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ACHPR Country Briefing Report	
Country	SUDAN
Date	October 2025 – April 2026

SUDAN:

ACHPR COUNTRY BRIEFING REPORT: HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER

(OCTOBER 2025 – APRIL 2026)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The human rights situation in Sudan has been dire, especially for Human rights defenders, lawyers and activists who continue to be victims of targeted attacks since the beginning of the conflict on April 15, 2023. Neither warring party has given heed to the UN Security Council's call for ceasefires and continue to blatantly violate the fundamental rules of armed conflict and humanitarian law, especially the protection of human rights defenders and activists, resulting in the displacement of over 12 million people.
2. The start of the armed conflict in Khartoum between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) under the command of Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, and its subsequent spread to Darfur, Kordofan and other areas of Sudan made it impossible for the Transitional Sovereignty Council (TSC) under the leadership of General al-Burhan to continue to administer government controls from Darfur, forcing him and government departments to relocate to Port Sudan. Eventually, administrative and political control of northern and eastern states were under the control of the SAF and the TSC, while Khartoum and other areas of Sudan were under the siege of the RSF.¹ By April 2026, thousands of people had been killed -with estimates to over 400 thousands- after increased political tensions and fighting following failed negotiations on the establishment of a transitional government, and other demands by both parties, despite repeated calls for ceasefires from the international community.²
3. The purpose of this report is to draw attention to past and ongoing human rights violations prevalent in Sudan. By so doing, this report aims to highlight violations of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights³ (hereinafter referred to as the "African Charter"), with particular focus on the right to fair trial, freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention, freedom from enforced disappearances, protection of human rights defenders, and the means to ensuring state accountability for these violations. This report draws inspiration from Article 4, 5, 6, 7 and 18 of the African Charter and the extent to which Sudan has complied or violated the rights therein enshrined between the period of October 2025 and April 2026. It shall further examine the institutional and legal frameworks adopted by the Sudanese government in ensuring the protection of human rights in Sudan.
4. This report adopts a methodology that is from secondary sources including communications and reports of local, regional and international human rights organizations, including information from the African Union and United Nations monitoring mechanisms.

¹ US Country Reports on Terrorism 2023: Sudan. (Available from <https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2023/sudan/>).

² Amnesty International, State of The World's Human Rights, April 2024, Peter Benenson House, 1, Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, pp. 351 – 352.

³ African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Adopted 27 June 1981, OAU Doc. CAB/LEG/67/3 rev. 5, 21 I.L.M. 58 (1982), entered into force 21 October 1986.

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LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

a. Reporting Obligations under the African Charter:

Sudan has been a signatory to the African Charter since September 03, 1982, and ratified the Charter on February 18, 1984. Since Sudan's date of ratification of the African Charter, it has sent only 5 Periodic Reports to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; namely: 1994 – 1996, 1999 – 2003, 2003 – 2007, and 2008 – 2012.⁴ As a State Party to the African Charter, Sudan is under a legal obligation to "undertake to submit every two years, a report on the legislative or other measures taken with a view to giving effect to the rights and freedoms recognised and guaranteed by the present Charter".⁵ These reports are to be submitted to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (hereinafter referred to as the "African Commission"), based in Banjul, The Gambia. The African Commission, through Articles 45 and 62 of the African Charter is mandated with the powers to promote human rights in African Member States, through amongst others, the receipt and examination of States' reports in fulfillment of their human rights obligations under the African Charter.

State Reports represent a crucial benchmark through which the African Commission can fulfill its mandate to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights. Consequently, this places an unwavering obligation on Sudan "to adopt legislative and other measures to give effect" to the "rights, duties and freedoms enshrined in the African Charter"⁶ and report on such measures in a periodic manner to the African Commission. Contrary to misconceived impressions – often propagated by State officials, State Reports are not a witch-hunt exercise designed to serve as an opportunity for shame or ridicule of any State, rather, they serve as a viable opportunity for States' accountability and strengthened cooperation and partnership with the African Commission. Hence, these reports represent "the urgent desire to create a channel for constructive dialogue"⁷ on the measures that a State Party, in this case – Sudan – has adopted in compliance with the provisions of the African Charter.

