual responsibility falls upon all those who: (1) issued orders, executed, or failed to prevent the violations. They may be subject to individual criminal accountability under international criminal law, universal jurisdiction, or future transitional justice mechanisms. Under the principle of command responsibility, military and civilian leaders bear responsibility if they knew or should have known of the violations and failed to take measures to prevent them or punish the perpetrators.

Despite the collapse of justice institutions, Sudanese laws remain in force in principle, including: (1) the Constitutional Document (2019) – Chapter on Rights and Freedoms; (2) the Sudanese Criminal Code of 1991 (crimes of murder, rape, armed robbery); and (3) the Criminal Procedure Code. However, the suspension of the judiciary and the overreach of armed authorities have led to the paralysis of remedies, the absence of independent investigations, and the entrenchment of impunity, constituting a breach of Sudan’s international obligations.

In conclusion, the overall facts indicate a systematic pattern of serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, a structural failure to protect civilians and guarantee the minimum level of the rule of law, and the potential commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity that require an independent international investigation. Therefore, the continuation of these conditions without accountability not only poses a threat to civilians but also undermines any prospect for peace or justice in Darfur and Sudan as a whole.





5. Abbreviations

English Abbreviation	Name in English	Arabic Abbreviation
SAF	Sudanese Armed forces	القوات المسلحة السودانية
RSF	Repaid Support forces	قوات الدعم السريع
SJF	Sudanese Joint Forces	القوات المشتركة السودانية
IDPs	Internally Displaced People	النازحون
Refugees	Refugees	اللاجئون
IHL	International Humanitarian Law	القانون الدولي الانساني
GC	Geneva Conventions	اتفاقيات جنيف
AP	Additional Protocol	البروتوكول الاضافي
ICC	International Criminal Court	المحكمة الجنائية الدولية
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross	اللجنة الدولية للصليب الأحمر
Amnesty International	Amnesty International	منظمة العفو الدولية

First: North Darfur

1.1 Security Situation

During January 2026, North Darfur State witnessed a dangerous escalation in violations against civilian and health sector workers, alongside a sharp deterioration in the security and





humanitarian situation, particularly in the localities of El Fasher, Dar Al-Salam, Mellit, Kutum, and Tawila.

On January 1, the medical director of Dar Al-Salam Rural Hospital, accompanied by the administrative director and two other individuals, was subjected to an armed attack carried out by elements of the Rapid Support Forces riding a combat vehicle armed with a Russian DShK machine gun, 12 shells, an RPG, and 3 Gornov weapons, each loaded with four fully supplied long magazines, while returning from a purely humanitarian mission from Shangil Tobaya to Dar Al-Salam locality. The attack occurred at approximately 12:00 noon and constituted a grave violation of the protection of health sector workers and a clear breach of the principles of international humanitarian law that guarantee the safety of medical personnel while performing their duties.

On January 3, five men were killed in El Fasher locality after being subjected to stabbing and torture while attempting to check on their homes, from which they had been displaced approximately a year earlier from Mellit locality. According to local sources, the victims were residing in the eastern neighborhoods of El Fasher, including Al-Masane' and Al-Ma'had neighborhoods, in an incident reflecting the escalation of systematic violence against civilians returning to their areas. Additionally, 21 persons, including 9 women and 11 men, were assaulted with beatings using sticks targeting their legs, hands, and heads while leaving the Jabal Wana area on their way to Tawila locality, in a blatant violation of the right to physical integrity and freedom of movement.

Residents of El Fasher locality are living in a widespread state of fear and anxiety, as many citizens have been forced to leave their homes and seek shelter in displacement centers due to insecurity and the prevention of civilians from residing in residential neighborhoods. Field testimonies to the "Sudan Rights Watch Network – Sudan" indicate that the Rapid Support Forces control the city of El Fasher amid a tense security situation characterized by organized looting of homes, shops, and public markets, particularly the property of individuals who were forced to leave the city. According to the Network's field sources in the area, stolen goods are being sold in Tabit market located southwest of El Fasher, in the absence of any accountability or protection mechanisms.

The situation indicates that armed movements and de facto decisions within El Fasher are limited to the Rapid Support Forces as the effective controlling authority, while civilians remain deprived of any effective legal or security protection.





In Mellit locality, the security situation remains fragile. The area was subjected to a drone attack on Sunday, January 25, at approximately 8:00 p.m., resulting in the death of one person and the serious injury of four children who were transferred outside the locality for treatment. The attack occurred in Al-Murabba'at neighborhood (Arab Houses), raising serious concerns regarding the targeting of residential areas.

