



Nuba children's drawing was obtained by Waging Peace in December 2018 on a visit to Yida and Ajong Thok refugee camps in South Sudan, bordering Sudan. Pictured is one of 60 drawings collected from children ages 6-19 depicting their experiences including atrocity crimes and persecution.

This drawing by anonymous shows how civilian life in South Kordofan was disrupted by uniformed and military attackers which invariably caused communities to flee and seek refuge.

SUDAN

THIRD CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

JOINT STAKEHOLDER'S SUBMISSION WAGING PEACE AND
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1. This report is submitted by Human Rights and Development Organization (HUDO Centre) and Waging Peace as part of Sudan's third cycle universal periodic review (UPR).
2. The HUDO Centre is an independent, non-government, non-partisan and non-profit making organisation based in Kampala, Uganda. HUDO monitors the human rights situation in Sudan. This includes conditions and rights of civilians in conflict areas, religious rights, freedom of expression, observing human rights-related court trials, and other violations. Monitoring is focused on areas under control of the Sudan government in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States together with IDPs from the two areas. HUDO was registered in Sudan on 25 October 2009 but the license was revoked in 2011, which forced HUDO to move Uganda, where it has been registered since 2013.
3. Waging Peace was founded in 2004, and documents human rights abuses in Sudan with the aim of raising awareness of such abuses in the British establishment and public. They support Sudanese asylum-seekers, refugees, and wider UK-based community to build meaningful lives. They also convene a UK working group bringing together partners from civil society with think tanks and foundations working in humanitarian, development, human rights, peacebuilding, and foreign policy sectors.
4. During the second cycle of the universal periodic review, Sudan received over 300 recommendations on the protection of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. These included to consider ratifying the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
5. The State Party accepted recommendations during the second UPR cycle on the general protection of human rights¹, international humanitarian law², impunity³, the rights of women and children⁴, torture and ill treatment⁵, arbitrary detention⁶, and freedom of religion or belief⁷. In December 2018, sustained nationwide peaceful protests started in Blue Nile State calling for President Omar al Bashir to resign. This call succeeded in April 2019: the former President was detained, and the military took control,

¹140.48 Protect human rights in Darfur and the Two Areas, including by ending violence, ensuring accountability for deaths and sexual violence, granting humanitarian access, and allowing aid agencies and NGOs to implement human rights programmes (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Source of position: A/HRC/33/8/Add.1

²140.44 Investigate allegations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations by armed and security forces in a prompt, transparent and impartial manner and ensure that perpetrators of violations are brought to justice (France); Source of position: A/HRC/33/8/Add.1.

³138.92 Investigate all cases of human rights violations and prosecute those responsible without exception and impunity (Slovenia); Source of position: A/HRC/33/8 - Para. 138.

⁴ 138.89 Guarantee respect for the rights and fundamental freedoms of the entire population, especially women and children, and take all necessary measures to ensure the fight against impunity of the perpetrators of crimes, acts of violence and all human rights violations (Argentina) Source of position: A/HRC/33/8 - Para. 138

⁵140.46 Ensure that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, as well as mass rapes, and sexual and gender-based violence are promptly, independently and thoroughly investigated and to take all the necessary measures to bring perpetrators to justice (Portugal) Source of position: A/HRC/33/8/Add.1

⁶140.40 That the Government ends violent suppression of protestors and arbitrary detention of political activists and journalists (New Zealand) Source of position: A/HRC/33/8/Add.1

⁷138.95 Take effective measures to respect the right to freedom of religion without discrimination (Slovakia) Source of position: A/HRC/33/8 - Para. 138

creating a Transitional Military Council (TMC). The TMC ruled until a power-sharing agreement was signed in August 2019 with civilians. Despite the significant political changes, serious and egregious human rights violations continue to be recorded in the two areas: South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. This report focuses specifically on the government-controlled zones in the two areas and the violations that continue. For this report we have chosen to focus on the period after the ouster of former President Omar al Bashir in April 2019. Our assessment is that regressive acts continue and that the State Party is failing to protect the rights of citizens, and particularly vulnerable and marginalised communities. In each of these areas Sudan has not implemented most of the recommendations made in the previous UPR cycle.

SCOPE OF INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

6. Sudan is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (ICESCR), and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). In practice, domestic legislation, policy, and actions of state actors were not consistent with these obligations despite positive steps having been taken towards reforming domestic legislation, the constitution, and the ratification of CAT under the leadership of the Transitional Government.

EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS

SOUTH KORDOFAN

7. The State Party to protect human rights, ensure accountability for deaths in the two areas,⁸ to investigate violations by armed and security forces⁹, and address impunity which have not been implemented.¹⁰ There continue to be reports of extrajudicial killings by state-affiliated security, known armed groups, and unknown armed individuals. These killings continue unabated and with impunity, leaving vulnerable citizens living in fear.

