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Atrocity Alert No. 454: Sudan, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the UN Human Rights Council

15 October 2025 | **ATROCITY ALERT**

ATROCITY ALERT IS A WEEKLY PUBLICATION BY THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT HIGHLIGHTING SITUATIONS WHERE POPULATIONS ARE AT

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ICC DELIVERS LANDMARK CONVICTION AS ATROCITIES CONTINUE IN SUDAN

On 6 October Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court (ICC) convicted Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, commonly known as “Ali Kushayb,” a senior leader of the pro-government Janjaweed militia, of 27 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur, **Sudan**, between August 2003 and April 2004. The Trial Chamber concluded that Abd-Al-Rahman directly participated in or ordered these crimes, including murder, torture, persecution, attacks on civilians, pillaging and outrages upon personal

dignity, often in coordination with Janjaweed and/or government forces. He was also found guilty of rape as both a war crime and a crime against humanity, along with other gender-based crimes. This historic ruling marks the first conviction in the Darfur situation and the first in a case referred to the Court by the UN Security Council (UNSC). The ruling also sets a precedent as the Court's first conviction for gender-based persecution.

More than **two decades** after the crimes were committed, this landmark ruling underscores the enduring importance of accountability and the challenges of breaking entrenched cycles of impunity. ICC Deputy Prosecutor Nazhat Shameem Khan said, "The conviction of Mr. Abd-Al-Rahman is a crucial step towards closing the impunity gap in Darfur. It sends a resounding message to perpetrators of atrocities in Sudan, both past and present, that justice will prevail, and that they will be held accountable for inflicting unspeakable suffering on Darfuri civilians, men, women and children."

Despite this significant step toward justice, atrocities continue unabated across Sudan. Since April 2023 populations are yet again enduring war crimes and crimes against humanity amid intense clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and allied militias. In Darfur, non-Arab communities continue to be targeted by the RSF in what may amount to **acts of genocide**.

Most recently, between 5 and 8 October at least 53 people were reportedly killed in a series of attacks carried out by the RSF, including on a mosque and the last operational hospital in El Fasher, North Darfur. From 10-11 October, RSF drone attacks struck an area where internally displaced people were sheltering in Daraja Oula neighborhood, killing at least 57 people. Against this backdrop of ongoing atrocities, last week the UN Human Rights Council renewed the mandate of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on Sudan. Together with the ICC's conviction of Abd-Al-Rahman and the Court's ongoing investigations in the Darfur situation, the FFM's work reinforces the international community's commitment to accountability and prevention of future atrocities.

While criminal accountability remains essential, the international community must urgently act to end the conflict, intensifying diplomatic pressure and demanding all parties comply with international law. The UNSC must consider a robust resolution with concrete measures to protect civilians. A comprehensive, inclusive political dialogue involving all stakeholders, including civil society and marginalized groups, is needed to address the root causes and lay the groundwork for lasting peace.