Although the security situation in Tawila has relatively improved, with the absence of looting and theft, the authorities in control impose high financial fees on shop owners in the markets. Amounts are collected twice weekly (every Saturday and Tuesday, 10,000 Sudanese pounds) under the name of guard fees. Citizens and displaced people live in fragile shelters lacking the minimum standards of adequate housing, mostly made of cloth and straw, reflecting the depth of the humanitarian crisis and the absence of sustainable solutions.

1.2 Human Rights Violations

Additional information has emerged regarding the attack that targeted the medical staff of Dar Al-Salam Rural Hospital on January 1. The assault resulted in the injury of two persons, one seriously and the other moderately. The medical director sustained a knife injury between the fingers of his left hand, consisting of a wound approximately 6 cm long and 3 cm deep. In addition, the attacking forces looted all mobile phones belonging to the victims and stole one million Sudanese pounds from the medical director, constituting a grave violation of the safety of health sector workers and the principle of protection of medical personnel.

In Kutum locality, specifically in the Jarjira area, joint forces took control of the area on January 15 at approximately 4:00 a.m., following military operations, after it had been under the control of the Rapid Support Forces. This coincided with the killing of 19 civilians and widespread mass displacement of residents. Jarjira is a strategic rural area located about 70 kilometers south of El Fasher and connects several vital routes.

Regarding the assault on 21 civilians during their movement, field information from the Network indicates that the attackers looted their livestock (donkeys), seized basic food supplies (sorghum/millet), as well as mobile phones, blankets, and clothing, worsening their humanitarian conditions and exposing them to direct risk.

Field testimonies from Network sources in the state indicate that the Rapid Support Forces carried out widespread looting of citizens' property in El Fasher locality and the areas of Um Buro, transporting stolen goods to Tabit market to be sold at low prices. Serious reports were also received regarding sexual violations against women and girls in shelter centers, under direct





threats of death if they report or speak about these crimes, reflecting a systematic pattern of repression and intimidation.

In a related context, since October 26, 2025, many men have been detained following the fall of El Fasher to the Rapid Support Forces. Local sources reported that they were held at the Children's Hospital (the Dry Port) located in the eastern part of the city. To date, there is no confirmed information regarding the fate of the detainees at the Children's Hospital (Dry Port) in the eastern direction of the state. However, circulating reports indicate that all detainees, numbering approximately 132 men, were killed, without any independent investigation or official announcement, raising serious concerns regarding enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killing.

Cases of arbitrary arrest and torture were also recorded against individuals who returned to El Fasher to check on or recover their property. In this context, a woman named Majda, who traveled from Tawila to El Fasher on January 16, 2026, accompanied by a truck driver, has been missing until the end of January. Field testimonies from Network sources indicate that she was subjected to sexual violence and forcibly detained inside El Fasher. The victim is known in Tawila and had been engaged in commercial activity in El Fasher. Sources also indicate the complete seizure of homes belonging to citizens who fled El Fasher and the prevention of their return, in a clear violation of the right to housing and property.

In Karnoi locality, reports indicate that at least 2,000 families are besieged in the areas of Wadi Qardi, Um Saad, and Um Baro under extremely dangerous humanitarian conditions. The security situation in Al-La'it and Al-Tawisha localities remains unstable, with repeated incidents of looting and theft after evening hours, particularly targeting individuals carrying money or mobile phones, in addition to cases of kidnapping of women and girls.

In Kabkabiya locality, information from Network sources indicates full control by the Rapid Support Forces, with heavy deployment of checkpoints on roads, leading to the imposition of illegal leaves on transportation and a significant increase in travel costs, increasing civilian suffering and restricting movement. In Dar Al-Salam and Shangil Tobaya localities, repeated incidents of looting and rape were recorded, leading to the displacement of large numbers of women toward Tawila locality in search of safety. The Tora area in El Fasher also witnessed direct threats to farmers through the forced introduction of camels into agricultural projects, leading to the displacement of more than 351 families to Tawila locality, in a context that falls under the use of economic violence and threats to livelihoods.



1.3 Civil Society Situation

On the humanitarian level, civilians in El Fasher face severe difficulties in accessing humanitarian assistance. While aid reaches Tawila, Kutum, Mellit, Al-La'it, Kabkabiya, Saraf Omra, and Sereif, it remains insufficient to meet beneficiaries' needs. In Tawila locality, due to the presence of offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society, most civilians have been registered and receive humanitarian assistance more regularly.

A group of United Nations organizations conducted two field visits to El Fasher, Korma, and Donki Shatta localities. The first visit took place on January 2, followed by a second visit on January 13, with the framework of assessing the humanitarian situation and reviewing field challenges. The delegation included representatives of several UN agencies and international organizations, including: Maria Rose, Deputy UN Humanitarian Coordinator; Mohamed Al-Qarni, National Field Coordinator from OCHA; Abu Obeida Al-Siddiq, Head of Field Office from UNICEF; Hanadi Mustafa, Health Director from UNICEF; Hassan Saleh, Protection Officer from UNHCR; Faisal Mohamed Abdullah, Security and Safety Assistant from the World Food Program; Rino, Field Coordinator from National Solidarity; Justin, Regional Director from Global Solidarity; and Issam Suleiman, Security and Safety Director from Global Solidarity.