KILLINGS BY POPULAR DEFENCE FORCES (PDF)

Killing of two civilians by PDF in Garada village

8. On 18 September 2019, in Garada village of Al-Abbasiya locality, Mr Abdalla Ismail a, 34-year-old farmer, was shot dead at his farm by 3 herders dressed in PDF uniform. When local police chased them with some local resident to a nomad camp, approximately 10 armed men in PDF uniform shot randomly

⁸Op cit fn 1

⁹Op cit fn2

¹⁰Op cit fn 3

towards them. A 30-year-old female farmer Ms Mahaseen Edriss was shot dead. The police fled the scene, and no further action was taken by the authorities.¹¹

PDF killed a civilian and injured another 1 in Abu-Kershola

9. On 21 November 2019, 2 farmers; 26-year-old Mr Mohammed Eissa and 29-year-old Mr Mohammed Osman, were shot by 6 armed men dressed in PDF uniform while they were traveling by motorbike. Mr Eissa died instantly but Mr Osman survived with injuries. The case was reported at Abu-Kershola police office. No further action has been taken.¹²

PDF shot/killed a civilian in Umbrembeta

10. On 4 December 2019, Mr Mohammed Ahmed Eltahir, a 32-year-old farmer, was at his farm in Shaq-Elkitir village of Umbrembeta together with 2 other farmers. 3 armed men dressed in PDF uniform riding camels ordered the farmers to hand over their harvested sesame. Mr Eltahir refused to hand over his harvest and was immediately shot dead by PDF soldiers. The case was reported and filed at Umbrembeta police office. No further investigation was carried out.¹³

Assassination of Hassan by PDF soldiers in Rashad

11. On 22 February 2020, 51-year-old Mr Hassan Ismail Mohammed Al-Ahdab was travelling from his village Baloula to Rashad town on a motorbike. He was obstructed and shot by 3 armed masked men dressed in PDF uniform. Mr Al-Ahdab had informed the people who tried to rescue him about the identity of the 3 perpetrators before he died. A case was reported at Rashad police. No further investigation has been carried out.¹⁴

Murder of farmer by PDF in Abu-Kershola

12. On 8 May 2020, 4 armed men in PDF uniform riding 2 motorbikes attacked 24-year-old Mr Hamza Ramadan. He was shot dead at his garden in Abu-Kershola, and his motorbike was stolen. The case was reported to police at Abu-Kershola. No further investigations were carried out by police, not even a visit to the crime scene.¹⁵

Murder of a cattle keeper and looting of his cows

13. On 8 May 2020, approximately 60 armed men, mostly dressed in PDF uniform, invaded the nomads' camp at Sefaifeer of Abu-Kershola on motorbike. They shot and killed a 34-year-old cattle keeper, Mr Mohammed Elias and 2 of his cows. 304 cattle were stolen. The case was reported to police at Abu-Kershola. No investigation was carried out.¹⁶

¹¹HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2019, paragraph 2.3.4, page 22 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan-january-december-2019/>

¹²HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2019, paragraph 2.3.5, page 23 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan-january-december-2019/>

¹³HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2019, paragraph 2.3.6, page 23 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan-january-december-2019/>

¹⁴HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.2.5 pg 18 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

¹⁵HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.2.9 page 19 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

¹⁶HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.2.10 page 19 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

Civilian murdered and another 1 injured by PDF in Kujuria

14. On 2 June 2020, 56-year-old Mr Ebaid Abdalla and 46-year-old Mr Mubarak Eltoum were cultivating their farm near the village Kujuria together with their wives and children. A group of armed men wearing PDF uniform shot them in front of their wives and children. Mr Ebaid was instantly killed, and Mr Mubarak was seriously injured.¹⁷

Murder of Mr Edriss by PDF soldiers in Elfaid

15. On 30 June 2020, 23-year-old Mr Edriss Ismail Daoud Jabouna was shot by 2 armed PDF soldiers in his house at Elfaid. Before dying, he told his neighbours, who came to investigate the gunshots, about the attackers' identity. The neighbours reported the case at Elfaid Um-Abdalla police and provided the perpetrators' names. Police attempted to arrest the perpetrators, but they were armed and resisted arrest by shooting at the police. The police ran away and did not make further attempts to apprehend the perpetrators.¹⁸

KILLINGS BY RAPID SUPPORT FORCES (RSF)

16. Civilian killings by the RSF continue without being investigated by the police, and without perpetrators being brought to justice.

