



Republic of the Sudan

UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review 4th cycle

Joint stakeholder submission to the 54th UPR Working Group session (Jan-Feb 2027)

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Information on the submitting organisations

Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L) is an independent, non-political and not-for-profit lawyers' organisation established in 1986. Its mission is to promote the independent functioning of lawyers and the legal profession across the world in accordance with internationally recognised norms and standards by supporting lawyers who are at risk as a result of discharging their professional duties. Lawyers for Lawyers was granted special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council in July 2013.
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The **International Observatory for Lawyers at Risk (OIAD)** is an international organisation founded by the Conseil National des Barreaux (France), the Consiglio Nazionale Forense (Italy), the Consejo General de la Abogacía Española (Spain) and the Paris Bar (France). Established in 2016, its aim is to defend lawyers who are threatened in the course of their professional duties and to highlight situations that undermine the rights of the defence. The Observatory is currently supported by more than 50 members and its mandate is to provide assistance to lawyers subjected to threats and persecution while exercising their profession, and to raise awareness amongst political actors and civil society of the fundamental role played by lawyers in safeguarding rights and freedoms.

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The **Sudanese Defenders Center for Legal Aid (SDCLA)** is a prominent non-governmental organisation dedicated to defending human rights, promoting justice, and providing critical legal representation for at-risk activists, victims of violence, and vulnerable populations in Sudan.

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I. Introduction

1. Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L), The Sudanese Defenders Center for Legal Aid (SDCLA), the International Observatory for Lawyers in Danger (OIAD) **and the Sudanese Lawyers Network** welcome the opportunity to submit written information to the fourth cycle Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of the Sudan at the 54th session of the UPR Working Group. This submission is based on desk research and input from Sudanese lawyers. It assesses the implementation of recommendations accepted by Sudan during its third cycle review and documents the impact of the armed conflict on the legal profession and on access to justice. The submission addresses the following thematic areas: (a) the independence and functioning of legal institutions; (b) threats, intimidation and reprisals against lawyers, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and professional retaliation; and (c) access to legal representation in the context of armed conflict.

a. Relevant prior UPR recommendations and implementation status

2. During Sudan's third cycle review, the Government received 28 recommendations related to judicial independence, due process, freedom of expression, and the protection of human rights defenders (HRDs) and civic space; 26 of these were supported by the Government. Four of the supported recommendations are listed below; the 22 others called for enhanced protections for freedom of expression and civic space.
137.147 the Government should investigate the physical and digital attacks against and harassment of journalists, media workers and human rights defenders, including lawyers engaged in human rights work, and ensure freedom of expression (*Lithuania*)
137.154 the Government should ensure a safe environment that is conducive to the legitimate work of human rights defenders, including lawyers engaged in human rights work, and journalists (*Spain*)
137.155 the Government should take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, especially women human rights defenders, free from persecution, intimidation and harassment (*Latvia*)
137.223 the Government should ensure full access to justice for women. (*Côte d'Ivoire*)
3. These commitments remain unrealised.

b. The conflict context

4. Since April 2023, an armed conflict has been ongoing in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), following the collapse of the democratic transition initiated by the October 2019 Constitutional Declaration. That transition was interrupted by the coup of 25 October 2021, after which the programme of legal and institutional reform intended to bring Sudan's domestic legislation into line with its international obligations was discontinued, with consequences for the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary and the functioning of legal institutions. The constitutional amendments adopted in 2025 have been the subject of concern among Sudanese lawyers, including as to their legitimacy and as to the constitutional basis of the decisions and decrees issued pursuant to them. According to OHCHR, more than 30 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, and estimates of the death toll range from 150,000 to 400,000.ⁱ Emergency powers have been invoked, and courts, legal institutions and professional bodies have been disrupted, damaged or destroyed.
5. In this context, Sudanese lawyers have been directly targeted through killings, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and professional sanctions linked to the exercise of

their functions. This appears connected, in part, to the prominent role lawyers played in Sudan's democratic transition, at the forefront of efforts to rebuild rule-of-law institutions and advance accountability.

