

Call for input: African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Hybrid Joint Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on Sudan

Submission by CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide) and CSW-Nigeria

Introduction

1. CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide) is an international human rights organisation specialising in the right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB). CSW Nigeria is an advocacy organization that works to promote freedom of religion or belief and to assist victims of violence in Nigeria. This submission seeks to bring the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Hybrid Joint Fact-Finding Mission (FFM)'s attention to the ongoing situation of human rights in Sudan, including the right to FoRB and reports of sexual and gender-based violence.

The toll of the conflict on civilians

2. The ongoing conflict in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF, formerly the Janjaweed militia) continues to have a devastating impact on human rights. Sudan's civilians continue to bear the brunt of violence. Since 15 April 2023, an estimated 12 million Sudanese have been forcibly displaced, resulting in a large-scale humanitarian crisis, including over eight million internally displaced persons.¹
3. There has been an internet and communications shutdown since 2 February 2024 after the RSF reportedly seized control of internet service providers' data centres in Khartoum. In recent years, internet blackouts have been used to conceal gross human rights violations, such as the June 3 massacre in 2019. In addition to preventing Sudanese people from communicating with the world, the shutdown is seriously hampering humanitarian efforts within the country, as local and international organisations cannot communicate effectively. The conflict has already resulted in the highest level of internal displacement in the world.
4. Consistent reports emerge of medical facilities being targeted by both warring parties in violation of international humanitarian law. Attacks on medical personnel, and shortages of food, water and essential medications are equally concerning.
5. In residential areas, civilians remain in grave danger due to aerial bombardment and home invasions by armed men seeking to use rooftops of residential properties as vantage points who also loot extensively. Severe violations have been reported in cities in Central, North, South and West Darfur, Khartoum, Northern State, and

North Kordofan State, including sexual violence against women and girls, the forcible recruitment of civilians, including children, and arrests and false accusations targeting volunteers from Resistance Committees, who maintain a neutral stance while organising logistical support for medical services for all who are injured.

6. Members of resistance committees, journalists, lawyers, and opposition politicians are particularly likely to experience detention, monitoring or targeting.
7. The conflict has extended across the entire country, with tensions flaring in Khartoum and Omdurman as the SAF attempts to regain control of neighbourhoods taken by the RSF. The conflict has also affected parts of South Kordofan and Gezira state.
8. The RSF has expanded its military operations in Gezira State, which is currently home to thousands of IDPs. As in other states occupied by the RSF, there have been reports of serious human rights violations, including the killing of civilians, attacks on hospitals, and the looting of homes.

Cases of concern

9. In March 2024, the SAF dropped four bombs on El Hadra village in the Nuba Mountains, South Kordofan, which fell on the primary school, killing 14 people, most of them children, and causing the displacement of over 100 civilians.
10. The RSF is implicated in the targeted killing of journalist Muawiya Abdel Razek and three members of his family on 4 June 2024 in Khartoum. The paramilitary group had previously detained him.
11. A group of 26 men, the majority of whom are Christians, were arbitrarily arrested by the SAF Military Intelligence unit in Shendi, River Nile State.² Six were detained on 6 October 2024; on 10 October 2024 a further 10 were detained, and on 11 October 2024 another 10 were detained. Military intelligence officers harassed, interrogated and finally detained the men, accusing them of being affiliated with the RSF. An eyewitness told CSW that all of the men were harassed and physically assaulted in front of their families. At the time of the arrests, the officers separated the men, women and children, and all males over the age of 18 were detained. Over the weekend of 12-13 October 2024, 14 of the men were released. However, twelve remained in detention for a further two weeks. Those detained were not allowed visits from family members or from their lawyers, and were not formally charged with any crimes. They were held by the Almudada Unit of Military Intelligence, a notorious unit known to use torture and other forms of violence on detainees. It is reported that the men were released after being forced

1 UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Operational Data Portal: Sudan situation [Accessed 28 January 2025] <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation>

2 CSW, 'Christians arrested after fleeing conflict, others report being pressured to convert', 14 October 2024, <https://www.csw.org.uk/2024/10/14/press/6331/article.htm>

to sign false confessions, but are subject to monitoring by the Military Intelligence.

