

**Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale**

<b>Bilagsnr.:</b>	<b>951</b>
Land:	Sudan
Kilde:	OHCHR
Titel:	Sudan: UN Fact-Finding Mission urges immediate action after deadly mosque strike in El Fasher
Udgivet:	24. september 2025
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	30. oktober 2025



Donate

[Latest / Media Center](#)

PRESS RELEASES | INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION

# Sudan: UN Fact-Finding Mission urges immediate action after deadly mosque strike in El Fasher

24 September 2025

Share

---

**GENEVA** – The UN’s Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan has condemned in the strongest terms a deadly drone strike allegedly carried out by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on the Al-Safiya

Mosque and adjacent homes in El Fasher, North Darfur, on 19 September. Calling for immediate action to protect civilians, the Mission warned that El Fasher remains under siege and at grave risk of further attacks, with civilians facing extreme danger.

The attack, which took place during dawn prayers, reportedly killed at least 75 worshippers, including children, and injured many others. It is the latest, and the most devastating, in a series of assaults on religious and cultural sites during Sudan's ongoing conflict.

"Killing civilians, including children, while in prayer in a mosque shows a blatant disregard for the most fundamental principles of international law," said Mohamed Chande Othman, Chair of the Fact-Finding Mission. "Those responsible must be held accountable."

In its [report](#) presented to the Human Rights Council on 8 September, the Mission indicated its receipt of credible allegations of similar attacks on other places of worship by both warring parties, including the shelling of churches in El Fasher by the RSF and the bombing of mosques and of a Baptist church in Wad Madani and Khartoum by the Sudanese Armed Forces.

"Places of worship should be sanctuaries, not targets," said Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, expert member of the Fact-Finding Mission. "This strike deepens the trauma of communities already suffering starvation, displacement and sexual violence. The world cannot look away while civilians are attacked in their most sacred spaces."

The Mission stressed that attacks directed against cultural property and religious sites are flagrant violations of international humanitarian and human rights law that may amount to war crimes. It underscored that intentionally directing attacks against buildings dedicated *inter alia* to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, and historic monuments constitute war crimes, provided these sites are not military objectives. The onus falls on the attacking side to prove the military objective.

“Sudan’s rich and diverse religious and cultural tapestry forms part of its shared heritage,” said Mona Rishmawi, expert member of the Mission. “Deliberate attacks on worshippers, mosques, churches, and cultural sites risk erasing identity and dignity. The International Criminal Court has already condemned individuals for the intentional destruction of religious and cultural sites in other conflicts. The Fact-Finding Mission will continue to investigate these grave acts and seek accountability.”

The Mission called for concrete measures by all parties to protect civilians and safeguard and protect religious and cultural buildings.

“Every day of delay results in more bloodshed,” Othman said. “Justice and protection demand immediate action.”

ENDS

**Background:** The [Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan](#) was established by the [UN Human Rights Council](#) in October 2023 through resolution [A/HRC/RES/54/2](#), and its mandate was extended until October 2025 with resolution [A/HRC/RES/57/2](#). Its key task is “to investigate and establish the facts, circumstances and root causes of all alleged human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including those committed against refugees, and related crimes in the context of the ongoing armed conflict that began on 15 April 2023, between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, as well as other warring parties.” The [members](#) of the Fact-Finding Mission were appointed by the President of the UN Human Rights Council; they are not UN staff and do not receive a salary for their work. While the UN Human Rights Office provides support to the Fact-Finding Mission, the members serve in their individual capacity and are independent from any government or organization, including the UN. Any views or opinions presented herein are solely those of the mandated members.

**For media queries, please contact:** Todd Pitman, Media Adviser for the UN Human Rights Council’s Investigative Bodies: [todd.pitman@un.org](mailto:todd.pitman@un.org) /

+41766911761; or Pascal Sim, Human Rights Council Media  
Officer: [simp@un.org](mailto:simp@un.org).

**Follow the Human Rights Council's Investigative Bodies on Social Media:**  
[X](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Bluesky](#)

---

## Tags

[Sudan](#) [Crimes against humanity](#)

---

## Related

PRESS RELEASES

["A war of atrocities:" Sudan civilians deliberately targeted, UN Fact-Finding Mission reports international crimes on large-scale](#)

PRESS RELEASES

[Sudan war intensifying with devastating consequences for civilians, UN Fact-Finding Mission says](#)

PRESS RELEASES

[Targeting of MSF hospital may constitute a war crime, says UN Commission, urges immediate halt to hostilities in South Sudan](#)

VIEW THIS PAGE IN:

[العربية](#)

## **Latest**

[Feature Stories](#)

[Media Center](#)

[Meetings & Events](#)

## **Resources**

[Databases](#)

[Library](#)

[Publications](#)

## **Connect**

[Contact Us](#)

[Follow us](#)

[Work With Us](#)

---

## **Donate**

[Contact](#)

[Copyrights](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Terms of use](#)