

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	941
Land:	Sudan
Kilde:	OHCHR
Titel:	“A war of atrocities:” Sudan civilians deliberately targeted, UN Fact-Finding Mission reports international crimes on large-scale
Udgivet:	5. september 2025
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	30. oktober 2025



Donate

[Latest / Media Center](#)

PRESS RELEASES | INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION

“A war of atrocities:” Sudan civilians deliberately targeted, UN Fact-Finding Mission reports international crimes on large-scale

05 September 2025

Share

GENEVA – Rival forces in Sudan are deliberately targeting the devastated nation's civilian population, committing atrocities including war crimes on a large scale, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan said in its latest [report](#) today. Some acts may also amount to the crimes against humanity, including persecution and extermination.

The report to the UN Human Rights Council, "*A War of Atrocities*," found that both the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) were responsible not only for direct and large-scale attacks against civilians, but also for the extensive destruction of essential infrastructure for survival, including medical centres, markets, food and water systems, and displacement camps.

The report also found that the RSF, during the siege of El Fasher and surrounding areas, committed myriad crimes against humanity, including murder, torture, enslavement, rape, sexual slavery, sexual violence, forced displacement and persecution on ethnic, gender and political grounds. The RSF and its allies used starvation as a method of warfare and deprived civilians of objects indispensable to their survival, including food, medicine and relief supplies - which may amount to the crime against humanity of extermination.

"Our findings leave no room for doubt: civilians are paying the highest price in this war," said Mohamed Chande Othman, chair of the Fact-Finding Mission. "Both sides have deliberately targeted civilians through attacks, summary executions, arbitrary detention, torture, and inhuman treatment in detention facilities, including denial of food, sanitation, and medical care. These are not accidental tragedies but deliberate strategies amounting to war crimes. The RSF has further committed crimes against humanity, including large-scale killings, sexual and gender-based violence, looting, and the destruction of livelihoods—at times rising to persecution and extermination."

Civilians are being targeted based on their perceived affiliation with the other side. In El Fasher and surrounding areas, the RSF and its allies carried out large-scale killings of hundreds of civilians, intentionally directing attacks against non-Arab communities including the Zaghawa,

Fur, Masalit, and Tunjur, and forcibly displacing populations. In Zamzam camp in April, between 300 and 1,500 civilians – mostly women and children – were massacred. In Gezira, the SAF and its allies targeted the Kanabi community after recapturing the town in January, killing dozens and forcing most residents to flee.

Both parties failed to take sufficient measures to minimize the impact of airstrikes and artillery on civilians and civilian infrastructure. As a result, towns, villages, displacement camps, markets, hospitals and homes have been systematically destroyed or rendered uninhabitable, leaving 12.1 million people displaced and more than half the nation facing acute food insecurity. Only one in four health facilities remains functional in the worst-affected regions.

Humanitarian assistance has been obstructed, convoys attacked, and aid workers targeted. Between April 2023 and April 2025, more than 84 Sudanese humanitarian workers were killed, while others were arbitrarily detained.

The report found that both sides have arbitrarily arrested, detained and tortured civilians because of the victims' ethnicity, political opinion, profession or alleged collaboration with the opposing party. Detainees were frequently held without access to adequate food, sanitation or medical care. RSF detention centres were described by survivors as "slaughterhouses" where in some cases, detainees were beaten to death and summarily executed. Some were subjected to forced labour or held for ransom, with families forced to pay for their release.

Sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, gang rape, forced marriage and sexual slavery was committed by RSF fighters. Women and girls from non-Arab communities, some as young as 12, were particularly targeted. SAF personnel and allied forces were also implicated in acts of sexualized torture in detention.

"Behind every documented story is a shattered family, a displaced community, a survivor of unimaginable violence," said Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, an expert Member of the Fact-Finding Mission. "We have interviewed

numerous civilians who have endured extreme trauma and suffered or witnessed killings, starvation, sexual violence, torture, and the destruction of essential services. The cycle of impunity has emboldened perpetrators for decades. Victims – especially women and children, who bear the greatest burden – deserve justice and reparations.”

The report outlined steps necessary for accountability, emphasizing that justice and protection cannot wait until a peace agreement is reached. Sudan’s domestic institutions remain unwilling and unable genuinely to conduct credible investigations. Instead, they perpetuate selective justice, shield perpetrators through immunities and amnesties, and continue to deny survivors any real prospect of redress.

“Our report not only exposes atrocities, it also lays out a roadmap for justice,” said expert Member Mona Rishmawi. “The international community must act now to enforce the arms embargo, support justice by backing the International Criminal Court, establish an independent judicial mechanism for Sudan, use universal jurisdiction to hold perpetrators accountable, and ensure that those orchestrating atrocities face consequences, including targeted sanctions.”

“Every day of inaction leaves the Sudanese people under attack – their lives, communities, and survival at risk,” Rishmawi said. “Accountability is not optional – it is a legal and moral imperative to protect civilians and prevent further atrocities.”

The Fact-Finding Mission called on the international community to impose targeted sanctions against individuals and entities responsible for international crimes. It also pressed for swift and coordinated action to cease hostilities, protect civilians, lift sieges, and halt ethnic targeting and sexual and gender-based violence. It urged all States, particularly those with influence on the parties, to abide by arms embargoes and refrain from providing them with material support and increase humanitarian assistance.

“Sudan is living through one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises and gravest hunger emergencies, with some of its population facing war

crimes, persecution and extermination,” Othman said. “The international community has the tools to act. Failure to do so would not only betray the Sudanese people – it would betray the very foundations of international law.”

ENDS

Read the full report [here](#), and its Annex [here](#).

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 / +41766911761; or Pascal Sim, Human Rights Council Media Officer: simp@un.org.

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

Tags

[Sudan](#) [Crimes against humanity](#) [Inquiry and fact-finding missions](#)

Related

PRESS RELEASES

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

PRESS RELEASES

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

PRESS RELEASES

[Venezuela Fact-Finding Mission urges end to State use of isolation against detained opponents and warns about lack of effective judicial protection](#)

VIEW THIS PAGE IN:

[العربية](#)

Global Social Channels

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](#)