b. National Legal Provisions Related to Detention, Fair Trial, Freedom from Torture

The prohibition of torture is an absolute right to which there is no derogation, regardless of the prevailing circumstances in any Member State.⁸ Sudan's obligation to ensure fair trial, and to refrain from arbitrary detention and torture must be reflected both in law and in practice. While Sudan's ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) in 2021 was a commendable step in the right direction to prevent torture and other forms of

⁴ <https://achpr.au.int/en/states-reporting-status>

⁵ African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Adopted 27 June 1981, OAU Doc. CAB/LEG/67/3 rev. 5, 21 I.L.M. 58 (1982), entered into force 21 October 1986, Article 62.

⁶ Ibid., Article 1.

⁷ National State Reporting Guidelines 1988, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

⁸ African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Adopted 27 June 1981, entered into force 21 October 1986, Article 4 and 5. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 16 December 1966, Article 7.

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degrading and inhumane treatments, its Criminal Law Act 1991 and Criminal Procedure Act 1991⁹ fail to adequately prohibit the use of torture and to criminalize it as an offence. They also fail to sufficiently prohibit torture under all circumstances, regardless of being in a state of emergency or not. Consequently, there has been several reported cases of torture and other ill-treatments at Sudanese detention centers.

Sudan has a long-standing culture of using torture and other forms of ill-treatments as a tool for intimidation and coercion of detainees to obtain information and confessions. This, coupled with immunity laws, like the National Security Act (NSA) 2010, have served as legitimate grounds for the continuance of torture and other forms of human rights violations. The National Service Act grants unchecked powers to the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) to conduct arrests, detentions, and obtain impunity from prosecution or oversight. Sudan's Parliament amended the interim constitution at the time which broadened the scope and mandate of the NISS beyond just an information-gathering, intelligence and advice agency to a security agency capable of law enforcement and paramilitary operations allowing for arbitrary arrests and detentions.

c. Contradictions Between National Laws and Charter Obligations.

Sudan still maintains laws that allow for corporal punishment – which authorities use as tools to violate fundamental human rights protected under the African Charter. One of such laws is Article 152 of Sudan's Penal Code which stipulates:

- (1) Whoever commits, in a public place, an act, or conducts himself in an indecent manner, or a manner contrary to public morality, or wears an indecent, or immoral dress, which causes annoyance to public feelings, shall be punished, with whipping, not exceeding forty lashes, or with fine, or with both;
- (2) The act shall be deemed contrary to public morality, if it is so considered in the religion of the doer, or the custom of the country where the act occurs."

This law is both ambiguous and a contradiction of the right to dignity protected in Article 5 of the African Charter:

1. Every individual shall have the right to the respect of the dignity inherent in a human being and to the recognition of his legal status. All forms of exploitation and degradation of man particularly slavery, slave trade, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment shall be prohibited

It is also a contradiction of the right to freedom of expression protected under Article 9 of the African Charter: "Every individual shall have the right to express and disseminate his opinions within the law."

⁹ Sudan 1991 Criminal Act as Amended in 2009, Available here: <https://redress.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Criminal-Act-1991-English.pdf>

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Furthermore, Article 10 (1) and 20 of Sudan Evidence Act 1993 (amended in 1994), do not prohibit the admissibility of any form of evidence into trial that has been obtained through torture or other to ill-treatments on the person of the defendant or a third party at any time during proceedings. This practice is in direct violation of Sudan's obligation under Article 7 of the African Charter to ensure that everyone has access to a fair trial without undue influence or duress.

In May 2023, the Sudanese Sovereign Council reinstated the so-called "National Security Laws" that are used as tools to actively censor, repress and criminalize the work of civil society organizations. This infamous law served as major enabler of Sudan's former political regime in the suppression and punishment of human rights defenders. The law had been suspended following the political uprising of 2018, but only to be reinstated again in 2023 and still in effect till date. This law violates the right to freedom of expression protection under Article 9 of the African Charter:

1. Every individual shall have the right to receive information. (2). Every individual shall have the right to express and disseminate his opinions within the law."

