



Darfur Advocacy Group
مجموعة مناصرة دارفور

**WE RAN THROUGH
THE CORPSES,
ESCAPING DEATH
ONLY TO FIND IT
WAITING AHEAD**

**A REPORT ON THE SITUATION IN
EL-FASHER, NORTH DARFUR**

Photo by: Ayin Network

INTRODUCTION

Darfur Advocacy Group (DAG) is a youth group bringing together young men and women from all over Darfur, to document the violations and crimes committed in the region. This is with the aim of **promoting advocacy** to ultimately **achieve justice, and accountability**.

This report comes at a critical moment to provide a **comprehensive and clear overview of the genocide that occurred and which remains ongoing in El Fasher**. This is based on direct testimonies from survivors and reliable sources collected from within and around El Fasher between October 26, to 30, 2025.

We, at Darfur Advocacy Group and our colleagues who contributed to the preparation of this report acknowledge that this has been a painful experience because we are speaking with and about our people, friends, and colleagues who have fallen victim to these crimes. Every testimony here carries personal pain, a voice from within the tragedy, and a picture of what happened in a city that was once pulsating with life and hope. It is now a symbol of famine, pain, and genocide.

The team responsible for preparing this report was careful to follow internationally recognized principles of human rights documentation, including informed consent, witness protection, and “Do No Harm” in avoiding re-traumatization. Due to the dangerous security situation, professions and witness identities have been concealed to protect their safety and that of their families.

FROM SLOW DEATH TO GENOCIDE: THE FALL OF EL FASHER INTO THE GRIP OF THE RAPID SUPPORT FORCES

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have imposed a suffocating siege on El Fasher in North Darfur since May 2024. In August 2025, [a report by the Yale Humanitarian Research Lab](#) revealed the existence of more than 31 kilometers of earthen berms surrounding the city since May 2025. This formed a network of “trenches of death” to prevent civilians from fleeing. This siege led to famine, steadily worsening by the day, and the besieged civilians were forced to make harsh choices to survive. Since the beginning of 2025, the exit routes from El Fasher have transformed into treacherous paths teeming with death.

On October 26, 2025, after the RSF announced full control over El Fasher, the city turned into an open graveyard. According to an analysis by the Yale Humanitarian Research Lab, [satellite imagery](#) and videos published by the RSF themselves show evidence of mass killings carried out after the capture of the 6th Infantry Division Headquarters.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) also reported receiving “appalling reports of summary executions and ethnically motivated crimes against civilians” in El Fasher, including those who tried to flee or who were not involved in the fighting. Humanitarian organizations documented multiple house-to-house raids targeting civilians, including women and children, during which many were executed immediately under the pretext of revenge or suspicion of belonging to the Joint Forces allied with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).

Some clips published by the militia itself show RSF fighters celebrating in the squares around the military headquarters after capturing it, while bodies of unarmed civilians appeared lying next to technical vehicles, reinforcing experts’ description of what happened as a systematically executed identity-based extermination.

What happened in El Fasher can only be described as genocide. The systematic ethnic targeting of indigenous African communities, as reported in survivor testimonies and confirmed by experts, embodies a stark pattern of crimes committed by the RSF. The El Fasher massacre is merely an extension of a series of systematic killings that Darfur has witnessed since 2003.

KILLING INSIDE HOSPITALS

Before the fall of El Fasher into the hands of the RSF, hospitals and health facilities were direct targets of aerial attacks carried out by the RSF using drones and heavy artillery, in one of the most serious violations preceding the massacre. According to field reports from humanitarian organizations, the Saudi Hospital was subjected to a series of airstrikes between May and September 2025, which led to the destruction of large parts of its buildings and its partial closure.

