



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue with the Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan

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ORAL UPDATE (PRESENTATION ONLY)

Mr. Mohamed OTHMAN, Chair of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on Sudan

The Chair delivers an oral update on the work of the FFM since the renewal of its mandate in October 2024. In the context of a brutal, multifaceted and increasingly complex conflict that has now entered its third year, the FFM has conducted **240 interviews**, received 110 submissions, verified 30 videos, **geolocated eight attacks in four states**, and compiled dossiers identifying perpetrators. The FFM has also initiated confidential **cooperation with relevant judicial entities**.

Notwithstanding some persistent challenges, most notably the lack of access to Sudan and some neighbouring countries, despite repeated requests, the FFM has carried out **investigative missions to Uganda** and engaged in high-level conversations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with African Union officials. The FFM has cooperated and shared best practises with the Joint Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council. In May 2025, with the support of Kenya's section of the International Commission of Jurists, the FFM organised a **three-day consultation on accountability**. The FFM is very grateful to the many Sudanese survivors and civil society who



have placed their trust in the FFM. Despite major challenges, including a seriously under-resourced secretariat, the FFM working tirelessly to honour their trust and amplify their voices.

Civilians bearing the brunt

Turning to the shifting dynamics of the conflict, it is unconscionable that this devastating war is entering its third year with **no sign of resolution**. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the escalating violence and hostilities between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) along with their respective militias. What began as a political and security crisis has become a grave human rights and protection emergency, marked by **international crimes that stain all involved**. Since the last update, some cities, towns, and villages have changed hands, but the manner in which the hostilities are conducted, including cycles of revenge killings, have brought little relief to the people of Sudan. Both sides have escalated the use of heavy weaponry in populated areas.

Abject disregard for civilian life

Airstrikes and shelling have caused **mass civilian casualties**. Around al-Fasher, violence has intensified. Civilians are being killed, injured, assaulted, or detained by the RSF. Villages have been burned, property looted, and displaced persons' camps, like Zamzam and Abu Shouk, attacked also by the RSF. During an RSF attack from 10 to 13 April 2025 alone, more than 100 civilians were reportedly killed. The SAF has also attacked civilians. One verified example is the SAF airstrike on a market in Kabkabiya, north Darfur, in December 2024. In May 2025, another SAF bombing on al-Koma killed at least 15 civilians.

In areas retaken by SAF, such as Khartoum, Gezira, and Sennar, the FFM has documented **widespread retaliatory violence** between late 2024 and mid-2025. Individuals perceived to have supported the RSF, including human rights defenders, medical workers, and aid personnel, have faced arbitrary arrest, torture, and in some cases, summary execution. In al-Jazira, the Kanabi community, which with roots in Nuba and Darfur, were specifically targeted. These acts are attributed to the SAF and affiliated groups, including those known as the Sudan Shield Forces and the Al-Baraa Bin Malik Battalion. The RSF has also carried out reprisals in eastern al-Jazira, beginning 20 October 2024, and more recently in Omdurman's Al-Salha neighbourhood, on 27 April 2025, where over **31 civilians were reportedly executed**.

Weaponisation of humanitarian relief and hospitals under siege

The SAF has imposed bureaucratic restrictions. The RSF has looted convoys and blocked aid entirely. These actions are driving famine, especially in Darfur. In Zamzam Camp, children are dying of hunger due to the total aid blockade, according to the World Food Programme. Since the conflict began, over 100 humanitarian and medical workers have been killed. On 2 June 2025, a **UN convoy was bombed** in al-Koma on route to al-Fasher, killing five SAF members. Each party blames the other.

Hospitals and medical facilities are under siege. The RSF has shelled the Saudi hospital in al-Fasher a dozen of times. In May, an RSF drone strike in al-Ubaid International Hospital in North Cordovan killed six civilians and shut down one of the region's last functioning clinics.



Sharp rise in cases of sexual violence

The sharp rise in sexual and gender-based violence is a cause of grave concern. Women and children are being subjected to rape, gang rape, abduction, sexual slavery, and forced marriage, mostly in the RSF-controlled areas, particularly in displaced camps. From December 2023 to December 2024, there was a 288% increase in those seeking sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) services, according to UN Women. The FFM has also received credible reports of sexual violence against men and boys. Sexual violence remains vastly underreported due to stigma and fear.