Finally, the allocation of immunity privileges under the Armed Forces Act 2007, Police Forces Act 2008, and National Security Act 2010, perpetuates the continuance of human rights violations with no accountability measures taken against perpetrators. This practices and provisions are in conflict with Sudan's obligation under Article 1 of the African Charter which mandates not only the recognition of the rights in the Charter, but also imposes an obligation on Sudan to take concrete and actionable steps in bring its laws, policies and practices in conformity with the spirit of the Charter – thereby ensuring the protection of the rights enshrined therein.

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MAIN VIOLATIONS IDENTIFIED

The violations outlined below are based on CFJ's monitoring, public reporting, partner documentation, and relevant regional and international sources covering the reporting period. The statistical figures referenced in this section reflect CFJ's monitoring between January and April 2026, while the broader analysis also draws on incidents and developments documented between October 2025 and April 2026. The incidents cited in each subsection are illustrative examples of wider patterns of violations documented during the review period and should not be understood as an exhaustive account of all incidents recorded. They are included to highlight recurring trends, methods of abuse, affected groups, and areas of concern relevant to Sudan's obligations under the African Charter.

d. Arbitrary Arrest, Enforced Disappearance, and Torture

Between January and April 2026, CFJ monitored 47 cases of arbitrary detention, 33 cases of enforced disappearance, and 6 cases of torture in Sudan, as part of a wider pattern of violations affecting 9027 victims. These figures reflect a continuing pattern in which parties to the conflict and affiliated bodies used arrest, abduction, incommunicado detention, and denial of legal safeguards as tools of control, intimidation, and retaliation against civilians, activists, lawyers, journalists, and community members.

Arbitrary arrests were frequently carried out without warrants, formal charges, or access to legal counsel. In Al Qadarif State, CFJ [documented](#) the arrest of activist Alaa Eldin Al-Shareef on 15 January 2026 by security forces, without any legal warrant or official explanation, while his family and lawyer were not informed of his place of detention or the accusations against him. Similarly, CFJ [reported](#) serious violations in the case of activist Muneeb Abdelaziz in Dongola, including arrest without a warrant, initial concealment of his whereabouts, denial of communication with his family, and the use of vague or recycled charges to prolong his detention.

Enforced disappearance remained a recurring feature of detention practices, particularly where detainees were held without disclosure of their whereabouts. In North Kordofan, CFJ documented the arrest of [lawyer Khalafallah Hussein Abdelaziz](#) in El Obeid on 17 January 2026, after which he was transferred to the General Intelligence Service offices and denied contact with his family and legal counsel. CFJ also [documented](#) violations against three brothers, Abdelrahman, Mohamed, and Badri Ibrahim Badri Abdullah, including arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance by both parties to the conflict, with some transferred between detention sites without legal safeguards or disclosure of their fate.

Mass abductions and detention for extortion were also documented. In West Kordofan, CFJ [monitored](#) the abduction of 97 young men by the RSF in the Ayal Bakhit area while they were reportedly travelling to gold-mining areas for work. CFJ later [reported](#) that the RSF released 19 vehicles carrying miners only after forcing owners to pay around three million Sudanese pounds per vehicle, while the fate and safety of the remaining detainees remained unknown. Women activists and journalists were also targeted through arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance. In Nyala, South Darfur, CFJ condemned [the arrest of several women activists](#) following their participation in a workshop on women's rights, after RSF personnel raided homes at dawn on 5 March 2026 and transferred them to an undisclosed location. CFJ also documented [three cases of enforced disappearance](#) and three cases of arbitrary

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arrest of journalists across Khartoum, Darfur, and Sennar, including journalists who had reportedly been held for months or nearly a year without disclosure of their fate.

Torture and ill-treatment were documented in connection with detention and abduction. In West Kordofan, CFJ [documented](#) the death of Salah Al-Amin after he was abducted by RSF members, detained for five days, subjected to severe torture and beatings, and later abandoned in critical condition before dying from his injuries.

