



## **Sudan War: Arbitrary Arrest, Torture, and Ill-treatment Behind Closed Doors**



*Photo Credit: Ibrahim Nogdallah*

**A report on the increased use of arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention, and torture against civilians by the belligerents.**

**April 2023 to March 2024**

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## **I. Acronyms**

ACJPS: African Center for Justice and Peace Studies

FFC: Forces of Freedom and Change

MI: Military Intelligence

NCP: National Congress Party

RSF: Rapid Support Forces

SAF: Sudanese Armed Forces

## II. Executive Summary

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 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The conflict has since continued to escalate, advancing to several states in Sudan. The fact that military headquarters/bases are located within neighborhoods occupied by civilians has made them vulnerable to attacks by the opposing party. Unfortunately, IDP camps have constantly been targeted significantly narrowing the safe areas for civilians.

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 or political affiliation. Those most affected are; political activists, human rights defenders, resistance committee members, civil activists, and other professionals among others.

Several groups including national, regional, and international organizations, and religious leaders continue to advocate against the senseless war that has cost the Sudanese people. The first step to ending the war is agreeing to a ceasefire and 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. The emergency rooms can be used as a tool to advance the said aid to the people.

The current lawlessness and the collapse of the justice system facilitated the escape of prisoners and furthered the commission of crimes with no immediate consequences. ACJPS has continued to monitor the situation in Sudan since the outbreak of the war and in this detailed report, we document some incidents of arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention, torture, and ill-treatment committed by the warring parties.

### III. Incidents of Arbitrary Arrests, Incommunicado detention, and Extra Judicially killings

Although majority of the detention centers were located within Khartoum as it was highly populated before and at the beginning of the war, these have now been established across different states in Sudan as the war continues to escalate. For example, military bases, hotels, and vacant and abandoned buildings have been turned into detention centers. Victims have testified that the detention centers are poorly facilitated with no ventilation, poor hygiene, and scarcity of food and water.

There are also allegations of torture of detainees in these detention centers by both the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). It has severally been reported that some detainees have died as a result of the alleged torture.

On 16 June 2023, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Badri, a father of five (05) girls and a member of the Arabic Baath Party was arrested by SAF in Khartoum. Mr. Badri was arrested by the SAF Military Intelligence (MI) Unit from the Hatab area in Khartoum Bahari during a gunfight between SAF and RSF and taken to a SAF base in Hatab where he was detained. While in detention, Mr. Badri was allegedly tortured as he was shot in the stomach and his foot and denied access to medical attention. He unfortunately succumbed to the injuries on 17 September 2023 but news about his death only circulated on 22 January 2024.

On 11 January 2023, SAF released 40 detainees from the detention center in Karri military base in North Omdurman, Khartoum State. The victims were arrested from several different locations including checkpoints and homes based on their ethnicity (particularly those originating from Darfur and Kordofan regions) or on suspicion of collaborating with RSF. Although 40 detainees were released, at least 120 others remain in custody.

Mr. Khalid (not real name), a 60-year-old blacksmith from Omdurman, one of the 40 detainees who was released by SAF testified to ACJPS that “...on 30 December 2023, at around 09:30 pm while I was in my front yard on a phone call with a colleague, a group of three SAF soldiers armed with automatic guns and wooden sticks approached and interrogated me about the call. Not satisfied with my response, they forcefully got my phone, searched through different Applications such as WhatsApp and accused me of supporting RSF. I was then ordered to enter inside the house where my wife and three daughters were. They kept me in one of the rooms as they searched the rest of the house. I was then taken to a house that had been turned into a detention center within Omdurman where I was interrogated by a SAF officer dressed in plain clothes. I stayed in that detention center for two days before being transferred to another center in Karri SAF military base for 11 more days. While in detention (at both detention centers) I was beaten using water pipes and wooden sticks....,”

He also added that the detention center comprised three small rooms measuring 8x4.5 meters and that there were approximately 188 detainees including four Nigerians

detained in one room, one RSF officer detained alone in another room, and members of the Sudanese Police Forces and National Security in the third room. There was food scarcity and that the detainees were given two meals a day (in the morning and evening) i.e. few slices of bread "Dal" or beans given to groups of 10 detainees leaving many detainees to only tap water. The detention centers were infested with lice due to poor hygiene. Several days later, an officer who was referred to as "legal advisor" visited the detention center, interrogated the detainees and consequently released several detainees.