6. The gravity of the environment in which Sudanese lawyers operate is reflected in the findings of the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan, which has concluded that both parties to the conflict have committed war crimes; that the RSF, during the siege of El-Fasher and surrounding areas, committed crimes against humanity including murder, torture, sexual violence, forced displacement and persecution; and that the RSF's coordinated campaign in and around El-Fasher in October 2025 bears the hallmarks of genocide against the Zaghawa and Fur communities.ⁱⁱ

II. Independence and Functioning of Legal Institutions

7. The armed conflict and the exercise of emergency powers have profoundly undermined the legal and institutional framework within which Sudanese lawyers operate.

a. Dissolution of the Bar Council

8. Sudan has no functioning bar association elected by, and representative of, the legal profession. The Bar Association Council elected for the 2017–2021 term was dissolved by Constitutional Decree No. 1 of 2023,ⁱⁱⁱ and no body chosen by the profession has since been lawfully constituted. Core bar functions, including admission, licensing and discipline measures, have been assumed by a committee operating from Port Sudan that Sudanese lawyers have described as a continuation of the bar leadership aligned with the former government of Omar al-Bashir.^{iv} That committee, formed after the outbreak of the war on 15 April 2023, holds no electoral mandate from the profession. The Advocates Act 1983 (as amended in 2014),^v confines it to enumerated grounds of professional or disciplinary misconduct, and reserves disciplinary sanction to the Disciplinary Council, subject to a complaint, an investigation, the right of defence, a reasoned decision and appeal.^{vi} The Steering Committee of the Sudan Bar Association, which states that it is the legitimate representative body under Constitutional Decree No. 1 of 2023, disputes the committee's authority, and litigation over the committee's status remains pending before the competent court.
9. Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Principle 24 of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers (Basic Principles) entitle lawyers to self-governing professional associations whose executive bodies are elected by the membership and act without external interference.^{vii} The exercise of disciplinary and licensing powers by an unelected body the profession has not chosen is incompatible with that guarantee. In practice, the absence of a functioning bar has left lawyers without professional protection or recourse when they are detained or threatened.

b. Unlawful professional sanctions

10. On 18 December 2025, the Port Sudan admissions committee issued a decision suspending or revoking the practising licences of 31 lawyers, citing alleged professional misconduct said to consist of associations with the Rapid Support Forces or other political actors. The affected lawyers were given no prior notice and no opportunity to be heard or to appeal; no investigation was conducted, and neither individualised reasons nor the specific allegations were disclosed to them.^{viii} The proceedings were thus devoid of the procedural safeguards required under the Advocates Act.^{ix}

11. Such measures must follow a fair hearing before an impartial body established by the profession, an independent statutory authority or a court, subject to judicial review (ICCPR, Article 14; Basic Principles 27 and 28).^x Penalising lawyers without evidence of an established breach of professional duty is further inconsistent with Principle 16.^{xi}

c. Collapse of courts and civilian judicial processes

12. Across Khartoum, the Darfur states, Kordofan and Gezira, courts and prosecution offices have been suspended, damaged, looted or rendered non-functional by the conflict. The UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission has expressed serious concern over the collapse of the rule of law in Sudan, including the destruction of legal infrastructure, the disruption of police, prosecution and judicial functions, and the targeting of lawyers.^{xii}
13. Judicial buildings, including the offices of the Attorney General and courts in Khartoum State, have been subject to systematic attack; the burning of judicial records and land registries has been reported in El Geneina, Nyala and Zalingei, with no digital back-up, compromising the integrity of legal and property records for years to come.^{xiii} Many lawyers are left with no functioning forum in which to file claims, consult case records or pursue clients' matters, effectively suspending the practice of law in the affected regions.
14. In areas under its control, the RSF has reportedly sought to establish parallel "field" or martial courts, which have been used only infrequently and outside any recognised legal framework. Where courts continue to function, including in SAF-controlled areas, civilians, among them lawyers, have been referred to special, terrorism and "security cell" processes for ordinary criminal and security-related charges. These processes have been used to criminalise the lawful exercise of legal representation, and are characterised by arbitrary arrest, denial of due process and the absence of judicial oversight. Lawyers appearing before them report being refused entry to hearings, denied access to case files and barred from meeting clients in detention.
15. Article 14§1 of the ICCPR entitles all persons to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law, and applies to all courts and tribunals, including the special and terrorism courts before which civilians are tried in Sudan.^{xiv} Such trials should be "very exceptional", and are permissible only where the State demonstrates that recourse to them is unavoidable and that no civilian court, ordinary or high-security, can undertake the trial. That threshold is not met in Sudan.^{xv}