Against this bleak backdrop, the urgent imperative for justice

In May, with support from Kenya's section of the International Commission of Jurists, the FFM organised a **three-day accountability consultation** in Nairobi, and one day was devoted to sexual and gender-based violence and related crimes. 145 participants came together to share their vision for justice in Sudan, with almost an equal number of men and women. Participants include survivors, legal practitioners, civil society actors from Sudan and the region, and internationally.

The FFM was particularly pleased that the AU Special Envoy on the Prevention of Genocide and Other Mass Atrocities, members of the Joint Fact-Finding Mission of Sudan, of the African Commission, IGAD, the AU, and the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect have joined the conversation. One message emerged with resounding clarity. **Peace without justice is an illusion**. Accountability is not a luxury. It is a prerequisite for a sustainable peace in Sudan, as its very absence is amongst the key root cause of conflict.

The preparations for justice should, therefore, begin now, and any peace agreements must address the issues of justice. In that context, participants stressed the importance of **documenting and preserving evidence** with integrity. The consultation called for capacity-building across Sudanese stakeholders. Crucially, participants urged the creation of safe spaces for women and girls, improved access for international monitors, and international protection presence. These are not abstract demands. They are pragmatic principles and necessary. The FFM counts on the continued support and meaningful cooperation of all stakeholders.

Deepening human suffering demands urgent enforcement of arms embargo

Ms. Mona RISHMAWI, member of the FFM, stresses that the conflict in Sudan is far from over. The scale of human suffering continues to deepen. The fragmentation of governance, the militarisation of society, and the involvement of foreign actors are fuelling an evil, deadlier crisis.

In this respect, the FFM urges all states to uphold and enforce their legal obligations, particularly the **arms embargo** mandated by UNSC Resolution 1556 and subsequent resolutions. States with influence on the parties to the conflict are reminded of their obligations under Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions to respect and to ensure respect for international humanitarian law. This is the best way they can avoid risking complicity in violations that may amount to international crimes.



VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE CONCERNED COUNTRY

The **Sudanese delegation** takes the floor through H.E. El-Fatih Mohamed Eissa Tayfour, **Attorney-General** of Sudan and Head of the International Committee to Investigate Crimes and Violations of International Law. The National Committee submitted two reports on its work reiterating the independence of investigations carried out and its commitment to all the conditions of just and fair trial and professionalism.

The Sudanese judiciary has followed an approach to facilitate access to justice through field visits to meet, to interview witnesses, and not to be confined by spatial jurisdiction. The number of cases was 120,594, including **genocide and other war crimes** committed by the rebellious militia, and 257 cases that were attributed to the armed forces. There were also 3,997 cases that were referred to national courts, and where rulings were issued in 1,093 of which, and a number of fugitives handed over themselves to justice. The Sudanese judiciary reiterates the integrity of judicial officers and the efficiency of judicial entities and their willingness to achieve justice and prevent impunity.

The rebellious militia used wide-scale sexual violence in terms of rape, group rape, as well as slavery, in order to change the demographic nature of places. These violations were documented by UN reports, and the National Committee also documented 98 cases of rape, and the Committee on Combating Violence Against Women documented **1,392 cases of rape**, including rape of minors, and two of which only were reported because of the fear of stigma.

The militia committed **extrajudicial killings** in Al Jazira, Geneina, Ardamata, Jumuiya, Saleha, among other places. There were 28,613 people killed and 43,000 wounded. The militia violated the rights of children by recruiting 9,000 of whom and pushing them to a fighting arena, and also used mercenaries supported by the United Arab Emirates.

In accordance with the investigations carried out by the Committee, the number of enforced disappearance cases reached **14,506 cases**, and also the killing of prisoners. More than 900 mass graves were uncovered. The militia targeted civilian property by the methods of drones, among others. They also targeted the electricity plants, ports, and fuel warehouses, as well as hospitals and prisons.

The Attorney-General reiterates that Sudan is forging ahead towards stability, and it is going to defeat the militia. There is no place for case, anarchy, or impunity. The Sudanese judiciary and law enforcement entities can achieve stability and security. In closing, the Sudanese delegation addresses the following **recommendations**:

- Condemn the conduct of these militias, and designate it as a terrorist organisation.
- Condemn the conduct of the United Arab Emirates; pressure the latter to stop its support to the militia and to pay compensation for the losses endured by Sudan. Sudan's investigation shows that the UAE has supported the rebellious militia.
- Urge the countries of the region to cooperate with the National Committee. By excluding any extraneous mechanisms, the integrated role between the Council and the National Committee shall be promoted.