Members of the delegation informed a monitor of the "Sudan Rights Watch Network – Sudan" that the Rapid Support Forces refused to allow them to move to certain targeted areas, preventing access to specific locations and direct verification of facts on the ground, thereby obstructing assessment and fact-finding efforts. In a related context, the Teaching Hospital – Emergency Department, along with the Saudi Hospital, was reopened in a step aimed at strengthening health services amid the severe deterioration of the health sector.

At the level of community initiatives, several youth and local groups carried out street cleaning activities, including initiatives such as Youth for Change, Young Step, Youth of Al-La'it, and Youth of Al-Tawisha. In El Fasher, various initiatives are active in conducting cleaning campaigns and providing meals inside displacement centers. In Mellit locality, Jandriyat for Peace and Nonviolence Organization and Kobi Organization provide humanitarian services to displaced people. In Kutum locality, the North Darfur Emergency Room and Goul Badour Organization provide basic services to those affected.

In Tawila locality, more than 40 national organizations and over 6 international organizations are active, including UNICEF, OCHA, National Solidarity, Global Care for Children, and the World Health Organization, in addition to many associations and youth initiatives. All humanitarian





activities and procedures are managed through the civil authority in Tawila district, whose prior approval is required for any activity, and no activities or banners are allowed without its knowledge. The local authority indicates that Tawila does not administratively belong to North Darfur State.

Sectoral coordination meetings (health, nutrition, education) are held through local authority centers in Tawila in the presence of representatives of relevant entities. Yalla Nibtasim Voluntary Association implemented a school construction project in Rwanda Camp in Tawila locality. On the health front, a widespread outbreak of measles was recorded in North Darfur State. A measles vaccination campaign was carried out in Tawila locality and its surrounding villages, while the campaign did not reach other localities due to security challenges, raising concerns about the widening spread of the outbreak and the absence of an equitable response.

Second: East Darfur State

2.1 Security Situation

Asalaya locality and the city of El Daein witnessed, during the period from December 2025 to January 2026, a series of serious violations of the right to life and personal security, amid deteriorating security conditions and the absence of effective civilian protection.

On December 18, citizen Ismail Mahsoun was killed in the Al-Sunta area of Asalaya locality following a dispute between him and his cousins over the entry of livestock into his farm. The dispute escalated into a violent altercation during which one of the perpetrators used a bladed weapon, inflicting a fatal stab wound that led to the victim's death.



In a separate incident, several citizens were subjected to an armed robbery in Al-Nazir neighborhood, east of the market, where three masked individuals riding a motorcycle and carrying weapons stole several mobile phones without any recorded resistance or subsequent security intervention.

On January 18, a young man and a young woman were injured by stray bullets in Al-Nahda neighborhood in central El Daein because of random gunfire. They were transferred to the hospital for treatment. An informed source reported that El Daein Hospital receives no fewer than seven cases of injury resulting from random violence at the end of each week, amid deteriorating health services and the absence of sufficient medical staff. On the same day, Ali Ahmed (23 years old), a resident of Al-Tadamon neighborhood, was stabbed while attending a wedding ceremony and was transferred to the hospital for treatment. The identity of the perpetrator remains unknown to date.

Another killing occurred in the North Railway neighborhood, where a young man was found dead in the railway square near the headquarters of the Rapid Support Forces. According to testimonies from residents, several gunshots were heard before the victim was found in a dying state, with no trace of the perpetrators at the scene.

On January 20, 2026, a highly dangerous incident occurred in the market of Asalaya locality, where an explosive device (grenade) detonated inside the market following a dispute between two individuals, resulting in the death of two persons and the injury of approximately 30 others with varying degrees of injuries, constituting a grave violation of the rules for the protection of civilians.

2.2 Human Rights Violations

On December 21, another robbery incident took place in the Railway neighborhood south of Awqaf Market, carried out by a combat vehicle belonging to the Rapid Support Forces carrying eight soldiers. A young man of unknown identity was stopped at approximately 8:00 p.m., and his mobile phone and a sum of money were taken.

On January 1, 2026, at least 47 persons were killed because of an attack carried out by a suicide drone targeting Al-Firdous locality in East Darfur State, located in the southeastern part of El Daein. This attack constitutes a grave violation of the right to life and raises serious concerns regarding the use of aerial weapons in civilian-populated areas.



