

Ethnically motivated extra-judicial executions in Sudan

15 January 2025

The undersigned organizations strongly condemn the targeting of residents of the Camps (Kanabi) in Al-Geizra State, Sudan, and the systematic and purposeful destruction of their lives, homes and livelihoods. The situation has become unbearable since 9 January 2025 with multiplying attacks and where the victims were randomly rounded up and brutally extra-judicially executed, some beheaded or burned alive, including children and elderly persons. These crimes provoked a nationwide outcry and condemnations from major Sudanese political parties and civil society groups. Death squads allied with the Sudanese army and elements of the Northern Shield, a militia group led by the notorious warlord Abu-Agla Kikel, are responsible for this coldblooded massacre. The innocent victims of these massacres are unarmed civilians and are targeted because of their skin colour or regional origin. They are essentially agricultural workers from African tribes – Tama, Massalit, Bargo, Fur, Zaghawa, Misseriya etc. and they live and work in this region for several generations. They are falsely accused of being supporters of the Rapid Support Forces, while the real motives are sinister machinations of the aggressors to terrorize these people and expel them from their ancestral lands.

Since the outbreak of the ongoing war in April 2023, multiple ethnically motivated attacks against civilians in different parts of Sudan led to the killings of thousands of unarmed Sudanese citizens. Most of the victims are displaced civilians and mainly workers in the informal economic sector and they come from the Greater Darfur and Kordofan States and other peripheries. They are arbitrarily arrested by the security forces and forcibly disappeared or summarily executed in major cities in the northern, eastern and central regions of Sudan. The shocking video footage of tens of young men paraded on the streets of Wad Madani (200km south of Khartoum) on 16 December 2023 and later executed by the security forces is a vivid reminder of the gravity of the situation.

Once again, we send early warning signals to the international community that the armed conflict in Sudan risks developing into a full-blown internal war that polarizes the Sudanese people along ethnic lines. The growing hate crimes and calls to eliminate certain Sudanese citizens on racial grounds or because of their regional origins, in a multiethnic, multicultural and multireligious country, is a recipe for a humanitarian tragedy of great proportion. We implore the Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on the Prevention of Genocide, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Designated Expert on Human Rights in Sudan as well as all relevant UN Human Rights Mechanisms and mandate holders, notably the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan to urgently intervene and save the lives of the Camps' residents.

We further demand that:

1. The Sudanese security forces and its allied militia groups respect Sudan's obligations under international humanitarian law concerning the treatment of civilians and that they should end ethnically motivated extra-judicial killings, the destruction of livelihoods and ill-treatment of the Camps' residents. All individuals that ordered the commission of such ethnic crimes should be held accountable and the victims and their families should be compensated.
2. Future peace deals in Sudan should envisage a multidisciplinary National Plan of Action against bigotry and to fulfill Sudan's commitment under the Durban Declaration and Program of Action, adopted at the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. Sudan should also domesticate the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to which it acceded on 21 March 1977, and effectively address the historical injustices and ongoing violations by introducing an affirmative action program to heal the wounds of the victims of violence.



Signed:

1. African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, Banjul
2. African Organization for Rights and Development, Kampala
3. Al-Dar Development, Women and Child Rights, Kampala
4. *Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement*, Conakry
5. Darfur Victims Support Organization, Kampala
6. Democratic Monitor for Transparency and Rights, Kampala
7. Human Rights Institute of South Africa, Johannesburg
8. Nubian Centre, Kampala
9. *Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme*, Dakar/Geneva
10. Rise for Rights and Justice Centre, Kampala
11. Sudan Knowledge Centre, Switzerland
12. Sudanese Women Union, Khartoum/Nairobi
13. Ubuntu Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies, Kampala
14. Wind Organization for Development and Humanitarian Assistance, Kampala

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