Killing of a civilian by RSF soldier at Altugula gold mine in Talodi

17. On 22 April 2019, 30-year-old Darfuri and casual mine labourer Mr Noureldin Adam Hamad was killed following a personal dispute with an RSF soldier, 'Tinga'. Tinga first ordered Mr Noureldin to accompany him to the RSF camp following the dispute. When he refused and requested that they take the matter up with the police, Tinga went alone to the camp and returned with 6 RSF soldiers on a vehicle, again ordering Mr Noureldin to accompany him. When he refused, Tinga shot Mr Noureldin point blank. RSF soldiers took the dead body in their vehicle and buried it at the local cemetery. Mr Noureldin's family opened a case against the RSF soldiers with police, but no action was taken.¹⁹

Civilian murdered and others injured by RSF at Altugula gold mine of Talodi

18. On 3 May 2019, for unknown reasons, RSF soldiers came to the market near the mine and shot randomly into the crowd. 5 people who worked in the mine sustained injuries, with 1 later dying. After the shooting, a civilian asked the RSF commander for a vehicle to transport injured people to the nearest medical doctor in Abu-Jebaiha, 100 kilometres away, but he refused. As a result, people rented a vehicle for the journey, but 1 of the injured died on the journey. No investigations have been carried out yet.²⁰

¹⁷HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.2.12 page 20 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

¹⁸HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.2.18 page 23 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

¹⁹HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2019, paragraph 2.3.2, page 21 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan-january-december-2019/>

²⁰The person who died is Mr Abakar Osman Abakar and the injured people are Abduelraouf Eltoum, Hassan Maki, Hassan Ismail and Saeed Abduelmoneim. HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2019, section 2.3.3, page 22 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan-january-december-2019/>

Murder of 3 farmers by RSF in Kadogli

19. On 5 June 2020, 6 farmers of Nuba ethnicity were attacked at their farms in Murta of Kadogli by RSF soldiers. 3 men were killed. The surviving victims recognized and named 3 of the attackers. To date not a single perpetrator has been arrested or interrogated.²¹

2 farmers shot dead and 1 injured by RSF near Kadogli

20. The RSF also continued their attacks on farmers and cultivators. On 2 December 2020, farmers in Elefain village found cattle grazing on their crops, so they pushed them out and into a local holding site named Zareiba. While returning, a group of people in RSF uniform shot and killed 2 of the farmers, Mr Nasir Nimir Teeya and Mr Abdalla Kanu. A third farmer, Mr Hassan Kanu sustained injuries to his neck and right thigh. Again, the police failed to investigate after the case was reported.²²

BLUE NILE

Killing of a civilian by Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in Roro

21. On 16 March 2020, a group of SAF soldiers headed by a First Lieutenant were organising the distribution of fuel at a petrol station in Roro under the observation of the Roro resistance committee. A verbal disagreement arose between a SAF soldier and a civilian. The First Lieutenant shot 2 bullets from his pistol and the other SAF soldiers shot into the air and towards the civilians. 3 civilians were injured by direct gunshots, Mr Ahmed Bakheit died 2 days later from his injuries. No investigation has been carried out to date.²³

UNLAWFUL KILLINGS BY UNKNOWN ARMED ACTORS

SOUTH KORDOFAN

Murder of Mr Haidar Ismail in Kadogli

22. On 2 July 2020, 43-year-old Mr Haidar Ismail Ebaid, a self-employed Khartoum resident, was traveling from Kadogli town to his home village of Al-Labu on a tuktuk driven by Mr Suliman Mohamed. After passing Elsaraf suburb of Kadogli town, the vehicle was stopped by 3 masked and armed men who ordered Mr Haidar to disembark. He did so and was then shot twice on his head and chest, killing him. According to the driver, the attackers quickly ran away. The driver went to the military headquarters in Elsaraf suburb to report the incident. Officers attended the crime scene and took the body to Kadogli hospital for a postmortem and afterwards Mr Haidar's relatives buried him. The case was reported to Kadogli police, but no investigation was carried out.²⁴

²¹33-year-old Mr Michael Khamees, 37-year-old Mr Musa Yousif and 49-year-old Mr Osman Elamein Kuku were killed. HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.2.13 page 21

<https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

²²HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.2.20 page 24 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

²³HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.2.34 page 29 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

²⁴HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.2.19 page 23 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

2 murder incidents in 1 day within Kadogli

23. Killings by armed men also occur nearby to RSF camps, as in the areas of Eltomat and Saraf-Eldai suburbs of Kadogli. These areas are also near to Kadogli airport and its military guards' unit, and police headquarters. On the morning of 20 July 2020, 2 farmers, 46-year-old Mr Yousif Mohammed Ahmed Adam and his elder sister Ms Fatima Mohammed Ahmed, were shot by 5 armed people while they were cultivating their farm in Eltomat. Ms Fatima died immediately, and Mr Yousif died shortly after. The bodies were taken to hospital for postmortem by others in the farming community, and later buried by relatives. The murders were reported to Kadogli police against anonymous. On the afternoon of that same day, a 20-year-old tuktuk driver, Mr Elmasri Babikir Adam Teeya, was found dead with gunshot wounds in the Saraf-Eldai suburb. His body was taken by the community to Kadogli hospital for postmortem and later buried by relatives. They reported the case to Kadogli police but no action was taken.²⁵