On January 8, the intelligence unit of the Rapid Support Forces in El Daein arrested Dr. Mohamed Al-Hadi from inside his clinic located in Al-Salam neighborhood and took him to an unknown destination. This arrest occurred in a repeated context, as the doctor had previously been arrested since July of the previous year due to his activity on social media, particularly his public criticism of Rapid Support Forces' security policies and corruption issues in East Darfur State, constituting a clear violation of freedom of opinion and expression and due legal guarantees.

On January 22, a case of collective arbitrary arrest occurred when the Rapid Support Forces detained Omda Omar Arebo, leader of the Zaghawa tribe in the Muhajiriya area of Yassin locality, along with 16 other persons, and took them to an unknown location without notifying their families of the reasons for arrest or disclosing the place of detention or the competent legal authority, constituting a grave violation of the right to liberty, personal security, and fair trial guarantees.

2.3 Civil Society Situation

During January 2026, the state witnessed several humanitarian and community initiatives aimed at supporting displaced persons and conflict-affected communities and enhancing the capacities of volunteers and local actors in humanitarian response and peacebuilding.

On January 1, Al-Safaa Neighborhood Emergency Room, in partnership with El Daein Emergency Room, organized a training workshop targeting 30 male and female volunteers, focusing on humanitarian standards for delivering assistance, including principles of neutrality, impartiality, and community accountability. On January 3, the New Reservoir Emergency Room – Eastern Sector announced the continuation of operating the open communal kitchen, which provides regular meals to displaced persons in Camp (A), with support from HUB Organization.

On January 8, the Coordination of Civil Committees in East Darfur provided humanitarian assistance designated for children and women, targeting Al-Manar Camp for displaced persons, within the framework of supporting the most vulnerable groups. On January 9, the Al-Nim Camp Emergency Room – Sector (C) implemented a project to build Al-Wahda School inside Sabreen Camp for displaced persons in El Daein locality, with local support and popular effort, in a step aimed at strengthening the right to education within the camps.

On January 10, Al-Qawaed Al-Khadra Organization established two classrooms at Samaha School for nomads in Bahr Al-Arab locality and distributed educational materials to students in support of the continuity of education in pastoral communities. On January 15, Kayan Organization for Women's Empowerment conducted a training workshop on community peacebuilding targeting



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20 young women from Adila locality in East Darfur State, aimed at enhancing women's roles in social peace.

On January 16, Al-Muhajir Charity Organization organized a three-day training workshop in El Daein targeting 60 male and female teachers, covering information technology concepts and computer basics, within the framework of enhancing educational capacities. On January 19, Abu Karinka Women's Emergency Room opened a communal kitchen inside the South Sudanese refugee camp to provide meals for affected groups.

On January 21, CRI Organization conducted a training session on the women and child approach at the Civil Laboratory headquarters in El Daein, targeting 20 participants. On January 28, Al-Qadamia Humanitarian Emergency Room in Asalaya locality carried out a road cleaning campaign along the road linking Al-Qadamia – Al-Manjar – El Daein to reduce vehicle accidents and mitigate armed robbery risks due to dense trees along the roadside. On January 28, Shuaa Organization for Business and Development, in coordination with Ishraq Al-Amal Group and Al-Intisar Association, organized a recreational day for displaced persons in Sabreen Camp in El Daein as part of psychosocial support efforts.

Third: West Darfur State

3.1 Security Situation

During January 2026, West Darfur State witnessed varying security, political, and military developments that directly affected humanitarian conditions and civilian livelihoods. The Government of Sudan announced the extension of the opening of the Adre border crossing with the Republic of Chad for humanitarian assistance for three months, from January 1 to March 31, 2026, aiming to facilitate the arrival of humanitarian aid and ensure the continued work of relief organizations in accordance with international humanitarian law principles.

This decision followed widespread violence described by the government as committed by rebel militias (referring to the Rapid Support Forces) in El Fasher, Babanusa, and Heglig, resulting in civilian casualties. The government also called on humanitarian organizations and friendly and sisterly countries to intensify humanitarian response efforts in coordination with the relevant government authorities to meet urgent needs.





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Militarily, developments were concentrated toward Kulbus locality, where reinforcements of the Rapid Support Forces led by Abdullah Shaghab arrived, consisting of approximately 17 combat vehicles, in preparation for launching ground operations toward Tina, Abu Qamra, Jarjira, and Um Boro, which are considered strategic areas within the defensive lines of the Sudanese army, popular resistance, and joint forces.

In response, the Sudanese Armed Forces conducted aerial operations using strategic drones targeting gatherings of the Rapid Support Forces inside Kulbus on Friday, January 2, 2026, resulting, according to field sources, in material and human losses among the targeted forces. The following day, strikes targeted Rapid Support Forces positions in Rahad Barju east of Kulbus, leading to the destruction of several combat vehicles and fires extending to Bardani area about 25 kilometers east of Kulbus. Operations also extended to areas between Kulbus and Jebel Moon, destroying additional combat vehicles. These aerial and ground operations continued for two consecutive days, making Kulbus and its surroundings a main conflict hotspot during that period.

