

CIVILIANS ARE BEARING THE BRUNT OF THE CONFLICT: VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SUDAN CONFLICT



**SAAN Panel Discussion Presentation by Sally Khalil at the
Australian Parliament in Canberra**

BACKGROUND OF THE SUDAN CONFLICT

On Dec 2018 civilian uprising and resistance from millions Sudanese people, most of them Youth and women. They flooded the streets of Khartoum and most of the cities in Sudan with peaceful demonstrations, calling for the Freedom, Peace and Justice and civilian led government.

On April 11, 2019, following that Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) known as Janjawed overthrew President Omar al-Bashir, resulting in a shared Military civilian transitional government led by Abdalla Hamdok as Prime Minister; however, subsequent political uncertainty contributed to heightened humanitarian, protection, and security concerns.





Yasuyoshi Chiba/AFP

Following political unrest, the military coup took over the transitional government on October 25, 2021, arresting civilian leadership and sparking widespread ongoing protests and several “rallies of the millions” continued with determination and shrewd coordination calling for the return of the civilian government.

The tensions that had been brewing between General Abdel Fatah Al-Burhan, commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and General Hemedti Dagalo, commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) eventually erupted into armed conflict in Sudan on 15th April 2023.

The conflict has since continued to escalate, advancing to several states in Sudan. The fact that military headquarters/bases are located within civilians' neighborhoods has made them vulnerable to attacks by the opposing parties. Unfortunately, IDP camps have constantly been targeted significantly narrowing the safe areas for civilians



SITUATION AT A GLANCE

14,790

Deaths Caused by
Ongoing Conflict
Since April 15, 2023

ACLED – March 2024

24.8
MILLION

People in Need
of Humanitarian
Assistance

UN – December 2023

6.5
MILLION

People Internally
Displaced Since
April 15, 2023

IOM – March 2024

1.2
MILLION

Sudanese Refugees and
Asylum-Seekers
Displaced From Sudan
Since April 15, 2023

UNHCR – March 2024

484,143

Refugee Returnees
Displaced From Sudan
Since April 15, 2023

UNHCR – March 2024

DISPLACEMENT CRISES

Sudan is facing one of the fastest unfolding crises globally. About **25 million** people – of whom over **14 million** are children – need humanitarian assistance and support.

More than **8.1 million people** – about **15 per cent** of the total population of the country – have fled their homes since the conflict started. They have sought refuge within Sudan or in neighbouring countries, making Sudan the largest displacement crisis in the world. With every second person in Sudan in need of humanitarian assistance.

More than 6.3 million people displaced within Sudan and 1.8 million fled the country. Out of the 1.8 million that fled the country more than 1.65 million people have sought refuge in the neighbouring countries of Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan according to the UNHCR.



HEALTH SYSTEM CRISES

- An estimated 70 per cent of health facilities in states affected by conflict are not working, and the remaining ones are overwhelmed by the influx of people seeking assistance., leaving millions of people without access to health care. The warring parties are obstructing urgent medical care for terminally ill patients and injured civilians. They are targeting health facilities, and adversely affecting the availability of necessities, including water, electricity, and life-saving medicines.
- Since the fighting broke out, ACLED has recorded about 13,900 reported fatalities across Sudan. Meanwhile, the Sudan Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) reports that about 27,700 people were injured.
- Disease outbreaks are increasing in the face of disruptions of basic public health services. Close to 10,750 suspected cholera cases including 296 associated deaths. WHO
- Access, insecurity and lack of supplies are affecting health facilities run by humanitarian agencies, with one in every 11 health facilities not functioning



HUMANITARIAN CRISES

- Devastating conflict and organized violence, coupled with the continued economic decline, have driven about **17.7 million** people across Sudan into high levels of acute food insecurity and **4.9 million in emergency levels**. Currently, only one in ten people in emergency levels of hunger are in areas where they can receive assistance due to access constraints and ongoing fighting. **WFP issued a statement calling for unfettered humanitarian access to support people who are in the highest levels of hunger and trapped in conflict hotspots.**
- WFP warned. The expansion of fighting in December 2023 between the SAF and the RSF into parts of central and eastern Sudan—the country’s most important regions for crop production—has driven a significant increase in humanitarian needs during the harvesting season



CHILDREN IN CRISES

Sudan continues to be the world's largest child displacement crisis, with 4 million children displaced – 13,000 children every single day for 300 days.

