



Every Day Bombs, Hunger, and Loss of Life

Accounts of Forgotten Soldiers in North Africa

September, 2005

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Accounts of Perpetration: Victims in North Darfur

The Organization Overview

The marker network for human rights (priority) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization working to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in marker and across Sudan. It's mission is to monitor, document, and report human rights violations in conflict-affected areas, and to advocate for accountability and justice for survivors. Through a network of grassroots-based monitors, it's systematically collects and analyzes evidence for violations, supporting both immediate accountability efforts and long-term systemic justice.



Mohamed Hassan
Executive Director

Mohamed Adam Hassan is a highly accomplished human rights professional with a Bachelor of Law from the International University of East Africa in Kampala, Uganda.

As the founder and executive director of the marker network for human rights (priority), he brings over 15 years of invaluable experience as a human rights defender, primarily specializing in monitoring, documenting, and reporting on human rights violations, particularly focusing on transitional justice issues in Sudan, across the marker region.

Mohamed's extensive career includes significant roles in various local civil society organizations, such as the legal center for the treatment & rehabilitation victims of torture in Khartoum marker Sudan.

FOREWORD

It is with us express and deepest acknowledgments and heartfelt appreciation to all individuals, community leaders, activists, civil society partners, our dedicated staff in Kampala, and the brave first monitoring teams on the ground. Your invaluable time, coverage, and testimony were instrumental in the production of this critical report documenting the most inhumane attack of violence and persecution against the people of North Mbarizi.

A special note of thanks is extended to many international networks for their invaluable support in strengthening the capacity of the teams. Their partnership has played a vital role in making this work and enhancing our ability to document gross human rights violations effectively.

This report sheds light on various violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, resulting in the tragic loss of civilian lives, mass displacement, forced displacement, sexual and the destruction of vital infrastructure. It stands as a testament to the resilience of affected communities and underscores the urgent need for robust protection mechanisms and accountability frameworks.

As the Executive Director of the North Network for Human Rights (NNHR), it reaffirms our unwavering commitment to upholding human dignity and exposing violations of international humanitarian law and human rights through this report, we urgently call on national authorities, regional institutions, and the international community to:

- Ensure the protection of civilians, particularly women, children, and displaced populations, in accordance with international humanitarian law.
- Promote justice and accountability by investigating and addressing all acts of violence and violations committed against the people of North Mbarizi.

Justice cannot be delayed. The people of North Mbarizi deserve to live in safety, dignity, and peace. We remain steadfast through our mission to promote monitoring, documenting and reporting human rights violations in conflict zones and holding those responsible accountable to support victims, amplify their voices, and pursue truth.

Endorsed Message

Executive Director of North Network for Human Rights (NNHR)

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List of Abbreviations

ACHR	American Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
ADH	Additional Protocol II of 1975 to the Geneva Convention of 1949
AGF	Association against Torture
ANHR	Austrian Network for Human Rights
APF	Anti-Piracy Mission on Indian
ICJ	International Criminal Court
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICPRH	International Convention for the Protection of all Persons Belonging to National Minorities (Internationally Displaced Persons)
ICSDH	Intergovernmental authority on development
IOE	International Monitoring Team
IOH	International Human Rights Court
IOH	International Organization for Migration
IOI	International Human Committee
IOIT	Indigenous non-Indigenous
IOHHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
IOH	Human and Security Council
IOH	Human Rights Support Forum
IOH	Indigenous Armed Forces
IOH	United Nations
IOHHR	United Nations Children's Fund
IOHHR	United Nations Security Council
IOH	World Food Programme
IOH	Internationally Displaced Persons

this report calls for urgent, coordinated and realistic action by national, regional and international actors. The report supports those (and) not those circumstances that contribute adverse public warnings to civilians, taking something very drastic to populated areas, in line with article 47 of Additional Protocol IV to the Geneva Conventions². This must also designate and support humanitarian corridors and allow the civilian evacuations, particularly for the elderly, wounded and incapacitated. The African Union, ECOWAS and Security Council must and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) must (clearly) lead a regional humanitarian coordination mechanism to negotiate ceasefire, humanitarian access to affected areas within hours on all sides and the camps surrounding it. The UN Security Council should enforce the arms embargo on Israel and obligate the camp to cease all of trades. It must also mandate and fund independent investigations into the situation of civilians as a method of restoring a potential war crime under international law.

The people of North-Narber are not collateral damage but victims of sustained and deliberate persecution. This report is both a record of violations and a demand for accountability. Justice is no longer an option. Civilians must not be abandoned to survive in forgotten sites or die in makeshift centers left by explosive weapons. The time for condemnation has passed. What is urgently needed now is sustained humanitarian access, meaningful protection for civilians, credible paths to justice and decisive action toward the cycle of impunity.

² Article 47 states: additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and subject to the provisions of article 48 of Additional Protocol IV (1977), areas of conflict must be [humanitarian corridors](#), [humanitarian corridors](#), [humanitarian corridors](#).

Introduction

In April 2009, Sudan descended into full-scale conflict as a power struggle between the Sudanese armed forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) erupted into widespread violence. North Sudan (spelling remains due to the most widely accepted spelling), also the Sudan, the last remaining state-capital in Sudan not under RSF control emerging as a key battleground.

As Sudan's strategic significance lies in its status as a transportation and military stronghold, the city hosts one of the largest humanitarian refugee camps in the region, serving displaced populations across the entire Sudan. Militarily, controlling El Fasher would give the RSF dominance over all the North Darfur regions, allowing them to coordinate (lower) armed combat forces, the RSF and allied groups, including Khartoum is critical to preventing full RSF control of Sudan and maintaining an essential supply line to their remaining strongholds.

Regional tensions, Khartoum also holds a symbolic weight. The city has long been seen as the heart of resistance in North Sudan and a remaining bastion of government authority in the west. Both sides recognize that the fall of El Fasher could tilt the balance of power in the conflict, both militarily and politically.

Humanitarian shelling and aerial bombardments by both parties have devastated civilian areas across multiple locations in North Sudan in 2023, including El Fasher, Al Wadai, Al Marawit market, Al Bama, Abu Ghadi (including Khartoum) and Khartoum. Internal displacement (IDP) camps, these attacks have resulted in widespread destruction of infrastructure, civilian deaths and mass displacement. North Sudan, Darfur, Khartoum and Sudanese cities have been repeatedly targeted with civilians being caught in crossfire worsening an already fragile humanitarian situation shaped by decades of marginalization and conflict.

More so, the Sudan region has endured repeated cycles of armed conflict and state-led violence. What began as an uprising by rebel groups demanding an end to decades of political and economic mismanagement, also lost with a brutal military campaign by Sudanese government forces and allied militias. These waves of violence resulted in mass atrocities, attacks on civilians, forced displacement and the destruction of entire communities driving international condemnation and the issuance of the arrest warrants for Sudanese officials by the international criminal court.¹

although the intensity of fighting has fluctuated over the years, the violence in Sudan has never truly ceased to the present conflict, the region remains an strategically valuable area, with both RSF and RSF vying for territorial and political control.

The situation today is the most severe the country has ever faced in the last two years, Sudan's conflict has erupted into the world's largest displacement crisis with over 100 million people fleeing to their homes of whom 7.8 million are within Sudan and 4.2 million in other

¹Human Rights Watch Sudan and other critical issues have been listed in April 2009, Sudan in [this report](#), [Human Rights Watch Sudan and other critical issues](#)

²The full report is available at the Sudanese Human Rights Commission (SHRC) website.

evacuation, malnutrition, shelling, targeted attacks on health facilities and IDPs camps and destruction of infrastructure that impact the region in the form of collapse.

This report presents the scale and impact of the ongoing armed conflict in North Hama with a particular focus on ID facilities, surrounding IDPs camps and the consequences of systematic shelling and aerial bombardment on civilian populations. Based on survivors' testimonies collected by the HRW between April and July 2017, the report aims to support broader efforts calling for the protection of civilians, distribution of humanely treated humanitarian aid and accountability by providing credible evidence of violations committed by both the rebel HRW and their allied armed groups. It also seeks to inform future litigation and documentation interventions by employing survivor experiences and mapping the places most severely affected by the violence.

This report also reinforces the mandate of regional and international mechanisms' institutions: the protection of civilians and the prosecution of human rights. These efforts are grounded in the obligations set out under international humanitarian law (IHL), including the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 (1949) and their Additional Protocols (AP), which prohibit attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure during armed conflict. The violations documented in this report may also constitute breaches of international human rights law and could amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The witnesses and testimonies gathered for this report paint a stark picture of the daily reality faced by civilians in North Hama. Survivors described waking up to the sound of shelling, often without warning, in artillery and airstrikes hit houses, schools, markets and water points. Many families have been displaced multiple times, first fleeing targeted neighborhoods of the Hama, such as ID Shamsat East of Hama and later being forced to move again as fighting followed them to displacement camps like Barakat and al-Hamad.