*"During the time I spent in detention, at least nine detainees died as a result of torture and untreated chronic illnesses like kidney failure, and other detainees were ordered to bury the bodies in a grave within the base. On the day of our release, myself and 21 other were put in a van and driven out of Karri base to the main road and left to find our way home without phones and other personal effects such as shoes....,"* he added

On 23 February 2024, RSF arrested Dr. Ahmed Hashim Mohamed Tahir from his home in Alfetihab Square 14 located in Abu Sead locality in Omdurman, Khartoum State. Dr. Hashim is the dean of the faculty of Economics at the University of Bahari formerly Juba University located in Khartoum Bahari. Dr. Hashim was previously arrested in November 2023 by RSF and allegedly subjected to physical torture while in detention. RSF has continuously targeted the Academician for his work as a researcher, particularly for monitoring and documenting the ongoing armed conflict in Sudan. On 29 February 2024, Dr. Hashim's father-in-law, Mr. Elfatih Osman Abdallah, an Emam was killed in the same area of Alfetihab by a stray bullet during a gunfight between RSF and SAF.

On 1 February 2024, five MI officers in Senga town in Senar State arrested Mr. Elnoor Babkir Ahmed Balah, from a market in Senga. Mr. Babkir is a pharmacist by profession and he was arrested for watching a video that RSF members shared on a WhatsApp group. He was severely tortured at the MI detention centre in Senga resulting in the amputation of both his hands. He was released on 5 March 2024.

Mr. Hassan (not real name), a 55-year-old resident of Senga town in Senar State was released by SAF. Mr. Hassan who was arrested together with his 25-year-old son from the Senga market by MI officers on 4 January 2024 was taken to the SAF headquarters in Senga for interrogation and detention. He informed ACJPS that he was released that very day after approximately 11 hours but his son, however, was retained for four days. *"... there were several people in the detention center of different nationalities including four Syrians and at least 80 Ethiopians....,"* he testified

On 12 December 2023, at around 10:00 Am while Mr. Khalid a Tuktuk rider was transporting goods from Almuashi market in Nyala, he was stopped by RSF officers who were patrolling near the market. The officers accused Mr. Khalid and other transporters of looting and stealing goods from the market. Although they denied the allegations, they were all arrested and taken to a detention center located at the former National Security building where they were beaten with lashes and water pipes and forced to confess to the alleged crimes. *"When we refused to confess to the crimes, we were detained for eight days in one room and given only one meal a day and one small*

*jerrican of water for all to share. We were released on 21 December 2023 with the intervention of my family who approached some RSF affiliates” he narrated*

Ms. Fatima (not real name), an IDP living in Utash Camp testified to ACJPS that “..... on 20 May 2023, Ibrahim my 42-year-old son who suffers from mental illness left the shelter in Utash camp to go to his uncle's home in Aljeer neighborhood in Nyala located approximately 8 Kilometers South West of the camp. He was arrested at a checkpoint in Congo Street by a group of RSF officers. During the body search, he was found with a membership card of the Sudan People's Liberation Army led by Abdul Wahid Noor issued in 2005, and they immediately accused of being a rebel and a SAF spy. He was then taken to a detention center located in industrial area where he was detained for five months until 21 October 2023. My son still suffers from intense body pain, especially in the ribs and eyes but we are still looking for finances to take him to Elfashir in North Darfur for medication” she painfully narrated

On 14 December 2023, Mr. Algoni Mukhtar, a businessman was arrested by RSF. Mr. Algoni owns and operates an internet café using internet service providers from Libya and Chad since the internet service was shut down in Nyala and other towns in the Darfur region. RSF alleges that the customers use the service to send the GPS locations of RSF bases to SAF thus arresting Mr. Algoni as the business owner and consequently suspending the operations of the cafe for three days. They then required that he obtain approval from RSF to reopen and operate.

