



The Bermuda Encompasses All
Cities where war is raging.....
Those who enter disappear.....
Those who scape reborn
A Report on Enforced Disappearances
One Year into Sudan War

Methodological Framework:

This report was compiled by observers affiliated with the Sudanese Group for Victims of Enforced Disappearance, drawing data from credible sources. Whereas observers established direct communication with certain victims' families and conducted interviews with survivors of enforced disappearance.

The report encompasses the period from April 15, 2023, to April 15, 2024, marking a full year since the onset of the Sudan War. It extends its coverage to multiple states where instances of enforced disappearance were reported, indicating an expanded scope of observation. Furthermore, the report also tracked cases involving individuals with mental disorders who were forcibly disappeared, totaling 11 persons.

The legal framework:

This legal framework incorporates a series of international treaties and conventions that uphold fundamental rights, serving as essential safeguards against the scourge of enforced disappearance, torture, and other forms of inhuman treatment. The following are the cornerstone conventions of the legal framework guiding our report.

1. The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED)
2. The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
3. Convention on the Rights of the Child
4. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
5. Rome Statute (2002, Articles 8,7,8).
6. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Banjul Charter)

The report monitored a series of violations, including the abduction, detention, and disappearance of individuals without their families being informed of the circumstances surrounding their arrest, their whereabouts, or their fate. None of those who disappeared had any access to their families, legal counsel, or representatives, and no entity claimed responsibility for their apprehension, even when eyewitnesses observed members of a specific armed forces conducting the arrests. For instance, Hawa recounted that her cousin was detained in front of their family residence in Khartoum by an armed unit affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and subsequently transported to an undisclosed location, since mid-August and up to date.

One of the survivors (S.N.) additionally recounted being detained and held incommunicado for over a month. He detailed being apprehended from his home by a unit associated with the (RSF) and taken to the Riyadh Detention Center, formerly the headquarters of the Arab League. He highlighted the existence of ten detention facilities within the Riyadh neighborhood alone. He recounted that upon arrival at the prison, they were greeted with physical assaults and compelled to stand three days under the scorching sun, a process ominously referred to as "The Party.", usually followed by interrogation.

According to (S.N), inside the prison, they endured harsh conditions, marked by severe shortages of food, absence of showers throughout the duration of their confinement, and the absence of bathrooms made it a necessity to relieve themselves in close proximity to others within the same room. Additionally, detainees were coerced into lifting heavy ammunition and food supplies. Upon his eventual release, he discovered that his colleague had tragically lost his life in an airstrike while performing the task of lifting food supplies. Furthermore, Sit Albanat narrated the disappearance of her brother, who departed Omdurman for the Al-Shabie Market but failed to return, prompting a two-week search. During this period, a caller alleged her brother's detention by the Rapid Support Forces, demanding a ransom of one billion Sudanese pounds for his release.

Sit Albanat's family requested to talk with their son over the phone before payment, but the caller procrastinated, citing time constraints. Meanwhile, her brother resurfaced, revealing his detention by Military Forces along with over 450 other individuals in a building within the Althaura area, the 3rd block. The Eastern Nile Emergency Room also announced the discovery of the deceased individual, Hani Jaafar Othman, who had been reported missing. His remains were later buried within the premises of the Al-Fayhaa Police Station, which was repurposed as "The Negative Phenomena's Department" subsequent to its takeover by the RSF. Mr. Othman had been reported missing since December 2, 2013, and his fate was finally determined on December 5, 2023.

The National Laws:

Sudanese laws and legislations criminalized various offenses, including kidnapping Article (162), unlawful detention Articles (164 ,165), and crimes against humanity Article (186, paragraph (n)), which specifically addresses enforced disappearance, as outlined in the Sudanese Criminal Law of 1991.