These military developments led to partial displacement of civilians from the northern areas of the state, exacerbating humanitarian needs, particularly in food, drinking water, shelter, and healthcare. In this context, the extension of the opening of Adre crossing is viewed as a vital opportunity to enhance humanitarian response and expand assistance. On the first half of the month, the Rapid Support Forces announced through an official statement on their media platforms their full control over Jarjira area.

According to field monitoring by sources of the “Sudan Rights Watch Network – Sudan” in the state, Sudanese army strategic drones conducted airstrikes on January 19, 2026, targeting two military sites of the Rapid Support Forces in Kulbus locality, resulting in deaths and injuries among their ranks and the destruction of several combat vehicles, although exact figures were not available.

In a related context, the city of Forbranga witnessed a complete closure and general strike in the main market in protest deteriorating security and rising kidnapping incidents targeting citizens and traders, with demands for ransom payments. The kidnapping of a trader sparked widespread anger leading to the closure of all shops, including small kiosks and vegetable vendors, causing near-complete paralysis of commercial movement. Forbranga is one of the most economically significant localities in the state, hosting major livestock and agricultural markets and serving as a strategic trade gateway to Chad. The suspension of trade directly affected livelihoods, amid rising levies and fees imposed on goods entering from Libya and Chad.





3.2 Human Rights Violations

During the first half of January, the state witnessed a noticeable increase in crime rates, particularly night-time home robberies and threats and looting targeting passersby on roads linking El Geneina with other localities. This coincided with continued waves of displacement from northern El Geneina, especially Kulbus, due to recent violent military operations.

Local sources reported that Rapid Support Forces elements conducted widespread arbitrary arrests in Kulbus, along with kidnappings and ransom demands in exchange for release, constituting clear violations of the right to liberty and personal security.

A 22-year-old young man was shot in Krinik area after refusing to hand over his mobile phone to attackers. He was transferred to Krinik Rural Hospital and later to El Geneina Teaching Hospital.

During the second half of January 2026, a relative decrease in human rights violations was observed compared to previous periods, though several incidents affecting public freedoms and rule of law were documented. Seven people from Beida Locality Emergency Room south of El Geneina were arrested, reportedly after arriving to receive funds believed allocated to the emergency room. A statement by “United Civil Forces (Qimam)” accused members of misappropriating funds. By the end of January, it remained unclear whether formal charges had been filed or whether detainees had access to legal counsel.

A controversial video circulated showing Brigadier Musa Ambilo negotiating with citizens regarding the sale of vehicles. Individuals who purchased the vehicles were briefly detained and later released. The person who filmed the video, Hamdan Salem, was arrested. He stated that citizens had attempted to sell vehicles for over forty days but were required to pay ten million Sudanese pounds per vehicle, totaling fifty million pounds for five vehicles. He denied publishing the video. Following mediation, he was released but later fined approximately four million Sudanese pounds through a customary session, a measure that drew public criticism.

3.3 Civil Society Situation

During the first half of January 2026, the state witnessed intensive humanitarian activity involving national organizations, local initiatives, regional organizations, and UN agencies following the extension of the opening of Adre crossing. More than 86 trucks loaded with humanitarian aid entered the state, most directed to Tawila and northern El Geneina, especially Kulbus.

A child vaccination campaign was implemented in coordination between UNICEF and the State Ministry of Health affiliated with the civil administration of the Rapid Support Forces, with active





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participation from community volunteers. UNHCR announced the transport of 4,000 non-food item kits to Chad for delivery to Darfur via the EU humanitarian air bridge, expected to support approximately 20,000 vulnerable families.

Despite increasing humanitarian activity, security instability, displacement, and crime continue to increase humanitarian needs, emphasizing the importance of keeping humanitarian corridors open and strengthening coordination.

During the second half of January, civil society continued capacity-building and humanitarian initiatives. On January 17, 2026, El Geneina Emergency Rooms Council organized a project writing workshop targeting the Women's Emergency Room and the Council's Projects Committee, delivered by Engineer Mohamed Abdel Rahim Qareen. The workshop focused on project design, budgeting, implementation, and monitoring, and participants expressed positive engagement.

Doctors Without Borders announced support for approximately 3,000 safe deliveries in El Geneina since June 2025 and the reception of the first newborn of 2026 at El Geneina Hospital.

However, tensions emerged following a January 27, 2026, statement by "United Civil Forces (Qimam) – West Darfur" raising allegations regarding humanitarian funds and questioning the legitimacy of some emergency rooms, calling for investigations and reorganization of humanitarian work. This preceded the arrest of Beida Emergency Room members and negatively affected the operating environment of civil society actors.

