



Protection Alert: Civilians Face Extreme Protection Risks in Kordofan Region, Sudan
8 December 2025

The GPC is issuing this Protection Alert given the marked worsening of the violence faced by people in the Kordofan region of Sudan. Detailed information about specific incidents remains difficult to confirm; however, given available reports from Sudan Protection Cluster partners and allies on serious protection risks and violations in North and South Kordofan, this Alert seeks to draw attention to and mobilize action in support of the protection of civilians in these areas.

Protection partners in Sudan are sounding the alarm as civilians across the Kordofan region face a mounting humanitarian crisis marked by an escalation of armed conflict, with civilian populations caught in the crossfire and at risk of extreme violence, confinement, and starvation. Action is needed now to protect civilians and save lives.

Following the fall of El Fasher, the epicentre of the fighting between Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has moved away from Darfur into the neighbouring Kordofan region, where there has been a marked intensification in the conflict over the past six weeks, with worsening violence against civilians, alongside ongoing blockades and restrictions on movement. A growing number of civilian deaths, including from shelling, drone strikes, and executions, are being reported in multiple areas in both South and North Kordofan. In one such incident in early December, drones struck a kindergarten and other civilian infrastructure, including a hospital, in Kalogi, South Kordofan. This drone attack alone reportedly resulted in at least 116 casualties according to a media report, including children, as well as paramedics who were assisting the injured. Other reported incidents across the region include more attacks on schools and hospitals, as well as on IDP sites, markets, humanitarian personnel, and humanitarian supplies. Civilians in Kadugli and Dilling in South Kordofan, which have been besieged by the RSF and SPLM-N, and El Obeid in North Kordofan, which is partially surrounded by the RSF, are also facing increased attacks and violence amidst heavy fighting, while famine is confirmed by Famine Review Committee for Kadugli. There are reports of further mobilization of RSF personnel and convoys around El-Obeid.

This escalation of the conflict in the Kordofan has triggered civilian displacement, with over 45,000 people estimated to have fled their homes in an effort to survive in the past month. Severe protection incidents along displacement routes are being reported by partners. These include alleged instances of abductions of men and youth for ransom, especially in RSF controlled areas, detention, including by SPLM-N, as well as physical violence due to perceived political affiliation. The extensive use of explosive weaponry in civilian areas is likely to have led to widespread presence of explosive hazards posing further risks to the safe movement of civilians. Gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, is a major and growing concern, with reports of rape and other forms of sexual assault against women and girls during flight. The breakdown of community protection mechanisms, combined with the absence of safe shelter, food, and services, is significantly heightening exposure to exploitation, harassment, and abuse, particularly for women, adolescent girls, unaccompanied minors, and female-headed households. Family separation is also increasingly evident, with reports of unaccompanied and separated children from the Kordofan arriving in White Nile state.

Accounts from newly displaced people raise concerns that tactics similar to those used in North Darfur, including in El Fasher, might now be repeated in the Kordofan, including besiegement, restrictions on access and movement and severe violations of human rights.

All parties to the conflict and members of aligned groups are urgently called upon to stop violence against civilians and comply with International Humanitarian Law, including through enacting the measures highlighted below across the Kordofan, while Member States must leverage their influence to support these essential actions:

- Agree to a comprehensive, nation-wide ceasefire, immediately halt violence against civilians, including community response groups and other humanitarian personnel, cease the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas and proactively facilitate the safe passage of all civilians out of areas under siege/partial siege, including through the issuance of command orders prohibiting harassment, looting, physical and sexual violence targeting civilians.
- The immediate facilitation of humanitarian access across cities and towns in the Kordofan, putting a stop to the use of starvation as a weapon of war and enabling the provision of urgently needed humanitarian assistance. Ensure the safety and operational continuity of humanitarian and protection frontline responders and national NGOs, who are operating under extreme threat.
- Clear orders that ensure any screening procedures adopted are not based on ethnic, tribal or demographic profiling; do not exacerbate risks of separation of children from their parents during flight; do not cause further harm, including to women and girls and survivors of GBV, and do not cause delays in civilians' access to humanitarian services and assistance.
- A clear and public prohibition against engagement of RSF, SAF, SPML-N and members of aligned groups in any acts of reprisals, including targeted killings and arbitrary detention, against the civilian population.
- Clear orders issued against the use of conflict-related sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence, as well as orders issued against the recruitment and use of children, with specific measures put in place to support swift accountability when violations do occur.
- Recognize and treat children forcibly recruited into armed groups as victims of grave violations - not as combatants or criminals – while ensuring their safe release, rehabilitation, and reintegration in accordance with international humanitarian law and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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