However, despite the legal framework in place, implementation remains challenging, particularly regarding Article (186, paragraph (n)). This difficulty arises from factors such as the involvement of regular forces and the prosecutors' lack the knowledge and familiarity with the aforementioned article and its provisions. Despite Sudan's ratification to the (ICPPED) in 2021, commitment remains an issue, as no cases have been prosecuted under Article 186, paragraph (n). The prosecution merely issues a missing person warrant, although there is a significant distinction between a missing person and a forcibly disappeared person.

It is noteworthy that the first recorded case under Article (186, paragraph (n)) was reported on 7/27/2023 at the Wad Madani Prosecution Office following a lawyer's petition.

Reporting Challenges:

The majority of cities addressed within this report grapple with a near-total absence of public and security services, resulting in a cessation of prosecutorial, police departments, and courts. Even in cities labeled as safe zones, there are challenges in filing complaints, as the prosecution requests guarantor from the relatives of the person who disappeared.

Relatives commonly encounter challenges when attempting to file complaints, particularly due to the prevalence of enforced disappearances in conflict zones, which restrict movement and hinder access to reporting stations. To address this issue, the Sudanese Group for Victims of Enforced Disappearance engaged in discussions with the Public Prosecutor. In which, a proposal was presented wherein the prosecutor would permit the registration of enforced disappearance cases in the absence of the complainant, while safeguarding private rights.

In response to these challenges, the families of the victims turned to social media for reporting, albeit encountering numerous obstacles, primarily the instability of the internet connection. Despite these hurdles, the Sudanese Group has reported a significant number of cases, totaling 453 reports of forcibly disappeared persons across Madali, Kassala, and Al-Hasaheisa.

Women and Children: Disappearance Impact:

The repercussions of disappearances on women and children are profound. Women often shoulder the burden of severe economic challenges arising from disappearances and are at the forefront of efforts to

locate and resolve the case of their disappeared relatives. In their quest for justice, these women are vulnerable to harassment, persecution, and reprisals. Moreover, female victims of enforced disappearances are particularly susceptible to sexual violence, including rape and other forms of sexual violence.

The Sudanese Group conducted observations and interviews with individuals advocated or involved in cases of enforced disappearances, noting that the majority of them were women.

The Unit of Violence Against Women reported (157) cases of rape, though there are indications from other reports suggesting that the actual number may be significantly higher.

Abu Duraa recounted that his sister was forcibly disappeared for over 20 days, during which her whereabouts were unknown. Upon her return, she exhibited severe psychological distress. She disclosed that she had been detained along with 15 other girls in a building located in the Kafouri neighborhood in Bahri.

Children face profound challenges as they grapple with the loss of their father and primary breadwinner. Moreover, children themselves fall victim to enforced disappearance, as evidenced by the report's documentation of 27 boys and a female child among the disappeared. This contravenes multiple provisions outlined in the Convention of Rights of the Child.

Black Sites:

Through vigilant observation and the testimonies of survivors, it has been revealed that various company departments, security service headquarters, and even private residences have been utilized as clandestine detention sites. This revelation highlights the widespread nature of detention practices, as no area under the control of the parties seems to be immune from such activities.

RSF Black Sites:

1	Sudan Sport City-Khartoum	9	Administrative Units Office- Haj Yousif	17	Building in Alkilo station, Alhalfaia, Bahri
2	Operations Headquarter	10	Tayba Camp	18	Police Station- Aldaraja Alowla
3	Soba Prison- Khartoum	11	Police Station- Abu Adam	19	A house in Almazad- Khartoum
4	Camps HQ – Permanent Office	12	Police Station- Kalakla Lafa	20	A house near “almustwdaat”
5	Sudan Open University- Khartoum	13	Police Station- Al-Azhari	21	Central Police Station, Madani
6	Police Forensic Lab- Buri	14	Parachute Base- Bahri	22	Building in Fidasi- Madani

7	Police Forensic Lab- Ebed Khatim	15	Center in Kafouri	23	Police Station- Al-Hasaheisa, Madani
8	Office (13)- Eastern Nile	16	Buildings near Mak Nimmir Bridge	24	Buildings near Afraa Mall

SAF Black Sites:

1	Premises of the General Intelligence Service	5	General Intelligence premises- Kassala
2	Armored Corps- Al-Shajara	6	General Intelligence premises- Al Damazin
3	Ammunition Camp- Al-Shajara	7	General Intelligence premises- El Obeid
4	General Intelligence- Sinja		

Various forces, notably the RSF, have been implicated in the arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance of civilians, often demanding ransom from their families for their release. Al-Hilo narrated the kidnapping of his cousin, who was detained by the Rapid Support Forces and transported to an undisclosed location. He remained in captivity until his family paid a ransom amounting to the equivalent of one thousand dollars.