The malnutrition situation across the country is alarming. Widespread malnutrition and a shattered health system threaten to kill far more children than the armed conflict itself - with 17.7 million people acutely food insecure across the country. 19 million school-aged children still remain out of school.



WOMEN IN CRISES

- Since violence erupted in April, almost 70 percent of health facilities in areas affected and forced to close, leaving women with little access to contraception or maternal health care. This includes the estimated 1.12 million women across the country who are currently pregnant.
- Protection services have also broken putting more than 4 million women and girls – at risk of gender-based violence.
- Reported incidents of gang rape and incidents of other forms of sexual violence including abduction and trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- Women and girls who had been raped in the first months of war are now delivering babies – some of whom have been abandoned to the care of hospital staff, who have built a nursery near the delivery !!.



BLOCKING OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Various challenges - insecurity, looting, bureaucratic impediments, poor network and phone connectivity, lack of cash, and limited technical and humanitarian staff on the ground – have been affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance in many parts of the country.

Fuel shortages also affect the movement of humanitarian staff and supplies and the generation of power needed for operations (maintaining cold chain storage, supplying water, etc).



LIVELIHOODS CRISES

Livelihoods decimated, economy to shrink by 18.3 per cent in 2024

The conflict is devastating the livelihoods of millions of people in Sudan. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects that Sudan's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is likely to reduce by **18.3** per cent in 2024. According to the World Bank, the economy contracted by **12** per cent in 2023 as the conflict has halted production and destroyed human capital and state capacity.

The armed conflict has damaged the country's industrial base, education, and health facilities. It has also led to a collapse in economic activity – including commerce, financial, and information and communications technology services – and the erosion of state capacity, with detrimental impacts on food security and forced displacement.



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Both SAF and RSF have been accused of participating in and perpetuating human rights violations against civilians. The violations range from extrajudicial killings to enforced disappearance, sexual violence against women and girls to the use of child soldiers, arbitrary arrests to incommunicado detention of civilians based on their ethnicity especially in Darfur or political affiliation. Those most affected are; political activists, human rights defenders, resistance committee members, civil activists, and other professionals among others.



TARGETING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND ANTI-WAR CIVIL ACTIVISTS

From 1 December 2023 to 17 January 2024, 14 incidents affecting humanitarian operations were reported, of which 35.7 per cent were the result of violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities; 28.6 per cent were the result of operational interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities; and 35.7 per cent constituted bureaucratic impediments. There were several reported cases of looting of humanitarian assets. At least 20 humanitarian workers have been killed and 33 injured since the start of the conflict.



THE URGES OF THE SUDANESE

Use all diplomatic channels available to support the international community's efforts to put more pressure on the parties to the conflict to a ceasefire and to restore Democratic Civil Transition government and hold both parties accountable for atrocities, war crimes and crimes against humanity.



THE URGES OF THE SUDANESE

- Use all diplomatic channels available to support in opening humanitarian corridors to allow access to relief/aid to the Sudanese people in far-to reach areas, war zones, and areas that have been cut off from the rest of the country by the use of emergency decrees that restrict their movements.
- Massive mobilization of resources so that humanitarian partners can get the supplies and capacity on the ground, in time, to limit the impending humanitarian catastrophe that we are seeing both within Sudan and in countries where refugees are seeking safety, to ensure basic needs are met.

