



Working for Rights & Development

REPORT

Violation Against Religious Minorities in Sudan

Since 15 April 2023

First: Introduction:

Since the start of the war between Sudan Armed forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in 15th April 2023, Sudan has indulged into total state of lawlessness and seen massive violations of human right. We managed to document cases of rape, extra-judiciary killing, occupation of private properties, places of worship, schools and hospitals also been attacked and looted. Sudan religious minorities have been deliberately targeted, some of them asked to abandon their religious and convert to Islam under point of gun.

Justice Africa Sudan managed to carry out investigations to assess the magnitude of violations against religious minorities. We managed to interview some Christians and visited some sites which were been affected in the capital Khartoum and Madani in El Gazzira states, that include visiting churches and places of worship in some of slumps of the capital Khartoum include Omdurman Dar Al Salam Wad Al Bashir Omdada, Mayo Khartoum South and A Haj Yousief in the Nile East locality. Some of videos circulated in the social media shows the command of RSF vising the church in Wad Madani after the city was taken over by RSF, they tried to assure the

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Christians that all their rights will be safeguard but the problem is RSF is not a disciplined forces and the commanders can't control all their forces , and in many cases the commanders were trying to distanced themselves from the violations committed by their forces but they are fully responsible as they are the occupying forces and protection of civilians is their responsibility..

Second: Summary Attacks on Churches and Places of Worship

According to Sudan Council of Churches reports the total number of churches and places of worship which were targeted include 153 churches and places of worship, of which (6) churches were completely destroyed, and 17 church facilities were also destroyed, including educational and health buildings and humanitarian associations, in a clear targeting to civilian institutions. That has affected all aspects of life of people concerns. The violations also resulted in the death of more than (3) ministers and priests. Some churches were bombed while worshipers were praying with clear targeting to civilian objects with no military purposes.

Some of churches and places of worship which were damaged or destroyed include the following:

- **Bahri (Khartoum North) Evangelical Church:** part of the church building was destroyed by fire in the first week of the war.
- **Khartoum Cathedral:** It was looted, and the documents were damaged by both side of conflict.
- **Coptic Church – Omdurman:** Worshipers were attacked while they were praying injuring numbers of people.

- **Evangelical Church – Wad-Madani:** Located at civilian’s neighborhood- Wad-Madni was destroyed by fire twice first the fire destroyed the buildings attached to the churches which include the large library, and the whole church.

- **The Monastery of Virgin Mary Church Dar Al Salam West Omdurman**

The monastery was attacked. Looted and used as military base and snipers.

- **Angelican Church, El Molasimin Omdurman** was hit by bomb that led to the burning of the church main building and the surrounding building owned by the church.

Third: Violation Against Churches and Clergymen

We managed to document many violations include deliberate targeting of churches, their properties and workers mainly in the capital Khartoum and EL Gazzira states there are numbers of cases of deliberate targeting of the Anglican church in Omdurman Al Molazimain neighborhood as its targeted by Shelling totally destroying the main building. The Rapid Support Forces deliberately target the churches in areas where there were no military targets or fighting around the areas and we are investigating claims, and counter claims by the two warring factions accusing each other of targeting places of worships. We managed to document targeting of the following churches and places of worships.

1- The Roman Catholic Church of St. Matthew Khartoum Nile Street

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The Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Matthew, located in Khartoum Nile Street was occupied and used by snipers the buildings of this church are considered to be among the rare Christian and historical monuments in Sudan, as it was built in 1864 AD. Its buildings were used for military operations, it was partially destroyed.

2- All Saints Cathedral in Street 1, Khartoum

On the third day of the war between SAF and RSF 17th April 2023 All Saints Cathedral in Street 1 Khartoum was occupied by Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and used as Army Command Centre turning it into military target. In total breach to Geneva Convention 1949 as its four Protocols.

3- The Orthodox Church of Virgin Marry Nile Street Khartoum

The Orthodox Church of Virgin Marry, Nile Street Khartoum was occupied by RSF on 15 May 2023 used as military base., turning it as military target for SAF.

4- The Evangelical Presbyterian Church Omdurman

Evangelical Presbyterian Church is an ancient church built in 1870 and its administrative building were totally destroyed when targeted by missiles. in addition to that its administrative buildings which attached to the church also destroyed that led to burning of all documents and the books,

5- Sudan Council of Churches Building Street 35 Amarat Khartoum

On 18th April 2023 the fourth day of the war, Sudan Council of Churches Buildings, in Street (35) Amarat Khartoum was occupied by RSF converted into an administrative headquarters and warehouses for the Rapid Support Forces.

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6- Marry Girgis Church Omdurman

Elements from RSF attacked Marry Girgis Church in Omdurman firing bullets directly to the worshippers during their prayers' injuring (2) of the priests and other 8 worshippers, they also prevented from continuing their prayers forcing them to leave the church, elements from RSF also assaulted the bishop and the servants and tried to force them to abandon Christianity and convert to Islam under point of gun, they also looted their properties.

Father Arsnnyons was humiliated and asked to abandon Christianity and join Islam but he refused they verbally assaulted him, as the same time forcing him to watch his injured son bleeding as he sustained serious injuries to his legs and not allowing him to help him as he was begging to allow him help his but the refused, and threaten to killed him, they also assaulted the guard of the church beaten him and refused him treatment for injuries he sustained as he was bleeding.

7- The Monastery of Virgin Mary Church Dar Al Salam West Omdurman

On Saturday, 03Jun.23, the Monastery of the Virgin Mary church – north of Dar Alsalam Omdurman have been destroyed and looted.

8- The Orthodox Church Ombada Al Gamir Sq 2 was occupied by RSF all the properties were looted and the church is now used by RSF snipers as its in high place,

9- The Angelican Church El Molasmmain Omdurman

The Angelican church was hit by a shell on 22nd March 2024, that led to the total burning of the churches and others building attached to it, that is clear targeting the church as the area is in total control of SAF, the two warring parties are blaming each other's but at the time of the shelling all of area was under the control of SAF and its Allied Militias.

10- Churches and Monastery in Slumps of the Capital Khartoum

Since the start of the ongoing war in 15th April 2023 Christians in some slumps of the capital Khartoum, areas occupied by SRF all the local churches in areas such as Darfur Al Salam Obada , Omdurman , stopped operating as worshipers fear for their lives. As from the first days of the war over hundred Christian worshippers in Dar Al Salam, Obada , Omdurman were abused and humiliated most of them belong to certain ethnic groups either from South Sudan or the Nuba mountains due to that they stopped going to their local churches.

11. **The main churches in Khartoum** have also stopped operating since the start to war that include the main churches in Amarat, Khartoum 1 & 2.

Fourth: The Financial Cost of Damages to Churches and their Properties

According to Sudan Council of Churches reports the preliminary cost of damages caused for churches amount to fifty million US dollars.

Fifths: Some Images of the Destruction of Churches



Part of the destruction to the Marry Girgis church in Omdurman



- Baba Ersanyos Zariel and his son and Safin teacher were shot in their legs, while the caretaker shot in his stomach.



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