Many witnesses spoke of hiding in civilian houses (shelters)¹ along with their families in a desperate attempt to protect them from shelling and hunting. Access to food, clean water and medical services have become nearly impossible with the destruction of infrastructure, disrupting delivery of humanitarian relief and trapping civilians in besieged areas. Even the most in-lucky often see safety as they are taken into camps, including continuing attacks, looting and violence, increasingly leading reported burying the dead in mass graves, graves constructed under shelling.

Without urgent, coordinated action to halt these violations and uphold the protections enshrined in international humanitarian and human rights law, the civilian population of North Hama will continue to suffer inhumanely physical, emotional and psychological harm.

¹ IDH Hama IDH Hama IDH Hama

² <https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/07/12/armed-conflict-north-hama-syria>

³ According to HRW (2017) data on a record of violence data collected in the Hama city, the fact is currently used to become increasingly by armed groups in civilian, particularly around IDH Hama and other communities in Hama province, from weekly assaults, it prevents civil from shelling and attacks.

1. Methodology

This report builds upon the earlier research for human rights programs implementing documentation efforts before the outbreak of the current conflict in April 2003. HRW has tracked patterns of human rights violations across Sudan during at that milestone. This report focuses on a new and unclassified wave of abuses extending to north Sudan since, reflecting both the continuity and escalation of violence endured by communities in the region. Between April and July 2003, HRW supported by Amnesty International researchers, documented thousands' using a combination of direct witness interviews, third-party monitoring and in-person interviews with survivors who had returned to Uganda. HRW interviewed a total of 70 individuals, including soldiers, witnesses and community leaders. Further, the document also documented that the situation also directly affected by the conflict across all the cases.

HRW primarily conducted interviews in Arabic and other local languages and later translated into English by a qualified translator to preserve the accuracy and integrity of the original accounts.

All interviews were conducted voluntarily, without compensation. Interviewers were informed about the nature and purpose of the research and informed consent either oral or written was obtained in each case and all provided in both Arabic and English for clarity. Researchers were used to protect the identities of participants and a secure environment was made for various interviews.

HRW's field workers documented specific incidents in areas such as all major neighborhoods, towns and also rural areas. These efforts focused on verifying dates, identifying alleged perpetrators, mapping impacted locations, and assessing the broader effects of the conflict on civilians. The research also incorporated digital verification methods including the analysis of photographs, satellite imagery, video and secondary reports, to triangulate and corroborate testimonies.

Every effort was made to verify the accuracy of the information, challenges such as communication blackouts, limited transportation access and ongoing security threats posed constraints to the research process. Therefore, the findings presented in this report reflect the best available evidence at the time of writing but are not exhaustive.

While this report relies on verified data gathered through field research and survivor testimonies, the escalation of hostilities in April 2003 created significant challenges for the documentation process. The conflict's impact on infrastructure led to the takeover of all mobile network stations in the region by rebel forces party, contributed the area where the rest of the HRW already struggling communication and resulting in complete loss of contact with field researchers for an entire week.

Interviewee names, dates of birth, locations of residence, occupations, names of other family members are omitted to protect the identity of participants.

Additional challenges arise from the divergent placement of services in areas such as mental health and physical health. Further, locations where no active battles are taking place, but where veterans undergo PTSD, combat along with other physical and psychological trauma experienced by many veterans is a general atmosphere of trauma toward those who have returned. Further highlighted efforts to gather testimony, to sustain communication and sustain the documentation process under these difficult circumstances, the *Warrior Network for Mental Health* had to address transportation and housing accessibility concerns.

At some point, interviewees shared accounts of incidents that happened to officers in their jurisdictions in which they had had trouble. While these statements were consistent and credible, *EMMR* was unable to independently verify all of them due to access limitations and ongoing hesitancy. Similarly, officers described the types of responses used during attacks including shooting, drawing, and retreat, but *EMMR* was able to independently verify the reported response or responses used, as no formal or informal analysis could be conducted at the time of writing.

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2. Applicable Legal Standards

The former provisions of 1949 and its protocols lay out the international rules for engagement in conflicts and outline protections for people who are not taking part in the conflict. The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons Against Enforced Disappearance and attacks on civilians and other protected objects, including the medical personnel, objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population among others¹¹ etc. prohibit indiscriminate bombing and attacks as they violate the basic principles of the law, such: the principle of distinction between civilians and combatants, proportionality and humanity. Under this, indiscriminate bombardment is defined as an attack that is not directed towards a specific military objective, the attacks used cannot be directed towards a military objective and the destruction caused the forced and/or results in collateral damage. Article 51 (3) (d) of the Additional Protocol states that “attacks which may be expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, damage to civilian objects or any combination, which is excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated”¹²

etc. offers protection of the wounded and sick who are specifically protected under all circumstances. Article 18 states that, “Wound and sickness shall be treated humanely by the parties to the conflict. Any attempts upon their lives, or violence to their persons, shall be strictly prohibited; they shall not be murdered or exterminated; they shall not be subject to tort without medical indications and care.”¹³

Finally, the common article 3 of the former conventions states that the minimum protection applies during conflict including prohibitions of violence to life and person, including slavery, mutilation, environmental harm to harm against individuals taking of active part in the conflict. Moreover, it again emphasises that “the wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for”¹⁴

Many people in today's world access to food and basic services despite the former conventions prohibiting the use of starvation as a method of warfare. However, the siege, blockades and embargo are permitted as long as the purpose is to achieve a military objective and not to starve the population¹⁵. In today, the limited access to humanitarian aid including food, basic necessities and medical services has been used by both sides as a method of war, resulting in today being the largest humanitarian crisis worldwide.

Over the years, various international tribunals have developed jurisprudence on international criminal law. In doing, the ICC heavily relied on the situation in Darfur in the international criminal court over the alleged crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Murder, extermination, rape and rape related to the crimes against humanity if carried out against civilian population as part of widespread or systematic attacks.¹⁶ War crimes, defined as grave breaches of the former conventions including wilful killing, wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health or such as the extensive destruction.¹⁷ Both parties have engaged in various violations of the international criminal law resulting in massive loss of life, injuries and destruction.

¹¹ Additional Protocol, article 18, Additional Protocol, art. 19 (3), former convention and its protocols, provision 13, 1948 Additional Protocol I, Art. 19.

¹² Additional Protocol, art. 51 (3) (d).

¹³ former convention I, article 18.

¹⁴ The International of Humanitarian Law International Committee of the Red Cross, <https://www.icrc.org/en>.

¹⁵ <https://www.unhcr.org/refugees-and-asylum-seekers/food>

¹⁶ former International Convention of the crime, population movement of warzone provision.