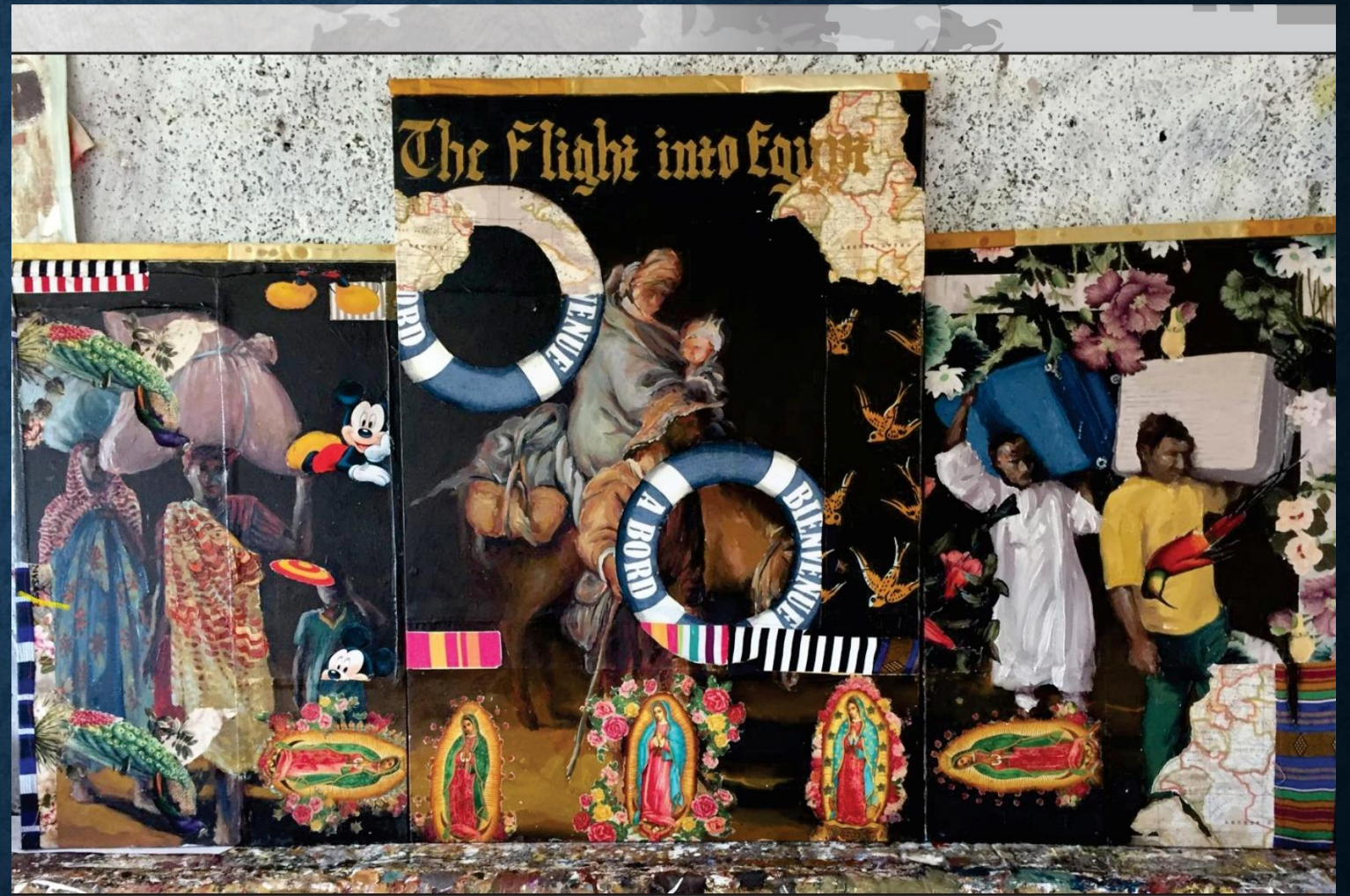


أيام الحرب
WarDays

ساري أحمد عوض
Sari Ahmed Awad



Create a safe corridor for those wishing to travel out of Khartoum and other affected areas (including Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Northern State) to Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Egypt, and South Sudan.