Mr. Abdul Rahman Haroun a resident of Alsad Alali also known as High Dam neighborhood in Nyala was arrested by RSF.

On 9 December 2023, a group of bakery owners in Nyala’s popular market were arrested by RSF after they refused to heed RSF's demands to re-open their bakeries. The bakery owners had closed business because they were no longer able to operate due to looting by RSF officers at the beginning of the armed conflict. The group remains in incommunicado detention and no one knows of their wellbeing. The bakery owners are;

1. Ismail Siddiq (m)
2. Abu Bakat Adam (m)
3. Mohamed Jubara (m)
4. Dafallah Alhaj (m)

#### **IV. Ethnically motivated attacks**

The already existing vice was escalated by the eruption of the armed conflict in April 2023, with political leaders being at the forefront of perpetrating it. For example, the acting Governor of River Nile State publicly spoke against certain tribes. Sudanese citizens with Darfur and Kordofan origins are particularly targeted.

Mr. Baha Eldien Ahmed Hasson, a 46-year-old resident of Albasia neighborhood in Omdurman was arrested by SAF from Albasia neighborhood because “his Arabic

accent sounded like he originated from Darfur”. Although Mr. Baha Eldien's father is from Zagawa, and his mother is from Dangla tribes originally from Darfur, he was born and raised in the Albasia neighborhood in Omdurman.

On 15 December 2023, a group of six men who were heading to Wad Madani in Aljazeera State were arrested by the SAF MI unit from Aldebaga neighborhood. All six men belong to the Bani Ameer tribe in East Sudan and are workers at a bakery. Mr. Anas Mohamed Noor, one of the victims was shot in the foot and hand during the interrogation. The group was then transferred MI office for further questioning. They were later released with the intervention of the Bani Ameer native administration which issued a statement demanding their release within 72 hours. Mr. Anas was quickly rushed to the British hospital for medical attention following their release. A source who preferred to remain anonymous informed ACJPS that the arrest was ethnically and politically motivated.

Since May 2023, SAF troops deployed in North State have established checkpoints across the State supervised by MI officers and civilians who joined the war. A reliable source informed ACJPS that over 500 have been arrested at these checkpoints for their ethnicity or/and on suspicion of working with RSF upon searching their phones. Those most affected are students, and miners in areas bordering North Kordofan State such as Hamrate Elshikh to Aldaba and Abu Hamad. Those from Hamar and Kababish tribes because they are presumed to be affiliated with RSF. During interrogations at the checkpoints, travelers with Identity Cards issued from Darfur and Kordofan states are often times arrested and sent to Division 19 for further interrogation for at least two days. Civilians from Chadia and Central African Republic are immediately arrested and taken to Division 19 where they are searched, interrogated and detained.

Mr. Talha Seneen Madebbo a resident of Alamir locality commonly known as Umbadah in Omdurman within Khartoum State was arrested by SAF on 6 October 2023. Mr. Seneen is a businessman operating a business at Omdurman Popular Market. A reliable source informed ACJPS that Mr. Seneen was arrested following a report by an informant in the neighborhood accusing him of working with RSF because he is from the Rezigate group. A witness told ACJPS that in November 2023, he saw Mr. Seneen inside the SAF detention center in Karri. Mr. Seneen was previously arrested by SAF on 27 May 2023, while on his way to Alnao Hospital located in the Althurs neighborhood in Omdurman to visit his uncle, Mr. Tahlha Mahmoud Modebbo a former SAF brigadier. He was released six and a half hours later with the help of another SAF soldier who knew his family.