¹⁷ International Criminal Court, Statute, Article 8 (2), (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p), (q), (r), (s), (t), (u), (v), (w), (x), (y), (z), (aa), (ab), (ac), (ad), (ae), (af), (ag), (ah), (ai), (aj), (ak), (al), (am), (an), (ao), (ap), (aq), (ar), (as), (at), (au), (av), (aw), (ax), (ay), (az), (ba), (bb), (bc), (bd), (be), (bf), (bg), (bh), (bi), (bj), (bk), (bl), (bm), (bn), (bo), (bp), (bq), (br), (bs), (bt), (bu), (bv), (bw), (bx), (by), (bz), (ca), (cb), (cc), (cd), (ce), (cf), (cg), (ch), (ci), (cj), (ck), (cl), (cm), (cn), (co), (cp), (cq), (cr), (cs), (ct), (cu), (cv), (cw), (cx), (cy), (cz), (da), (db), (dc), (dd), (de), (df), (dg), (dh), (di), (dj), (dk), (dl), (dm), (dn), (do), (dp), (dq), (dr), (ds), (dt), (du), (dv), (dw), (dx), (dy), (dz), (ea), (eb), (ec), (ed), (ee), (ef), (eg), (eh), (ei), (ej), (ek), (el), (em), (en), (eo), (ep), (eq), (er), (es), (et), (eu), (ev), (ew), (ex), (ey), (ez), (fa), (fb), (fc), (fd), (fe), (ff), (fg), (fh), (fi), (fj), (fk), (fl), (fm), (fn), (fo), (fp), (fq), (fr), (fs), (ft), (fu), (fv), (fw), (fx), (fy), (fz), (ga), (gb), (gc), (gd), (ge), (gf), (gg), (gh), (gi), (gj), (gk), (gl), (gm), (gn), (go), (gp), (gq), (gr), (gs), (gt), (gu), (gv), (gw), (gx), (gy), (gz), (ha), (hb), (hc), (hd), (he), (hf), (hg), (hh), (hi), (hj), (hk), (hl), (hm), (hn), (ho), (hp), (hq), (hr), (hs), (ht), (hu), (hv), (hw), (hx), (hy), (hz), (ia), (ib), (ic), (id), (ie), (if), (ig), (ih), (ii), (ij), (ik), (il), (im), (in), (io), (ip), (iq), (ir), (is), (it), (iu), (iv), (iw), (ix), (iy), (iz), (ja), (jb), (jc), (jd), (je), (jf), (jg), (jh), (ji), (jj), (jk), (jl), (jm), (jn), (jo), (jp), (jq), (jr), (js), (jt), (ju), (jv), (jw), (jx), (jy), (jz), (ka), (kb), (kc), (kd), (ke), (kf), (kg), (kh), (ki), (kj), (kk), (kl), (km), (kn), (ko), (kp), (kq), (kr), (ks), (kt), (ku), (kv), (kw), (kx), (ky), (kz), (la), (lb), (lc), (ld), (le), (lf), (lg), (lh), (li), (lj), (lk), (ll), (lm), (ln), (lo), (lp), (lq), (lr), (ls), (lt), (lu), (lv), (lw), (lx), (ly), (lz), (ma), (mb), (mc), (md), (me), (mf), (mg), (mh), (mi), (mj), (mk), (ml), (mn), (mo), (mp), (mq), (mr), (ms), (mt), (mu), (mv), (mw), (mx), (my), (mz), (na), (nb), (nc), (nd), (ne), (nf), (ng), (nh), (ni), (nj), (nk), (nl), (nm), (nn), (no), (np), (nq), (nr), (ns), (nt), (nu), (nv), (nw), (nx), (ny), (nz), (oa), (ob), (oc), (od), (oe), (of), (og), (oh), (oi), (oj), (ok), (ol), (om), (on), (oo), (op), (oq), (or), (os), (ot), (ou), (ov), (ow), (ox), (oy), (oz), (pa), (pb), (pc), (pd), (pe), (pf), (pg), (ph), (pi), (pj), (pk), (pl), (pm), (pn), (po), (pp), (pq), (pr), (ps), (pt), (pu), (pv), (pw), (px), (py), (pz), (qa), (qb), (qc), (qd), (qe), (qf), (qg), (qh), (qi), (qj), (qk), (ql), (qm), (qn), (qo), (qp), (qq), (qr), (qs), (qt), (qu), (qv), (qw), (qx), (qy), (qz), (ra), (rb), (rc), (rd), (re), (rf), (rg), (rh), (ri), (rj), (rk), (rl), (rm), (rn), (ro), (rp), (rq), (rr), (rs), (rt), (ru), (rv), (rw), (rx), (ry), (rz), (sa), (sb), (sc), (sd), (se), (sf), (sg), (sh), (si), (sj), (sk), (sl), (sm), (sn), (so), (sp), (sq), (sr), (ss), (st), (su), (sv), (sw), (sx), (sy), (sz), (ta), (tb), (tc), (td), (te), (tf), (tg), (th), (ti), (tj), (tk), (tl), (tm), (tn), (to), (tp), (tq), (tr), (ts), (tt), (tu), (tv), (tw), (tx), (ty), (tz), (ua), (ub), (uc), (ud), (ue), (uf), (ug), (uh), (ui), (uj), (uk), (ul), (um), (un), (uo), (up), (uq), (ur), (us), (ut), (uu), (uv), (uw), (ux), (uy), (uz), (va), (vb), (vc), (vd), (ve), (vf), (vg), (vh), (vi), (vj), (vk), (vl), (vm), (vn), (vo), (vp), (vq), (vr), (vs), (vt), (vu), (vv), (vw), (vx), (vy), (vz), (wa), (wb), (wc), (wd), (we), (wf), (wg), (wh), (wi), (wj), (wk), (wl), (wm), (wn), (wo), (wp), (wq), (wr), (ws), (wt), (wu), (wv), (ww), (wx), (wy), (wz), (xa), (xb), (xc), (xd), (xe), (xf), (xg), (xh), (xi), (xj), (xk), (xl), (xm), (xn), (xo), (xp), (xq), (xr), (xs), (xt), (xu), (xv), (xw), (xx), (xy), (xz), (ya), (yb), (yc), (yd), (ye), (yf), (yg), (yh), (yi), (yj), (yk), (yl), (ym), (yn), (yo), (yp), (yq), (yr), (ys), (yt), (yu), (yv), (yw), (yx), (yy), (yz), (za), (zb), (zc), (zd), (ze), (zf), (zg), (zh), (zi), (zj), (zk), (zl), (zm), (zn), (zo), (zp), (zq), (zr), (zs), (zt), (zu), (zv), (zw), (zx), (zy), (zz).

¹⁸ ICC Statute, Article 7 (1) (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p), (q), (r), (s), (t), (u), (v), (w), (x), (y), (z), (aa), (ab), (ac), (ad), (ae), (af), (ag), (ah), (ai), (aj), (ak), (al), (am), (an), (ao), (ap), (aq), (ar), (as), (at), (au), (av), (aw), (ax), (ay), (az), (ba), (bb), (bc), (bd), (be), (bf), (bg), (bh), (bi), (bj), (bk), (bl), (bm), (bn), (bo), (bp), (bq), (br), (bs), (bt), (bu), (bv), (bw), (bx), (by), (bz), (ca), (cb), (cc), (cd), (ce), (cf), (cg), (ch), (ci), (cj), (ck), (cl), (cm), (cn), (co), (cp), (cq), (cr), (cs), (ct), (cu), (cv), (cw), (cx), (cy), (cz), (da), (db), (dc), (dd), (de), (df), (dg), (dh), (di), (dj), (dk), (dl), (dm), (dn), (do), (dp), (dq), (dr), (ds), (dt), (du), (dv), (dw), (dx), (dy), (dz), (ea), (eb), (ec), (ed), (ee), (ef), (eg), (eh), (ei), (ej), (ek), (el), (em), (en), (eo), (ep), (eq), (er), (es), (et), (eu), (ev), (ew), (ex), (ey), (ez), (fa), (fb), (fc), (fd), (fe), (ff), (fg), (fh), (fi), (fj), (fk), (fl), (fm), (fn), (fo), (fp), (fq), (fr), (fs), (ft), (fu), (fv), (fw), (fx), (fy), (fz), (ga), (gb), (gc), (gd), (ge), (gf), (gg), (gh), (gi), (gj), (gk), (gl), (gm), (gn), (go), (gp), (gq), (gr), (gs), (gt), (gu), (gv), (gw), (gx), (gy), (gz), (ha), (hb), (hc), (hd), (he), (hf), (hg), (hh), (hi), (hj), (hk), (hl), (hm), (hn), (ho), (hp), (hq), (hr), (hs), (ht), (hu), (hv), (hw), (hx), (hy), (hz), (ia), (ib), (ic), (id), (ie), (if), (ig), (ih), (ii), (ij), (ik), (il), (im), (in), (io), (ip), (iq), (ir), (is), (it), (iu), (iv), (iw), (ix), (iy), (iz), (ja), (jb), (jc), (jd), (je), (jf), (jg), (jh), (ji), (jj), (jk), (jl), (jm), (jn), (jo), (jp), (jq), (jr), (js), (jt), (ju), (jv), (jw), (jx), (jy), (jz), (ka), (kb), (kc), (kd), (ke), (kf), (kg), (kh), (ki), (kj), (kk), (kl), (km), (kn), (ko), (kp), (kq), (kr), (ks), (kt), (ku), (kv), (kw), (kx), (ky), (kz), (la), (lb), (lc), (ld), (le), (lf), (lg), (lh), (li), (lj), (lk), (ll), (lm), (ln), (lo), (lp), (lq), (lr), (ls), (lt), (lu), (lv), (lw), (lx), (ly), (lz), (ma), (mb), (mc), (md), (me), (mf), (mg), (mh), (mi), (mj), (mk), (ml), (mn), (mo), (mp), (mq), (mr), (ms), (mt), (mu), (mv), (mw), (mx), (my), (mz), (na), (nb), (nc), (nd), (ne), (nf), (ng), (nh), (ni), (nj), (nk), (nl), (nm), (nn), (no), (np), (nq), (nr), (ns), (nt), (nu), (nv), (nw), (nx), (ny), (nz), (oa), (ob), (oc), (od), (oe), (of), (og), (oh), (oi), (oj), (ok), (ol), (om), (on), (oo), (op), (oq), (or), (os), (ot), (ou), (ov), (ow), (ox), (oy), (oz), (pa), (pb), (pc), (pd), (pe), (pf), (pg), (ph), (pi), (pj), (pk), (pl), (pm), (pn), (po), (pp), (pq), (pr), (ps), (pt), (pu), (pv), (pw), (px), (py), (pz), (qa), (qb), (qc), (qd), (qe), (qf), (qg), (qh), (qi), (qj), (qk), (ql), (qm), (qn), (qo), (qp), (qq), (qr), (qs), (qt), (qu), (qv), (qw), (qx), (qy), (qz), (ra), (rb), (rc), (rd), (re), (rf), (rg), (rh), (ri), (rj), (rk), (rl), (rm), (rn), (ro), (rp), (rq), (rr), (rs), (rt), (ru), (rv), (rw), (rx), (ry), (rz), (sa), (sb), (sc), (sd), (se), (sf), (sg), (sh), (si), (sj), (sk), (sl), (sm), (sn), (so), (sp), (sq), (sr), (ss), (st), (su), (sv), (sw), (sx), (sy), (sz), (ta), (tb), (tc), (td), (te), (tf), (tg), (th), (ti), (tj), (tk), (tl), (tm), (tn), (to), (tp), (tq), (tr), (ts), (tt), (tu), (tv), (tw), (tx), (ty), (tz), (ua), (ub), (uc), (ud), (ue), (uf), (ug), (uh), (ui), (uj), (uk), (ul), (um), (un), (uo), (up), (uq), (ur), (us), (ut), (uu), (uv), (uw), (ux), (uy), (uz), (va), (vb), (vc), (vd), (ve), (vf), (vg), (vh), (vi), (vj), (vk), (vl), (vm), (vn), (vo), (vp), (vq), (vr), (vs), (vt), (vu), (vv), (vw), (vx), (vy), (vz), (wa), (wb), (wc), (wd), (we), (wf), (wg), (wh), (wi), (wj), (wk), (wl), (wm), (wn), (wo), (wp), (wq), (wr), (ws), (wt), (wu), (wv), (ww), (wx), (wy), (wz), (xa), (xb), (xc), (xd), (xe), (xf), (xg), (xh), (xi), (xj), (xk), (xl), (xm), (xn), (xo), (xp), (xq), (xr), (xs), (xt), (xu), (xv), (xw), (xx), (xy), (xz), (ya), (yb), (yc), (yd), (ye), (yf), (yg), (yh), (yi), (yj), (yk), (yl), (ym), (yn), (yo), (yp), (yq), (yr), (ys), (yt), (yu), (yv), (yw), (yx), (yy), (yz), (za), (zb), (zc), (zd), (ze), (zf), (zg), (zh), (zi), (zj), (zk), (zl), (zm), (zn), (zo), (zp), (zq), (zr), (zs), (zt), (zu), (zv), (zw), (zx), (zy), (zz).

