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Atrocity Alert No. 451: Sudan, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Central Sahel

Atrocity Alert is a weekly publication by the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect highlighting situations where populations are at risk of, or are enduring, mass atrocity crimes.

AT LEAST 75 KILLED IN MOSQUE ATTACK AS CRISIS ESCALATES IN EL FASHER, DARFUR

On 19 September the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) carried out a drone strike on a mosque during morning prayers, near the Abu Shouk displacement camp in the Daraja Oula neighborhood of El Fasher, in [Sudan's](#) North Darfur region. The attack killed at least 75 people, making it one of the deadliest single incidents the city has endured since the conflict began in April 2023. Videos shared on social media show the collapsed structure and the heavy toll on civilians, with rows of body bags and bodies visible among the rubble. In a statement on 20 September UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed grave alarm over the rapidly deteriorating situation, noting, “with fighters advancing deeper into El Fasher, there is a rising risk of ethnically motivated violence.”

The strike underscores the rapidly intensifying conflict in El Fasher. A day earlier, on 18 September, the Yale School of Public Health’s Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL) [warned](#) that the city is on the verge of falling to the RSF, assessing that it is “highly unlikely that another outcome is possible” without immediate reinforcements from the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). The HRL further cautioned that the RSF is “highly likely” to perpetrate “systematic mass atrocities” in El Fasher and Abu Shouk camp during and after capturing the city. The latest satellite imagery identified at least 82 RSF vehicles entering the camp.

El Fasher has been under siege by the RSF since April 2024, with non-Arab communities deliberately targeted, civilian infrastructure and displacement camps systematically destroyed and critical supply routes blocked, while attacks on surrounding areas continue to escalate. These calculated assaults have sparked [urgent warnings](#) of potential genocide, with non-Arab communities facing an imminent and severe threat of ethnically motivated killings and mass atrocities. Following the [attacks on Zamzam camp](#) in April 2025, Médecins Sans Frontières [reported](#) witness testimonies of RSF fighters openly discussing plans to “clean El Fasher” of non-Arab residents, with the Zaghawa community specifically targeted.

The international community is obligated to prevent and punish genocide and must take action to save civilian lives in Darfur. As heads of state and government gather in New York this week for the opening of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, diplomatic pressure must intensify to bring an end to the conflict, including by compelling external actors, such as the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Turkey, Russia and Iran, to halt their support to parties to the conflict. The

international community should press the RSF and SAF to ensure that attacks on civilians cease immediately. The UN Security Council must urgently convene and consider adopting a robust resolution with concrete measures to protect civilians and prevent further violence.

UN REPORT CONCLUDES ISRAEL IS COMMITTING GENOCIDE IN GAZA

The latest report by the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry (CoI) on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel concludes that Israeli authorities and forces have committed and are continuing to commit genocide in [Gaza](#). The CoI determined that Israel has committed at least four acts prohibited under the Genocide Convention, namely: killing members of the group; causing them serious bodily or mental harm; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical distribution in whole or in part; and imposing measures intended to prevent births. Statements made by Israeli authorities constitute direct evidence of genocidal intent, while the conduct of Israeli forces provides circumstantial evidence indicating that such intent is the only reasonable inference that can be drawn from the totality of the facts.

Despite growing international scrutiny of its actions, Israel remains intransigent and is moving forward with its offensive in Gaza City. Ongoing ground operations and airstrikes are forcibly displacing thousands. Many Palestinians, however, have chosen to remain in Gaza City after enduring multiple waves of forced displacement over the last two years.

The CoI's report adds to the growing genocide declarations by prominent rights and humanitarian [organizations](#), [scholars](#) and legal [experts](#). In parallel, an increasing number of member states are moving to [support](#) South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice concerning alleged violations by Israel of its obligations under the Genocide Convention. The Court has already issued provisional measures on three separate occasions, ordering Israel to prevent the commission of genocide. On 19 September Brazil filed a declaration of intervention, [joining](#) Spain, Chile, Colombia, Türkiye, Ireland and others in supporting South Africa.

Meanwhile, in the past week, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and France, among other western states, formally recognized Palestinian statehood, following renewed efforts to revitalize discussions on a two-state solution. In a bid to suppress momentum for recognition, on 29 August the United States announced its refusal to grant visas to the Palestinian delegation to attend the opening of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, in violation of the UN Host Country Agreement.

Navi Pillay, Chair of the CoI, stressed, "The prevention of genocide is not a matter of discretion. It is a legal and moral obligation, and it admits no delay. The law requires action. Our common humanity demands it." The international community's inaction and complicity have enabled Israel's genocide in Gaza. Member states must replace cautious incrementalism with unconditional adherence to the moral imperatives, political commitments and legal obligations [demanded](#) by the Responsibility to Protect, including by enforcing a comprehensive arms embargo on Israel, acting under UN General Assembly resolution 377 (V) to establish a multinational protection force and deploying a multilateral humanitarian diplomatic convoy to confront the famine in Gaza and break the siege.

ESCALATING ABUSES AND SHRINKING ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE CENTRAL SAHEL

Recurrent attacks by armed Islamist groups and intensifying clashes between militants and national security forces in recent months have increasingly placed civilians across the [Central Sahel](#) at grave risk. In Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, groups affiliated with al-Qaeda and the so-called Islamic