12. Most of the detained men are members of the Sudanese Church of Christ (SCOC) in Al Ezba, Khartoum North, and were forced to flee as fighting between the SAF and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) intensified in the city. They were among 100 SCOC members who fled to Shendi in October. The men had travelled to Shendi with their families; the group included at least 25 women and 54 children, who now face a dire humanitarian situation, having been obliged to stay in the SCOC church building in Shendi, which is overcrowded and is not designed to host displaced persons. The entire group are members of the Moro Nuban tribe in South Kordofan State. While the majority of those detained are Christian, at least one detainee is a Muslim. The SCOC is a predominantly Nuba denomination which has experienced both religious and ethnic discrimination.³
13. CSW is concerned by a rise in ethnically motivated attacks on civilians following the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) takeover of Wad Madani, the capital of Sudan's Gezira State.⁴ It was initially hoped that the SAF takeover would bring some reprieve to civilians who had suffered over a year of severe human rights violations at the hands of the RSF, who captured the city in December 2023. However, the SAF and its affiliated extremist militias, in particular the Al Bra'a Ibn Malik Brigade, have been committing similar violations.⁵
14. Ethnically motivated attacks targeting Kanabi, Gezira - a camp predominantly occupied by people from Darfur, the Nuba Mountains and South Sudanese nationals - have resulted in at least 21 deaths and the forced displacement of thousands. Videos have emerged⁶ showing extrajudicial killings of suspected RSF members and civilians who were allegedly affiliated with them, including one in which an individual is thrown into the Nile and then shot. Other videos depict torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, including of women. CSW sources report that these attacks have been incited by Islamist extremist preachers who have encouraged the SAF to leave no captives alive.

Recommendations:

15. **Urge both the Sudan Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces to agree to an immediate ceasefire and engage in peace negotiations.**
16. **Strongly condemn all attacks on civilians and the targeting of human rights defenders, medical personnel, humanitarian and religious workers, hospitals, places of worship, and gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian law which may constitute war crimes, warning perpetrators that they will not go unpunished.**
17. **Work to facilitate humanitarian access to enable supplies of food, water, medical and other essentials to reach those in need, and to allow for the departure of those needing or desiring evacuation from severely affected areas.**
18. **Respond to people fleeing the violence in accordance with the stipulations of the UN Refugee Conventions, encouraging neighbouring states to respect the African Refugee Convention and embrace the spirit of Pan-Africanism with regard to protection, provision and non-refoulement, and to seek additional assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Red Crescent or Red Cross if needed.**
19. **Take measures to support a democratic and inclusive transition that centres the voices of women, youth and historically marginalised communities.**
20. **Support investigations into war crimes and crimes against humanity, and advocate for prosecutions through the UN, ICC and universal jurisdiction.**
21. **Advocate for and initiate targeted sanctions on perpetrators of gross human rights violations including military leaders, for a comprehensive arms embargo covering all parties to the conflict, and for further sanctions for countries which continue supplying arms to the warring parties.**

FoRB Violations

22. Christians are a particularly vulnerable minority community. There have been reports of the arrest and detention by the SAF of Christians who have fled from RSF controlled areas. In RSF controlled areas Christians report being forcibly converted, induced to convert in order to receive vital humanitarian assistance and security, or detained if they attempt to flee.
23. For example, Christians living in Al Thora Mobe village, a suburb of Wad Madani, Gezira State, report being forced to convert to Islam by the RSF, which controls the area. A reliable source informed CSW that the village is in an area with little to no infrastructure which has been home to Christians who fled the war in Nuba Mountains in 2011, and which has five churches and two Christian schools.
24. Al Thora Mobe village has been under RSF control since December 2023. The CSW source said: 'We live

3 FoRB in Full, 'The impact of Sudan's identity war on freedom of religion or belief', 29 July 2016, <https://forbinfull.org/2016/07/29/the-impact-of-sudans-identity-war-on-freedom-of-religion-or-belief/>

4 Reuters, 'Celebrations in Sudan's Wad Madani as army takes over strategic city', 13 January 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/celebrations-sudans-wad-madani-army-takes-over-strategic-city-2025-01-13/>

5 Ayin Network, 'The Al-Bara Ibn Malik Brigade: a lifeline to the army or a lifelong challenge', 14 June 2024, <https://3ayin.com/en/sudans-state-supported-smugglers-12/>

6 Washington Post, 'Sudan's military recaptured a city, Bodies soon filled the streets', 18 January 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2025/01/18/sudan-war-rsf-burhan-wad-madani/>

under miserable conditions and lack all basic needs', explaining that it is also dangerous to flee, as the RSF has surrounded the village and accuses anyone who tries to leave the area of being affiliated with the SAF. However, those who do escape areas under RSF control risk being arrested by military intelligence and detained like the SCOC members held in Shendi.