After the city fell on October 26, 2025, the RSF stormed the hospitals that were still partially operational, including the Saudi Hospital, Plan Hospital, and El Fasher University (Al-Rashid Dormitory), where the injured and medical staff were executed inside operating rooms. Corridors turned into arenas for the mass killing of patients and the wounded. Survivors and eyewitnesses described the scene as “a termination of the medicine and health sector in Darfur,” as no medical facility has remained functional in the city after the massacre.

SURVIVOR TESTIMONIES FROM THE HOSPITALS

Testimonies from doctors and technicians indicate that the RSF turned hospitals into places of execution where patients, the injured, and even medical staff were killed inside facilities that are supposed to be sanctuaries for treatment. These testimonies

are supported by videos published on accounts affiliated with the RSF itself, showing the execution of unarmed and wounded civilians, accompanied by racist slurs, confirming the systematic nature of these violations.

Testimony No. (1) from a Private Hospital in El Fasher, (the former building of an international organization operating in the area):

“I was working in El Fasher, and we suffered. The biggest disaster was on October 26, and 27. The situation was very bad; we were working in the theater at the [private hospital] building, and suddenly the situation deteriorated; militias entered the city.

On October 27, 2025, we had patients; there were several exploratory surgeries. We left the patients outside, and now I don't know what happened to them. I am sure they will execute them, because they executed more than seven (7) patients in front of me, inside the hospital. Had I not been hidden under the stairs, they would have executed me too.

After that, we managed to get out of [the private hospital building]... and walked towards El Fasher University. Most of the citizens had gone inside. After we entered [the University], the Janjaweed followed and went to the Al-Rashid Dormitory, and there were wounded and injured people there. They executed all of them—women, children, and elderly.

The places for the wounded and injured in El Fasher were more than five (5) sites: the Saudi Hospital, UNDP, Al-Rashid Dormitory, [the private hospital building]... the University, and health centers where there were women about to give birth. A ten-year-old boy they executed before my eyes. By God, this is a great tragedy!

There were many patients in the Saudi Hospital receiving treatment, approximately more than 200 patients, and according to accounts, a large number of them were executed, and even the medical staff who remained in the hospital were executed.”

Testimony No. (2) from the Saudi Hospital, El Fasher:

“On October 27, 2025, the RSF entered the Saudi Hospital from the northern and eastern gates. The hospital had more than one hundred and fifty (150) patients, most of them injured from shelling and stray bullets. A large number of them were executed.

In the maternity ward, there were more than twenty (20) pregnant women and others suffering from bleeding. There were also children suffering from malnutrition and marasmus; I don't know what happened to them. Their fate is unknown.

After that, we managed to leave and go to the University. It was around 8 AM, and the RSF entered the university and headed towards the Al-Rashid Dormitory. There were more than 400 patients; they were all executed.”

FLEEING FROM DEATH INTO THE UNKNOWN: THE ATTEMPT TO SURVIVE EL FASHER

In the aftermath of the Division’s fall on October 26, 2025, the city of El Fasher turned into an open theater for a documented genocide, with audio and video evidence. What occurred was not fighting between two warring forces but a systematic attack targeting unarmed civilians based on their ethnic identity, in a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Within a few hours of the Division’s fall, hundreds of families tried to flee by any means possible, on foot, through destroyed neighborhoods, or among corpses lying in the streets, but escaping death became another battle for survival.

Since then, the road leading to Tawilah has borne witness to one of the most horrific chapters of the tragedy. Every attempt at survival was an open journey against death from which few escaped, amidst corpses, thirst, hunger, and fear. Darfur Advocacy Group and the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) Network have documented dozens of testimonies revealing that what happened were not isolated incidents but a comprehensive campaign of killing, torture, looting, and ethnic targeting carried out by the RSF against civilians fleeing El Fasher. The following are examples of these testimonies, as told by the survivors themselves:

Testimony No. (3)

“On October 27, the Janjaweed entered up to Abu Shouk and Abu Quron; they violated the citizens, executed them in their homes, and looted cars.

