



GENOCIDE LOOMS IN DARFUR: THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST ACT NOW **El Fasher Atrocity Alert – 17 April 2024**

The Yale Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL) released a [report](#) on April 16 in which they determined “with high confidence” that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) systematically targeted Masalit, Fur, Zaghawa, and other communities in attacks on at least nine communities to the west of El Fasher from 31 March to 15 April 2024. At least [ten people were killed](#) and 28 injured. It now appears that the RSF have launched their major offensive to capture El Fasher, the Sudanese Armed Forces’ (SAF) last foothold in Darfur, imperiling the lives of the 2.8 million persons that live in North Darfur State.

The risk of mass atrocities in North Darfur is significant and in [October](#), [November](#), and [December](#) 2023, the Never Again Coalition [repeatedly warned](#) of the significant risk of atrocities if the RSF were to attack. SAF continues to conduct indiscriminate [airstrikes in civilian neighbourhoods](#) in El Fasher and surrounding areas, whilst the RSF’s rampage across Darfur is the continuation of the Janjaweed’s genocide against non-Arab communities since 2003. El Fasher and its surrounding areas are home to at least 1.4 million IDPs living under dire humanitarian conditions who are now at risk of being killed, injured, and or/displaced by clashes between the RSF, SAF, and the Darfur Joint Forces, and of being systematically targeted by the RSF and allies.

HRL reports that the RSF controls the main roads surrounding El Fasher “which will likely prevent civilians from fleeing”, leaving them exposed to the intense clashes within the city. With the RSF encircling the city, there is nowhere for civilians to seek refuge and numerous civilian casualties are likely. In October and November 2023, the RSF and allied militias [besieged and shelled](#) the Hasahisa and Hamadiya IDP camps in Central Darfur killing numerous civilians and causing the [mass displacement of at least 13,000](#). If the RSF’s previous tactics are an indicator of what’s to come, then the residents of Abu Shouk and Zamzam IDP camps, as well as those who have already fled camps and are dispersed throughout El Fasher, may be at significant risk.

The humanitarian situation in the region is already catastrophic. Just weeks ago, the Darfur region received its [first deliveries of UN aid in months](#). The RSF must not be allowed to repeat their tactics of blocking humanitarian aid, nor of using peace talks to provide a veil of legitimacy (as occurred in October/November 2023) whilst [ethnically-targeting civilians](#) and [raping women and girls in Darfur](#).

Time to Act:

- The belligerents must immediately cease all violence in El Fasher, withdraw from civilian to military areas, and allow humanitarian aid to enter El Fasher without restriction.
- The international community must take immediate action to enforce the existing arms embargo on Sudan, including through targeted sanctions against foreign governments funding the belligerents such as the UAE and Egypt.
- The U.S. should utilize Executive Order 14098 to impose sanctions against any parties “threatening peace and stability, targeting civilians, and obstructing humanitarian [...] activities”.
- Following the [determination](#) that war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing have been committed in Sudan, the United States must follow through on its commitment to make further atrocity determinations.

- The conveners of the Jeddah talks must immediately condemn SAF and RSF attacks on civilians and maintain channels of communication to pressure the belligerents to uphold international humanitarian and human rights law.
- The international community should provide material and protection support so Sudanese civil society can continue to document atrocities and provide early warning of conflict to prevent further atrocities.

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PAEMA is dedicated to preventing and ending mass atrocities by amplifying the integral role of community centered solutions. We help local communities in our areas of focus to establish and sustain relationships to drive structural and policy change.

The team at the Never Again Coalition has now transitioned into PAEMA.