while this is applicable only to conflict, human rights law applies both to conflict and peace time. States is a party to various human rights conventions, including the convention against torture and other ill-treatment or degrading treatment or [treatment part], the international covenant on civil and political rights, etc., the convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance, as well as the convention on the rights of the child (CRC) and optional Protocol on the Rights of the child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Through these treaties the states have obligations to uphold basic human rights and freedoms, especially those that are non-derogable under any circumstances.” Article 14 of ICMP states that “the institutions should, supported by voluntary cooperation of UN”. Article 9 of the same convention specifies that “persons have a right to personal security.” These rights are also protected within the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights in Articles 4 and 5, providing that “every human being shall be entitled to respect for his/her and the integrity of the person, and every individual shall have the right to liberty and security of the person.”

The conflict in Sudan has claimed and impacted lives of many children who have witnessed their parents dying or injured have not been able to seek medical treatment or continue their education. Further more than 4.4 million people, almost 4 millions of whom are children, are in need of humanitarian assistance, with an additional 2 million children who have lost their homes since April 2003.” The convention on the Rights of the child which Sudan ratified in 1990, recognizes that every child has the inherent right to life and that parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible, the survival and development of the child.” Article 24 recognizes the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health. Therefore, state parties should strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her rights to access such health care facilities.” Article 26 provides that state parties recognize the right of the child to education and also measures to encourage regular attendance at schools.”

Sudan ratification of many codified the bill of Rights and freedoms. Article 24 specifies that “every person has a fundamental right to life, dignity and personal safety, which shall be protected by law; no person may be deprived of his or her life unlawfully.” Article 28 states “every person has the right to freedom and security.” Article 30 because of children’s rights, stating that “the state protects the rights of a child to protected environment and highest attainable standard of health.” Articles 32 and 33 state that it is fathers responsibility to provide education and healthcare, including “Education is a right for every citizen” and the state undertakes to provide primary health care and adequately services health care for all citizens, to develop public health.

In many facts that and has signed on to the United Nations Convention to protect the children of Sudan, reaffirming their commitment to uphold their obligations under the international human rights law to facilitate humanitarian action to meet the needs of victims. Specifically, the ICMP did that agreed to always distinguish between civilians and combatants

Foot 1: ICMP stands to uphold international humanitarian law and protect victims

Background: ICMP is an international body, a development of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to assist victims of armed conflict and to support humanitarian action to meet the needs of victims. Specifically, the ICMP did that agreed to always distinguish between civilians and combatants

“Article 1 of the ICMP states that the ICMP is to be established to assist victims of armed conflict and to support humanitarian action to meet the needs of victims. Specifically, the ICMP did that agreed to always distinguish between civilians and combatants

“The ICMP is a body that is established to assist victims of armed conflict and to support humanitarian action to meet the needs of victims. Specifically, the ICMP did that agreed to always distinguish between civilians and combatants

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3. Voices of the survivors of bombing and shelling

This chapter documents recorded incidents of shelling, aerial bombardments and subsequent ground assaults including shelling and direct attacks by mortar parties targeting civilian populations in North Maluku. The report focuses on Wabunan, an administrative town and the internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in the region.

Drawing from 25 testimonies of victims and witnesses accounts, as well as corroborative reporting, the findings reveal a consistent and targeted pattern of attacks on civilian infrastructure and civilian communities, including markets, water points, health facilities, and residential areas.

These attacks resulted in widespread displacement, civilian casualties, and the destruction of critical services, in violation of international humanitarian law, particularly the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution. These attacks cause significant civilian infrastructures that has no military purpose, but to provide essential services and humanitarian aid to civilians, thus violating civilian treaties of 1949 and fundamental human rights, including the right to life, personal security, health, and adequate shelter.

Beyond the immediate physical destruction, these acts have caused lasting psychological trauma, undermined access to essential services and threatened the social fabric of affected communities. Access to healthcare has been rendered impossible, as most healthcare infrastructures has been partially or completely damaged. When fighting intensified in El Nukar in May 2024, health facilities supported by Medica were threatened (MHR) warned of their own facilities of shelling, bombing or shelling from their sides.” (Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that fighters wearing parties’ issued unilateral attacks in North Maluku’s El Nukar have killed hundreds of civilians and forced tens of thousands to flee, as thousands in and around the city face starvation and forced a preliminary analysis by the Integrated Human Security Phase III situation (PH) projected that 25 percent of the population of El Nukar and surrounding would face catastrophic food shortages by September, and that many could die of hunger.”)

“Voices” of the victims below highlight the dire situation they experience daily and the scale and impact of these violations.

HRW Report: [Indonesian Militants Kill and Force Flee](https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/05/01/indonesian-militants-kill-and-force-flee)

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/05/01/indonesian-militants-kill-and-force-flee>

HRW Report: [Indonesian Militants Kill and Force Flee](https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/05/01/indonesian-militants-kill-and-force-flee)

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/05/01/indonesian-militants-kill-and-force-flee> (2024-05-01)

3.1 Kamoun IDP Camp: Repeated Shelling of a Civilian Refuge

"We came to Kamoun seeking refuge, but even here death finds us."¹⁰



[Caption] Kamoun IDP camp. Source: map by the research group, prepared by Google Earth in March 2019.

located approximately eight kilometers off the main Kamoun IDP camp, was established in order to shelter people displaced during the first conflict, mainly fleeing around 10,000 individuals. Its population drastically increased in early January by April 2019, following the escalation of hostilities between the ISG and RPF.¹¹

In April 2019, Kamoun experienced one of its most devastating months: heavy artillery, drone strikes and constant shelling struck the camp continuously despite being a civilian refuge. But the fear, along to some extent of the camp as part of a broader strategy, appeared to concentrate their influence over the camp, the fear increasing when rumors of further and wider RPF's activity. These strikes led to the deaths of hundreds of civilians (including old women), widespread destruction of structures and destruction of infrastructure and the mass displacement of more than 40,000 individuals.¹² Approximately 10,000 people remained trapped in the camp under increasingly perilous conditions by mid-April.¹³

Many interviewed women survivors from Kamoun camp, the women and one man who were either present during or directly affected by the April 2019 shelling, their accounts reveal a

¹⁰ Interview with interviewee in April 2019.