These patterns amount to serious violations of Sudan's obligations under the African Charter, particularly Articles 5, 6, and 7, which protect the rights to dignity, liberty and security of the person, and fair trial guarantees. They also reflect the broader collapse of judicial safeguards in conflict-affected areas, where detention is increasingly used outside any lawful framework and with little prospect of accountability.

e. Prison Conditions

Between January and April 2026, CFJ monitored 14 deaths in custody due to denial of healthcare, in addition to broader patterns of harsh detention conditions affecting detainees held in prisons, security facilities, and unofficial places of detention across Sudan. These conditions were marked by overcrowding, denial of medical care, poor sanitation, lack of adequate food and water, and the absence of independent oversight. In conflict-affected areas, detainees were often held in facilities operating outside effective judicial control, increasing their exposure to abuse, neglect, and death.

A key example is Daqris Prison in Nyala, South Darfur, where CFJ [documented](#) catastrophic detention conditions, including unprecedented overcrowding, deteriorating sanitation, lack of healthcare, and serious risks to detainees' lives. CFJ later [reported](#) continuing dire conditions inside the same prison, highlighting the persistence of grave violations despite repeated warnings. The situation was further illustrated by CFJ's documentation of the [death](#) of a detainee after 18 months of detention, raising serious concerns regarding medical neglect, prolonged detention, and the absence of accountability.

Similarly, CFJ documented catastrophic conditions inside [Shala Prison in El Fasher](#), where civilian detainees were reportedly exposed to life-threatening conditions amid the broader collapse of basic services and protection guarantees. These accounts reflect a wider pattern in which detention facilities have become spaces of severe deprivation rather than lawful custody subject to judicial review and humane treatment standards.

Women detainees were also exposed to particularly harsh conditions. In South Darfur, CFJ [documented](#) the detention of more than 600 women in conditions described as harsh and degrading, raising concerns regarding overcrowding, lack of gender-sensitive protection, inadequate healthcare, and heightened vulnerability to abuse. The detention of women in such conditions, particularly in the context of armed conflict and the breakdown of institutional safeguards, reflects the compounded risks faced by women and girls in custody.

These detention conditions violate Sudan's obligations under the African Charter, particularly Article 5, which prohibits torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and Article 6, which protects the right to liberty and

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security of the person. They also demonstrate the urgent need for independent monitoring of all places of detention, disclosure of detainees' whereabouts, access to medical care, and investigations into deaths in custody.

f. Extrajudicial Executions and Unlawful Killings

Between January and April 2026, CFJ monitored 22 cases of extrajudicial killings, 14 deaths in custody due to denial of healthcare, and 158 incidents involving civilians killed by bombing, within a broader monitoring record affecting 9027 victims. These violations reflect a recurring pattern of unlawful deprivation of life, including direct killings, ethnically targeted attacks, deaths following torture or denial of medical care, and indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks on civilian areas, markets, hospitals, shelters, and social gatherings.

In North Darfur, CFJ documented the [killing of more than 300 civilians](#) on ethnic grounds in Karnoi, following attacks that also involved the kidnapping of civilians, ransom demands, and widespread looting of civilian property. The incident illustrates the continued use of identity-based violence in Darfur, particularly against civilian communities perceived through ethnic or social affiliation.

Drone strikes and aerial bombardments also caused large-scale civilian casualties. CFJ [reported](#) the killing of more than 60 civilians in drone strikes across Kordofan, Darfur, and Sennar on 15 and 16 February 2026, including 26 civilians in Al-Sunut, West Kordofan, after a shelter used by displaced families was hit, and 28 people in Al-Safiya market in North Kordofan while the market was crowded with civilians. CFJ also documented deaths and injuries following a strike on Al-Mazmoum Hospital in Sennar State.

Medical facilities and healthcare spaces were repeatedly affected. In East Darfur, CFJ [condemned](#) the attack on El-Daein Teaching Hospital, which killed at least 64 civilians, most of them women and children, and injured around 113 others. The attack reportedly rendered the hospital completely out of service depriving the local population of essential medical care amid worsening humanitarian conditions.