Farmer found dead at his farm in Abu-Kershola

24. On 27 July 2020, a 27-year-old farmer, Mr Mustafa Mohammed, was found dead in his garden by neighbours. They took his dead body to Abu-Kershola health centre. According to the medical report his skull was fractured when he was hit twice with sharp objects. His body was later taken for burial by relatives who reported the case at Abu-Kershola police station, but no action was taken.²⁶

2 civilians murdered and one injured in Kalogi locality

25. On 4 September 2020, 3 farmers, 39-year-old Mr Emam Hamad Abdalla, 24-year-old Mr Elfateh Ismail Elneima, and 30-year-old Mr Mohammed Abdueljaleil Hamad, were traveling on 2 motorbikes from Tusi to Gardood Toro in South Kordofan. While in Gardood Um-Safra armed men created an obstruction, shot at them, and disappeared. Mr Abdalla and Mr Elneima died of gunshots to the head and chest. Mr Hamad sustained serious injuries to his legs. Mr Mohammed was transferred to Abu-Jibaiha for treatment. This murder case was reported to Kalogi police and no action was taken.²⁷

BLUE NILE

2 herdsman killed near Khartoum Belail village

26. On 11 May 2020, a group of herdsman were grazing their cattle at Amura jungle. A group of 4 armed men attacked and kidnapped 2 of them, 18-year-old Mr Ramadan Hamid Eldaw, and 20-year-old Mr Khamees Hamid Eldaw, both from the Angasana tribe, and seemingly attacked because of their tribal affiliation, as other herdsman from the Falata and Arab tribes were not targeted. On 13 May 2020, the kidnapped men were found dead near Khartoum Belail village. A reliable source informed HUDO Centre that criminals have been operating in the area for over 6 months, looting property, and that the authorities have not taken action against them.²⁸

²⁵HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.2.20 page 24 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

²⁶HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.2.22 page 25 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

²⁷HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.2.25 page 26 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

²⁸HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.2.35 page 29 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTIONS, TORTURE AND INHUMANE OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

27. The State Party accepted recommendations to ensure that the suppression of protestors and arbitrary detention of activists ends,²⁹ and that all allegations of torture and ill treatment are promptly investigated.³⁰ Both of these recommendations have not been implemented in the two areas. Detentions with a clear political nature continued during the reporting period, there are also elements of ill treatment and torture where no steps have been taken to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Arrests in South Kordofan

Detainees from South Kordofan incarcerated for over 8 years

28. Since 7 June 2011, over 25 detainees were arrested by Military Intelligence (MI) in Kadogli soon after the war erupted and have been deliberately held *incommunicado* regardless of the frequently declared release pardon orders even after the toppling of the al Bashir regime. Security agencies have not disclosed their whereabouts. According to HUDO's contacts, 1 of the detainees had his right leg amputated, another 1 had his eyes punctured.³¹ Since the ouster of the former President on 11 April 2019, the Transitional Government has repeatedly declared release pardons for the detainees and the prisoners of war. However, these detainees have not been released.³²

Detention of youths from a public demonstration in Kadogli

29. On 5 January 2020, 4 youth³³ were arrested by the MI from a peaceful demonstration in Kadogli calling for the dismissal of high-ranking officials from the public service for hindering reforms because they were members of the former regime party (NCP). They were detained at a police cell and released on 6 January 2020 without any charges.³⁴

Arrest of Mr Elsafi Eldegain by SAF in AleriGhareib

30. On 11 April 2020, 42-year-old farmer, Mr Elsafi Eldegain, was arrested by 8 SAF soldiers from his house in AleriGhareib/Aleri West town. The following day he was transferred to Talodi military base. He was released in August 2020, after months of being held *incommunicado* and tortured physically and

²⁹ 140.46 Ensure that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, as well as mass rapes, and sexual and gender-based violence are promptly, independently and thoroughly investigated and to take all the necessary measures to bring perpetrators to justice (Portugal) Source of position: A/HRC/33/8/Add.1

³⁰ 140.40 That the Government ends violent suppression of protestors and arbitrary detention of political activists and journalists (New Zealand) Source of position: A/HRC/33/8/Add.1

³¹ HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2019, paragraph 2.1.1 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan-january-december-2019/>

³² Names of some detainees are: Musa Aabdein Ali, he was 38 years of age when he disappeared; Ibrahim Kano was 43 years; Musa Shantu, was 45 years; Edriss Elmaren was 32 years; Omer Fadul was 49 years old; Malek Abduelgadir was 35 years; and Mahjoub Abuselaib was 37 years.

³³ The arrested youth are: Ms Azaheir Adam Daheeya, Ms Ameina Hassan, Mr Mohammed Fadul and Mr Hamza Nasreldin.