25. CSW is also concerned by the deliberate targeting of places of worship by both parties to the conflict, in violation of both domestic and international law, and, in the context of conflict, international humanitarian law. Such attacks may also constitute a war crime, especially when these premises are being used to meet the critical rise in humanitarian needs generated by the conflict.
26. Mosques have been attacked, including reports of the bombings of mosques in the Alazhari and Burri Al Daraisa areas of Khartoum. Churches have also been deliberately targeted or used as bases during military offensives since the conflict erupted in April 2023. Such violations are consistent with actions taken by leaders of both the SAF and RSF following their joint coup in October 2021, which was marked by the clawing back of limited democratic gains; the return to prominence of Islamists from the al Bashir era; an emboldening of extremist non-state actors amid growing impunity; and the repression and violations of FoRB across the country, including harassment, arrests and prosecutions of converts - despite apostasy no longer being a crime under the law - and seizures and demolitions of church owned properties.

General recommendations to address FoRB violations

27. **Strongly condemn attacks on civilians, including religious leaders, and carry out investigations into such abuses, ensuring those responsible are held to account.**
28. **Support investigations into the destruction of places of worship and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.**
29. **Urge SAF to cease the arrest and detention of Christians who have fled from RSF controlled areas.**
30. **Urge the RSF to cease the arrest, detention or forced conversion of Christians in areas it controls.**
31. **Call on both parties to the conflict to cease occupying places of worship during military offensives and to return confiscated places of worship to their rightful communities.**

Attacks on Christian places of worship

32. On 17 April 2023 the Anglican Cathedral in central Khartoum was seized as a military base by suspected RSF fighters, who damaged six cars, and forced 42 people who were sheltering there, and who included

the Archbishop and his family, to leave the building after physically assaulting several of them. In Bahri, Khartoum North, the Evangelical Church was bombed and partially burned.⁷

Recommendations:

33. **The return of the Anglican Cathedral to its leaders and religious community.**
34. **Payment of compensation to the Anglican Church for property that was looted, including cars.**
35. **At the appropriate time after the war, the payment of compensation for the damage caused by RSF fighters to allow the church to rebuild and repair.**
36. **The attack on the Anglican Cathedral must be recorded as a violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law by any accountability mechanism established at the end of the war.**
37. **Holding RSF leadership and fighters to account for the violations committed in this place of worship.**
38. The RSF forcibly removed all priests, including His Grace Bishop Elia, the Bishop of Khartoum and South Sudan, from St. Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church on Nile Street in Khartoum on 14 May 2023 in order to use the premises as a military base. The RSF had reportedly been intimidating and harassing those in the church for a week before forcing them to leave. A similar incident was reported on 3 May 2023, when the Coptic Church in Khartoum North (Bahri) was attacked.

Recommendations:

39. **The return of St. Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church in Khartoum to the Orthodox church.**
40. **Financial compensation for the religious leaders who were ill-treatment, and for damage to the church building.**
41. **The attack on the Coptic Orthodox Church and its' leaders must be recorded as a violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law, and perpetrators held to account in any domestic, regional or international accountability mechanism established at the end of the war.**
42. **In addition to compensation, ensure that the church is permitted to repair the place of worship and any associated properties without requirements for any additional permits to make appropriate repairs.**
43. CSW sources report six gunmen attacked the Al-Masalma Coptic Church in Omdurman on 13 May 2023. The

⁷ CSW, 'CSW calls for continued international scrutiny once foreign nationals are evacuated', 27 April 2023, <https://www.csw.org.uk/2023/04/27/press/5992/article.htm>

gunmen drove to the church in a car and shot four men, including a priest named Arsenius, and his son. They also stabbed the church guard before looting the building for two hours. All five victims received treatment at a private hospital and have since recovered; however, they were unable to access the largest hospital in the area as it was under the control the RSF, and its electricity had been cut off by the SAF.