On 2 January 2024, Mr. Ahmed (not his real name), a 22-year-old student of Education in Kasala, East Sudan was arrested by MI officers in Kasala Market. Mr. Ahmed is originally from North Darfur and currently resides in Kasala and runs an electronics business in the main market to support his studies. Mr. Ahmed was at his shop when he was approached by two MI officers; one appeared to be more interested in the money Mr. Ahmed had in the shop while the other mobilized two other young men from the Rashida tribe to force him out of the shop. The perpetrators then moved with Ahmed

and took him to the office of detective police located near the office of the traffic police. As soon as they entered the office, the MI officers informed the other police officers that they had arrested Mr. Ahmed on suspicion that he was a member of the RSF. During the interrogation, he was asked whether he belonged to the Rezigate or Meseria tribes to which he responded in the negative. The officers then threatened to imprison Mr. Ahmed if he refused to give them money. When he failed to comply, he was taken to the detention center.

Mr. Ahmed was previously arrested in November 2023, while on a bus from Algadrafi to Kasala. He was arrested at a checkpoint at Algebra by MI officers for wearing an African print shirt. He was questioned about RSF, his origin, and whether he has relatives in Kasala. They demanded his phone and asked him to delete some messages on WhatsApp especially comments against the Sudanese Islamic Movement. He was released six hours later.

## **V. Illegal Use of Emergency Decrees**

On 21 December 2023, the Special Operation Forces under the National Army (SAF) raided the main market in Kosti town, Blue Nile State, and arrested at least 60 people for allegedly working and collaborating with RSF and violating the Emergency decree issued by the acting governor of White State. The decree imposed a curfew and authorized the military to arrest anyone suspected to be working with RSF. They were taken to SAF base in Kosti where they were detained for one week.

### **V. The continued targeting of;**

#### **1. Human Rights defenders**

##### **a. Female Human Rights Defenders/activists**

On 25 December 2023, the SAF MI Unit in Senga town arrested two female human rights activists; Ms. Huam Abdo working with SIHA Network, and Ms. Alaa Mohamed Abdallah a human rights activist. The two were arrested while on their way from Senga locality to Senar town in Senar State. They were taken to the SAF headquarters in Senga for interrogation. The two activists were however released on 27 December 2023 on the condition that they leave Senga town and never return.

On 28 December 2023, a group of MI officers arrested Ms. Nusiba Omer Mufadal, a Lawyer and human rights defender together with two other male human rights defenders. The three HRDs work as legal aid providers to IDPs in Senga town, Senar State. Ms. Nusiba was taken to the SAF/MI base in Senga for interrogation. She was held for six hours before being released with the intervention of community leaders on the condition that she stay away from activism.

##### **b. Male Human Rights Defenders/activists**

On 25 April 2023, Mr. Mohamed Abdul Mutaal Hussein Saad, a 64-year-old resident of the Burri neighborhood in Khartoum was arrested by a group of RSF. Mr. Hussein is an Advocate, human rights defender, and the acting secretary of the Sudan Bar Association. While in custody, he was cautioned and ordered to desist from participating in activism i.e. collaborating with youth in Burri and providing legal aid to residents of Buri. He was released later that day but arrested again on 1 June 2023, by RSF in Buri following a tip-off from an RSF spy/informant that he had resumed his work as an activist by working with the Resistance Committee and that he had allegedly joined the FFC. Although he was not physically tortured while in custody, he was threatened and emotionally abused causing him to flee to Aljereef East neighborhood in Khartoum after he was released.