Most people were staying in the Daraja Oula neighborhood, and when the shelling became intense, everyone went towards the University to leave for a safe area. The scene was horrific. Then the Janjaweed entered the University, which had shelters for families. The people inside the shelters were executed, all of them women, children, and the elderly.”

Testimony No. (4)

“We left in the morning, at 2 AM... By God, we suffered greatly to reach Tawilah, and on the street we saw unbelievable, terrible things... They were killing people before our eyes... For a person to see what’s happening with their own eyes is something awful. Due to hunger and thirst, some people died... I mean, we left El Fasher fleeing from death only to find it before us.

We saw horror on the street: corpses, arrests, and searches. We were running among the corpses, and every five minutes new people would stop us. I saw women being searched in a horrible way, injured people walking on one leg after, and children who died from bleeding, and we couldn’t help them. Thank God we reached Tawilah, but many people didn’t make it; they were lost and executed on the way.”

Testimony No. (5) (Female Survivor)

“After we left El Fasher, on the way we found people riding in vehicles who stopped us on the street. My little breastfeeding daughter was on my back, and I was carrying my brother on my shoulder, and I myself am injured; my left arm has a cut in the main artery.

I had about 15,000 SDGs and a bag of milk for my little daughter; they took it from me, and I had a bag for the clothes and documents; they [RSF soldiers] burned it, but thank God I managed to get the documents out before they were completely burned.

A little while later, they said every civilian should raise their hand. There was a boy about nine or ten years old; he raised his hand, they shot him, and they executed him on the spot. There were about three (3) women; they whipped them and took them with them, and there was a whole family with us; they captured them and bargained with them; they said they want 150,000 SDGs.”

Testimony No. (6)

“We left on Saturday at 3 AM from El Fasher, at the start of the clash, and we went to Hilat Sheikh and walked ahead. Motor vehicle riders appeared and looted us; they left us nothing. They searched us in a way we had never been through before. They left us nothing, no money, no phones. From there we reached Qurani around 2:30 AM on the 27th. Those Janjaweed found us, they whipped all of us, and I myself was whipped with about five (5) lashes.”

Testimony No. (7)

“We left El Fasher on Sunday, October 26, at 7 PM. Most of us are doctors and nurses. On the way, the streets were full of corpses, and everyone was trying to flee. The RSF were killing anyone they found, civilian or military. My brother was killed in front of me, and my family is still missing. Some people died from thirst and hunger, and some are still on the way between El Fasher and Tawilah. These people know no mercy, not for children nor women, and they kill indiscriminately.

Before we reached Qurani, they captured us; we had the medical staff from the Saudi Hospital and the Police Hospital with us. They searched people and classified them according to their whims; they would call us Falanqayat [useless, slave], search us, and take our belongings. This chaos lasted until we reached Qurani. In Qurani, they held us from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.—they treated us according to their mood. ‘Are you a soldier? Go with the car,’ they would say, and they would search and take them inside Qurani. Some youths were beaten, and their legs were broken because they said they didn’t have cellphones.

Our colleague, a laboratory doctor named Walid Fakhr al-Din, was the first one taken; they blindfolded him and took him away. The young men we were sitting with in the hot sun were then selected and taken inside the city. We don’t know what they did to them; they said Abdul Rahim Daglo would come and give a speech, and after the speech there would be investigations.

God gave us strength, and we endured 24 hours of this suffering, and thank God we managed to bear it. There was also targeting based on ethnicity: if your hair is braided, they consider you from the Joint Forces and target you; even your dialect renders you a target. There were some Zaghawa youths with us, and they were identified from the tone of their voices; they targeted them based on that. Some were beaten on their legs, and some were taken and sent to prisons inside.

By the way, they have a problem with people’s colors too; if your color is light, they think you are from the north of Sudan, and they would ask you, ‘What brought you here?’ One northerner was tortured, beaten, and insulted; they would say to him, ‘Northerner, you have stolen our wealth.’”