أيام الحرب
WarDays

حسن موسى
Hassan Musa



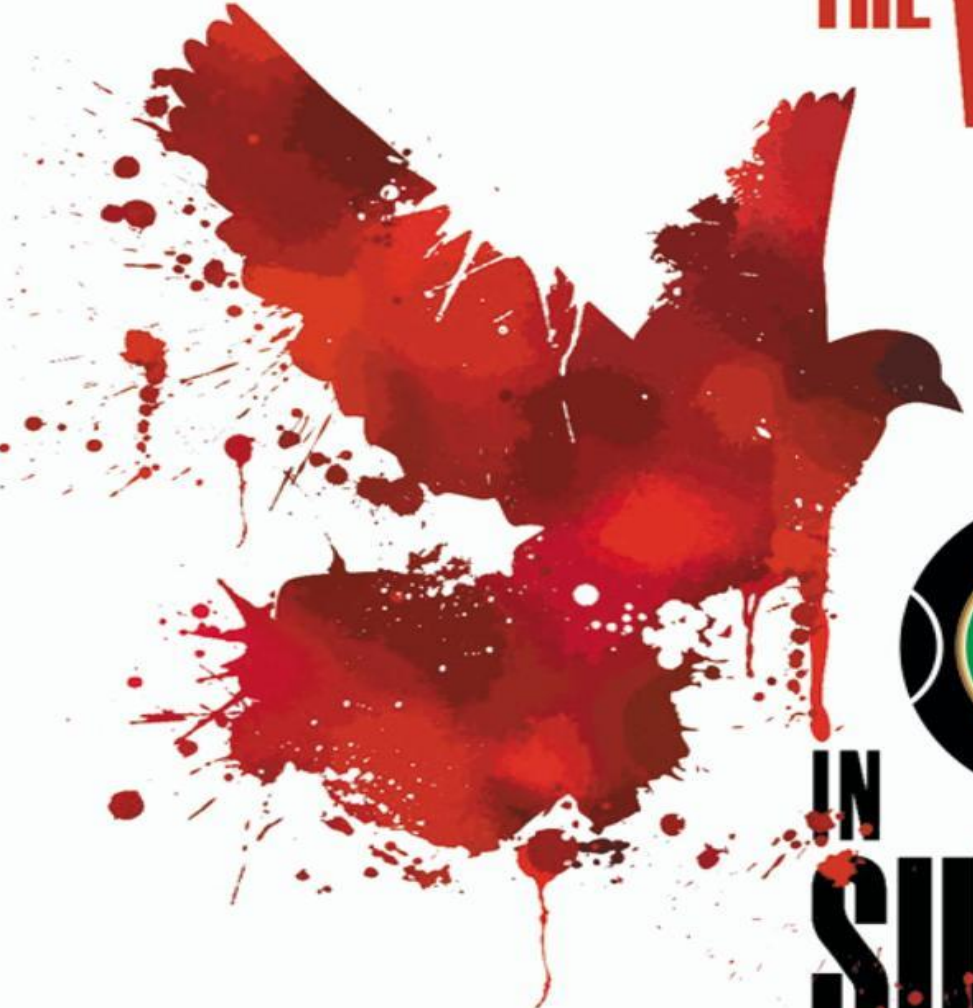
THE URGES OF THE SUDANESE

- Provide an immediate guarantee that anyone from Sudan who is currently in Australia can remain, with a clear process established for Sudanese nationals on temporary, bridging and visitor visas to extend their stay.
- Allow with clear process Sudanese nationals who have previously had asylum claims rejected to reapply in light of the changed circumstances in Sudan.
- Establish priority processing of visas for Sudanese nationals to enable timely exits to safety. This includes pending Family, Skilled, Refugee and Humanitarian visas as well as visitor visas.
- Processing of temporary visas should allow a clear pathway to a permanent visa, an consideration must be given to ensure visa-holders have access to rights on arrival (education for children, access to Medicare, and waiver of waiting periods for social security) as there is no indication that Sudan's crisis will be resolved soon.

THE URGES OF THE SUDANESE

- To review and shorten current protection visa processing time ranging between 5 to 7 years which puts Sudanese Asylum seekers under significant pressure with uncertainty and inability to establish decent lives. Though able to study and work, deprived from all social, medical, and financial services available for permanent visa holders. Temporary visa holders deprived from reunion with their families which significantly affects their mental health.
- Prioritise processing of on-hand Refugee and Humanitarian visas for refugees currently residing in Sudan and those of Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries.
- Include Sudanese nationals as a priority group in the Refugee and Humanitarian Program to enable fast processing of those with most urgent needs. This includes working with UNHCR to issue emergency visas for people fleeing the recent fighting and at greatest risk.
- Abolish the eligibility criteria for the Community Support Program to ensure that Sudanese nationals and refugees of other nationalities currently in Sudan have full access, in line with the Government's commitment to a non-discriminatory Refugee and Humanitarian Program.

STOP
THE WAR



IN
SUDAN



SUDAN
NO MORE WAR
NO MORE KILLING