

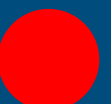
Spotlight Report Series

Sudan: The situation in El Fasher

This compilation of Country of Origin Information has been produced by members of the Asylos network who identified a need for up-to-date information.

This report focuses specifically on the situation in El Fasher.

Researched and written by: Anita Pant





Sudan: The situation in El Fasher

January 2026

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Who we are

Asylos is a global network of volunteers providing free-of-charge Country of Origin Information (COI) research for lawyers helping people seeking international protection with their claim. Asylos works to ensure that people seeking international protection and their legal counsel have access to crucial sources and data to substantiate their claim. Asylos volunteers and staff use their research and language skills to access detailed information. More information can be found on [Asylos' website](#).

Purpose

This compilation of Country of Origin Information has been produced by members of the Asylos network who identified a demand for up-to-date information. This report focuses specifically on the situation in El Fasher.



Disclaimer

This Country of Origin Information (COI) report is intended as background reference material for legal representatives and those assisting people seeking asylum. The COI report should be used as a tool to help identify relevant COI. Legal representatives are welcome to submit relevant excerpts cited in this document to decision makers (including judges) to assist in a protection claim. We are COI research experts and adhere to strict research principles in order to provide relevant, transparent, timely and reliable research. We therefore strive to include discoverable relevant information, whether or not supportive of any individual case. It is imperative that legal representatives and those assisting asylum seekers read the whole COI report and consider how they wish to make use of the material in any specific case. Please also note that it may be appropriate for legal representatives to seek additional individualised information. The information cited in this document is illustrative, but not exhaustive of the information available in the public domain. It is not determinative of any individual human rights or asylum claim. Submissions should always be complemented by case-specific COI research. For COI research that is bespoke to an individual case, legal representatives may wish to consider submitting a research request to Asylos' free-of-charge COI research service. While we strive to be as comprehensive as possible, no amount of research can ever provide an exhaustive picture of the situation. It is therefore important to note that the absence of information should not be taken as evidence that an issue, incident or violation does not exist.

Acknowledgements

We sincerely thank Hassan Ahmed Berkia, a Sudanese journalist and co-founder of the Sudanese Journalist Network, for his assistance in developing this research.

We are also deeply grateful to Eisa Dafalla, a Sudanese journalist specialising in media coverage of Darfur, whose reports have been published in international and local media outlets, for sharing his knowledge of the situation in El Fasher.

The report was researched and written by Anita Pant.

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Research timeframe

The earliest source dates from May 2025 and the most recent source dates from January 2026.

Sources consulted

All web sources were consulted in November and December 2025. To address information gaps identified during the initial COI desk research, Asylos corresponded with a Sudanese journalist with specialised knowledge in Darfur via email between December 2025 and January 2026.

1. International Organisations

- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Office at Geneva
- World Health Organization (WHO)

2. (I)NGOS and think tanks

ACAPS

ACAPS describes itself as an ‘independent analysis-provider...helping humanitarian workers, influencers, fundraisers, and donors make better-informed decisions and respond more effectively to disasters.’ (See [Who we are](#))

Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED)

ACLED describes itself as ‘an independent, impartial global monitor that collects, analyses, and maps data on conflict and protest. ACLED provides detailed information to help identify, understand, and track patterns and trends in conflict and crisis situations around the world.’ (See [About ACLED](#))

Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a global non-governmental organisation focused on the promotion of human rights. (See [About Us](#))

Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF)

MSF describes itself as ‘MSF is an international humanitarian organisation providing medical care in more than 75 countries.’ (See [About Us](#))

Save the Children

Save the Children works in over 100 countries, to provide ‘live-saving short-term help, and pushing for deep-rooted social change’. (See [About Us](#))

Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA)

SIHA was established in 1995 by women activists from Somaliland, Ethiopia and Sudan. It is now a women’s rights network operating at the regional level to challenge ‘entrenched patriarchal norms, gender inequality, and violence against women and girls’. (See [About Us](#))

3. Media

Africa Defense Forum

ADF is a professional military magazine published quarterly by U.S. Africa Command to provide an international forum for African security professionals. ADF covers topics such as counter terrorism strategies, security and defense operations, transnational crime, and all other issues affecting peace, stability, and good governance on the African continent. (See [About ADF](#))

Al Jazeera

Al Jazeera describes itself as “the first independent news channel in the Arab world”. It states that it is independent, and that it is partfunded by the Qatari government. (See [About Us](#))

BBC

The BBC is the UK’s public service broadcaster.