These developments reflect a complex picture of civil society's role in West Darfur, where humanitarian response and capacity-building efforts intersect with political and security challenges, underscoring the need for regulation, transparency, and protection of humanitarian actors to strengthen trust and serve affected communities.





Fourth: South Darfur State

4.1 Security Situation

The security situation is marked by escalating tension due to the increasing cases of arbitrary arrests, which have directly affected freedom of movement, particularly among men. Drone strikes carried out in recent period have also posed an additional threat to stability and mobility, especially as they have been accompanied by arrest and interrogation campaigns targeting citizens residing in present near targeted areas, under allegations of collaborating with the army.

In this context, local sources reported that on January 3, a 19-year-old citizen named Mubarak was subjected to an armed robbery north of the Geneina bus station market, where he was threatened with a weapon and robbed of his belongings. The popular market also witnessed an attempted robbery targeting the mobile phone market, carried out by an armed group that used a hand grenade, resulting in the death of a woman due to the explosion, in addition to the looting of several shops.

On the other hand, the security situation in South Darfur State has been described as relatively calm, with a degree of stability in market activities. Although incidents of theft and looting have continued, they were recorded at lower rates compared to December. Reports indicated that on January 20, unidentified armed individuals stole three phones from a Starlink service shop in the Karari neighborhood of Nyala at approximately 7:00 PM.

4.2 Human Rights Violations

During January, human rights violations in South Darfur were primarily reflected in the escalation of arbitrary arrests. Several citizens were detained in the localities of Buram, Beleil, Tulus, and the city of Nyala, including civil society activists particularly those working in emergency rooms as well as several traders.





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On January 10, trader Abdullah Musa, owner of a medical agency in Beleil locality, was arrested while in the Beleil market. A vehicle belonging to the Rapid Support Forces carrying armed personnel took him to one of their police centers. He was later informed that he was accused of collaborating with hostile entities, and his family was asked to pay 1.5 billion Sudanese pounds for his release. The family paid the amount, and he was released the following day. Local testimonies indicate that many families are forced to sell or pay for everything they own when a family member is arrested, especially if threatened with transfer to Daqrees Prison.

Daqrees Prison is considered one of the worst detention facilities in terms of humanitarian conditions. Visits are not permitted, and detainees live in extremely harsh conditions, particularly the elderly, those with chronic illnesses, and people with disabilities. Professor Othman Mohammed Zakaria was also arrested, with insufficient information available regarding the conditions of his detention. In Tulus locally, sources reported the arrest of several former employees, including teachers who refused to work with the current government. They were accused of collaboration, and some were transferred to Daqrees Prison. The names of the detainees were not available at the time of drafting this report, although the reliability of the information is estimated at approximately 80%.

Violations also include kidnappings, arbitrary arrests, and repeated interrogations at gates and checkpoints by the police, particularly targeting men, where mobile phones are searched and personal applications reviewed. Consistent reports from field sources of the “Sudan Human Rights Watch” indicate deteriorating conditions of male and female detainees in Nyala, both in terms of treatment and living conditions.

In another incident, trader Mohamedin was arrested from the Geneina bus station market after notifications of large financial transfers were found on his phone. According to field sources, the Rapid Support Forces launched a forced mobilization campaign approximately two months earlier, during which citizens were given several options, including joining intelligence services an option Mohamedin reportedly chose.

However, according to his statement, he did not provide any information after joining, which led to him being accused of betrayal. During the investigation, his family was asked to pay three billion Sudanese pounds. Following a dispute between his wife and an officer responsible for demanding the ransom, he was transferred to Daqrees Prison despite his advanced age and diabetes. Local testimonies indicate a recent rise in death rates inside the prison, particularly among the elderly and those with chronic illnesses.





In another incident on January 26, the Market Security Committee threatened a young woman working in a medical agency in the popular market after demanding that she pay 30,000 Sudanese pounds. When she stated that she did not have the amount in cash and offered to pay via electronic transfer (Bankak), the committee refused and threatened to imprison her if she did not pay in cash. She clarified that she was an employee and not the shop owner. The discussion continued until another employee intervened and paid the amount.

4.3 Civil Society Situation

The “Netkallam” initiative organized a two-day training workshop from January 3–4 in Nyala on the role of media in combating gender-based violence. The workshop targeted 30 participants, including male and female journalists and media professionals, as part of efforts to support gender issues and strengthen the media’s role in advocacy and community awareness.

On the health front, a measles vaccination campaign was launched in the state on January 8 amid a widespread outbreak. Approximately 20 deaths were recorded in Buram locality due to measles, reflecting the seriousness of the health situation and the urgent need to strengthen preventive and medical response efforts.