d. Emergency and security legislation

16. Emergency legislation enacted after the coup of 25 October 2021, and continued under the current conflict, enables detention without judicial oversight and criminalises dissent. Emergency Decree No. 3/2021 of 24 December 2021 granted the regular forces and the General Intelligence Service powers to arrest and detain without warrant, search premises, seize property and restrict movement, including that of lawyers. After the outbreak of the conflict, states of emergency were imposed or extended across several states, including Khartoum and parts of Darfur, granting security forces expanded powers of arrest and immunity for acts performed on duty.^{xvi} In May 2024 the Governor of Khartoum announced the formation of a "security cell" comprising the police, the General Intelligence Service, Military Intelligence and, in some cases, the SAF-allied al-Bara' Ibn Malik Brigade, empowered to gather intelligence, conduct raids and detain those suspected of collaboration with the RSF; comparable structures operate in several other states.^{xvii} Lawyers representing individuals accused of such collaboration have been arrested and prosecuted under Articles 50 and 51 of the Criminal Act 1991, undermining

the constitutional order and waging war against the State, political offences classified as offences against national security, and under broadly framed espionage, terrorism and national-security provisions that convert legitimate professional advocacy into a criminal offence.^{xviii}

17. Under Article 9§3 of the ICCPR, anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge must be brought promptly before a judge, who must decide on release or remand, and pretrial detention must be periodically re-examined.^{xix} Security detention outside any criminal charge may be justified only in the most exceptional circumstances and does not abrogate the guarantees of Article 9, including prompt judicial review and access to independent legal advice.^{xx} Detention as punishment for the legitimate exercise of ICCPR rights is arbitrary by definition.^{xxi}
18. Its use against lawyers also violates Basic Principles 16 and 17, which prohibit identifying lawyers with their clients' causes and require safeguards where a lawyer's security is threatened as a result of discharging their functions; in so far as it suppresses professional advocacy, it further engages Articles 18 and 19 of the ICCPR.^{xxii}

III. Threats, Intimidation and Reprisals Against Lawyers

19. Since April 2023, lawyers in Sudan have been subjected to a systematic pattern of killings, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture and professional reprisals carried out by both the SAF and the RSF, as well as by affiliated security and intelligence services.

a. Extrajudicial killings

20. Lawyers, like all civilians, have the right to life under Article 6§1 of the ICCPR. States must not only respect that right but ensure it, exercising due diligence to protect life against deprivations by non-State actors, taking special protective measures for persons in vulnerable situations such as human rights defenders, and investigating and, where appropriate, prosecuting unlawful killings.^{xxiii} Extrajudicial killings of civilians in a non-international armed conflict also violate Article 4 of Additional Protocol II and customary international humanitarian law.^{xxiv} Basic Principle 17 requires safeguards where a lawyer's security is threatened as a result of discharging their functions.^{xxv}
21. Lawyers in Sudan have been killed in connection with their professional functions by both parties to the conflict, although the killings documented to date have been predominantly carried out by the RSF, with a considerably smaller number attributed to the SAF and SAF-aligned forces. The Emergency Lawyers group has reported that 16 of its members were killed and 32 detained between April 2023 and January 2026.^{xxvi} The majority of these killings occurred in West Darfur, with further cases documented in South Darfur, Gezira and Omdurman.^{xxvii}
22. The killings of **Mohammed Ahmed Kudia**, **Khamis Arabab** and **Khidir Sulieman Abdelmageed** illustrate the pattern of retaliation against Darfur lawyers who supported victims of the conflict. Mr Kudia, who represented victims of looting, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, was killed at his home in El Geneina on 28 May 2023; RSF members then set fire to the house. Two days later, RSF members reportedly killed Mr Arabab, a member of the Darfur Bar Association. On 11 June 2023, Mr Abdelmageed, who headed the human rights organisation Afkar, was killed as he fled his home. The Darfur Bar Association reported that all three had received death threats from members of armed militia groups before they were killed.^{xxviii}