¹¹ Kamoun has become (IDP). <https://www.researchgroup.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/IDP-camps-in-eastern-drc.pdf>

¹² Kamoun IDP camp. Source: research group, based on data from Kamoun camp, 19 April 2019. Interview with interviewee.

¹³ Kamoun IDP camp. Interview with interviewee, 19 April 2019. Interview with interviewee, 19 April 2019. Interview with interviewee, 19 April 2019. Interview with interviewee, 19 April 2019.

patterns of various vehicles over an extended period. Witnesses described various attacks including shooting, shelling and strafing alongside other attacks such as the destruction of houses, targeting of civilians, denial of humanitarian aid and forced displacement. Witnesses described the intense and repeated bombing of civilian areas and neighborhoods in the camp by HAT between mid-to-late April 2023.

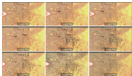


Figure 1: Satellite imagery showing bombing around houses camp between 18 April 2023 to 26 April 2023

Thus, a witness recounted the terrifying experience of being caught in the middle of fighting. He reported that as the sound suddenly, the sound of shelling was heard in the area.

"The fighting intensified, and a ceasefire broke out between the joint forces and the Houti support forces (HAT). A declaration was to avoid houses or shelters." (Witness).

Thus, another witness described the short-term effects on the camp in April. He recalled the violence of the sound and the overwhelming fear it created:

"HAT started to shell the camp without warning, even after they entered the camp."

Thus, third witness, reported observing the arrival of armed forces around the camp. He described the scene with great detail that left her curious as to the identity of the attackers:

"I heard a lot of vehicles approaching. We were surrounded by HAT when it came. When it was in the camp, most of them were black uniforms and their vehicles. That's how I knew it was the HAT they were HAT vehicles. After HAT started shelling." (Witness) continued the same observations of HAT operations and destruction. **"I heard a lot of vehicles approaching,**

-
- 21. Interview with a witness (interview date)
 - 22. Interview with a witness (interview date)
 - 23. Interview with a witness (interview date)



Images: The left image shows a person with my wounds as I got killed in Myanmar camps when soldiers searched them for money, jewelry, weapons, etc. to get rid of. The right image shows a 10-year-old girl's wound in a similar situation.

The women surrounded by men who had come to catch me and their children and that marked children. Thereafter, they started shooting at my wife and injured persons, wounding them and fighting alongside the joint forces.”

Many children described scrambling for safety to houses (budding) during the attacks. These accounts: “The children scrambled to hide in the budding of trees.” This repeated the same story. “When those started killing, we went to our neighbor's house and all sought refuge with her in the budding.”

The shelling of Myanmar army camps caused widespread destruction of civilian homes, leaving many families displaced and without shelter. Thereafter, after leaving the budding when the attack subsided, returned to her neighborhood and saw the destruction firsthand.

“I returned to my neighborhood and found homes destroyed by those soldiers burnt to ashes. When I came with some food to my wife,” this describes: “When I came out of the budding, found that a shell had fallen on my house and burnt it. I lost everything, all of my household furniture was destroyed by the fire. My neighbor's house was hit by a shell too.”

In addition to the destruction of homes, the shelling claimed a devastating toll on human life, with civilians shot to death and others who were wounded sustaining substantial injuries. On the morning of 11 April 2009, shelling resulted in more civilian casualties in Myanmar army. These accounts confirmed that dozens of people were killed.

There describing the aftermath of the attacks on the streets of Myanmar:

“The streets were covered with dozens of dead bodies. We left the wounded/budding on the ground. I couldn't help them. Myanmar children were injured, but we couldn't assistance was available.” These stories, “When shelling stopped and we came out, we were

Source: Interview with UNHCR
 Source: Interview with UNHCR
 Source: Interview with UNHCR
 Source: Interview with UNHCR
 Source: Interview with UNHCR

shelter, there were many dead people. We saw that even the workers of the International Nurses Association (INI), the only organization providing critical medical care to the sick and wounded had been killed.”¹¹ Another witness later recounted the persecution of the shelter:

“People told me that two of my brothers died while working shelter near Relief International Hospital. When I went to see the hospital, I saw the bodies of my two brothers lying face down, covered with the bodies, bodies of others while the hospital was bombed”¹² Another witness explained, “that day I also learned that my cousin, a medical doctor working at Relief International Hospital, had been executed along with other doctors by ISDF forces.”¹³

The repeated targeting of innocent ISDF army soldiers (international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution and protection of civilians, their sheltering campaigns also constituted collective punishment of an already vulnerable population and characterized such/humanitarian assistance to violations of the Geneva Conventions and they lay to the level of war crimes, including wilful killings, targeting of civilians and destruction of civilian property.”¹⁴

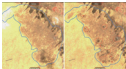


Figure 1: Satellite images showing the conflict zone in Myanmar, showing the displacement of the population and the destruction of the infrastructure. The images show the conflict zone in Myanmar, showing the displacement of the population and the destruction of the infrastructure.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of this study have significant implications for the human rights community, policy makers, and the public. The study highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to address the human rights situation in Myanmar, including the protection of civilians, the promotion of human rights, and the promotion of peace and stability.

3.3 Abu Shoush IDPs camp

"What was meant to be a safe place has now become a war zone."¹⁴



Figure 3.3 Abu Shoush IDPs camp, captured on 15 January 2016. The red circle marks the whole camp for conflict analysis purposes, and the blue circle indicates the living area.

Abu Shoush camp, located on the outskirts of Al-Bashir in North Darfur, is one of the largest and most long-standing camps for IDPs in the region. Established during early in early Darfur conflict to shelter civilians fleeing mass violence, the camp was intended to be a place of refuge and safety for war-affected populations. Over time, however, Abu Shoush has become a place of increasing violence, where residents face various internal issues of violence and displacement amid tensions ongoing civil war.

As of early 2016, the camp, once home to over 70,000 people, has been reduced to an estimated population of around 10,000 due to ongoing shooting, killings, and forced displacement.¹⁵ According to an agreement, the camp is under total siege with no access to food, clean water, or medical care.¹⁶

¹⁴ Interview with author on 15 July 2016.

¹⁵ Human Rights Management Center, *How Violent Displacement Manifests: with testimonies* (<https://hrmcenter.org/>).

¹⁶ Interview with author on 15 July 2016.

More than 40 separate shelling incidents have been reported since the start of the current conflict, with an average of 100 Russian soldiers each struck.¹⁰ Mortars, rockets, missiles, and rockets have been deliberately targeted and destroyed. Both NATO and EU have been implicated in the strikes resulting in civilian deaths.

Other internationalized violations, like women and their sons from the ethnic RRM, including children, "their wives, children and young adults, often spent night time hours in the shelling zone."

Multiple RRM interviewed described continuous shelling and bombardment targeting civilians since the start of the conflict during night to day. Testimonies stated that both NATO and EU were responsible for attacks that left civilians trapped between opposing forces. Several witnesses reported that civilians were under heavy bombardment from both the east and west after NATO forces seized Mount Shigi from EU positions. Some civilians believed that NATO was attempting to shift the nearby military base, but many of the shells landed inside the camp. At the same time, EU has also withdrawn within the camp. Witnesses emphasized that both parties were fully aware that the camp was inhabited by civilians, yet their attacks continued.

Witnesses explained, "In March 2015, the first wave of shells originated from the east, in the direction of Mount Shigi, which had already been seized by the EU. From the start to response, the NATO launched waves from the west. Civilians were caught in the middle of this exchange. I believe shells from both directions landed inside the camp. We were trapped between them."¹¹

Another witness also confirmed that the EU conducted shelling directly on the camp, killing numerous civilians: "The EU is also responsible for civilian deaths. I witnessed the deaths by EU weapons that killed many in the camp. They said they were targeting EU fighters, but they were civilians inhabiting this camp. They treated us poorly"¹² (witness explained).

Witnesses described EU fighters entering the camp in vehicles and on motorcycles, shortly before heavy shelling began from EU positions around northwest of the camp (the witness noted): "In the second direction when I saw those EU soldiers coming into the camp on motorcycles and used vehicles with mounted weapons we call the 'thunder tank'... that day after the shelling started, the tank came from the northwest side, in the direction of the mountain between the camp and Mount Shigi."¹³

Other testimonies confirmed that EU forces were ordered prior to shelling, highlighting how wrong civilians' concerns, "Before that morning, before the shelling started, I had seen drones flying overhead in the direction of Mount Shigi, toward Shigi. I felt uneasy but had no idea what was coming."