Individuals Arrested by Both Conflicting Parties:

Some individuals have experienced a cycle of arrest, release, and subsequent capture by the opposing side. For Instance, some individuals were detained in the Armored Corps in Al-Shajara by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) with their whereabouts unknown for a period. Following the battle in Al-Shajra between the SAF and Rapid Support Forces (RSF), these individuals were once again captured, as they were observed in RSF videos. Since then, none of them have appeared or returned to their families. The sister of Al-Wathiq -a victim of enforced disappearance- posted in social media mentioning that her brother was among the individuals shown in RSF videos, and supposedly liberated from Al-Shajara. However, she emphasized that he has not returned, and they remain unaware of his fate.

Reports have surfaced regarding detainees held by the First Infantry Division in Wad Madani. However, following the takeover of the city by the (RSF), their fate remained unknown.

Introduction:

Enforced disappearance serves as a tool of oppression, instilling fear and intimidation while fostering an atmosphere of terror that silences activists who fear meeting a similar fate. Throughout Sudan's history, enforced disappearance has been prevalent, particularly amidst the civil wars in South Sudan, Darfur states, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile. Regrettably, many of these cases remain undocumented. With the advent of

the Islamic Front era, as was the case in 1990, the notable poet Abu Zar al-Ghafari, fell victim to enforced disappearance. As of now, the fate of al-Ghafari remains unknown.

While a committee was tasked with investigating the disappearance of individuals during the 2019 General Command sit-in, the prosecution committee reported only 30 cases of enforced disappearances.

The pattern of incidents persisted, with six individuals, including a minor, disappearing following the October 25 Military Coup. Between April 15, 2023, and April 15, 2024, the total number of victims of enforced disappearances reached 1,140 individuals.

These violations, particularly enforced disappearances, predominantly target civilians accused of collaborating or affiliating with any of the fighting parties, and sometimes driven by financial motives.

the total number of victims documented by the Sudanese Group of Enforced Disappearance is 1,140 individuals.

Count by Sex Distribution:

Male	Adult	998
	Minor	20
Female	Adult	116
	Minor	7

Count by City:

<i>City</i>	<i>Detainees No.</i>
Khartoum	389
Bahri	281
Omdurman	277
Madani	36
Al-Hasaheisa	8
Rufaa	6
Al Kamlin	3
Jabel Aulia	12
Almanaqil	3
Ed Al-Fursan	2
Saraf Omra	1
Barah	1
As Serief	1
Tendelti	1
Wad Ashana	1
Abu-Gouta	2
El Obeid	10
Al Fashir	5
Al Junaynah	1
Zalingei	1
Nyala	4

Ar Rahad	1
Kas	1
Umm Ruwaba	4
El Fula	1
Kassala	2
Atbara	1
Sennar	4
Al Qadarif	1

Monthly Count:

Month	No.
April 23	136
May 23	148
June 23	60
July 23	60
August 23	49
September 23	41
October 23	23
November 23	35
December 23	31
January 24	28
February 24	19
March 24	8
April 24	2

- ❖ Some individuals' disappearance dates and locations have yet to be accurately determined.
- ❖ In our pursuit to uncover the fate of disappearance victims, the Sudanese Group engaged with the Sudan's Human Rights Experts and convened meetings with members of the Special Committee on Enforced Disappearance. The Sudanese Group also submitted seven urgent action requests to the committee at the Human Rights Council.