23. No investigation is known to have been opened into any of these killings. The targeting of lawyers, together with the reported absence of any accountability, points to an absence of State protection or redress and undermines the safety and independence of the legal profession.

b. Enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention

24. Lawyers have been seized without warrant, held incommunicado in undisclosed or unofficial facilities, subjected to torture and ill-treatment, and denied access to judicial process. The submitting organisations have documented at least ten such cases since April 2023. In its Resolution 60/3, the Human Rights Council recalled findings documenting killings, enforced disappearance, and arbitrary arrest and detention in Sudan.^{xxix}
25. The case of **Khaled Omar Al-Sadiq** illustrates the pattern of enforced disappearance of lawyers in Sudan. On 22 December 2024, RSF members abducted him outside his home in Khartoum, forcing him into a military vehicle in the presence of at least seven men and without producing any warrant or legal basis for the arrest. RSF forces then raided his home and confiscated his belongings, including his computer and legal case files, connecting the abduction to his work as a lawyer. He has since been held incommunicado, with no information provided to his family or legal representatives on his whereabouts, and concern for his safety is aggravated by pre-existing health conditions. In May 2025, ten organisations, including the submitting organisations, called publicly for information on his fate and whereabouts.^{xxx}
26. Article 1 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance prohibits enforced disappearance in all circumstances and without exception. It violates numerous provisions of the ICCPR and is a particularly aggravated form of arbitrary detention under Article 9, first paragraph.^{xxxi} It also violates Article 14, which guarantees a fair trial and legal assistance of one's own choosing, and Basic Principles 8 and 16, under which detainees must have prompt access to a lawyer and lawyers must not be prosecuted or intimidated for discharging their professional duties. In a non-international armed conflict, it further violates Article 5 of Additional Protocol II and customary international humanitarian law.^{xxxii}

c. Professional retaliation and intimidation

27. Lawyers representing conflict victims, political detainees and clients charged under security legislation face systematic reprisals, including judicial harassment, criminal prosecution, physical assault, surveillance, exclusion from proceedings and interference with client access.
28. The case of **Rehab Mubarak** illustrates the use of criminal process against lawyers for their human rights work. Ms Mubarak, a member of the Emergency Lawyers group, is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the Prosecution for Crimes Directed Against the State on charges carrying the death penalty, and proceedings have been initiated to remove her from the Bar. The charges are reportedly linked to her human rights activities and to reports addressing political and human rights conditions, which the authorities have characterised as misleading and harmful to national security. She is also among the 31 lawyers whose practising licences were withdrawn in December 2025.^{xxxiii}
29. The arrest of five lawyers in Khartoum illustrates the criminalisation of the defence function itself. According to the Emergency Lawyers group, the five were questioned and then arrested by a security cell after taking part in the defence of persons accused

of collaboration with the RSF, and were prosecuted under provisions of the Criminal Act 1991 concerning undermining the constitutional order and inciting war against the State, both of which carry the death penalty. Among them is **Nasra Abkar Ibrahim**, arrested in Omdurman together with her sister and prosecuted for allegedly threatening a public official and attempting to influence the judiciary; her trial was listed before the North Omdurman Criminal Court on 29 October 2025. Emergency Lawyers reported a parallel rise in arrests of activists, teachers and doctors by the same cell.^{xxxiv}

30. These individual reprisals operate alongside the collective sanctions described above: the revocation of 31 practising licences without due process forms part of the same pattern. The Committee for Justice has documented a systematic policy of arrest campaigns targeting lawyers under vague security pretexts since 15 April 2023, and the RSF has targeted legal professionals linked to accountability documentation in Darfur. This pattern produces a significant chilling effect: lawyers report self-censoring, withdrawing from sensitive cases and declining to document abuses out of fear of reprisal.^{xxxv}
31. These practices violate Basic Principles 16(a) and (c), which prohibit identifying lawyers with their clients' causes and protect them from prosecution or sanctions arising from their representation; Principle 18; and Principles 27 to 29, which require States to ensure that lawyers can carry out their functions without threat and to take effective action against any interference with a lawyer's professional activities.^{xxxvi}

IV. Access to Legal Representation in the Context of Armed Conflict

32. The combination of conflict, institutional collapse and targeted reprisals against lawyers has produced a severe access-to-justice crisis across Sudan, falling disproportionately on those most in need of legal protection.