Civilian gatherings were also targeted. CFJ documented the [killing of 56 civilians](#), including 17 children, and the injury of 107 others following an attack on a wedding celebration in the Al-Salam neighborhood of Kutum, Darfur. The attack demonstrates the grave risks faced by civilians even during social and community events that bear no apparent military character.

Humanitarian operations were not spared. CFJ [documented](#) the killing of three people and the injury of four humanitarian workers after drone strikes hit a humanitarian convoy carrying food supplies and assistance to Kadugli and Dilling in South Kordofan. This reflects a broader pattern in which civilians and those assisting them are exposed to lethal attacks despite the protected status of humanitarian work.

These incidents indicate serious violations of the right to life protected under Article 4 of the African Charter. They also reflect grave breaches of the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution under international

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humanitarian law, particularly where attacks affected civilian populations, displacement sites, hospitals, markets, humanitarian convoys, and social gatherings.⁵

g. Targeting Human Rights Defenders, Lawyers, and Journalists

During the review period, human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, women activists, and civil society actors continued to face targeted repression by parties to the conflict and affiliated security bodies. The pattern included arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, criminal prosecution, threats, administrative measures, restrictions on freedom of expression, reprisals linked to documentation, legal assistance, journalism, and civic engagement. These violations have contributed to shrinking civic space and weakened the ability of victims and affected communities to access justice, information, and protection.

Lawyers and legal professionals were increasingly targeted through both individual arrests and broader administrative measures undermining the independence of the legal profession. In January 2026, CFJ [documented](#) the suspension of the licenses of several lawyers by an entity lacking legal authority, without proper notification, investigation, or the right to defense. In April, CFJ also documented the [arrest](#) of lawyer Adam Ahmed Al-Dignawi, Deputy Head of the Lawyers Syndicate in White Nile State, following communications related to the return of the Committee for Dismantling the June 30 Regime, and the issuance of an [arrest warrant](#) against lawyer and human rights defender Rehab Mubarak on charges that may carry penalties up to the death sentence.

The targeting of lawyers was also reflected in cases linked directly to their human rights work. In April 2026, CFJ submitted a [complaint](#) to the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders regarding lawyer and HRD Abdulhafiz Ahmed Daoud Guma, who was subjected to repeated arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, torture, and ill-treatment by RSF members in connection with his legal and human rights work in Darfur. His case demonstrates the risks faced by lawyers who document violations, represent victims, and seek accountability in areas affected by the conflict.

Activists and civil society actors were also prosecuted or arrested for peaceful expression and civic engagement. In January 2026, CFJ [documented](#) the sentencing of activist Ayman Hariri to six months in prison and a fine of two million Sudanese pounds under the Cybercrime Act over a Facebook post criticizing the use of the “Youth House” premises as a headquarters for a security cell. In March, CFJ [condemned](#) the arrest of several women activists in Nyala, South Darfur, after their participation in a workshop on women’s rights, with RSF personnel reportedly raiding homes at dawn and transferring the activists to an undisclosed location.

Journalists and media workers faced a parallel pattern of arrests, prosecution, pressure to disclose sources, wanted lists, and threats linked to their professional work. In April 2026, CFJ documented the re-arrest of [journalist Hagar Suleiman](#) in Northern State after she was summoned to the Prosecutor’s Office and questioned by a prosecutor whose name had appeared in her previous investigative reporting; the interrogation reportedly included

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attempts to compel her to reveal journalistic sources. Later in April, CFJ [monitored](#) the circulation of lists naming 28 journalists and media professionals allegedly wanted by the State Security Prosecution in Port Sudan, without clear public information on the legal basis or accusations.

