



SUDAN: CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PREVENT FURTHER ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS IN AND AROUND EL FASHER - IMMEDIATE INTERNATIONAL ACTION NEEDED TO HALT ATROCITIES

NAIROBI, 29 October 2025 - Humanitarian and civilian protection organisations are sounding the alarm over credible reports of massacres unfolding in and around El Fasher, North Darfur, where civilians are being killed, starved, and terrorised as fighting reaches catastrophic levels. Without immediate action, tens of thousands of people could die within days from violence, hunger, and the continued denial of humanitarian access.

For months, relentless shelling and ground assaults have devastated El Fasher, with civilians trapped between frontlines. Entire neighbourhoods have been razed, homes burned, and bodies lie unburied in the streets. Eventually, on 27 October, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) seized control of the city. Witnesses describe scenes of horror - people killed as they flee, the wounded left to die, and children crying beside the corpses of their parents.

“Over the last 72 hours we have received multiple credible reports of attacks on civilians in their homes and public places, in hospitals and on roadsides in their attempt to flee to Tawila and other places. These attacks on civilians, medical staff and other providers of life-saving support, and civilian infrastructure - must stop with immediate effect,” said Peter Burgess, Head of the Inter-Agency Working Group.

Death Along the Roads to Safety

Civilians attempting to flee toward Tawila and nearby villages are facing systematic extortion, abductions, sexual violence and executions at checkpoints. IDPs in Tawila reported bodies every ten metres along the route between El Fasher and Tawila; many of those arriving in Tawila are elderly, injured, or severely malnourished, and some die on arrival.

More than 400,000 displaced people were already sheltered in Tawila before the fall of El Fasher. Now, those who do manage to leave El Fasher and reach Tawila find limited food, medicine, or shelter. Children are arriving alone, separated from their families, some suffering from shock and visible starvation. Host communities are overwhelmed, and

humanitarian agencies barely have the ability to meet half of the current population's most basic needs.

Collapse of Humanitarian Access

Humanitarian access to El Fasher has collapsed entirely, and the safety of those civilians still trapped in the city is a major concern. Local aid workers are operating under fire, with communications cut and convoys blocked by siege tactics. Families are dying from hunger and dehydration inside the city, unable to flee, while aid agencies are unable to reach them. The situation constitutes a complete humanitarian blackout in violation of international humanitarian law.

A Call for Urgent and Decisive Action

Humanitarian and protection organisations call on governments, regional bodies, and the United Nations Security Council to act now to prevent further atrocities:

1. Demand an immediate cessation of attacks on civilians, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances and summary executions.
2. Insist on the safe and reliable evacuation of civilians and unhindered access for those providing life-saving humanitarian assistance.
3. Ensure the protection of civilians, humanitarian and medical workers and civilian infrastructure including hospitals and water / energy utilities, which are all protected under International Humanitarian Law
4. Deploy urgent humanitarian assistance and evacuation operations along displacement routes to reach those stranded between El Fasher and Tawila, providing food, water, medical care, and protection.
5. Support local responders and community-based protection networks who continue to risk their lives to save others.
6. Condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the deliberate targeting of civilians, including extrajudicial killings, ethnic-based detentions, and sexual violence, and ensure accountability for these crimes.
7. Use all diplomatic and economic leverage on external actors fueling the conflict to halt arms transfers and financial support to warring parties.

Support from Islamic Relief Malaysia

Islamic Relief Malaysia (IR Malaysia) fully supports the joint statement issued by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) and urges the international community to take immediate action to protect civilians and restore humanitarian access in Sudan.

“The situation in El Fasher is deeply alarming and heartbreaking. Civilians are trapped in prolonged fighting, many have lost their lives, while hunger and suffering continue to worsen. Reports received paint a picture of a critical humanitarian crisis,” said Siti Fadilah Mohd Hood, Chief Executive Officer of IR Malaysia.

“Although Islamic Relief is not operating directly in El Fasher due to restricted access and ongoing security concerns, we continue to deliver humanitarian assistance in neighbouring Central Darfur through health and nutrition centres as well as general food distributions.

“Islamic Relief is also closely monitoring the situation and stands ready to scale up assistance as soon as conditions allow.”

Islamic Relief has been working in Sudan since 1984, providing emergency relief, healthcare, food and shelter to vulnerable communities.

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About Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG)

The Inter-Agency Working Group is a consortium of NGOs with regional presence and programmes across Eastern and Central Africa working to strengthen humanitarian and sustainable development outcomes across the region, through enhanced coordination, advocacy, technical expertise and active challenging of the broader aid community.

About Islamic Relief (IR)

Islamic Relief is an international humanitarian organization founded in 1984 in response to the famine in East Africa. The headquarters of Islamic Relief is located in Birmingham, United Kingdom. Islamic Relief operates in over 40 countries and has assisted more than 145 million people. Today, Islamic Relief Worldwide among one of the largest charity and development organizations in the world.

About Islamic Relief Malaysia (IR Malaysia)

Islamic Relief Malaysia was established in 2004. It aspires to continue Islamic Relief humanitarian assistance in the Asia-Pacific region. Islamic Relief Malaysia serves as a fundraising and project implementer for international and local projects. Kindly visit the Islamic Relief Malaysia website, www.islamic-relief.org.my, for more information.

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