On 22 September 2023, Mr. Hussein was again arrested by RSF for monitoring and reporting against the ongoing conflict. This time, he was physically tortured while in detention as he was beaten with water pipes. He was however released with the intervention of some residents on the condition that he leave the neighborhood. After his release, Mr. Hussein relocated to Wad Madani in Aljazeera. Upon reaching Wad Madani, he was interrogated by the MI unit for about an hour about his work. He was later released and “allowed” to stay in the town subject to conditions.

On 23 September 2023, a group of RSF raided Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Alhaj’s house located In Aljreef West neighborhood in Khartoum and arrested him. Mr. Ibrahim works as a correspondent with Alghad Television.

On 23 December 2023, the MI Unit in Elfashir, North Darfur arrested Mr. Mohamed Abdul Rahman, a 27-year-old physician and human rights defender for his work. Mr. Abdul Rahman previously worked at Elfashir Northern Hospital before moving to Tumbasi Clinic where he currently working. He provides medical services to the IDPs hosted in schools in Southern Elfashir an area under the control of SAF. While in detention, Mr. Abdul Rahman was beaten with water pipes and permitted to use the lavatory once a day. He was released on 31 December 2023.

On 28 December 2023, a group of MI officers arrested several human rights defenders including Mr. Ali Alradi and Mr. Altuhami Ali Badawi who work as volunteers offering different services to IDPs in Senga town.

On 1 January 2024, the MI officers in Port Sudan arrested Mr. Sati Alhaj, an advocate and HRD while he was on his way to Port Sudan. Mr. Alhaj was arrested at a checkpoint, interrogated for several hours, and later released.

On 27 January 2024, SAF officers arrested several human rights activists from Bara town in North Kordofan State for unknown reasons. The group was released on 12 February 2024.

The activists are;

1. Saif Eldien Ahmed Khalil (m), a former reporter with the Anti-corruption and Dismantle Committee
2. Refat Abdul Aziz (m) a member of the Freedom and Change Collation

3. Sheikh Eldien Mohamed Hassan (m) human rights defender and member of the Teachers Committee.
4. Yahya Gasim Ahmed (m) is a Member of the Bara resistance committee.

**c. Journalists and social media activists**

On 28 August 2023, a group of MI officers arrested Mr. Khalid a 42-year-old engineer, from a coffee shop at Alakshak market in an Arab neighborhood. While at the coffee shop, Mr. Khalid was approached by two men dressed in plain clothes. The officers questioned him about his work before forcefully removing his shirt and assaulted him before forcing him into a military vehicle (green Landcruiser) to an unknown location. *“I spent a total of five days in detention and later taken to the Attorney General’s office where I was threatened to be prosecuted for offenses if I continued writing about the war. The offenses included humiliating the military and its General Command, inciting violence, espionage, and violation of the emergency decree. I was then asked to sign a document pledging not to write about the war on social media again....,”* he narrated

*“I contracted several diseases at the detention center but I was denied medical attention. There were several detainees including children but I can only recall a few namely; Habib Hasaballah, Sufian Mahjoob Salah, and Mohamad Eltijani. I was also informed by one of the soldiers that all of the detainees at the center are members or associates of RSF. I was released on 1 September 2023, at around 03:00 PM, and immediately sought medical attention. However, I still suffer from some health challenges to date....,”* he added

On 19 January 2024, Mr. Haytham Mohamed Dafallah, the Chief Editor of Almidan newspaper together with his brother Mr. Omer Mohamed Dafallah were arrested from their residences in East Aljerif in Khartoum by a group of RSF members. The group raided their respective residences and searched their phones and laptops before arresting them and taking them to unknown locations.

On 13 November 2023, at around 04:00 P.m., a group of soldiers from the Joint Forces in Algardarif town, Algardarif State in East Sudan arrested Mr. Ibrahim (not real name) a 41-year-old journalist. He is a member of the FFC. During the arrest, the men threatened to kill Mr. Ibrahim as they accused him of spying for RSF and collaborating with Civilian Fronts to advocate against the armed conflict. They also threatened to have him prosecuted and sentenced to life imprisonment for publishing false information. Mr. Ibrahim was detained with five other members of resistance committees and was denied drinking water and medication for headaches despite requesting them. After about 12 hours in detention, he was released.

