



Report

Human Rights violations, West Darfur

8 December 2023

Introduction

Since the start of the war on the 15th April 2023 in the capital of Sudan, Khartoum between Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces) RSF), the RSF and its allied Arab militias started a rampage, randomly attacking Darfuris from certain tribes. People have been attacked solely for their ethnic and tribal background. The magnitude of violence is now the same as the level of violence of 2003 and 2004, which was described as ethnic cleansing and genocide and led the UN security council to refer Darfur crimes to the International Criminal Court (ICC) under the auspices of UNSC resolution 1593. The perpetrators have specifically targeted human rights defenders, communities and tribal leaders from tribes of Masalit, Gimar, Dajo, and other non- Arab groups that included the killing of West Darfur Governor general Khamis Abker and other prominent communities and tribal leaders. They include:

1. Mr Tariq Yagob El Malik the chairperson of West Darfur Lawyers Steering Committee, they killed him and temper with his bodies on the street.
2. Mr Khamis Arbab Ishag after arresting him from his house and tortured him to death,
3. Mr Mohamed Ahmed Kodi was kidnapped from his house, killed and burned his body.
4. Mr El Sadig Mohamed Ahmed- Commissioner of the Humanitarian Affair Commission f West Darfur also been killed just for his ethnic and tribal background.
5. They also arrested Mr Gamal Abdelalla – lawyer, as they deliberately targeting all lawyers m activists and human rights defenders involved in cases of human rights violation committed by the tribal militias and RSF in the past.

The level of violence in West Darfur has continued even after the signing of Juba Peace Agreement by Sudan government and Darfuri armed movements in October 2020.

We compiled this report based on documentation from our local activists and testimonies collected from victims and witnesses recently arrived to Adre, Republic of Chad from West Darfur State. Our sources which are local from the ground have documented the recent attacks on local civilians, numbers of people killed, displaced and the missing people.

Detailed information is as follows based on victims and witnesses' testimonies. We managed to interview numbers of people recently arrived at Adre, Republic of Chad after the attack by RSF on Ardmata SAF base. There are 3 main refugee camps in Adre Chad with around 250,000 people sheltering there for the recently arrived refugees from West Darfur they lack some of the basic needs such as shelter, food, clean water and medical treatment. The number of people killed in the recent attacks by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and their allied militias account for 8970 people and around 6850 and some people sustained very serious injuries.

In what follows we detail the localities and how they are affected:

Karink Locality

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and some of its allied tribal militias attacked Karnik locality Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) base on 1 November 2023. SAF withdraw from its bases and immediately RSF and its allied militias attacked the nearby villages attacking local civilians in the locality and that led to killing of civilian we documented 54 people killed and displacement of around 15,000 people. 90 people still missing.

Victims and witnesses Testimonies

We managed to carry out interviews for around 50 newly arrived refugees These are some of victims and witnesses statement collected from fled from West Darfur recently arrives in Adre republic of Chad refugees' camps

a) Name: Mr (A.A.Z.H)

Sex:	Male
Age:	28 Year
Occupation:	Student
Address:	EL Genina – Al Madaress Neighbourhood
Tribe:	Massalit

I was in Ardmata Al Rasafa neighbourhood when RSF start attacking the areas on Wednesday and Thursday.

On Wednesday we moved to the SAF base in Ardmata , on Thursday the army withdrew from its base, immediately RSF and its allied militias started attacking civilians inside army base in other areas surrounding include Al Madaress neighbourhood , including attacking women and children I have seen around 1000 people killed when I moved to the military hospital many others injured. They also attacked people inside the school. Some were killed by bomb fallen in the school and around 2,000 people still missing

b) Ms (L.G.A.A)

Sex: Female
Age: 25 Years
Marital Status: Married
Address: Aratmata- Al Kobri Neighbourhood

I have seen the governor of West Darfur Al Tajani Karshom with elements form RSF when they slaughtered two camels and four sheep and asked us to have lunch with them but I refused and told them that I am leaving, some of the women went to the governor informing him that they can't find their husbands and they asked him to bring them back.

Near to the petrol station there was a tailor whom designed RSF uniform for them. On our way to the SAF base in Aratmata I have seen 5-wheel drive cars with men with RSF uniform they established check points in many places, on our way we have been stopped many times and my sister's clothes were taken off even her underwear and when she saw the money they confiscated it and let us go. I have seen them stabbing some men with knives. In one point they surrounded us accusing us of been mothers and wives of the rebels and asking us about whereabouts of our men. one asked me about my husband he said to me we know your husband was lecturer in the university where is he now, I told them that I don't know his whereabouts.

RSF elements used to spend the day in EL Genina and during the night they come to Aratmata searching houses if they find any black (non-Arab) man they immediately kill him. One man named Adam Ali Adam Al Bashri was ill on his way to the hospital they shot him and immediately died in front of us. When they asked us to leave SAF base one woman told them she can't leave as her son is shot dead and she wanted to bury him they immediately shot her dead in front of us. And we were then forced to leave the army base, on our way and at the East of the bridge I have seen around 33 dead bodies lying on the road, some bodies of dead people were buried on the East side of the SAF base, we have to walk to Sudan Chad border I arrived in Adre on 11 November 2023

c) Mr (A.S.A.A)

Sex: Male
Age: 27 years
Occupation: Policeman
Marital Status: Single
Address: Ardamata Al Soug Neighbourhood
Tribe: Massalit

We were in Artamata SAF base as we were seeking shelter there, we have seen some Drone flying over the base and immediately they start bombing SAF base, SAF elements started withdrawing without telling the civilian sheltering in base, there were women, children and elderly people, around 2000 people killed inside the army

base by drones and long-range shelling by RSF. Even inside the military hospital where we took the injured, they bombed us there also.

d) Mr (A.A.B.H)

Sex: Male
Age: 19 years
Occupation: Private Business
Marital Status: Single
Address: Aratmata Camp (A)
Tribe: Massalit tribe

On Saturday around 7:00 am we were attacked by RSF they immediately started bitten people with sticks. We run to the military hospital where there were many injured people around 33 people with serious injuries. On our way out to El Genina I have seen many dead bodies.

e) Ms. (K.A.A.A)

Sex. Female
Age: 37 years
Occupation: House Wife
Marital Status: Widow
Address: Ardamata Al KObri neighbourhood
Tribe: Massalit

We were in our houses when we were attacked by RSF, they killed my husband and other people include my son Gama and they looted our house. They came with motorcycles and after they killed many people and looted houses the governor came to the area; I went to the military hospital where I see many injured people.