a. Displacement of the legal profession

33. Thousands of lawyers have been internally displaced or have fled abroad. Reports indicate that, since 2023, at least 500 law offices in Sudan have been raided and looted by the RSF.^{xxxvii} In several conflict-affected areas, particularly Darfur and Kordofan, only a handful of lawyers remain operational. The destruction of lawyers' homes and offices has itself prevented them from practising, with direct consequences for the availability of legal assistance and for efforts to secure accountability. The case of **Abdulhafiz Ahmed Daoud Guma** illustrates the pattern: after repeated arbitrary arrest and torture by the RSF, he fled to Chad, abandoning a practice of over twenty years serving victims of violations in Darfur.^{xxxviii} The resulting deprivation of legal services is inconsistent with Basic Principles 1, 2 and 4 and Article 14(3)(d) of the ICCPR, which guarantee the right to call upon a lawyer of one's choice and require Governments to ensure adequate access to legal services.

b. Use of special, emergency and terrorism courts for civilian cases

34. The trial of civilians before special, emergency and terrorism courts violates Article 14 of the ICCPR and General Comment No. 32, which permit such trials only in defined circumstances and with full procedural safeguards. In practice, defendants in security-related cases have been denied access to counsel of their choosing, while lawyers have been excluded from proceedings or refused access to clients in pre-trial detention. The UN Fact-Finding Mission has received credible reports of serious due-process violations,

including significant delays in access to courts, restricted access to legal counsel, coercion to confess, and instances of prosecution following acquittal for the same conduct.^{xxxix}

35. The case of **Abubakr Mansour** illustrates this convergence. Mr Mansour, known in Sudan for his human rights work, provided humanitarian assistance, including the free distribution of medicine, after the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023. On 25 November 2024 he was assaulted in front of his family and taken into military detention, then transferred to Sinja, Sinnar state, and subjected to prolonged interrogation. In April 2025 the Sinnar Criminal Court sentenced him to 20 years' imprisonment and a fine on charges of collaboration with the RSF, notwithstanding the evidence he had submitted in his defence. On 5 October 2025 the same court imposed the death penalty by hanging, in proceedings held without prior notification of the defence and without any opportunity for defence counsel to attend or present evidence. His defence lawyer, Abubakr El-Mahi, was subsequently arrested in connection with his role in the case.^{xl}
36. The case of **Montaser Abdullah** illustrates how the ordinary discharge of defence functions has been treated as a national-security offence. Mr Abdullah led the defence team for the 17 members of the Tagadom (Somoud) Coordination Committee. After he requested access to the prosecution's case file in May 2024, his office was placed under surveillance, and on 7 September 2024 he was taken into custody by the Red Sea State Security Cell in Port Sudan without an arrest warrant. He was held incommunicado until 3 October 2024, when he was charged with espionage, undermining the constitutional order and waging war against the State under the Criminal Act, the Anti-Terrorism Law and the Cybercrimes Act, all carrying the death penalty. Contrary to Article 48 of the Advocates Act, his professional immunity was never lifted before arrest; in detention he was reportedly forced to waive that immunity, pressured to confess, beaten, and denied access to his family, counsel and medical care. He remained in pre-trial detention for more than thirteen months until, on 20 October 2025, the court acquitted him of the major charges and convicted him under the Cybercrimes Act.^{xli}
37. The case of **Hamza Osman** illustrates the continued exposure of human rights lawyers to arbitrary arrest and torture, including on the basis of political affiliations dating from earlier periods of repression. On 24 December 2023, ten RSF members arrived at his home in Hasahisa, Al-Jazeera State, in two military vehicles and arrested him together with his son without producing a warrant, confiscating two vehicles from the property. He was subject to physical violence from around ten o'clock in the morning until five o'clock in the evening, sustaining serious injuries. Fearing renewed arrest and torture, he has since been forced to flee Sudan.

c. Denial of access to clients in detention

38. Lawyers report being systematically prevented from visiting clients held in military or security detention. Facilities operated by the RSF and by SAF-aligned security forces have denied legal access, refused to acknowledge detainees' identities, or held individuals in locations unknown to their families or lawyers; detainees are frequently transferred between premises controlled by different security forces.^{xlii} This is evident in the cases of **Khalafallah Hussein Abdelaziz**, **Mohamed Ezzeldin** and **Khaled Omar Al-Sadiq**, none of whom was given access to counsel or brought before a judicial authority, and on whose whereabouts no information was provided to their families.^{xliii} This is incompatible with Basic Principle 8, which requires that all persons arrested,

detained or imprisoned be given adequate opportunity to be visited by and to consult with a lawyer, without delay or censorship and in full confidentiality.