On 18 January 2024, a group of RSF officers arrested Mr. Augil Ahmed Naim from his home located North of Khartoum Bahari. Mr. Augil is a journalist, human rights defender, and a member of the Sudanese Journalists Association. Mr. Augil remains in detention to date.

On 30 December 2023, at around 11:00 Am a group of MI dressed in plain clothes and armed with automatic guns known as Kalashnikov Mr. Ibrahim (not real name) a 41-year-old Journalist and human rights defender from his home located in Rewina

neighborhood. Mr Ibrahim was taken to the MI detention center located in the Almatar (Airport) neighborhood where he is currently detained.

#### **d. Humanitarians**

On 28 December 2023, a group of MI officers arrested several activists working with Emergency Rooms to provide various services to IDPs in Senga town, Senar State. The activists were arrested while distributing food to the IDPs entering Senga town through the popular market and the bus station. The same group then went and arrested another group of activists from a location referred to as “the tent of goodness”. The activists were beaten, insulted, and denied food while they were detained at the SAF base (Division 17). Although several activists were released, some of them remain in custody. Those arrested include;

1. Abdallah Mohamed Ali
2. Abu Obidah Rajaab Yousef
3. Abuzar Eltahir
4. Abudul monim Abdallah Asar
5. Albagiq Azhari (m)
6. Alhadir Abdallah (m)
7. Atif Ahmed Almahadi
8. Eltyeb Abu Bakar (m) a pharmacist by profession
9. Haji Elemam
10. Hassan Ramadan (m)
11. Haytham Ahmed Rahmallah
12. Husham Alamin (m) a teacher by profession
13. Husham Eltahir
14. Idris Khalid (m)
15. Kamal Wadarah
16. Mamoun Hajo
17. Mohamed Alhadi Bushra
18. Mohamed Alhadi Farag
19. Musa Hassan
20. Nazim Mohamed Khalifa (m)
21. Ramzi Mohamed Ali
22. Saif Abdul Bagi Jadid
23. Yahya Mohamed Yaje (m) a teacher by profession
24. Yasir Karoor
25. Alhaj Omer Babkir a medical assistant

#### **e. Resistance committee members**

On 31 January 2024, the MI Unit in Aljbleen, White Nile State arrested five activists including four members of the resistance committee and one member of the Uma National Party (UNP). The group was transferred to a detention center in Kosti located at least 30 kilometers East of the SAF. The activists are;

1. Mustafa Adam Al Khair
2. Izz Eldien Belal
3. Almahi Abdul Kareem
4. Alnmori Omer
5. Alhadi Hassan

On 14 January 2024, the MI Unit in Senga, Senar State arrested Mr. Omer Walid Sediq a 23-year-old resident of Senga and a member of the Senga resistance committee. Mr. Omer was transferred to a detention center within Senga where he is currently detained.

#### f. **Religious leaders**

In December 2023, the MI units in White Nile and the Senar States arrested several Muslim leaders (Emams) who were advocating against the armed conflict and calling upon the warring parties to bring an end to the war. Those arrested include;

- Adam Tarjam, an Emam and a member of the Uma National Party,
- Alzain Salim Umbadah an Emam at Wad Albasha Mosque,
- Abdul Salam Murkaz Abdul Rahman an Emam at Alhlfaia Mosque located in Khartoum Bahari had fled to Senga town