Regarding community response, emergency rooms in the state resumed providing services in several centers, including Al-Mahira, Nyala, Al-Jir, and Al-Manar. The Water Authority, funded by World Vision, began drilling new water wells to address the worsening water crisis. The Water Authority had been out of service since the outbreak of war but partially resumed operations in 2024, although water supply lines are still functioning in only a limited number of neighborhoods. Health emergency rooms played an active role in rehabilitating the authority in mid-2024.

As part of efforts to rebuild the social fabric, community initiatives and national organizations continued implementing peacebuilding activities. The Rural Development Organization held community sessions in the Atash and Kalma camps, as well as in Mershing locality, and implemented projects to empower vulnerable groups through the distribution of productive assets and work supplies.

At the economic level, the so-called “Ta’sis” government announced the opening of a new bank named “Future Bank” in the former Nile Bank building. Field observations indicate that most applicants opening bank accounts are members of the Rapid Support Forces. The state is also experiencing a noticeable shortage of cash liquidity, leading to an increase in financial transaction deduction rates to approximately 20%, compared to 15% in December.





Fifth: Central Darfur State

5.1 Security Situation

At the beginning of the new year, the state witnessed a significant escalation in security incidents and violations. Several serious incidents were recorded during January 2026, reflecting a clear state of security breakdown and instability.

On January 1, a drone believed to belong to the Sudanese Armed Forces targeted the village of Al-Firdous near Waranga, approximately 75 kilometers from Zalingei. The shelling, carried out using three projectiles at around 12:30 PM, resulted in the death of at least 20 people, including the security advisor to the RSF commander, Hamid Ali Abu Bakr, and Major General Salem, in addition to injuring around 25 others. The attack also led to the destruction of a weapons and ammunition depot in the area.

On the same day, five people including two women, one named Makkah Hassan Musa—were killed, and two others were injured in an incident that occurred around 6:00 PM. The incident stemmed from an ambush carried out by relatives of a murder suspect against RSF personnel transporting him from Waranga to Zalingei. Heavy gunfire resulted in the killing of several guards and civilians in the street before the suspect was freed.

Also on January 1, a woman living in Block (8) camp was stabbed by a man who attempted to assault her while she was cleaning her former home. She was taken to the hospital for treatment, and the perpetrator fled. On January 3, a mobile phone trader named Ibrahim Buraima was shot in the leg inside the main market of Zalingei by unidentified individuals who attempted to rob his shop at around 5:00 PM but failed to steal anything.

On January 5, a woman was killed and two of her daughters were injured by unidentified perpetrators in Dileij town, Wadi Salih locality, south of Zalingei, following an armed robbery targeting their home after prior surveillance. The injured were transferred to the hospital for treatment. On January 8, a woman named Sanaa, known as “Sanaa Daga,” was shot inside her home in Al-Wadi neighborhood by an RSF member following an altercation. She was taken to the hospital.





On January 9, a tragic incident occurred in Al-Jabalain neighborhood around 6:00 PM, when family disputes escalated and one individual detonated a hand grenade, resulting in his death, the death of another person, and the injury of three others nearby.

The state continues to witness scattered security incidents. On January 16, looting operations were recorded in several neighborhoods of Zalingei, including Al-Wadi and Police Housing, in addition to an attempted robbery in the Prisons neighborhood, during which a young man named Salman Adam Suleiman sustained a minor gunshot wound. Sources reported that the perpetrators were masked and riding a motorcycle.

On January 18, two people were killed and five others injured in a shooting incident during a wedding in Qinjo village east of Zalingei, following a dispute that escalated into an armed clash between members of the Khazam and Misseriya tribes. The RSF military administration, along with the civil administration and traditional leaders, intervened to contain the situation.

On January 20, an RSF member named Dr. Al-Barjo Musa was killed and his wife seriously injured during an attempt to steal their car in Al-Thawra neighborhood in Zalingei at around 10:00 PM. The incident was followed by heavy gunfire during the pursuit of the perpetrators, causing panic among residents. Four days later, the vehicle was recovered and the suspects arrested, again amid gunfire.

On January 26, RSF forces reportedly shot down a strategic drone believed to belong to the Sudanese Armed Forces after it hovered over Garsila, the capital of Wadi Salih locality, without causing damage before being brought down to the city.

5.2 Human Rights Violations

On January 1, 2026, a woman was stabbed in Block (8) camp during an attempted sexual assault. She was transferred for treatment, while the perpetrator fled. On the same day, three civilians were killed in a shooting inside Marreen market east of the city, and two military personnel were killed in an armed ambush targeting a force transporting a criminal suspect.

On January 3, more than 80 police officers were released after being detained for over a week in attempts to compel them to serve under the federal police. Most reportedly refused. On the same date, a delegation from the RSF Human Rights Committee visited Zalingei Prison to assess detainees' conditions and provide limited support.