These practices violate Sudan's obligations under the African Charter, particularly the rights to freedom of expression, association, liberty, fair trial, and the protection of human dignity. They also undermine the role of civil society, the legal profession, and independent media in documenting violations, supporting victims, and contributing to accountability during the ongoing conflict.

h. Forced Displacement and the Situation of Sudanese Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Between January and April 2026, CFJ monitored 30 incidents of forced displacement, reflecting a broader pattern in which civilians were forced to flee as a result of armed attacks, insecurity, destruction of homes, confiscation of property, and the collapse of basic services. UNHCR data recorded more than 11.5 million forcibly displaced persons in relation to the Sudan situation as of 20 April 2026, including more than 6.7 million IDPs inside Sudan since April 2023 and more than 4.5 million newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees outside Sudan. Inside Sudan, internal displacement was not only a consequence of the conflict, but also appeared in several cases as a direct result of targeted attacks and coercive practices against civilian communities. In North Kordofan, CFJ monitored [large-scale forced displacement](#) and the confiscation of hundreds of homes in Um Rawaba, where civilians were reportedly forced to leave their houses, while properties were seized and repurposed. In Blue Nile State, CFJ also [documented](#) forced displacement from Qeisan alongside arbitrary arrests targeting civilians and activists.

Displacement was further exacerbated by attacks on civilian objects and essential services. CFJ's monitoring of repeated attacks on hospitals, markets, residential neighborhoods, and displacement areas showed that civilians were increasingly deprived of safe shelter, healthcare, food, and basic protection. In several areas, including Darfur and Kordofan, shelling and drone strikes against populated areas pushed families into repeated displacement, while insecurity on roads and around border areas restricted safe movement and access to humanitarian assistance.

The regional impact of the conflict has been equally severe. UNHCR noted that civilians fleeing Sudan have moved to neighboring countries, including Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan, Uganda, and the Central African Republic, while some refugees already living in Sudan were again displaced within the country. This has turned Sudan's internal crisis into a regional protection emergency, with refugees and asylum seekers facing legal uncertainty, limited humanitarian services, and growing exposure to exploitation, detention, and unsafe returns.

In Egypt, Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers have faced increasing risks of arbitrary arrest, detention, and forced deportation. CFJ highlighted [warnings by UN mechanisms](#) regarding violations against Sudanese refugees

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and asylum seekers, including detention and returns without adequate safeguards. CFJ also [documented](#) security campaigns targeting Sudanese refugees in Egypt and called for an end to forced deportations and respect for legal guarantees.

Several individual cases illustrate the gravity of these risks. CFJ documented [the death of a Sudanese refugee](#) due to medical negligence inside a Cairo police station, and later [reported](#) the death of Sudanese child Al-Nazeer Al-Sadiq inside Badr Police Station. CFJ [documented](#) the death of a Sudanese youth in Cairo under mysterious circumstances following police detention, raising concerns about detention conditions, access to healthcare, and accountability.

The forced deportation of Sudanese writer Idris Ali Babikir further illustrates the protection risks faced by Sudanese nationals in Egypt. Human Rights Organizations [condemned](#) his forced deportation to Sudan despite his possession of UNHCR asylum documentation, following nearly 50 days in detention under harsh and degrading conditions. The case reflects broader concerns regarding refoulement, arbitrary detention, and the absence of effective safeguards for Sudanese asylum seekers.

These patterns engage Sudan's and neighboring States' obligations under the African Charter, particularly Article 12 on freedom of movement and protection against mass expulsion, Article 5 on dignity and humane treatment, and Article 6 on liberty and security of the person. They also raise serious concerns under the principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits returning individuals to a place where they may face persecution, torture, or other serious harm.

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Reactions by Regional and International Human Rights Mechanisms

During the review period, regional and international human rights mechanisms continued to raise serious concerns regarding the situation in Sudan, particularly in relation to attacks on civilians, ethnically targeted violence, arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearance, conflict-related sexual violence, forced displacement, and the obstruction of humanitarian access. These interventions reflect growing recognition that the crisis in Sudan requires sustained African and international monitoring, stronger accountability measures, and enhanced coordination between the UN and African human rights systems.

i. African Mechanisms

At the regional level, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, through its Joint Fact-Finding Mission on the situation of human rights in Sudan, continued to examine violations committed in the context of the conflict. In January 2026, the [Joint Mission](#) conducted a field mission in Chad among Sudanese refugees, visiting Adré, Metche, and Aboutengue to collect testimonies from refugees, victims, rights-holders, and witnesses. The delegation also met with humanitarian actors and visited a multisectoral centre for survivors of gender-based violence, reflecting the regional dimension of Sudan's crisis and the need to document abuses affecting displaced Sudanese populations beyond Sudan's borders.