Recommendations:

- 44. Criminal proceedings should be filed against the perpetrators of this attack.**
 - 45. Financial compensation must be paid for the looting and any damage to the church building and that repairs will be permitted without the requirement of additional legal documentation to the state.**
 - 46. Ensure the attack on the Al-Masalam Coptic Church and its leaders is documented as a violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law and perpetrators held to account in any domestic, regional or international accountability mechanism established at the end of the war.**
47. On 1 November 2023 the SAF shelled and destroyed the largest church in Omdurman, which was used by both the Episcopal and Evangelical denominations. The church was built in the early 1900s and was the second oldest church in Omdurman, after the Coptic Church. Most of the buildings registered to the Evangelical Church in the surrounding area had been confiscated under the rule of Omar al-Bashir, and the shelling took place approximately three weeks after similar bombings of the Evangelical Commercial School and the Evangelical Secondary School, both in Omdurman.

Recommendations:

- 48. Financial compensation for the looting and any damage to church buildings belonging to the Episcopal Church in Omdurman, the Evangelical Commercial School and the Evangelical Secondary School.**
- 49. Guarantees by the State that all repairs to places of worship and properties owned by religious or belief communities damaged during the war will be permitted.**
- 50. The attacks on these churches and church-owned buildings to be documented as violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law and perpetrators held to account in any domestic, regional or international**

accountability mechanism established at the end of the war.

51. On 3 November 2023, Mariam Home, a building belonging to the Comboni Catholic missionary order in Khartoum El-Shajara, was bombed, leaving five nuns and several children injured.⁸
52. On 10 December 2023, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) attempted to evacuate more than one hundred civilians who sheltered in Mariam home, but their humanitarian convoy was attacked by the SAF despite receiving permission from parties to the conflict to proceed with the evacuation.⁹ Two Red Cross staff were killed, and several others were injured.

Recommendations:

- 53. Criminal proceedings to bring the perpetrators of attacks on humanitarian workers, nuns and children to justice.**
 - 54. Financial compensation for looting and any damage to the church and associated buildings.**
 - 55. Guarantees by the State that all repairs to places of worship and properties owned by religious or belief communities damaged during the war will be permitted.**
56. The attacks on these churches and church-owned buildings to be recorded as a violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law and perpetrators held to account in any domestic, regional or international accountability mechanism established at the end of the war.
57. On 16 December 2023 members of the RSF attacked a Coptic monastery in Wad Madani, Gezira State, and began using it as a military base.¹⁰

Recommendations:

- 58. Financial compensation for the looting and any damage to the church and associated buildings.**
 - 59. Guarantees by the State that all repairs to places of worship and properties owned by religious or belief communities damaged during the war will be permitted.**
 - 60. The abuse of places of worship for military purposes to be recognised and documented as a violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law and perpetrators held to account in any post-war domestic, regional or international accountability mechanism.**
61. On 12 January 2024 the Evangelical Church in Wad Madani was set on fire by RSF members. The church

8 CSW, 'Sudanese Armed Forces bomb church and properties in Omdurman and Khartoum El-Shajara', 6 November 2023 <https://www.csw.org.uk/2023/11/06/press/6116/article.htm>

9 ICRC, 'ICRC Deplores Deliberate and Deadly Attack on its Humanitarian Convoy', 10 December 2023 <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/sudan-icrc-deplores-deliberate-and-deadly-attack-its-humanitarian-convoy-khartoum>

10 CSW, 'Rapid Support Forces attack and occupy Coptic monastery in Wad Madani', 19 December 2023 <https://www.csw.org.uk/2023/12/19/press/6134/article.htm>

is the biggest in Gezira State, and one of the oldest, having been built in 1939. It is considered a high value target and is next door to an evangelical school that the previous regime attempted to seize.¹¹ Seven days later, the Greek Orthodox Church in the same area was also set on fire.

Recommendations:

62. *Criminal proceedings established to bring perpetrators of these arson attacks to justice.*
 63. *Financial compensation for all damage to the Evangelical and Greek Orthodox churches in Wad Madani and any of their associated properties.*
 64. *Guarantees by the State that all repairs to places of worship and properties owned by religious or belief communities damaged during the war will be permitted.*
 65. *The attacks on these churches and church-owned buildings to be recorded as violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law, with perpetrators held to account in any post-war domestic, regional or international accountability mechanism.*
66. On 20 December 2024, a SAF airstrike hit Al Ezba Baptist Church, including the church's nursery and residential buildings in Khartoum North. The airstrike killed 11 people including eight children due to nursery being open at the time of the attack. The church had been targeted previously in 2015 when 12 women were charged with public order offences of indecent dress.