V. Recommendations

39. The submitting organisations call on UN Member States to make the following recommendations to Sudan during its fourth cycle Universal Periodic Review:
- a. Ensure that prompt, effective, independent and impartial investigations are conducted into all reported extrajudicial killings of lawyers since April 2023, bring the perpetrators to justice and provide effective remedies to the families of victims, in accordance with Article 6 of the ICCPR and Principle 17 of the Basic Principles;
 - b. Ensure that the Attorney General of the Republic of Sudan discharges his constitutional and legal mandate by initiating criminal proceedings against those responsible for violations of the rights of lawyers, ensuring that they are held accountable and that victims receive effective remedies, including reparation and fair compensation;
 - c. Take measures to end the practice of enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention of lawyers, ensure the immediate release of all lawyers held in arbitrary detention, disclose the fate and whereabouts of all lawyers subjected to enforced disappearance, and guarantee that all detained persons are brought promptly before a competent judicial authority, in accordance with Articles 9 and 14 of the ICCPR and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;
 - d. Ensure the reinstatement of all lawyers whose licences have been suspended or revoked without due process, and establish an independent and impartially constituted disciplinary body with procedural authority over the legal profession, in accordance with Principles 27, 28 and 29 of the Basic Principles and the Advocates Act 1983 (as amended in 2014);
 - e. Take measures to re-establish an independent and self-governing bar association, free from interference by the executive or military authorities, in accordance with Principles 24 and 28 of the Basic Principles;
 - f. Ensure that civilians, including lawyers, are tried exclusively before competent, independent and impartial civilian courts, and cease the use of special, emergency and terrorism courts for the trial of civilians, in accordance with Article 14 of the ICCPR and Human Rights Committee General Comment No. 32;
 - g. Guarantee that all persons deprived of their liberty have prompt and regular access to a lawyer of their choosing, including in military and security detention facilities, and ensure that lawyers are not prevented from visiting their clients or excluded from proceedings, in accordance with Principle 8 of the Basic Principles and Principle 17 of the UN Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment;
 - h. Repeal or amend emergency and security legislation that enables detention without judicial oversight and criminalises the legitimate exercise of the legal profession, including provisions of the Criminal Act that have been applied to prosecute lawyers for carrying out their professional duties, in accordance with Articles 9, 14 and 19 of the ICCPR and Principles 16 and 18 of the Basic Principles;
 - i. Cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan and the relevant UN Special Procedures, including by facilitating access to detention facilities, providing information on the situation of

detained lawyers, and ensuring that no reprisals are taken against lawyers or other civil society actors who engage with international human rights mechanisms.

Endnotes

ⁱUN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), “Three years of war in Sudan: A crisis the world can’t ignore”, 20 April 2026, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2026/04/three-years-war-sudan-crisis-world-cant-ignore>.

ⁱⁱOHCHR, “Sudan: Evidence in El-Fasher reveals genocidal campaign, targeting non-Arab communities, UN Fact-Finding Mission says”, 19 February 2026, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/02/sudan-evidence-el-fasher-reveals-genocidal-campaign-targeting-non-arab>; OHCHR, “‘A war of atrocities’: Sudan civilians deliberately targeted”, September 2025, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/war-atrocities-sudan-civilians-deliberately-targeted-un-fact-finding-mission>.

ⁱⁱⁱConstitutional Decree No. 1 of 2023.

^{iv}Dabanga Radio TV Online, 7 January 2026; Committee for Justice, 14 January 2026.

^vRendered in English by some sources as the Legal Profession Act or the Advocacy Act

^{vi}Dabanga Radio TV Online, 7 January 2026 (n. above); Committee for Justice, 14 January 2026 (n. above). The Lawyers’ Admissions Committee invoked Articles 25(1)(h), 25(2), 65 and 66 of the Act.

^{vii}UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, Principle 24.