On 28 February 2024, a group of MI officers arrested Sheikh Al-Amin Mohamed Omer Al-Amin Sofi Sheikh in Omdurman. Sheikh Al-Amin is a religious leader in Algadriah Almukashfia masjid located in the Wad Al-Banah neighborhood in Omdurman. He was arrested shortly after the seizure of Omdurman by SAF (the town had been under the control of RSF since the outbreak of the armed conflict in April 2023). Sheikh Al-Amin had earlier published a video on social media condemning the acts of SAF who attacked and violated his followers at the masjid after Subhi (morning prayers). The Sheikh published another video talking about the death of one of his followers who worked as a security guard at the premises. Although the cleric was silent about the perpetrators, he mentioned that the incident happened around the time SAF announced its seizure of Omdurman. On the other hand, there was a video showing two men dressed in plain armed with guns (allegedly SAF affiliates) appealing to Gen. Abdul Fatah Al-Burhan, the SAF high command to arrest Sheikh Al-Amin or air bomb the masjid because he deserves to die. However, on 26 July 2023, while RSF was still in control of the area, some RSF officers visited and filmed a video at the Mosque and published it on social media.

After his arrest, a voice recording threatened Sheikh Al-Alamin. In the author of the recording can be heard accusing the Sheikh of supporting. He also added that during the visit by RSF to the masjid, Sheikh Al-Amin asked them to “clean out the rubbish” meaning SAF. Although the recording is titled “A message to Sheikh Al-Amin from the former National Security Director Gen. Salah Abdallah also known as Gosh, there has

been no official statement by Gosh. SAF has also accused the cleric of supporting RSF and providing food and medical supplies in the Masjid. They have also been unhappy with his humanitarian work of providing supplies to his followers and other civilians in the neighborhood.

#### **g. Community/local leaders**

On 15 February 2024, at around 10:00 Am three RSF officers dressed in plain clothes led by Assistant Lieutenant Saeed arrested Mr. Abdul Razig Yousef a 42-year-old resident and community leader in Alhemidiah camp. Mr. Yousef was arrested together with three other IDP leaders from the main street near the Popular Yard in Zalingei, Central Darfur State while on their way to the office of Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in Zalingei on a Tuktuk (three-wheeled motorcycle used for public transport). The reasons for his arrest are still unknown. Mr. Yousef had previously spoken to Radio Dabaga about the deteriorating humanitarian situation of the IDPs.

#### **h. Political leaders and members**

On 8 October 2023, the SAF MI Unit arrested Mr. Qatar Mohanad Jebreel Abdallah from Port Sudan airport in Red Sea State while heading to Alduha in East Sudan. Mr. Mohanad belongs to the Bani Halba tribe and is a member of the former National Congress Party (NCP) supporting SAF during the ongoing. According to a reliable source, the reason for his arrest is that during a search they found a photo of his brother dressed in an RSF uniform in his phone. Mr. Mohanad's late father was one of the founders of the Islamic Movement in the Darfur region and also a leader in the NCP.

Mr. Salih Saeed aged 55 was arrested by RSF from his home located in Aluhda in Nyala town because of his political position and for allegedly supporting SAF during the current Sudan war.

On 3 December 2023, Mr. Alsadate Ibrahim Burma a 49-year-old resident of in Skaly neighborhood in Nyala was arrested by RSF for unknown reasons. He remains in detention to date.

Salah Zakarya, leader-member of Uma Party Blue Nile Region was arrested.

## **VI. Other developments**

ACJPS interviewed several family members of detainees held by RSF and they testified that most of them do not know the whereabouts of their relatives and those who do, are unable to access them unless it is with the help of an RSF affiliate.

The family of Mr. Mohamed Musa Ajawerd, (a 30-year-old victim) told ACJPS that they were informed by RSF that he was arrested for allegedly mobilizing the IDPs from the neighborhood to advocate against the war and inciting violence. Mr. Musa was

arrested from the Alsheef Livestock market located in the west of the Aljeer neighborhood in Nyala and remains in detention.