The mission was carried out under the African Commission's protection mandate and in cooperation with the African Union Commission, including pursuant to the AU Peace and Security Council decision and ACHPR resolutions extending the mandate of the Joint Fact-Finding Mission. Its work is particularly relevant to Sudan's obligations under the African Charter, including the rights to life, dignity, liberty, movement, protection of vulnerable groups, and collective rights to peace, security, and development.

In April 2026, the UN Fact-Finding Mission and the ACHPR-AU Fact-Finding Mission issued a [joint warning](#) on the third anniversary of the conflict, stating that serious and widespread violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law continued with increasing intensity and impunity. The two missions highlighted killings, arbitrary detention, torture, indiscriminate attacks, attacks on civilian objects, obstruction of humanitarian assistance, and the targeting of medical personnel, humanitarian workers, and human rights defenders. They also called for compliance with the African Charter and international humanitarian law, enforcement of arms embargoes and sanctions, cooperation with the International Criminal Court, and the establishment of complementary accountability mechanisms.

In parallel CFJ continued to support coordination between Sudanese civil society and regional and international accountability mechanisms. During the 61st session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, [CFJ organized a side event on Sudan](#) bringing together representatives of Sudanese civil society with members of both the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan and the African Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan. The event highlighted the importance of

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strengthened cooperation between UN and African mechanisms, including under the Addis Ababa Roadmap, to enhance civilian protection, documentation, accountability, and victim-centered engagement in response to the ongoing crisis in Sudan.

j. UN Mechanisms

At the UN level, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan submitted a report to the Human Rights Council at its 61st session, titled [Hallmarks of Genocide in El Fasher](#). The report found that mass killings and related atrocities committed by the RSF in and around El Fasher during its takeover of the city in October 2025 were indicators of a genocidal path, following an 18-month siege that imposed conditions of life calculated to destroy non-Arab communities, particularly the Zaghawa and Fur. The Mission documented mass killings, rape and other forms of sexual violence, arbitrary detention, torture and cruel treatment, enforced disappearances, and dehumanizing rhetoric.

In February 2026, the UN Fact-Finding Mission further [warned](#) that evidence from El Fasher revealed a genocidal campaign targeting non-Arab communities. It stated that identity-based targeting linked to ethnicity, gender, and perceived political affiliation was central to the RSF operation, and that the risk of further genocidal acts remained serious and ongoing in the absence of effective prevention and accountability.

UN Special Procedures also remained engaged. In November 2025, several mandates, including the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and the Special Rapporteurs on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and association, addressed a [communication](#) to Sudan concerning the alleged arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and mistreatment in prison of human rights defender and union organizer Abdelwahab Ahmed Mohamed Hashem, known as “Bob.” The communication expressed concern that the measures may have been taken in retaliation for his human rights work on behalf of workers’ rights and warned that denial of medical treatment may amount to ill-treatment or torture.

Another UN Special Procedures [communication](#) addressed the impact of Sudan’s severe fiscal and debt crisis on the enjoyment of rights, including health, education, and the rights of women and girls. The communication described Sudan as facing the world’s largest humanitarian crisis in a context of fiscal collapse, while noting that the crisis directly undermined the State’s capacity to fulfil basic human rights obligations.

Taken together, these regional and international interventions demonstrate an increasingly consistent assessment: the crisis in Sudan is not only a humanitarian emergency, but also a protection and accountability crisis requiring urgent action by the Sudanese authorities, parties to the conflict, neighboring States, the African Union, the United Nations, and relevant accountability bodies.

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CONCLUSION

The human rights situation in Sudan during the review period remained marked by grave and widespread violations of the African Charter, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law. CFJ's monitoring between January and April 2026 recorded violations affecting more than 9027 victims, including enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, torture, extrajudicial killings, deaths in custody due to denial of healthcare, civilian deaths from bombing, and forced displacement.

The violations documented in this report reveal recurring patterns rather than isolated incidents. These include the use of arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance to intimidate civilians, activists, lawyers, journalists, and community figures; the exposure of detainees to harsh and life-threatening conditions; repeated unlawful killings and bombardment of civilian areas; targeting of medical personnel, humanitarian workers, and media professionals; and the continued displacement of civilians inside Sudan and across borders.

