



Urgent Call to Protect Civilians and Establish an Immediate Nationwide Humanitarian Truce amidst the Escalating Violence in Kordofan States

30 June 2026

Grounded on our responsibility and the legal and moral imperatives to protect civilians, prevent war crimes and other serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, and to spare the lives of millions of civilians the devastating effects of armed conflicts, we launch this urgent appeal for action to protect civilians in Sudan.

This call comes at a time of intensified hostilities between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) across Kordofan states, which are documented by reports of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and human rights organizations, rings the alarm bell about the increasing use of drone attacks, reciprocal shelling, and the use of explosive munitions in densely populated areas, resulting in civilian casualties and extensive destruction of civilian infrastructure throughout Kordofan states.

We are profoundly concerned about the escalating military confrontation across several parts of Sudan, particularly in and around El Obeid, capital city of North Kordofan State. The ongoing developments risk leading to large-scale confrontations in a densely populated urban area, which hosts significant numbers of internally displaced persons that fled violence in other regions of Sudan. We warn that the continued escalation risks repeating the grave violations and atrocities against civilians witnessed elsewhere in Sudan, most recently in El Fasher, with devastating humanitarian consequences. The situation in El Obeid presents clear early-warning signal which requires urgent preventive action. Credible reports indicate significant military mobilization by the RSF around the city. SAF is reinforcing its military presence and deploying more troops. These developments substantially heighten the risk of large-scale urban combat in densely populated neighbourhoods, exposing civilians to death, injury and forced displacement.

Military tactics used by the parties to the conflict, including drones attacks and other means of warfare have damaged civilian infrastructure, including fuel stations and transport facilities, and the city's power stations, causing prolonged electricity outages, disruption of water services, severe shortages of essential goods and services, and sharp increases in the prices of food, medicine, and fuel. Widespread fear among the civilian population is triggering further displacement inside and out of the city. Continued hostilities further threaten hospitals and healthcare facilities and national and international humanitarian organizations, undermining their ability to deliver life-saving assistance.

We note the early warning signals echoed by several States, including members of the UN Human Rights Council and the Security Council regarding the grave risks facing El Obeid, however, we urge the international community to move beyond rhetoric and adopt effective preventive measures before it is too late. Equally, we remind all parties to the conflict of their obligations under the Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, as well as under international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution during military operations. These obligations prohibit attacks against civilians and civilian objects, indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks, and require



all feasible precautions to minimize civilian harm. International humanitarian law prohibits the use of hunger, siege of civilians and deprivation of objects indispensable to their survival.

Accordingly, we call upon all parties to the conflict to:

1. Immediately declare a comprehensive, nationwide humanitarian truce and cease all hostilities to ensure the protection of civilians in densely populated areas where such operations place millions of lives at risk.
2. Cease attacks against civilian infrastructure and refrain from using such infrastructure for military purposes or exposing civilians to the dangers of military attacks.
3. Protect hospitals, healthcare facilities, displaced camps, schools, markets, electricity and water stations, food stores, fuel reservoirs and all other civilian infrastructure.
4. End all sieges on cities or obstruct civilian movement, facilitate the work of relief organizations' and guarantee unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance, fuel, and medical supplies throughout Sudan and to all civilians in need.
5. Adopt special measures to protect women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities and prevent all forms of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence.
6. Curb hate speech and incitement to violence and killings based on ethnic identity, and refrain from any conduct likely to inflame communal tensions.

We further call upon the UN Security Council, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Quad for Sudan, the Quint Mechanism, the League of Arab States, the European Union, and all States with influence on the parties to the conflict to exert the maximum political and diplomatic pressure to secure an immediate, nationwide, comprehensive, and unconditional humanitarian truce, and establish an independent mechanism to monitor implementation, ensure sustained humanitarian access and civilian protection, and adopt urgent preventive measures to avert recurrence of the grave violations that have characterized the conflict since 15 April 2023.

Special mechanisms must be established to hold accountable all individuals accused of committing atrocities, especially war crimes and other serious violations of internal law and ensure that such violations are subject to independent, impartial, and effective investigations in order to end impunity.

Signed:

1. Africa Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)
2. African Centre for Legal Studies / *Centre d'Etudes Juridiques Africaines (CEJA)*
3. Afrika Jom Centre
4. Bahri Human Rights Observatory
5. Center Think Differently
6. Central Observatory for Human Rights
7. Coordination of Sudanese Professionals and Trade Unions
8. Darfur Bar Association (DBA)
9. Darfur Victims Support Organization (DVSO)
10. Democratic Alliance of Lawyers
11. Democratic Lawyers Association
12. Doctors for Peace



13. East Nile Kandakas Bloc
14. Emergency Lawyers
15. *Espace Afrique International*
16. Eye of Justice Organisation
17. *Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)*
18. International Student and Youth Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN)
19. Justice Women Network
20. Kordofan Observatory for Accountability and Human Rights
21. Kordofan Women's Organization
22. Network of the Independent Commission for Human Rights in North Africa (CIDH – AFRICA).
23. Nubian Center for Peace and Democracy
24. *Réseau Unité pour le Développement de Mauritanie.*
25. Sudan Knowledge Centre (SKC)
26. Sudanese Bar Association
27. Sudanese Centre for Economic and Social Rights
28. Sudanese Journalists Syndicate
29. Sudanese Organization for the Support of Victims of Chemical Weapons
30. Sudanese Teachers Committee
31. Sudanese Group for the Defence of Rights and Freedoms
32. Sudanese Organization for Combating Human Trafficking
33. Sudanese Women's Network
34. Survivors of the 15 April War
35. Victims' Voices Newspaper
36. West African Human Rights Defenders Network
37. White Media Initiative
38. Women's Development Initiative
39. Youth Organisation for International Cooperation (YOFIC)
40. Youth Chamber International Laayoune (JCI Laayoune).