

## **EMERGENCY ALERT**

### **ORGANISED MASSACRE IN EL FASHER**

**27 OCTOBER 2025**

**For more than two years we have warned that El Fasher, capital of the Darfur region of Sudan, was a target of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and that if the city was taken a campaign to displace and or destroy entire identity groups would follow. El Fasher has now fallen and reports of execution, forced expulsion, and organized massacre are filtering through the information blackout that the RSF have imposed. We believe it highly likely that acts of genocide and crimes against humanity are occurring.**

**In the absence of a protection force maximum political pressure upon the RSF and its backers is urgently needed to at least achieve an emergency protection pause where violence against civilians immediately ceases. The UK and its partners must not just condemn the atrocities but work at pace to force such a pause and follow through with sincere consequences that advance the prevention of further massacre and punish those responsible. As penholder at the UN Security Council on both Sudan and the Protection of Civilians, the UK holds special responsibilities during this critical moment of acute violence and mounting risk.**

Today, the Yale School of Public Health's Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL) [has concluded](#) its evidence is consistent with the RSF 'conducting alleged mass killings after capturing El-Fasher'. Also today, the UN Human Rights Office [issued a warning](#) that the RSF 'are carrying out atrocities, including summary executions, after seizing control of large parts of the besieged city of El Fasher, North Darfur and of Bara city in North Kordofan state in recent days.' Volker Turk said "the risk of further large-scale, ethnically motivated violations and atrocities in El Fasher is mounting by the day." [HRL determines that:](#)

- 'El Fasher appears to be at the start of a systematic and intentional process of ethnic cleansing of Fur, Zaghawa, and Berti indigenous non-Arab Communities through forced displacement and summary execution.
- RSF vehicles deployed in tactical formations are consistent with house-to-house clearance operations in Daraja Oula neighborhood
- These activities include the blocking of side streets with vehicles and the presence of gun-mounted vehicles.
- Imagery shows objects consistent with the size of human bodies on the ground near RSF vehicles, including at least five instances of reddish earth discoloration. At least three of the reddish instances have objects nearby measuring approximately 1.3-2.0 meters, consistent in dimension with human bodies.
- House-to-house clearance operations are taking place approximately 250 meters from Al Safiya mosque – which RSF attacked in a drone strike on 19 September 2025 that killed approximately 78 people – and slightly northwest of the Saudi Hospital

**This is not an unexpected catastrophe but one we have long feared.** The atrocities now taking place in El Fasher were predicable – and indeed were repeatedly predicted. In June 2024 we warned that without international action El Fasher would become another [Srebrenica](#). In September 2024 we warned [that if the city fell](#) genocide and crimes against humanity would follow. In April this year, at a press conference ahead of the London Conference and as Zamzam IDP camp was overwhelmed, we reiterated that the RSF were on a trajectory to complete the genocide they began twenty years before. We have been on record since at least [June 2019](#) calling on the UK government to prioritise atrocity prevention for Sudan. Yet as El Fasher falls the UK still lacks a coherent approach in its Sudan policy to its obligations to help protect civilians, to prevent and punish genocide, or in upholding its stated commitments to prevent mass atrocity crimes. We hope that El Fasher's devastating fall provokes the gear change in UK and international civilian protection efforts that has for so long been needed.

**The single most effective action that could bring pause to massacre in El Fasher is for the right call from Abu Dhabi to be placed to RSF leadership demanding the immediate protection of civilians.** It is beyond an [open secret](#) that the United Arab Emirates is arming and supporting the RSF; the [relationship](#) between the RSF leadership and the UAE is well evidenced to be political, financial and military. It has been clearly [documented](#) that the RSF receives materiel support from foreign backers but most notably the UAE. It is essential that all power holders leverage their positions to encourage UAE counterparts to demand RSF command pause their siege and violence; enable safe passage for civilians; and provide guarantees they will cease the targeting of civilian populations in line with UNSC 2736. The UAE must halt the flow of advanced weapons systems into Darfur in line with UNSC 1556.

**What is unfolding in El Fasher is a continuation of calculated political strategy to destroy a people** and remove them from their land: the strategy of the RSF against civilians in Darfur is well-practiced and long documented. It is a continuation of the genocide perpetrated by the Janjaweed—now restyled as the RSF—that began twenty years ago. Confronting these crimes therefore requires political and protection efforts that are distinct from pursuit of a national ceasefire or the provision of humanitarian aid. To uphold its obligations to protect civilians and prevent further atrocities in Darfur:

- **The Prime Minister must issue a statement** condemning in the strongest possible terms the violence and putting the RSF and its supporters on notice that civilians in and around El Fasher must be protected. He must hit the phones and work with counterparts to secure an immediate protection pause.
- **Pressure on the UAE must be an immediate strategic and senior-held priority.** The UK must increase pressure on the UAE, both bilaterally and in the UNSC, to uphold the UNSC's arms embargo (S/RES/2791(2025)).
- **The UK must uphold its responsibilities in New York as penholder** on both Sudan and the Protection of Civilians and ensure that the UNSC hold an emergency session with focus on mitigating actions that can be taken to avoid further mass atrocities.
- **Ministers and officials must ensure that El Fasher is a top priority in every diplomatic exchange until the catastrophe has been averted.** The time-bound nature of this catastrophe in El Fasher - and mounting threat facing Tawila - means that short-term surge is necessary to bring pause to this loss of life.
- **HMG must do for Tawila what was not done for El Genina, Zamzam or El Fasher:** Tawila hosts over 400,000 displaced persons and has been receiving civilians fleeing El Fasher. Recognising the trajectory of RSF strategy, the UK and partners must acknowledge the deep precarity facing the IDP population of Tawila and mobilise all efforts to maximise protection, prevent its assault, safeguard civilian life.
- **The FCDO must be bolder, more direct, and have a higher risk appetite in supporting the resilience of the civilian community of Darfur and the Kordofans to withstand atrocity crimes.** This could include by providing supplies and materiel to protect and maintain access to core services such as power and water for as long as possible; supporting civilian-led protection and medical services; supplying cameras and satellite telephones to increase telecommunication capacities and information-sharing with the outside world; and conducting a feasibility and risk assessment of enabling access for members of the diplomatic, human rights, or journalistic community willing to bear witness to events. Without sustainable, flexible, and predictable funding and bolstered support from international organisations, the lifeline provided by local front-line responders remains under constant threat.
- **We reiterate our call for a Coalition of Conscience for the Protection of Civilians in Sudan.** Hopes in April of creating a high-level temporary international partnership for the purpose of advancing civilian protection and the prevention of further atrocity crimes must be revived. Establishing a forum for ministerial representation of states committed to advancing civilian protection would help reset the political agenda and at the most senior level. Ministerial leadership can be supported by a contact group of political, technical and civil society stakeholders with the purpose of coordinating international action on the protection of civilians.

**For a direct briefing, for comment, or to attend emergency media briefing on Tues 28 October 2pm UK contact:**

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