Field testimonies indicate extremely poor conditions inside Zalingei Central Prison, which holds between 150 and 200 convicted and pre-trial detainees. Sanitation facilities are severely





overcrowded, toilets are not being emptied, and diseases have spread amid near-total absence of healthcare and severe food shortages. The overall environment constitutes a clear violation of minimum humanitarian standards for the treatment of detainees.

On January 16, Salman Adam Suleiman was shot in Al-Karank neighborhood during an attempted robbery. Additional robberies were recorded the same day, including the theft of two phones in Al-Wadi neighborhood and another robbery in Police Housing, reflecting ongoing instability in residential areas.

5.3 Civil Society Situation

From December 30, 2025, to January 4, 2026, the Head of the Civil Administration in Central Darfur conducted a field visit to southern localities to assess general conditions, monitor administrative performance, and activate local revenue mechanisms. On January 3, Governor Mustafa Tambour issued a decision dissolving the Mobilization and Popular Resistance Committee, to be reconstituted later under new arrangements.

On December 30, 2025, Zalingei Initiators opened the second season bazaar, beginning with a workshop on combating hate speech, followed by a mass circumcision campaign for children from underprivileged families and a cultural program. The bazaar concluded on January 11 with notable official and public attendance.

Several emergency rooms implemented community kitchen programs targeting internally displaced people in shelters and schools to ease living burdens amid difficult economic and humanitarian conditions.

Earlier last month, the Sudanese Agency for Relief and Humanitarian Operations closed the office of the Sudan Social Development Organization (SUDO) and transferred its assets to the agency's headquarters without official clarification. Similar measures were taken against AWAFFY Sudanese Organization, with no clear legal or administrative explanations provided.





Conclusions and Recommendations

First: Urgent Recommendations for Civilian Protection

1. Immediately cease arbitrary arrests and unconditionally release all detainees held without legal orders or clear judicial procedures, ensuring access to lawyers and families.
2. End kidnapping and ransom practices and treat them as serious crimes subject to criminal accountability under national and international law.
3. Prohibits indiscriminate gunfire and the use of weapons داخل cities and markets, and enforce strict arms control measures, particularly in residential areas and around shelters.
4. Strengthen protection for women and girls in displacement and shelter centers, including community-based protection mechanisms, safe reporting pathways, and guarantees against retaliation or stigmatization.

Second: Recommendations Regarding Prisons and Detention Conditions

1. Immediately improve prison conditions by reducing overcrowding, ensuring sanitation and hygiene services, providing adequate food and clean water, and delivering urgent healthcare, particularly for the elderly and those with chronic illnesses.
2. Allow independent and regular prison visits by national and international human rights organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross.
3. Halt the transfer of detainees to notorious detention facilities without legal procedures and judicial guarantees.

Third: Recommendations on Rule of Law and Justice

1. Reactivate independent civil prosecution offices and courts and ensure their full separation from military and security authorities.
2. End reliance on customary and informal mechanisms in criminal and human rights cases, particularly those involving قتل, detention, and public freedoms.
3. Conduct independent and transparent investigations into all documented violations, including extrajudicial killings, sexual violence, torture, and organized looting.

Fourth: Recommendations for Humanitarian Action

1. Ensure safe and unconditional humanitarian access to all affected areas, including besieged cities and active conflict zones.



2. End security and administrative interference in humanitarian work and lift restrictions imposed on national organizations and emergency rooms.
3. Strengthening coordination between international organizations and local actors, recognizing community initiatives as a core component of the humanitarian response system.
4. Expand emergency health responses to address disease outbreaks, particularly measles, through comprehensive vaccination campaigns across all localities.

Fifth: Recommendations on Civil Society and Its Protection

1. Provide legal and practical protection for human rights defenders, emergency room workers, journalists, and civil activists.
2. End smear campaigns and criminalization of civil entities and ensure a safe and independent working environment for civil society.
3. Support community peacebuilding programs addressing local conflicts, hate speech, and tribal tensions, with meaningful inclusion of women and youth.

Sixth: Recommendations to the International Community and UN Mechanisms

1. Intensify independent international and regional monitoring of the situation in Darfur, including activation of Human Rights Council mechanisms and special procedures.
2. Press for accountability and an end to impunity, including support for international investigative mechanisms into serious crimes.
3. Link any political or humanitarian support to respect for human rights principles, civilian protection, and unhindered humanitarian access.

Seventh: Long-Term Strategic Recommendations

1. Rebuild civilian state institutions on professional and independent foundations, particularly in the justice, health, and water sectors.
2. Develop a comprehensive disarmament and arms control strategy for Darfur that considers the local context and involves affected communities.
3. Address the root causes of conflict through fair policies related to land, resources, transitional justice, and community reconciliation.

END.