Recommendations:

67. *Compensation for the damage to the church and nursery, and guarantees by the State that repairs to places of worship and properties owned by religious or belief communities war will be permitted.*
 68. *Compensation to be paid to families for the deaths of loved ones*
 69. *The attack on and deaths in Al Ezba Baptist Church and nursery to be recorded as gross violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law and perpetrators held to account in any domestic, regional or international accountability mechanism established.*
70. On 30 December 2024, the RSF attacked a church belonging to the Sudanese Church of Christ (SCOC) in Al Hasaheisa, Gezira State, during a Christmas prayer service. CSW sources report that RSF soldiers looted the church, then forced the 177 Christians who had gathered there to leave. At least 14 people, including women and children, were assaulted and injured during the attack, and the soldiers threatened to kill all Christians in the

area. Christians have not returned to the church since the attack and are unsure of when they will be able to do so safely.

Recommendations:

71. *Criminal proceedings to bring perpetrators of these assaults, threats and looting to justice.*
72. *Financial compensation for all those injured and threatened during the attack on the Sudanese Church of Christ Al Hasaheisa, Gezira State.*
73. *The attack at this place of worship and the restrictions of FoRB experienced by this vulnerable religious minority community should be documented as a violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law and perpetrators held to account in any post-war domestic, regional or international accountability mechanism.*

Attacks on Muslim places of worship

74. On 14 May 2023 the Al Zareeba Mosque was bombed in El Geneina, West Darfur, a region where fighting is particularly intense and entire villages have been burnt down. According to the Preliminary Committee of Sudan Doctor's Trade Union, 280 people were killed and more than 160 were injured in the region between 12-13 May 2023.

Recommendations:

75. *Criminal proceedings to bring perpetrators of this attack to justice.*
 76. *Financial compensation for the Al Zareeba Mosque allowing it to rebuild a place of worship.*
 77. *The attack on this place of worship should be documented as a violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law and perpetrators held to account in any post-war domestic, regional or international accountability mechanism.*
78. In March 2024 an Islamist militia affiliated with the SAF vandalised and detonated explosives inside the Sheikh Qarib Allah Mosque in Omdurman. The mosque is in an area that has been under SAF control since early March, and a reliable source confirmed that prior to this date it had not been damaged in any exchanges of fire between the SAF and the RSF. Islamist militias affiliated with the SAF, particularly the Al-Bara bin Malik Brigade, have been empowered by a war that poses a rising risk in the country, and potentially the region, as extremist groups are able to access weapons.

Recommendations:

79. *The perpetrators of this attack should face*

11 CSW, 'Evangelical Church set on fire by Rapid Support Forces in Wad Madani', 15 January 2024 <https://www.csw.org.uk/2024/01/15/press/6147/article.htm>

criminal proceedings.

80. Financial compensation for the Sheikh Qarib Allah Mosque to repair the damage caused during this attack

81. This attack on a place of worship should be documented as a violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law and perpetrators held to account in any post-war domestic, regional or international accountability mechanism.

82. On 20 October 2024, the SAF dropped barrel bombs indiscriminately on the Sheikh El Jeili Mosque in Wad Madani, Gezira State after evening prayers. At least 15 people were killed and more than 30 were injured in the explosions.

Recommendations:

83. Criminal proceedings to bring perpetrators of this attack to justice.

84. Financial compensation for the Sheikh El Jeili Mosque to repair and/or rebuild this place of worship.

85. This attack on a place of worship should be documented as a violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law and perpetrators held to account in any post-war domestic, regional or international accountability mechanism.

86. On 4 December 2024 at least seven people were killed in a SAF airstrike on the Sheikh Elsidq Mosque in Shambat, Khartoum North.¹²

Recommendations:

87. Criminal proceedings to bring perpetrators of this attack to justice and compensation for the families of those killed in this attack.

88. Financial compensation for the Sheikh Elsidq Mosque to rebuild this place of worship.

89. This attack on a place of worship should be documented as a violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law and perpetrators held to account in any post-war domestic, regional or international accountability mechanism.

Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)

90. Reports of sexual violence against women and girls have emerged throughout the conflict, particularly in areas seized by the RSF in Khartoum and Omdurman, including of rape, gang rape and forced ‘marriages’ taking place in victims’ homes. Initially Ethiopian and Eritrean female refugees in Khartoum were targeted, while Sudanese women were spared.¹³ However, they soon began to suffer similar atrocities.

91. While there are fewer documented accounts detailing CRSV by the SAF, this is possibly due to reluctance, stigma or pressure from family members and others to keep silent for fear of reprisals from the military, which constitutes the de facto state authority. However, accounts which have emerged from SAF-controlled areas paint a painful picture of soldiers using their positions to violate vulnerable women. For example, over two dozen women who are unable to leave Omdurman city have reported being forced into transactional sex with SAF soldiers to receive humanitarian aid, or access to abandoned properties where they can forage for items to sell to feed their families.¹⁴

Cases of concern:

92. Human Rights Watch (HRW) has reported cases involving the gang rape of girls as young as nine, and of older women, including a sixty-year-old in Khartoum North who was raped alongside her daughter and granddaughter. Women and girls have also been raped in front of male family members.¹⁵

93. The Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) documented similar violations by the RSF after they took control of Gezira State in December 2023, with women and girls being abducted from their homes, held for several days in various locations and raped repeatedly by multiple perpetrators.¹⁶

94. In Darfur, where the office of the ICC Prosecutor asserts credible evidence exists of a recurrence of atrocity crimes targeting the ethnically African Fur, Zaghawa and Masalit tribes, and evidence is emerging of rape being used as a weapon of war once again. Since November 2023, women in El Geneina, West Darfur have reported being sexually assaulted due to their ethnicity by the RSF and their allied Arab militias. Many of the survivors are from the Masalit community, of African origin. However, women from Arab tribes were targeted if they were married to Masalit or non-Arab men, or have children

12 CSW, ‘Sudan: attacks on civilians and places of worship continue’, 12 December 2024, <https://www.csw.org.uk/2024/12/12/press/6395/article.htm>

13 Al Jazeera, ‘Don’t let the other soldiers watch’: Rape as weapon in Sudan war, 14 August 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/longform/2023/8/14/dont-let-the-other-soldiers-watch-rape-as-a-weapon-of-war-in-sudan>.

14 The Guardian, Women in war-torn Sudanese city forced to have sex in exchange for food, 22 July 2024 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jul/22/women-forced-to-have-sex-with-soldiers-for-food-in-sudanese-city>

15 Human Rights Watch, ‘“Khartoum is not Safe for Women!”’, ‘Summary Section’, 28 July 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/07/28/khartoum-not-safe-women/sexual-violence-against-women-and-girls-sudans-capital>.

16 SIHA Network, ‘Press Statement: Gezira State and the Forgotten Atrocities: A Report on Conflict-related Sexual Violence’, 22 July 2024 <https://sihanet.org/press-statement-gezira-state-and-the-forgotten-atrocities-a-report-on-conflict-related-sexual-violence/>

with a darker skin tone.¹⁷

95. Abductions of women and girls have occurred across Sudan. In North Kordofan state, a 23-year-old woman was taken against her will to South Darfur. She eventually escaped but returned home pregnant.¹⁸

General recommendations to address CRSV

96. *Call for the closure of the protection gap created by the premature winding down of UNAMID and UNITAMS as a matter of urgency.*
97. *Ensure that community groups that provide humanitarian assistance, including shelter, safe havens and psychosocial therapies, are properly supported and resourced.*
98. *Ensure humanitarian workers receive adequate protection as they operate at great personal risk in challenging circumstances.*
99. *Support investigations into CRSV and document these attacks thoroughly with a view towards ensuring accountability, including advocating for prosecutions through the ICC and universal jurisdictions for acts of sexual violence, which may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Prosecutions should be extended across the whole country, with perpetrators brought to justice, including those who hold command responsibility.*

17 The Guardian, 'Darfur rape survivors gather together after ethnically targeted campaign,' 14 March 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/mar/14/darfur-survivors-gather-together-after-ethnically-targeted-campaign>

18 African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS), 'South Darfur: Two girls abducted and subjected to sexual slavery in Nyala,' 19 August 2024, <https://www.acjps.org/publications/south-darfur-two-girls-abducted-and-subjected-to-sexual-slavery-in-nyala>

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