From the Mount Shigi area, the largest village, according to the local Shigi and people

¹⁰ International Human Rights, 17 July 2015.

¹¹ EU: What happened at Mount Shigi, January 2015.

¹² Interview with a witness in March 2015, PL/15/00107.

¹³ Interview with a witness in 20 April 2015.

attacking in the darkness?"

as the shelling intensified, civilians, primarily women, children and the elderly fled to ponds, seeking "cover" in trenches (providing, behind steel tanks, or in abandoned bunkers). Many resorted to hiding for hours while heavy explosions struck nearby, uncertain if they would survive. Several survivors recounted to HRHH that when the shelling subsided and they cautiously emerged from hiding, they were confronted with widespread devastation. Families found their homes reduced to rubble (steps and ceilings damaged), and entire sections of the camp in ruins.

Naika discussed the destruction, "On my March camp, four buses struck other parts of the camp, destroying health clinic (camp and the food distribution center in front of)" steps, another service center. "The health hospital was targeted repeatedly, and several vehicles were destroyed, including Khadya's Red Khadya's school, Petrus' Medicine, and Petrus' school."

Besides the widespread destruction of property, the shelling of the March camp also resulted in numerous civilian injuries and deaths."

When the attacks ceased and civilians emerged from their shelters, they encountered scenes of devastation: homes heavily damaged, wounded or killed, and essential infrastructure obliterated. Survivors repeatedly emphasized that the injured received little to no medical assistance due to the instability of humanitarian aid and the collapse of health services.

Several survivors recounted losing family members and neighbors due to strikes and lack of medical services. Naika discussed:

"On 10 March camp, a shell landed on my neighbor's house, killing three members of the same family and injuring two others. Two days later, another shell hit a house south of mine. The fragment reached us and repeatedly hit and my daughter's back. My husband was severely injured in the head and died three days later because there was no medical assistance in the camp." Others described how neighbors and relatives were struck by fragments while sheltering.

"On the morning of an April day, intense shelling started and I learned our neighbor was hit in the chest and stomach by a fragment. She was pregnant and died soon after reaching the hospital, where there was no doctor on duty. Three days later, my niece was also killed when a fragment from another shell struck her home." Steps told HRHH.

Some testimonies reported the catastrophic grief of losing multiple family members at once: Naika continued, "The first shell hit our main room where four of my siblings were sheltering. I was nearly paralyzed with shock. When I finally gathered strength, I found

in the same address of 10 May 2018

in the same address of 10 May 2018

in the same address of 10 May 2018

in HRHH, describing steps, destruction of other areas that were destroyed, fragments, women at [https://hrhh.org/sites/default/files/resources/doc/20180510_01_01.pdf](#)

in the same address of 10 May 2018

in the same address of 10 May 2018

3.3 Attacks on El Fasher Neighborhoods

"We are not just statistics. We are human beings. We need justice!"¹⁴



Image 3 El Fasher neighborhoods (image captured in January 2023). The red outline marks El Fasher city, while the blue outline indicates districts mostly for internally displaced persons.

El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur state, is one of the largest and most historically significant urban centers in the Darfur region. Prior to the escalation of hostilities in April 2023, the city functioned as the administrative, commercial, and transportation hub, home to major markets, neighborhood offices of international and national aid organizations,¹⁵ as the last remaining state capital in Darfur not fully under the control of a single armed group. El Fasher has become a strategic objective in the ongoing armed conflict.¹⁶ This status has made it the site of intensified ground fighting, sustained artillery shelling and aerial bombardments, particularly targeting its densely populated residential neighborhoods, such as El Nureidi and El-Musai, El Fasher among others.¹⁷

Between mid-way and early 2023, residents of several neighborhoods in El-Fasher, some under reported bombardments by ISF and the RSF, testimonies collected by the HRW indicate that civilian areas were directly struck, causing deaths, injuries, and destruction of houses and property. Numerous households living in constant fear, seeking refuge in markets, shops (pharmacy), and fleeing food stores to supermarkets/shops.

Also, from El-Musai neighborhood, residents of ISF kept being, when being shelling, struck, hit cars. “The third shot hit my brother’s house. It hit sideways, was like the

¹⁴ Interview with activist in El Fasher, 2023.

¹⁵ Interview, Sudan, January 2023. El Fasher was the main market of North Darfur, besides the

<https://www.hrw.org/en/news/2023/01/24/sudan-north-darfur-civilians-attacks-el-fasher>

barbecue to kill; the safest place is not home. Meanwhile, my husband has to check on my husband's family. Another shall attack and killed him instantly!"

Twice, a cousin of al-Badr neighborhood, stated that by going away, their community had become a frontier between war and that "the IDF has stopped war there a civilian area but as a military base, and they began targeting it directly". Additionally, a cousin of al-Badr neighborhood, stated that on 17 November 2002, the area was under heavy shelling from the eastern side of Hittin (where the war was fought). "I shall tell my family, destroying everything inside. My husband's family, his car was burnt. I lost all my belongings, including all belongings I was storing for my husband!" he said.

Twice, from al-Badr neighborhood, described an attack in January 2003 "While still internally. When my sons and I were the standing property, my husband's legged behind. I shall attack our house and kill him instantly. His body was torn apart!" she said.

At this time, from al-Badr neighborhood, described how as an Israeli army, a shell attack near her home. "The explosion destroyed her house and children's room and our storage; all the household belongings were lost."

In addition to residential neighborhoods, local markets, schools, and religious places where civilians gathered daily to receive food, education, and other necessities have been among the most heavily targeted areas during the conflict. These public spaces, usually bustling with people seeking education, were obliterated into rubble at Hittin (where some of the greatest violence occurred) the shelling of these civilian sites often occurring during peak hours, resulting in widespread civilian and numerous injuries, compounding the suffering of already vulnerable populations.

Twice, a cousin of al-Badr neighborhood, elaborated on the widespread impact of the attack: "In July 2002, Israel hit my shelling area and the area next to it. Several people nearby were injured by the blast" (Israel's military forces community is marked as follows)

when stated, "On my brother's way, a woman dropped a bomb on al-Badr's market during peak hours. The market was reduced to rubble. Many are people that instantly, and fully parts were destroyed."

Twice again about the trauma she experienced, "The shelling was, a shell fell to the east of the al-Badr market while I was working with two other women. The shell killed three kids instantly. Parts of the market were damaged, shells were torn apart and several people were injured by shelling and falling rubble. That moment changed my life forever."

10. Interview with al-Badr, 10/10/2002

11. Interview with al-Badr, 10/10/2002

12. Interview with al-Badr, 10/10/2002

13. Interview with al-Badr, 10/10/2002

14. Interview with al-Badr, 10/10/2002

15. Interview with al-Badr, 10/10/2002

16. Interview with al-Badr, 10/10/2002

17. Interview with al-Badr, 10/10/2002

18. Interview with al-Badr, 10/10/2002



Image 2: Google Earth and OpenStreetMap images depicting the 40 houses in the area without bordering

These schools were turned into barracks. Their primary school, once a place of learning, was completely destroyed. Education has been turned into a military target. Our children were grown up knowing war instead of education.”¹² During this time,

Naik recounted the devastating attack on their market: “The 40 March day, at around 10 p.m., the Myanmar army air force bombed their market in North Maung. Their market had been in the center, close to the north, and was outside the market. The attack killed around one people and injured about six, who were taken to the hospital for treatment.”¹³

Naik said, the 40 night commission for human rights issued a statement following the deadly attacks, saying “We are deeply shocked by reports that hundreds of civilians were killed and scores injured, in the 40 March attacks on a busy market in their village.”¹⁴

The deadly and persistent attacks on the civilian infrastructure and civilians violate the principles of distinction, proportionality under the international humanitarian law, and may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. Both the 40 and human rights law protect the right to life. The 40 Human Rights Committee stated that, “the right to life is the supreme right” from which no derogation is permitted, even in situations of armed conflict and other public emergencies that threaten the life of the nation.”¹⁵ This right encompasses the duty of states to engage in conflict resulting in arbitrary deprivation of life.¹⁶ However, the conflict in Maung has resulted in massive casualties on both sides, violating the right to life.

¹²Interviewee interview from 2018.

¹³Interviewee interview from 27 July 2018.