Testimony No. (8)

“I am one of the people who managed to leave El Fasher on the 26th heading towards Tawilah. On the way, the RSF intercepted, threatened, and forced us to stop. They gathered us in one place and told us to line up separately according to our tribes. The men whom they recognized as from the Zaghawa tribe were accused of being affiliated with the Joint Forces. They lined them up in one row and executed them in front of our eyes. I will never forget the sound of the gunfire.”

Testimony No. (9)

“After the RSF stormed the University of El Fasher on October 27, 2025, we managed to get out of there and crossed the sidewalk until we were caught in the street. They captured us and took us to Qurani, threatened us, robbed us, and beat us, and if they suspected you were from the SAF or the Joint Forces, they would execute you.

They don’t care if you are a civilian or a soldier; they are just exterminating. In front of me, they executed more than seven unarmed civilians with nothing on them. After we reached Qurani, the RSF began filming videos. They brought us and tied us up so we could be filmed, to show people that they treat them well. They brought water mixed with flour, but the situation there was extremely horrific.

They beat us, humiliated us, tortured us, and directed horrible words towards us. These people treated us very badly, with humiliation, beating, and insults. I and my friend managed to escape, but God protect the people over there.”

An analysis of satellite images and open-source footage showed heavy RSF activity committing mass slaughter, coinciding with video clips later published by the militia on social media.

ORGANIZED LOOTING AND KIDNAPPING

Inside the city, the RSF raided and looted houses in the Daraja Oula neighborhood on the morning of October 27, 2025. Families received calls from militia members demanding amounts up to 5,000,000 SDGs for the release of women and children.

Testimony No. (10)

“On the 27th, we were sitting at home in the Daraja Oula neighborhood when they raided our house, killing my uncle in front of us. They then started asking us what we were doing there; we told them our grandmother was sick and couldn’t walk, and that’s why we stayed. They entered and looted the entire house and took my cellphone. They left, and after two minutes, another group came in and cursed us with terrible words. When they didn’t find anything, they took us all and threatened us with weapons—I and my younger brothers and my grandmother—and took us to the open area next to the UNICEF organization. There, they gathered many of us. The old and young men, most of them, they executed. They would say, ‘Anyone who remembers the phone number of his family, come forward to call them, you useless,’ and if they didn’t pay up, you will all die right here. They even killed children ... They demanded that each of us pay 5,000,000 SDGs.”

In a video broadcast, a civilian named Najm al-Din Ali Ezzu, one of the survivors from El Fasher while trying to flee to Tawila, was seen speaking in a shaky voice under threat of gunfire, surrounded by several armed RSF members. In the video, Najm al-Din said:

“I left El Fasher heading to Tawilah, and I was captured on my way. Now there are also young people with us who were captured but released. The ones whose families sent money were released, and those whose families didn’t were executed. I address my mother and sisters and brothers and all my relatives in general: the crucial thing is that this message reaches you all. I was captured, and they want an amount of 15,000; if you transfer it, God willing, they will release me and I will arrive in safety, but if you fail to transfer the money, they will kill me. Rania and Rufaida, this message should reach you, God willing.”

WOMEN IN THE CROSSHAIRS OF CONFLICT-RELATED VIOLENCE

Women and girls in El Fasher are at the heart of the targeting circle. The violence they experienced was not merely collateral damage of war but a **central element in a strategy of mass killing, terrorism, and looting directed against indigenous African components.**

Testimony No. (11)

“For women, girls, and children, there is no refuge but God. These people do not have mercy for a child, a woman, or an elderly person. The humiliation faced by the girls is indescribable. Searches in sensitive areas. These people do not know any redlines. Many girls were taken; they selected girls from the lines and took them away in trucks. A car of the RSF would come, and they would choose some girls and take them away; then another group would come in and commit the same crimes.”