^{viii}Dabanga Radio TV Online, “31 Sudanese lawyers’ licences withdrawn: A struggle for legitimacy or the politicisation of justice?”, 7 January 2026, <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/31-sudanese-lawyers-licences-withdrawn-a-struggle-for-legitimacy-or-the-politicisation-of-justice>; Sudan Tribune, “Sudan lawyer admission committee revokes licenses of 31 attorneys”, 6 January 2026; Committee for Justice, “Sudan: CFJ Documents Unlawful Decision to Suspend Licenses of Several Lawyers, Undermining Professional Independence”, 14 January 2026, <https://www.cfjustice.org/sudan-committee-for-justice-documents-unlawful-decision-to-suspend-licenses-of-several-lawyers-undermining-professional-independence/>.

^{ix}Advocates Act 1983 (as amended in 2014); see also Article 48 of the Act on the protection of lawyers in the exercise of their functions.

^xICCPR, Article 14; UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, Principles 27 and 28.

^{xi}UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, Principle 16.

^{xii}European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), COI Report – Sudan: Country Focus, “Rule of law and administration of justice”, February 2025, citing OHCHR, Findings of the investigations conducted by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan, 23 October 2024, A/HRC/57/CRP.6.

^{xiii}EUAA, COI Report – Sudan: Country Focus, February 2025; the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) has reported the destruction of at least eight judicial facilities in Khartoum: IBAHRI, “Sudan: IBAHRI condemns the killing of lawyers, calls for their protection and an end to the conflict”, 7 July 2023, <https://www.ibanet.org/Sudan-IBAHRI-condemns-the-killing-of-lawyers-calls-for-their-protection-and-an-end-to-the-conflict>.

^{xiv}UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 32: Article 14 (Right to Equality before Courts and Tribunals and to a Fair Trial), 23 August 2007, UN Doc CCPR/C/GC/32, para. 22.

^{xv}UN Human Rights Committee, Communication No. 1172/2003, *Madani v Algeria*, UN Doc CCPR/C/89/D/1172/2003.

^{xvi}EUAA, COI Report – Sudan: Country Focus, February 2025.

^{xvii}Human Rights Watch, “Sudan: Arbitrary Detention by Army, Security Forces”, 7 April 2026, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/04/07/sudan-arbitrary-detention-by-army-security-forces>.

^{xviii}Sudan Tribune, “Five lawyers arrested in Khartoum for defending RSF suspects, rights group says”, 21 October 2025, <https://sudantribune.com/article/306244>; OIAD, “Sudan: Arbitrary arrests of five lawyers in Khartoum”, 29 October 2025, <https://protect-lawyers.org/en/case/sudan-arbitrary-arrests-of-five-lawyers-in-khartoum/>, reporting information from the Emergency Lawyers group; Articles 50 and 51 of the Sudanese Criminal Act 1991. See also Sudan Tribune, “Five lawyers arrested in Khartoum for defending RSF suspects, rights group says”, 21 October 2025.

^{xix}UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 35: Article 9 (Liberty and Security of Person), 16 December 2014, UN Doc CCPR/C/GC/35, paras. 36 and 38. A detention not subject to periodic re-evaluation, other than in the context of a judicially imposed sentence for a fixed period, is per se arbitrary: *ibid.*, para. 12.

^{xx}UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 35, paras. 15 and 17.

^{xxi}UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 35, para. 17; see also the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, UNGA Res 53/144, 8 March 1999, UN Doc A/RES/53/144.

^{xxii}UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, Principles 16 and 17; ICCPR, Articles 18 and 19.

^{xxiii}UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 36: Article 6 (Right to Life), 3 September 2019, UN Doc CCPR/C/GC/36, paras. 15, 23 and 27; General Comment No. 31, 26 May 2004, UN Doc CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.13, para. 8.

^{xxiv}Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions, Article 4; customary international humanitarian law.

^{xxv}UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, Principle 17.

^{xxvi}Sudan Tribune, “48 lawyers killed or detained in Sudan since start of conflict”, 22 January 2026, <https://sudantribune.com/article/309738>.

^{xxvii}IBAHRI, 7 July 2023 (n. above); IAPL Monitoring Committee on Attacks on Lawyers, “Sudan: Killing of four human rights lawyers and defenders in Darfur”, 17 June 2023.