On our way out of Al Genina to Sudan Chad border we were ambushed by Arab militias killing many young I have men include two children shot dead Infront of my eyes they also killed one woman because they complained. I arrived to Adre on 12 November 2023.

f) Ms (A.A.M.A)

Sex: Female
Age: 27 years
Occupation: House Wife
Marital Status: Married
Address; Ardmata – El Rasafa neighbourhood
Tribe: Massalit

While I was at home some Arab militias and RSF on motorcycles and cars attacked us, killing people and looting houses, indiscriminate killing for men, youth, women and children, one of my relative named Dahia Babkier was killed they were asking about money, I left Ardmata on Sunday going toward Sudan Chad border where I have seen many bodies lying on the way.

g) Ms (G.H.A.R)

Sex: Male
Age: 28 years
Occupation: House Wife
Marital Status: Married
Address: Ardmata- Dal Neighbourhood
Tribe: Massalit

I was in my house in Ardamata Arab militias attacked us shooting randomly towards everyone men, women, children, I have many dead bodies lying around, the attackers were wearing RSF uniform, I have also seen a man who was slaughtered in Al Tarasana Square.

h) Mr O (O.I.A)

Sex: Male
Age: 31
Occupation: Worker
Marital Status: Married
Address: Ardamta- Dal Neighbourhood
Tribe: Dajo tribe

On Friday we have been attacked by militias in RSF uniform, using motorcycles, and cars we are in Aradamata, they started shooting randomly and looting properties and personal belonging, they immediately killed 52 people and their bodies been buried in Al Hila Al Jadida, I have also seen many bodies laying on my road and on Al Khrazan Square in AL Rasafa neighbourhood, I arrived in Adre, Chad on Sunday.

i) Mr :(A.T. M.I.A)

Sex: Male
Age: 43 years
Occupation: worker
Address: Ardamat – Al Moaskar Neighbourhood
Tribe: Dajo Tribe

I was in Ardmata on Friday we been attacked by RSF looting and killing people the bodies of those whom been killed were buried in the graves inside the camps in the Eastern side. One Saturday we were also been attacked by the militias. I then went to

the military hospital where I found 56 dead bodies, we buried them on Sunday evening.

j) Ms. (M.M.A)

Sex: Female
Age: 22 years
Occupation: House Wife
Address: Ardmata- G camp
Tribe: Massalit

I was in Homaira school as we were using it as shelter, the school been hit by bombs and artilleries killing children, women and men randomly, the attackers are in RSF uniform and civilian uniform, When I went to the military hospital, I have seen dead bodies some of them soldiers, and then went to Al Rasafa neighbourhood where I found too many dead bodies around 100 bodies.I arrived in Adre on 13 November 2023.

k) Mr. (A.M.A.H)

Sex: Male
Age: 30 Years
Occupation: Lawyers and CSO activist
Address: Al Mansours Neighbourhood – Al Jamark West Darfur
Tribe: Massalit

I am a lawyer and human rights defender work with Roots Organisations for monitoring and documenting human rights violations.

I am one of the victims of human rights violations in West Darfur during the period from 24 April 2023 until 14 June 2023 when West Darfur governor Khamis Abaker was killed, I have witness one of RSF massacre s. On 27 April 2023 some militias men rided our office in EL Genana near to Export Development bank and they looted all our documents and equipment and burned the office, as I keep cases of many crimes committed by the militias included extra-judiciary killing and ethnic cleansing, we used to represent the victims in the court.

I am one of the victims of human rights violations committed in West Darfur that why I decided to flee to Adre republic of Chad.

Conclusion

The magnitude of the violence in greater Darfur in general and West Darfur specifically is bigger than what happened in 2003/04 as RSF as its allied militias are exploiting the state of lawlessness created after the start of the ongoing war in Sudan to ethnically cleans the indigenous inhabitant to West Darfur forcing them to leave their ancestor's land. Current

situation is more serious than what happened in 2003 as the world is not giving the needed attention to the crisis.

There are two main challenges facing refugees in Eastern Chad:

- 1) The main challenge facing people fleeing from West Darfur to Chad is the security as the borders are open and its easy for the armed militias to enter Chad and attack them as they are many victims and witnesses to the crimes committed there, with the mandate of the International Criminal Court now expanded to include the recent crimes the risk if very high and they urgently need protection,
- 2) They are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance as they lack very basic needs like shelters as we are in winter and the refugees include children, elderlies and sick people, they also lack, medical assistance and food.

Recently the conflict in Sudan and its implication has been ignored by the international community as most of the focus has been shifted to the conflict in Gaza,

With the continuation of the war over 25 million Sudanese in need of humanitarian assistance due to the war and also the impact of the war on the harvest in many states in the country.

There is need to increase the pressure on the two warring factions to agree on secession of hostilities as without stopping the fight it will not be possible allow humanitarian assistance to reach those in desperate need.

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