Testimony No. (12) (Female Survivor)

“By God, the street was filled with corpses; we women were searched completely with weapons pointed at us, and they harassed us, and a large number of girls were taken before our eyes.”

Testimony No. (13) (Female Survivor)

“As soon as we left El Fasher, we walked a long distance; we were a large group, and the RSF found us with their vehicles; they searched us and took our cellphones, the money, and everything. We, the young men and young women, were kidnapped and taken to a place called Torra, where they put us in a room. We were about 19 girls and about 40 boys; they demanded 2 million from each person. If there were three siblings, they would demand 4.5 million. We were released after 3 days, and it was severe agony.”

Testimony No. (14) (Female Survivor)

“By God, they beat us and took our clothes and killed our relatives in front of us; we faced extreme humiliation, but what can we say? Thank God.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the field testimonies and analysis contained in this report, which proves that what happened in El Fasher constitutes **genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity** based on clear ethnic grounds, we call for the following:

1. The United Nations, its Security Council and the African Union must act to ensure an immediate ceasefire, intervening under their powers (Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and Article 4(h) of the African Union Constitutive Act respectively) to deploy a robust international peacekeeping force with a strong mandate to protect civilians and stop the ongoing genocide.
2. Unimpeded humanitarian access to El Fasher and North Darfur must be allowed, ensuring the flow of food, medicine, water, and healthcare, including sexual reproductive health services and psychological support, in response to the humanitarian crisis that has reached disaster levels.
3. The international community must implement a comprehensive ban on arms supplies to the warring parties and open an investigation into the involvement of regional states in financing or arming the RSF, in gross violation of the Security Council resolutions related to Darfur.
4. A special international mechanism must be established to document and support survivors of violence in Darfur, including sexual violence, and provide safe medical and psychological centers, ensuring the participation of women in justice and accountability efforts. The use of rape as a weapon of war must be treated as a war crime that does not become statute-barred on the basis of time prescription.

CONCLUSION

What happened in El Fasher is, by all standards, a genocide, and if the world does not act now, Darfur will witness a new chapter no less brutal than what the International Criminal Court documented two decades ago.

We, Darfur Advocacy Group (DAG), declare this appeal on behalf of those who have lost their voices: the raped women, the terrified children, and the survivors who escaped with only their bodies, leaving their souls at the scene of the crime.

Justice is not a request but an urgent humanitarian duty. The issue of Darfur is not being presented to the international community for the first time; it was raised more than twenty years ago, when the United Nations Security Council referred the situation in the region to the International Criminal Court in 2005, and the latter brought charges against a number of criminals for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and sexual violence.

On March 29, 2005, the Security Council issued Resolution 1591 imposing an arms embargo on the Darfur region, and this embargo was renewed on September 12, 2024, under Resolution 2683.

Despite these resolutions, the region remained a hotbed for militarization, smuggling, and the systematic arming of militias, without the international community moving to take serious steps towards justice and accountability.

The decision to terminate the hybrid UN-AU Mission (UNAMID) at the end of 2020 is one of the most reckless decisions in the history of the United Nations in Sudan. It stood as the only guarantor of civilian safety in the region and was withdrawn, widely opening the door for militias to violate cities, villages, camps and commit crimes with impunity.

This led to an escalation of violence in Darfur and the subsequent spread of the conflict to all parts of Sudan, making civilians, especially women and children, victims of short-sighted international decisions.

Moreover, the international community's disregard for the issue of justice and accountability for the perpetrators of crimes in Darfur remains a stain on the conscience of the international system, as the people of the region see the same criminals moving between political positions and being celebrated as leaders instead of being brought before international justice. This bitter reality has made survivors feel that the blood of the victims is being bartered for political interests and that the world's silence is unspoken participation in the crime.

The voice of Darfur today does not ask for pity but for justice. Unless this file is reopened with genuine resolve, history will record that the world witnessed the genocide repeat itself and chose to remain silent.