³⁴ HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.1.1 page 15 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

psychologically. He was interrogated about his past political activities as a member of Sudan People's Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N).³⁵

Detention of peaceful demonstrators by SAF in Abu-Jibaiha

31. On 23 September 2020, residents of Abu-Jibaiha launched a public demonstration in support of the peace agreement signed in Ethiopia by Prime Minister Hamdok and Sudan People's Liberation Army – North (SPLA-N) chairperson, Abdelaziz al-Hilu. SAF soldiers came on 9 vehicles and obstructed the demonstration march. They arrested 31 people and took them to Abu-Jibaiha military base. Demonstrators followed the detained group to the military base and demanded their release. After waiting 6 hours the detainees³⁶ were released.³⁷

Arrest of travellers by SAF in Al-Abbasiya

32. On 6 December 2020, over 20 passengers traveling on a truck from Haiban to Khartoum were blocked by SAF-MI at Al-Abbasiya town and forced to drive to the military base. All passengers were detained, and their truck was kept at the military base. On 7 December 2020 evening, the women and children were released after spending a night in a cell. The men³⁸ remained in detention with little food and poor conditions until 12 December 2020. The group was interrogated, accused of being affiliated with the SPLA-M and warned not to return to their hometown (Haiban).³⁹

Arrest of civilians by MI in Talodi

33. On 18 December 2020, Mr Taj-Elsir Abdalla Mesaibeil and Mr Hussein Ibrahim Abu-Jarra were arrested by 3 SAF soldiers after their arrival to Talodi town from Mandi village⁴⁰. They were taken to SAF's military base and held incommunicado and in poor conditions. On 23 February 2021, they were released and ordered to leave Talodi immediately and go back to their village.⁴¹

Arrests in Blue Nile

Mr Edriss Elbur Repeatedly Arrested by RSF in Damazin

34. On 9 April 2020, Mr Edriss Elbur Ahmed was arrested by RSF soldiers. Mr Elbur was taken to a RSF detention cell at Ashara Beiut neighborhood in Damazin and held with 9 RSF soldiers who breached

³⁵HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.1.3 page 8 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

³⁶The following are the names of people who were arrested: Mohammed Elhadi Manga, Abduelgadir Elamein, Elamein Mungar, Huzaifa Mohammed Shankaran, Reyad Abdueljaleil, Allaa-Eldin Sabri, Osman Suliman, Omer Suliman, Ms Husneeya Peter, Hussan Elkhair, Sayab Adam, Adnan Adil, Hamid Hamad, Abduelghafour Ramadan, Ms Um-Elhussein Fadelalah, Mohammed Elmustafa, Abdu Osman Komi, Elsheikh Mohamadeen, Ms Amna Mohammed, Ms Khadeija Ismail Kaju, Jamoos Mohammed Burkan, Osman Mohammed Elhadi, Yousif Mohammed Elhadi, Muntasir Omer, Salah Adam, Ibrahim Mohammed, Ahmed Hassan, Ismail Abubaker, Abduelhameed Mukhtar, Ms. Aisha Elsadiq Nawai, and Mohammed Abdalla Omer.

³⁷HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.1.4 page 8 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

³⁸The names of people who were detained are: Kuku Abdalla, Rashid Younis Osman, Steven Adam Ajaweed, Elsir Adam Ajaweed, William Musa Ajaweed, and Mamoun Abdalla Elamein.

³⁹HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.1.7 page 11 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

⁴⁰ Mandi is a village within SPLA-N controlled area in a distance of about 25 km northeast Talodi town.

⁴¹HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.1.8 page 12 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

military laws. His arrest was under the direct order of Major Faiz Balla, commander of the RSF in Blue Nile State and a former locality governor under Bashir's regime. Mr Elbur was interrogated about a Facebook post criticising an RSF commandant for not respecting fuel distribution procedures. Mr Elbur was intimidated, warned against posting again, then released on 11 April 2020. Mr Elbur opened a case against the RSF for illegal arrest and was re-arrested and detained by the RSF for filing this case against them on 27 April 2020. He was interrogated, beaten, and physically tortured by RSF Captain Gouja. He was released on 28 April 2020 with threats of a third arrest.⁴²

Detention of youths by SAF in Roseries town of Blue Nile State

35. On 25 August 2020, SAF soldiers arrested and detained 7 youth (ages 25-33 years) from Ganees market.⁴³ The youth were arrested for attempting to conduct a public address to discuss the peace process. During their detention they were verbally assaulted, threatened with torture and warned not gather again. They were released late that evening.⁴⁴

Intimidation of activists by SAF in Blue Nile State

36. On 20 November 2020, Massfa Youth Association in collaboration with Community Animators Friends Association (CAFA) held a public event in Massfa village about the peace process. Dr Hamza, an activist, lecturer at Blue Nile University and a member of the national economic consultants committee, was invited to speak. In his speech he said that "basic education should be free of charge to reduce dropout rates which leads youth into joining the military or becoming laborers at farms". Afterwards, Dr Hassan and his colleagues were stopped by SAF military soldiers. They took Dr Hamza to the in-charge officer lieutenant, Abubaker Hassan. He was interrogated and accused of inciting hatred against the military. All travelers were verbally assaulted and told they would be tied up and beaten. They were released after 1 hour but obstructed again and interrogated by Officer Major Yousif, then finally released after another hour.⁴⁵

ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS BY SECURITY APPARATUS AND STATE-AFFILIATED PARALIMITARY GROUPS

37. Attacks on civilians by security apparatus and state-affiliated paramilitary groups continues unabated. These attacks contribute to the sense of insecurity and lawlessness in the two areas. These attacks

⁴²HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.1.9 page 13 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

⁴³The arrested youth are: Ahmed Eltayeb Abu-Jameila, Khatab Mohammed Farajalla, Ali Babikir, Nouredin Ali Babikir, Sabri Khaleefa, Abduelshafae Desomi and Ahmed Omer Saadalla.

⁴⁴HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.1.10 page 14 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

⁴⁵HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.1.11 page 14 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

demonstrate the failure to implement recommendations on investigating attacks on civilians and impunity.⁴⁶

Civilian injured by PDF gunshots in Kadogli

38. On 9 May 2020, Mr Saeed Mohammed Saeed was seriously injured by gunshots from 3 masked men dressed in PDF uniform. The armed men attempted to steal a phone from Mr Saeed's brother in front of his family house at Hai Alsoug in Kadogli town. When Mr Saeed appeared after hearing a fracas outside, he was shot twice in his stomach.⁴⁷

Displacement caused by shooting by RSF at Kadogli

39. On 21 and 22 July 2020, more than 2 thousand people from the northern part of Kadogli town (Murta, Kulba and Elshaeer neighbourhoods) were displaced from their homes. The displaced people settled in school premises like Elzaytouna secondary school, Kalem, Ghabsha schools, and Balandeeya training centre. The displacement came as a result of RSF soldiers shooting at peaceful protesters calling for protection, safety, and rule of law. This demonstration followed the murder of 3 farmers in the fields on 20 July 2020.⁴⁸

Mr Baraka injured by gunshots near Abu-Jibaiha

40. On 18 August 2020 and while driving his commercial vehicle, 46-year-old Mr Baraka Yassin Dahab was shot and injured by 3 armed men dressed in RSF uniform. The case was reported at Abu-Jibaiha police office, but no investigation was carried out.⁴⁹

Passengers robbed by RSF soldiers in Talodi

41. On 22 November 2020, more than 20 passengers on a commercial vehicle travelling from Abu-Jibaiha to Talodi were robbed at gun point at Gardood Torro. 4 armed robbers were dressed in RSF uniform. Immediately afterwards, passengers reported the robbery at Gardood Torro military intelligence (MI) office and filed the case at Talodi police office on 23 November 2020. No investigation was carried out.⁵⁰

Armed robbery by RSF soldiers in Abu-Kershola

42. On 26 November 2020, Mr Elhaj Mohammed Ahmed (26 years) was traveling on his motorbike from Umbrambeta to Elfaid Um-Abdalla when 4 armed men dressed in RSF uniform stopped him and forcefully took his motorbike at gun point. Mr Elhaj walked to Elfaid Um-Abdalla where he reported the case to police. No investigation was carried out.⁵¹

⁴⁶138.92 Investigate all cases of human rights violations and prosecute those responsible without exception and impunity (Slovenia); Source of position: A/HRC/33/8 - Para. 138.

⁴⁷HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.4.3 page 33 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

⁴⁸HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.4.6 page 35 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

⁴⁹HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.4.7 page 44 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

⁵⁰HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.4.9 page 37 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

⁵¹HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.4.10 page 37 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

SAF and RSF soldiers attacked and injured residents of Bobaya village

43. On 16 December 2020, 7 armed men dressed in SAF and RSF uniforms with face masks attacked and injured 3 farmers in Bogaya village.⁵² Again, on 18 December 2020, 7 armed men dressed in SAF and RSF uniforms attacked Bobaya cattle keeping area (Zareeba). They shot 19-year-old herdsman Mr Muhsein Hamdan Suliman in his abdomen. The two cases were reported at Dilling police. No investigations were carried out. Residents fear more attacks.⁵³

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

44. Discrimination because of race and ethnicity continues to be a key concern for communities from the Nuba Mountains. Despite the changes at the national level, members of the Nuba community in South Kordofan are targeted by armed groups and security apparatus. The violations include incidents of harassment, arbitrary detention, forced displacement, and summary executions. These cases further demonstrate the failure of the State Party to address human rights violations in South Kordofan and racial discrimination that is evident in the country.