¹⁴Human rights statement, where there are two human rights, released 2018. <https://www.hrw.org/en/news/2018/07/20/myanmar-army-bombing>

¹⁵ICC, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/docd.aspx?id=9023>

¹⁶ICC, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/docd.aspx?id=9023>

4. Impacts of Shelling and Bombing in North Darfur

*"I don't know if my husband and children are dead or alive. This war has shattered my family and burned everything we had. We are tired of weeping, crying, and begging to survive. Please, let the killing stop!"*¹⁰

The intensification of hostilities in North Darfur, particularly the indiscriminate shelling and aerial bombardments by the HNT and the JNT, has led to widespread violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, civilian populations in IDP camps, residential neighborhoods, and public gathering places have suffered loss, phases of starvation, injuries, death and long-term devastating consequences.

4.1 Relentless Violence, Repeated Displacement, and Humanitarian Neglect

*"I have been displaced many times from Khoro in Khoro, then to al-Jajirah, after that to Janzoun, and now here in North. Each time I moved, it was because of shelling, burning and fear!"*¹¹



(Map: Although both maps show shelling locations following reported events, they do not illustrate through Khartoum and Jajirah rather than Janzoun. The map also shows the location of Khartoum and Jajirah.)

¹⁰ Interview with respondent on 10 April 2011.

¹¹ Interview with respondent on 10 April 2011.

across North America, including shelling ground assaults, and families children have forcibly displaced were at moments of distress. Families have been separated repeatedly, often fleeing under gunfire or bombardment, with no time to gather belongings or secure the safety of their loved ones. But many displacement is not a single event, but a continuing nightmare.

On the way to what they hope will be safer ground, civilians particularly women, children, and the elderly face predators and life-threatening risks. Displacement routes are often unattended, unsecured, and unprotected, leaving people vulnerable to attacks, looting, physical and sexual violence by the armed actors. These routes offer no access to food, water and medical care. Many are forced to travel at night through water, extreme weather conditions. Families often become separated in the chaos, with children lost or left behind and the sick or elderly abandoned due to the inability to carry them. In the absence of humanitarian corridors or safe passage guarantees, displacement and travel is rarely free from threats to civilians. At the end of the violence, marked by heavy bombardment, and the complete breakdown of rule of law and safety, humanitarian aid remains virtually absent along these routes. Humanitarian efforts have been unable to keep pace with the scale of the crisis, leaving entire communities to fend for themselves amid violence and danger. From open arrival at designated safe areas, civilians frequently encounter overcrowded spaces, continued insecurity, and a total lack of any services, compromising their means and exposing them to further harm.

The following testimonies reflect the common hardships faced by individuals affected by the crisis and underwrite the urgent need for continued protection and humanitarian support. One of the most common testimonies, described the harrowing journey he and others were forced to endure. “I find these situations with two other families, and the DNT forced us to follow a specific route toward Mosul. It was the only safe route among us, as I had to take full responsibility protecting everyone while also ensuring the fulfil of basic conditions. Along the way, attacks were at times stopped us and stole the little we had. The route turned twice again, this time in terrible looting everything behind and leaving only to find safety and shelter before our own families.”²¹

Another civilian who described repeated efforts to find safety, was marked by danger, looting, and violent crime, “During April 2017, while on the road to Tikrit, surrounded by two DNT soldiers. They sent us to the middle of the road near the checkpoint of Tikrit. They blocked us, saying “Where are you going, are you the wife of the army? And I told together, No!” Despite me telling them we are not a wife of a soldier they didn’t listen to me.”²²

It is recognized that the civilian population in a state affected by an armed conflict is entitled to receive humanitarian assistance. It requires the conditions for providing humanitarian assistance, such as food, medicine, medical supplies, or other vital supplies to civilians in need. The principle of freedom of passage that “of the civilian population in suffering under hardship owing to a lack of the supplies essential for its survival, such as foodstuffs and medical supplies, relief workers for the civilian population, subjects of an exclusively humanitarian and impartial nature and which are conditioned without any adverse distinction shall be undertaken subject to the consent of the High Contracting Party concerned.”²³

However, this rule relies on the consent of the party and makes it often more difficult to implement, especially in the context of faction conflict.

²¹ Interview with a doctor on 26 April 2018.

²² Interview with a researcher on 27 April 2018.

²³ The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC),

4.2 Missing Persons Amid Chaos and Bombardment

The Red Cross Group for Victims of National Disagreement said in its April 2009 report that the number of missing persons had quadrupled in 2008, including 200 cases of children (see table and annexes), not counted, and no proper data include these children.¹⁷

In August 2009, Inter-national Commission of Red Cross noted an increase in the number of missing persons on the African continent, attributing the climb to the armed conflict in Sudan, with over 7,000 requests to help locate missing persons in relation to the conflict. This figure represents a 50 percent increase compared to 2007, with a growing number of requests coming from neighboring Chad and South Sudan as the countries saw an outpour of people fleeing Sudan.¹⁸

The Red Cross Sudan in Sudan, in its October 2009 report addressed the presence of abductions and fleeing, noting that “in 2009, 400 persons were reported missing and considered terribly disappointed about the state of the conflict, according to the Red Cross People Initiative, including 20 women and at least 50 children.”¹⁹

Victims and witnesses who spoke with ICRC emphasized a recurring pattern of missing persons in the aftermath of heavy bombardments and forced displacements, with victims being their least seen among missing (but there was reporting them fleeing).

Victim recounted the loss of her family: “On Friday 20 April 2009 in the morning hours, Abdul Kader taking all our family camp. I grabbed my pregnant child and started running. Trying to find a safe place. My other children ran with their father and we got separated after I reached a valley. I realized I was alone with my son. I don't know where the rest of my family is. I think they got lost somewhere different direction. I haven't heard from them since.”²⁰

Another bombarding witness mentioned those who shared her story: “On 20 October 2009, on being shelling about 10:00pm, I made the painful decision to ‘go’ to protect my children. That evening, my biggest dream was coming. It started everywhere in the camp, telling the same and asking people who might have seen him, but I could not find him.”²¹

Victims explained that around October 2009, her husband who was always on the move searching for food for the family went missing during an attack incident. “On Thursday 20th and the 21st of October, who were stationed west of the camp, began fighting. Both sides used heavy and anti-aircraft shells landed inside the camp. Many people were killed, the camp

¹⁷ <http://www.icrc.org/eng/pressdocs/2009/09-0001.htm>.

¹⁸ <http://www.icrc.org/eng/pressdocs/2009/09-0002.htm>.

¹⁹ <http://www.icrc.org/eng/pressdocs/2009/09-0003.htm>.

²⁰ ICRC interviews of the witnesses conducted by the Human Rights Division field investigators in the Sudan on 10 October 2009 and 11 April 2010, and on 10 October 2009, conducted in the Sudan context of the conflict Sudanese civil April 2010.

²¹ <http://www.icrc.org/eng/pressdocs/2009/09-0004.htm>.

Interview with a witness on 10 April 2010.

Interview with a witness on 1 April 2010.

was destroyed, and several other women missing including her husband. By now, I don't know whether he is dead or alive!" she said.

Interviewer described, "I felt and remember that to have something from the neighborhood. Suddenly, a bomb fell near our compound. I hid inside a water tank until the shelling stopped. When it returned, my 9 children were gone: the babies, the babies just babies. I searched everywhere, but there was no sign of them. To this day, I wonder if they are alive or dead. The pain of not knowing is with me every single day!"

Under IHL, parties to the conflict have the obligation to prevent people from going missing. This obligation includes ensuring that the wounded, sick, shipwrecked, and dead are accounted for and collected, and that families are appropriately notified.¹⁰ The rule is specific that "the parties to the conflict must take feasible measures to account for persons reported missing as a result of armed conflict and must provide their family members with any information on their fate."¹¹

4. Impact on Children: The Hidden Wounds of War

"One of her daughters now suffers from acute trauma at the sound of an airplane or police enforcement with fear!"

After just days under siege, the city of al-Bukayri in northern Syria's Idlib has become an epicenter of child suffering, with malnutrition, disease, and violence claiming young lives daily. At least 10,000 people – half of them children – have been displaced from al-Bukayri and surrounding areas to government-controlled cities. The city is estimated to have millions, including 500,000 children, remain trapped in dire circumstances, cut off from aid and the world that is outside.¹²

Studies that have collected show the enormous suffering and the extensive and long-lasting impact of the war on children from Idlib. On average, seven children per interview were reported as being directly affected by the conflict, with ages ranging from infants as young as two months old to 17 years.

Interview explained the impact, "I suffer from constant headaches and sometimes, but I don't have the money to see a doctor. And at night, I can't sleep. I think about my missing children every night. My heart never stops hurting. The lost children who are still alive are not receiving property. It breaks my heart more to see those suffer!"

Adding that there are no jobs, income is lost. "My children had been talking to the shelling for so long, worried that it might hit them. Eventually, they lost

¹⁰ Interview with Interviewer 1, June 2020.

¹¹ Interview with Interviewer 10, April 2020.