The situation has also become a regional protection crisis. Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers, including those who fled to neighboring countries face heightened risks of arbitrary arrest, detention, forced deportation, and denial of effective protection. Such practices raise serious concerns under the principle of non-refoulement and under the African Charter's guarantees of dignity, liberty, and protection against mass expulsion.

Despite growing engagement by regional and international mechanisms, including ACHPR/AU Fact-Finding Mission, UN Fact-Finding Mission, UN Special Procedures, and civil society-led initiatives, accountability remains largely absent. The persistence of impunity continues to embolden perpetrators, deepen civilian suffering, and undermine prospects for justice, peace, and democratic transition in Sudan.

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Recommendations

To the Sudanese Authorities and the Rapid Support Forces

1. Immediately cease all attacks against civilians and civilian objects, including residential areas, hospitals, markets, schools, displacement sites, humanitarian convoys, and places of worship.
2. Ensure full respect for the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution in all military operations, in accordance with international humanitarian law.
3. End arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, torture, and incommunicado detention, and immediately disclose the fate and whereabouts of all persons detained or disappeared by parties to the conflict.
4. Release all persons detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly, legal practice, journalism, or human rights work.
5. Ensure that all detainees have immediate access to their families, legal counsel, independent medical care, and judicial review.
6. Permit independent monitoring of all official and unofficial places of detention, including prisons, security facilities, and detention sites controlled by armed actors.
7. Conduct prompt, independent, impartial, and effective investigations into extrajudicial killings, deaths in custody, torture, enforced disappearances, conflict-related sexual violence, and attacks on civilians.
8. Protect human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, medical personnel, humanitarian workers, women activists, and community leaders from reprisals, intimidation, arbitrary detention, and unlawful prosecution.
9. Guarantee safe, rapid, and unhindered humanitarian access to all affected areas, including Darfur, Kordofan, Khartoum, and other conflict-affected regions.
10. Take immediate measures to prevent further forced displacement, protect displaced communities, and facilitate safe, voluntary, dignified, and informed return where conditions allow.

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To the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

1. Maintain Sudan as a priority situation on the African Commission's agenda and continue public reporting on violations of the African Charter in the context of the conflict.
2. Strengthen the mandate and visibility of the ACHPR/AU Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan, including through regular public updates and engagement with victims and civil society.
3. Urge Sudan and all parties to the conflict to comply with their obligations under the African Charter, particularly Articles 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16, and 18.
4. Call for immediate protection measures for human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, women activists, medical personnel, humanitarian workers, and community leaders at risk.
5. Support the establishment of victim-centered accountability pathways, including documentation, preservation of evidence, and referral of grave violations to competent regional and international accountability mechanisms.

To the United Nations and the International Community

1. Renew and strengthen the mandate of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan and ensure it has adequate resources to investigate violations across Sudan and in refugee-hosting countries.
2. Increase support for independent Sudanese documentation initiatives, including protection, digital security, psychosocial support, and safe channels for evidence sharing.
3. Expand humanitarian funding for displaced persons, refugees, survivors of sexual violence, detainees, older persons, children, and communities affected by attacks on civilian infrastructure.
4. Support accountability measures, including evidence preservation, targeted sanctions, universal jurisdiction cases, and cooperation with the International Criminal Court where applicable.
5. Ensure that all peace and ceasefire initiatives include clear human rights benchmarks, civilian protection guarantees, and mechanisms for monitoring violations and reprisals.

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To Neighboring States

1. Respect the principle of non-refoulement and immediately halt any forced returns of Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers to Sudan.
2. End arbitrary arrests and detention of Sudanese refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants based solely on irregular entry or residency status.
3. Ensure that all Sudanese nationals seeking protection have access to UNHCR registration, legal safeguards, interpretation, healthcare, and effective remedies.
4. Adopt protection-sensitive procedures that recognize the exceptional risks faced by Sudanese nationals fleeing an active armed conflict and widespread human rights violations.

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