^{xxviii}OIAD, “Sudan: Three lawyers killed for defending human rights”, 2 October 2023, <https://protect-lawyers.org/case/mohammed-ahmed-kudia-khamis-arabab-und-khidir-sulieman-abdelmageed/>.

^{xxix}Human Rights Council, Resolution A/HRC/RES/60/3, Situation of human rights in the Sudan, adopted 11 October 2025, para. 12.

^{xxx}Lawyers for Lawyers, OIAD and 8 other organisations, joint statement on the arrest and enforced disappearance of lawyer Khaled Omar Al-Sadiq, 13 May 2025, <https://protect-lawyers.org/soudan-communique-conjoint-sur-larrestation-et-la-disparition-force-de-lavocat-khaled-omar-al-sadiq/>.

^{xxxvi}UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 35, para. 17; Articles 9 and 14 of the ICCPR; UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, Principles 8 and 16.

^{xxxvii}Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions, Article 5; customary international humanitarian law.

^{xxxviii}Committee for Justice, "Sudan: CFJ Documents the Issuance of an Arrest Warrant Against Lawyer Rehab Mubarak and Calls for Ensuring Her Protection and Ending the Targeting of Human Rights Defenders", 22 April 2026, <https://www.cfjustice.org/sudan-cfj-documents-the-issuance-of-an-arrest-warrant-against-lawyer-rehab-mubarak-and-calls-for-ensuring-her-protection-and-ending-the-targeting-of-human-rights-defenders/>; OIAD, case profile of Rehab Mubarak, <https://protect-lawyers.org/en/case/rehab-mubarak/>; Dabanga Radio TV Online, 7 January 2026 (n. above).

^{xxxiv}OIAD, "Sudan: Arbitrary arrests of five lawyers in Khartoum", 29 October 2025, <https://protect-lawyers.org/en/case/sudan-arbitrary-arrests-of-five-lawyers-in-khartoum/>, reporting information from the Emergency Lawyers group; Articles 50 and 51 of the Sudanese Criminal Act 1991. See also Sudan Tribune, "Five lawyers arrested in Khartoum for defending RSF suspects, rights group says", 21 October 2025

^{xxxv}Committee for Justice, 14 January 2026 (n. above); UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, Principles 16(a) and (c), 18 and 27–29.

^{xxxvi}UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, Principles 16(a) and (c), 18 and 27–29.

^{xxxvii}Lawyers for Lawyers, "Arrest and enforced disappearance of lawyer Khaled Omar Al-Sadiq", 2025, <https://www.lawyersforlawyers.org/38093-2/>; Lawyers for Lawyers, joint oral statement to the Human Rights Council on Sudan (HRC57), December 2024, <https://www.lawyersforlawyers.org/joint-oral-statement-to-human-rights-council-on-sudan/>.

^{xxxviii}Committee for Justice, 2 April 2026 (n. above); UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, Principles 1 and 2; ICCPR, Article 14(3)(d).

^{xxxix}OHCHR, "Sudan: Arbitrary detention, torture and enforced disappearances fueling civilian protection crisis, UN Fact-Finding Mission says", June 2026, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/06/sudan-arbitrary-detention-torture-and-enforced-disappearances-fueling>.

^{xl}OIAD, "Sudan: Death sentence for lawyer Aboubakr Mansour and arrest of his lawyer Aboubakr Al-Mahi", 20 October 2025, <https://protect-lawyers.org/case/aboubakr-mansour/>.

^{xli}Committee for Justice, "Sudan: The CFJ Rejects Referral of Human Rights Lawyer Montaser Abdullah to Trial, Demands His Immediate Release", 30 April 2025, <https://www.cfjustice.org/egypt-the-cfj-rejects-referral-of-human-rights-lawyer-montaser-abdullah-to-trial-demands-his-immediate-release/>. [Source for the acquittal of 20 October 2025 still to be added.]

^{xlii}Human Rights Watch, 7 April 2026 (n. above); OHCHR, June 2026 (n. above), describing conditions in facilities including Soba Prison in Khartoum and Nyala Prison in South Darfur, where family and lawyer visits are reportedly denied.

^{xliii}UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, Principle 8; UN Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, Principle 17.