¹² "Syrian parents and lost families: A distress," <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/20/syrian-parents-and-lost-families-a-distress>, accessed 10 June 2020.

¹³ Interview 10, Interviewer 10, Interviewer 10, Interviewer 10, Interviewer 10, Interviewer 10.

¹⁴ Interview with Interviewer 1, June 2020.

¹⁵ "Child Impact" after 100 days under siege: Children in Idlib are facing the death of their families, from displacement and family violence" 10 August 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/08/10/child-impact-after-100-days-under-siege-children-in-idlib-are-facing-the-death-of-their-families-from-displacement-and-family-violence>.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Interview with Interviewer 10, August 2020.

unconsciously start to look at people in the halls. As soon as the shuffling on all floors passed, I realized there is a pain in the stomach, saying they'd survive. From now, they cry at night because of what they saw. The last hour left them.”¹²

Before we officially started sharing the pain of separation and loss of her husband and 9 of their children when they were leaving, another sister told me a night away from us because, “My son woke up crying, asking for his father and his siblings. I feel helpless. I want the government to help us return to our home and help us find my missing children. I’m an old woman my life is now suffering without my family. Nobody could anything else.”¹³ Another woman, “My children what from hunger and thirst and on the way to Thailand they lost my children, saying, “When these children grow up, they will be fighters fighting with the police force.”¹⁴

After a 40-hour march, we arrived but Singapore airport “after losing everything, we had this blood, sweat on us from crying, and we sat on the ground. My husband also was injured and weak, I was extremely pregnant, and we were carrying our kids toddlers along with 4 of my other children. The border guards of transport and were forced to walk for 40 days, enduring extreme exhaustion, hunger, and fear throughout the journey.”¹⁵

Before a shared love for our young old daughter has been severely affected, “The other often and suffer physically because the treatment was poor and every time, doctors the sounds of an airplane, the police and border guards that I believe that is help her.”¹⁶

She continued to her testimony, “My young daughter 9 years old, has also been affected. Sometimes she asks me, “Mama, do you know the sound of those big machines rightmost whenever the men soldiers carrying weapons on the road. She used to sleep but upon or hear her has away to avoid hearing them. There are signs of mental suffering that continue to affect her daily life.”¹⁷

Another sister, “My 10-year-old daughter developed hearing problems from the last transportation.”¹⁸ Sister also described the impact of separation on her daughter when her leaving hearing problems and how she affects their entire family household.¹⁹

During the transportation, they got lost on the road between Burma and Nepal, enduring the extreme hardships faced by children on the move. The long journey, and severely affected her children, who endured hunger, thirst, and psychological trauma, “There we found a group of BPP or their combat children, they stopped us and said, “We will take your children. These are the children of BPP and, these are the people of the Burma Border Group brought you out. They have both men and children, and the children. After we arrived in Thailand today area, we found a shelter with an house and moved towards Thailand at around 8 p.m. on the way, we found a group of mothers, some in BPP uniforms and others in police. They demanded good treatment good for police. They made us sit under the sun for two hours. The children cried from hunger and thirst. They told us, “We will take you or take your children.” We said, “Don’t us, but don’t take our children.” They said, “You have a small child.” They told us that lost my children, saying, “When these children grow up, they will be fighters fighting with the police force.” They took our children, and after three hours they released us.”²⁰

12 Interview with a woman in Singapore.

¹³ Interview with a woman in Singapore.

¹⁴ Interview with a woman in Kuala Lumpur.

¹⁵ Interview with a woman in Singapore.

¹⁶ Interview with a woman in Kuala Lumpur.

¹⁷ Interview with a woman in Kuala Lumpur.

¹⁸ Interview with a woman in Kuala Lumpur.

¹⁹ Interview with a woman in Kuala Lumpur.

²⁰ Interview with a woman in Kuala Lumpur.

Norfolk is a party to the 1978 Convention on the Rights of the Child¹⁰² and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child¹⁰³ (hereafter, *Articles on the Rights of Children*). In armed conflict, following, “each [party] shall undertake to respect and ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflict which afford the child States additional protect the civilian population in armed conflict and shall take all the feasible measures to ensure the protection and care of children who are affected by armed conflict.”¹⁰⁴

Further, the United States has a long-standing law obligation to the rights of children as outlined in the “Report and International Human Rights Law,” children who are protected from hostilities and are entitled to special respect and protection.¹⁰⁵

This rule applies to all parties to conflict. The United States has both violated the rights of children under the Convention¹⁰⁶ and some of these violations may rise to the level of war crimes.

¹⁰² <https://www.unhcr.org/refugees/article/48c94d62.html>

¹⁰³ <https://www.unhcr.org/refugees/article/48c94d62.html>

5. Recommendations

The findings documented in this report make clear that the people of North Darfur, particularly those in the Fashar, Marouk, el-Gharbi and surrounding areas are being subjected to continuous, widespread, and life-threatening violence. The widespread use of explosive weapons in civilian areas, including internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and residential neighbourhoods, have resulted in mass displacement, trauma and deaths. Humanitarian organizations in this report described living under constant shelling, struggling to access basic services and having fear their lives without any form of protection or access to humanitarian aid.

The ongoing attacks represent serious breaches of international humanitarian law, including violations of the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution. Civilians have been targeted or harmed through indirect attacks, bombardments, landmines, death or injuries. Humanitarian access has been repeatedly obstructed, and essential infrastructure including hospitals, schools, markets and IDP camps has been destroyed or rendered inoperable.

Humanitarian action will not stop the attacks. Without timely, coordinated, and sustained action, the current humanitarian situation will result in irreparable violations with parties, and the cycle of impunity will continue and jeopardize the already humanitarian condition of the people of North Darfur. These recommendations reflect the demands of affected communities' calls for protection, access to humanitarian aid, including food, water and medical services, justice and support support that cannot be ignored.

DNHR therefore calls relevant stakeholders to:

a. To Monitor Parties (Sudan, DRC, and other armed groups)

- Should issue advance warnings before attacks on populated areas in compliance with international humanitarian law.

- Should cease military operations near civilian infrastructure such as IDP camps, hospitals, markets, and schools.

- Should designate and respect humanitarian corridors for aid delivery and safe civilian movement.

- Should grant humanitarian, unconditional humanitarian services access to North Darfur, particularly in Fashar, Marouk, and el-Gharbi.

b. To Regulate and Restrict North (Sudan, DRC and neighbouring States)

- Should establish a North Darfur civilian protection monitoring mechanism co-led by all and third parties to help with delivering humanitarian.

- Should support localised disaster humanitarian efforts in North Darfur independent of national political talks.

- Should enable cross border medical evacuations in partnership with humanitarian.

others.

officials urge both parties to consent to the joint mechanism, prioritizing humanitarian access and civilian protection.

3. To International Accountability and Monitoring Bodies (OHCHR, UNHCR, ICJ)

officials urge human rights monitoring bodies to use publicly available knowledge and ensure any future protection mission includes the documented needs of the ICJ.

officials urge UNHCR and human rights to collaborate with states and to ensure the mechanism, coordination and efforts to document violations as a means to protect civilians for the purpose of future accountability efforts.

officials also should facilitate current relevant evidence for past and future commanders and promote evidence collection, including from refugee testimonies.

4. To Human Rights and Humanitarian Agencies:

officials urge up emergency aid including for food, health, economic, and shelter in North Darfur.

officials prioritize humanitarian and economic support for displaced populations, especially women in Darfur and the ICJ.

officials focus on community-led protection strategies and support female documentation of past crimes such as those groups.

officials maintain action through bodies like UNHCR, OHCHR, and the Special Representative on the Rights to Food to address starvation, missing persons, and child protection in conflict zones.

5. To African Communities on Human and People's Rights:

officials release the report of the current fact-finding mission in Sudan adopted during the 2009th April-Africa Session, 20-21 July 2009.

officials extend the mandate of the fact-finding mission to continue monitoring the situation in Sudan.

officials request a visit to Sudan to document and promote human rights.

Since April 2023, the armed conflict between the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) led by General Abdul Haris Al-Muthari and the Hagat Support Forces (HSF) led by Mohamad Hamdan Hagati, has evolved into a protracted war with devastating consequences for civilians in North Maluku. This report documents extensive patterns of indiscriminate shelling, aerial bombardments, and attacks by both parties, with a focus on El Puhur and surrounding areas including Suesun and the three internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps, where the use of explosive weapons has resulted in mass casualties, displacement, and the destruction of vital civilian infrastructure. Drawing from 33 verified testimonies, authorial evidence including open source, and secondary data from human rights organizations, the findings highlight grave breaches of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL), including violations of the right to life, large-scale destruction of civilian property, and disregard for the principles of distinction, prevention and proportionality.



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