On 30 December 2023, at around 10:00 Pm a group of 15 members of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) were arrested by a group of men dressed in military uniforms and driving a Land cruiser vehicle under the command of one Mr. Ali Abushnab. The soldier's armed men with automatic guns i.e. Kalashnikovs and Dushka tank stopped a lorry carrying at least 900 jerricans of cooking oil heading from Nyala in South Darfur State to Malit town located approximately 70 kilometers from Elfashir. They demanded that the owner of the goods pay 200,000 Sudanese Pounds but he responded and said that he only had 25,000 Sudanese Pounds. The soldiers then searched the vehicle and noticed that a person dressed in RSF uniform was traveling in the vehicle with five other passengers and the driver. The occupants of the vehicle were immediately asked to get out for interrogation. They were asked whether the goods belonged to RSF. After the brief interrogation, the group was asked to get back in the vehicle and drive following the Land Cruiser vehicle to an unknown location. When they reached Zamzam Camp in Elfashir at around 06:00 Am, people in two land cruisers approached the group and ordered them to offload the goods (cooking oil) into one of the containers. After offloading, the group was arrested and detained in another container for 21 days and only allowed to move out twice a day.

However, on day 14 of their detention, Mr. Mohamed Abu Rafaref, a member of JEM in Elfashir was informed about the situation and he together with other JEM members moved to the location but unfortunately, they also ended up getting arrested. Two family members of Mr. Mohammed who also tried to intervene in the matters also got arrested as well.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> day, the group was released with the intervention of JEM leader, Gen. Eltijani Aldehib. All the goods that had been confiscated, were also returned.

On 22 February 2024, the Security Committee of South Kordofan State passed a decree to increase the price of power units that were affected by the current causing power outages across the country. Patients with chronic illnesses such as kidney failure have been affected the most as they are unable to get dialysis. Those arrested for violating the decree are referred to the central police station where they are charged under Articles 66, 69, and 77 of the Sudanese Penal Code, 1991. Some of those arrested for violating the decree are;

1. Dr. Alfadil Aldood, the General Director at the Health Insurance Corporation.
2. Mohamed Alsadiq (m), an Engineer working with the Kadogli Power Station
3. Omer also known as Omer France (m), is an Engineer who works with the Kadogli Power Station. The group is accused of mobilizing the residents against the regional government of South Kordofan headed by Mr. Mohamed Ismail.

Additionally, there are six other people i.e three male and three female health workers and journalists were also arrested for violating the decree namely;

- Samia Angato (m), a Health worker at Kendy Service Center
- Majdah Ishaq (f) a journalist
- Asma Herika (f) Journalist working with Kadogli Radio Station

On 10 March 2024, at about 04:00 P.m., the MI unit in Elfashir, North Darfur raided a workshop organized by Almurhal for Peace and Development and Saver World Organizations about hate speech. The workshop that was held at the training hall located in the Tombasi neighborhood in Elfashir South was attended by HRDs and activists. The raid happened on day two of the training. At least 29 participants including Mr. Mohamed Salim, the facilitator were arrested. The group was taken to SAF headquarters (Division 6) for interrogation. They were released later that same day i.e. the women were released at 5:30 pm while the men were released at 7:00 pm.

## **VII. Recommendations**

The Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces should:

1. Guarantee the physical safety and well-being of all the remaining detainees;
2. Grant the detainees immediate and unequivocal access to their lawyers, family members, and medical services;
3. Immediately unconditionally release detainees in the absence of valid legal charges consistent with international standards. If such charges exist, the detainees should be brought promptly before an impartial, independent, and competent tribunal and guarantee their procedural rights at all times;
4. Cease the arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention, and enforced disappearance of civilians;
5. Respect the human rights of citizens guaranteed in the 2019 Constitutional Charter and regional and international human rights and humanitarian treaties ratified by Sudan.

Sudanese authorities should uphold their international obligations under relevant regional and international treaties that Sudan ratified by immediately carrying out independent, transparent, and effective investigations into the allegations of arbitrary arrest and torture. The report of this investigation must be timely and made public, and perpetrators held to account through fair trials.