Civilian murdered by RSF because of his ethnicity

45. On 2 May 2020, Mr Awad El wakeel Musa was traveling from Al-kewaik to Kadogli town with three others in a private vehicle. When they reached Albardab, 5 armed men dressed in RSF uniform obstructed the road, ordered them out of the vehicle, and interrogated them about their ethnic background. When Mr Musa revealed that he was a Nuba/Reika, the armed men shot him immediately and allowed the others to continue with their journey. Mr Musa's body was taken to Kadogli hospital and buried in Kadogli town. A case was filed with the Kadogli police, but no further action was taken.⁵⁴

Civilians detained for 2 days by SAF in Al-Abbasiya

46. On 3 December 2020, Peace Activist Group (PAG) organised a public address in Gambaraya village to inform the community of the ongoing peace process, when 12 vehicles mounted with machine guns and armed men dressed in SAF and RSF uniform raided the meeting. The soldiers shot bullets in the air and arrested 12 people, including a minor, and detained them at the Al-Abbasiya military base for 2 days.⁵⁵ During their detention the group were intimidated and called '*nyakat*' a local word referring to Nuba people as rebels. The group were interrogated on their affiliation with the SPLM-N and on 5

⁵²Farmers were attacked while in the fields. Mr Ibrahim Bashir Melaise was injured in the right leg and Mr Daoud Austa Nimir sustained multiple fractures to his left arm. Mr Nimir was given first aid at Dilling hospital and later transferred to Khartoum hospital.

⁵³HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.4.12 page 38 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

⁵⁴HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.4.11 page 20 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

⁵⁵The names of the arrested people are: Ammar Mohammed Ismail, Mohammed Awad Bakheit, Abduelmotaleb Mohamed Ismail (16 years), Mohammed Mahmoud Mustafa, Mohammed Ibrahim Taha, Abduelbagi Omer Adam, AbdallaElaraki Hassan, Hassan Omer Mohammed, Abdalla Mohammed Jumaa, Fateh-Elrahman Osman Mohammed, Omer Mohammed Khair-Alla, and Mohammed Abduelraheem Mohammed Kamtur.

December 2020 were released but informed not to organise or participate in such gatherings otherwise they will be tortured.⁵⁶

People displaced after invasion by RSF at Kadogli

47. On 13 May 2020, armed RSF soldiers invaded Albardab village on 4 land-cruiser vehicles and motorbikes. On arrival they identified all the Nuba residents, then beat or killed them, and looted or burned down their houses. 9 people were killed and buried 3 days later by the Sudan Red Crescent. Over 200 houses were burned and over 2,000 people were displaced. The displaced people settled in two schools near the SAF base in Kadogli town, while others went to al-Kewaik and Dameek village. Officials asked the IDPs to return to their homes despite RSF soldiers threatening to attack and without offering any protection.⁵⁷

Arrest among IDP

Passenger detained and insulted at a checkpoint in Kosti

48. On 17 February 2020, 29-year-old university graduate Mr Hassan Elamein Suliman and a Nuba from the Teera tribe, were traveling from Abu-Jibaiha town of South Kordofan Nuba Mountains to Khartoum on a public bus. The bus stopped at the western checkpoint of Kosti town, 3 security personnel in civilian clothes entered the bus for regular checks. When they came to Mr Suliman they asked him inappropriate and racist questions such as, “why are you so black?”, “are you a Sudanese?” The officers insisted that Mr Suliman had to accompany them to their office despite providing his identification documents. At the office he was referred to as a slave (*‘abid’*) and was only released after 2 hours when passengers on the bus refused to leave without him. The checkpoints are currently managed by the SAF and RSF.⁵⁸

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

49. The State Party accepted recommendations guaranteeing the rights of women and children, fighting against impunity on crimes, and violations of their human rights.⁵⁹ In both South Kordofan and Blue Nile, incidents of rape against young women and girls by armed groups and police have not been investigated, and perpetrators have not been held to account. This recommendation has not yet been implemented.

⁵⁶HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.1.5 page 9 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

⁵⁷HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.4.4 page 34 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

⁵⁸HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.1.12 page 15 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

⁵⁹140.46 Ensure that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, as well as mass rapes, and sexual and gender-bases violence are promptly, independently and thoroughly investigated and to take all the necessary measures to bring perpetrators to justice (Portugal) Source of position: A/HRC/33/8/Add.1

Sexual Violence in South Kordofan

50. On 28 April 2019, 4 armed men in PDF uniform raped 2 girls while they were farming with their grandmother in Elfaid Um-Abdalla, South Kordofan. The soldiers ordered the girls to undress. When they refused, 2 of the soldiers raped them while the other 2 pointed their guns at the grandmother. The girls were taken to Elfaid Um-Abdalla health centre and Rashad hospital for treatment. A case was filed at Rashad police and the victims stated they can identify the attackers. However, no further investigations have been made by the police.⁶⁰

Sexual Violence in Blue Nile

51. On 12 December 2019, in Guisan⁶¹ town, a police officer lured a 16-year-old student into the house of a police sergeant where he raped her. The victim informed her family and was taken to the village health centre where a medical examination confirmed her account. The victim identified the perpetrator as police lieutenant and head of Madinah-12 Police post. The family attempted to report the case with the police but were prevented by the police and forced to send the victim to Damazin for medical investigations. After the investigation, the police would not file a report, leaving the victim traumatised.⁶²

FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

52. Sudan received and supported a recommendation to take effective measures to respect the right to freedom of religion or belief.⁶³ There have been attacks on churches in Blue Nile in 2020, previously there had been no reports of these types of violations in the state.

