



## Sudan Genocide Emergency

October 2023

Since mid-April 2023, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by General Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti), and the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) commanded by General Abdel-Fattah Burhan have been locked in a murderous power struggle, causing thousands of deaths and displacing over four million people.

RSF and the SAF combatants have [fired indiscriminately](#) in heavily populated civilian areas of Khartoum, [killing at least 9,000 civilians](#). Combatants have [systematically looted and destroyed towns](#) in war-torn areas.

Across Darfur, the Rapid Support Forces have [destroyed at least 27 towns](#) and [looted 57 warehouses and 61 offices](#) of international and humanitarian organizations.

As of October 2023, the conflict has claimed the lives of [at least 435 children and injured more than 2,000](#). Malnutrition and disease have [claimed the lives of more than 1,200 children](#). Both the RSF and the SAF have committed sexual and gender-based violence. Since April, the number of [rape cases reported have risen to 136](#). RSF have been identified as a repeat perpetrator of these attacks. Sudan's Unit for Combating Violence Against Women suggests that the [total number of cases could be as high as 4,400](#).

[More than 1,000 people have been killed by the RSF](#), whose remains were found in mass graves in El-Geneina. Those buried in the mass grave were of the Masalit ethnic group, a non-Arab group that is frequently the target of Arab militias backed by the RSF. According to Human Rights Watch, the RSF [executed 28 Masalit young men in Misterei](#). Such discoveries reveal ethnically motivated violence by the state against non-Arab ethnic groups. These massacres constitute genocide.

Sudan flagrantly violates the Genocide Convention, the Torture Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ([ICCPR](#)).

Both the RSF and the SAF have violated [common Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949](#). The warring parties [deliberately attack civilians, loot and destroy civilian towns, hospitals, and churches, and engage in mass rape](#).

The SAF and the RSF have disregarded fundamental tenets of international humanitarian law by [deliberately targeting non-combatants](#). They make no distinctions between military and civilian targets. These are war crimes.

The distribution of vital humanitarian aid has been [severely hampered](#) by attacks on warehouses, hospitals, and [over 50 healthcare centers](#) which have been forced to close. The warring parties have obstructed delivery of humanitarian aid to those in need, a transgression of international humanitarian law.

### Genocide Watch recommends:

- The U.N. Security Council should apply the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) Principles and authorize a U.N. Peacekeeping Force with a mandate to stop attacks against civilians by the RSF and SAF.
- Both Hemedti and Burhan should be charged and tried for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide at the International Criminal Court.
- The RSF must be defeated and disbanded, and be replaced by a disciplined, multiethnic security force with international oversight and accountability.
- Omar Al-Bashir must be extradited to the ICC to face charges of genocide and crimes against humanity.