Churches set on fire twice in Bout

53. On 16 January 2020, the Sudan Internal Church, Catholic Church, and the Orthodox Church in Bout town were set on fire by arsonists. This was the second occasion that the churches had been attacked. On 28 December 2019, the same churches were burned down, and the communities rebuilt the buildings using local materials. The churches reported both attacks, but the police did not investigate or put in place protective measures. Due to lack of investigation of these attacks, police left churches vulnerable to attack twice, therefore this recommendation has not been fully implemented.⁶⁴

⁶⁰HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2019, paragraph 2.2.1, page 19 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan-january-december-2019/>

⁶¹Madinah-12 is a village in Geisan locality of Blue Nile State in a distant of sixty (60) KM from Damazin town

⁶²HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2019, paragraph 2.2.2, page 19 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan-january-december-2019/>

⁶³138.95 Take effective measures to respect the right to freedom of religion without discrimination (Slovakia) Source of position: A/HRC/33/8 - Para. 138

⁶⁴HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2020, paragraph 2.4.15 page 40 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan/>

VIOLATIONS RELATED TO MINING

54. There is a growing concern over the activities of mining companies that are owned or connected to armed groups such as the RSF and what was formerly known as the National Intelligence and Security Services. The practices of these companies threaten the environment and right to adequate standards of living for communities in the immediate locality. In addition to concerns of repressive acts by armed groups when overseeing these operations.

Assault and intimidation of civilians by RSF in Talodi

55. On 19 October 2019, civil servant Mr Hussein Nouelgaleil, together with 2 members of the Talodi Youth Association for Development (TYAD), formally visited the Altugula gold mine. While meeting with community leaders around the mine, RSF soldiers assaulted Mr Nouelgaleil. He escaped and sought refuge at an MI office where the soldiers protected him and sent him to hospital.⁶⁵

RSF polluted sluiceway / channel with cyanide in Talodi

56. On 20 October 2019, RSF officers deliberately poured cyanide in drains at the Altugula gold mine of Talodi. Members of the TYAD learned about the pollution and alerted the local community which reduced the level of damage. However, 1 donkey and a cow died minutes after drinking the water.⁶⁶

REFUGEES FROM THE TWO AREAS

57. We know that refugees from South Kordofan seem unwilling to return to the area, and continue living in Yida, Ajong Thok and Pamir refugee camps in neighbouring South Sudan. In December 2018, Waging Peace travelled to Yida and Ajong Thok where they spoke to refugees who told them how unsafe they felt. Their fears were compounded by the political battle over the area itself, with the United Nations and other related agencies wanting residents to move to camps away from the border in response to Sudan's fears that Yida was being used to house armed movements and their families. At that time, cross-border humanitarian aid was a sticking point in negotiations between the SPLM-N and al Bashir's government. Despite meagre options, everyone Waging Peace spoke to adamantly refused to eat food that had passed through Khartoum or its proxies. Waging Peace also spoke to children and collected 60 children's drawings of devastating images of atrocity crimes they had witnessed, a sample of which is on the cover page of this document.

⁶⁵HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2019, paragraph 2.5.4, page 29 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan-january-december-2019/>

⁶⁶HUDO Centre report on the human rights situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan January – December 2019, paragraph 2.5.5, page 30 <https://hudocentre.org/report-on-the-human-rights-situation-in-south-kordofan-and-blue-nile-states-of-sudan-january-december-2019/>

RECOMMENDATIONS

58. The State Party should address the human rights violations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile in the following ways.
- a. Protect all civilians in conflict areas and ensure violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws are investigated and prosecuted.
 - b. Create a federal and state-level investigation of insecurity in the Nuba Mountains, South Kordofan. This should be solved immediately.
 - c. Conduct and observe the rule of law as well as ban security agencies' impunity.
 - d. Ensure that police investigate and support the prosecution of crimes committed by non-state actors and government-affiliated armed groups where they violate the rights of civilians.
 - e. Militias and armed groups such as the Peoples Defence Force (PDF) should be dissolved and disarmed immediately, and the State Party should organise the collection and disposal of unlicensed firearms.
 - f. Release all political detainees and ensure that no one is deprived of their liberty without due process.
 - g. End the use of torture in detention and prosecute all reported incidents of the torture.
 - h. Address racial discrimination at all levels in society.
 - i. Urgently investigate all reports of rape and sexual violence and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.
 - j. Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
 - k. Ensure that international standards and practices are followed by the mining industry and that rights of local communities are respected.
 - l. Protect all places of worship prioritising those that have been attacked.