El Pais

El Pais is a Madrid-based media outlet. Its English version ‘offers a selection of news stories and features from the Spanish version of the publication translated into English and with added context and explanation’. (See [About the EL PAÍS English Edition](#))

Sudan Tribune

Sudan Tribune describes itself as ‘an electronic news portal on Sudan and South Sudan and neighbouring countries including news coverage, analyses and commentary, official reports and press releases from various organizations, and maps. It is based in Paris, France, and run by a team of Sudanese and international editors and journalists.’ (See [Sudan Tribune](#))

Sudan War Monitor

Sudan War Monitor is a collaborative of journalists and open source researchers tracking the events of Sudan’s war. (See Sudan War Monitor Substack profile for this description).

The Guardian

The Guardian states that it has an “independent ownership structure”, and that “[i]t guarantees our journalism and our editor stay independent from any outside influence, whether financial, political or commercial.” (The Guardian)

The New Humanitarian

The New Humanitarian describes itself as ‘an independent, non-profit newsroom that believes in journalism as a force for good. We produce fact-based journalism from the heart of conflicts and disasters to build understanding of how to improve the lives of the millions of people affected by humanitarian crises around the world.’ (See [What we do](#))

The Observer

The Observer is a British Sunday newspaper. It is described as ‘the world’s oldest Sunday newspaper. It is known for producing rigorous, significant journalism.’ (See [Inside the Observer](#))

4. Academic Sources

Yale School of Public Health Humanitarian Research Lab

The Yale School of Public Health Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL) describes itself as ‘dedicated to protecting the health and security of populations affected by crises throughout the world. HRL generates evidence for operational response and accountability in humanitarian crises.’ (See [Humanitarian Research Lab](#))

5. Interviewee biography

Eisa Dafalla, journalist

Eisa Dafalla is a Sudanese journalist specialising in media coverage of Darfur, whose reports have been published in international and local media outlets.

Findings

The findings in this report are presented in reverse chronological order.

1. Control of territory

Prior to the city's complete capture, sources described the RSF expanding its control of El Fasher and the surrounding area, including through the use of a blockade.

“Having held the city under siege for almost two years, from August the RSF moved to consolidate its position and blockade the remaining civilian population.

Satellite images show that troops started to construct a massive berm – a raised sand barrier - around the perimeter of el-Fasher, sealing off access routes and blocking aid. By early October the ring completely surrounded the city – with a smaller barricade encircling a neighbouring village.”

(Source: BBC, [“‘Our job is only killing’ – how Sudan’s brutal militia carried out a massacre”](#), 7 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

The Sudan War Monitor reported on the capture of the city of El Fasher on 26 October 2025, marked by the seizure of the Sudanese Army Headquarters.

“[El-Fasher] fell to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on October 26, 2025 after 18 months of bombardment and fighting between the RSF and the Sudanese Armed Forces and allied troops. The RSF seized the headquarters of the Sudanese Army’s 6th Infantry Division, the last military position held by SAF in all of Darfur. The seizure of the Army Headquarters cemented RSF’s hold of Darfur and set in motion a wave of killings targeting civilians on ethnic grounds as tens of thousands of civilians and fighters attempted to flee the city.”

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, [“Investigation: The Killing Fields of El Fasher”](#), 3 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“The capture of El Fasher gives the RSF control of all five state capitals of the Darfur region. The city was the historic seat of the Darfur sultanate, and it is still referred to as ‘Al Fasher Al Sultan,’ an indication of its regional preeminence. The RSF have viewed the capture of El Fasher as a key objective in their quest for regional dominance and the legitimization of their recently established ‘Government of Peace and Unity.’”

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, [“Thousands killed and others escape in chaotic rout of El Fasher defenders”](#), 30 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) announced on Sunday it had taken complete control of the 6th Infantry Division command in El Fasher, the Sudanese army’s main base in North Darfur state, following fierce battles.

[...] An RSF spokesperson said in a statement that its forces ‘managed to liberate the 6th Division in El Fasher, breaking the back of the army and its allies by establishing full control over this strategic military base.’ He called the development a significant turning point and ‘a step on the path to building a new state that all Sudanese will participate in establishing according to their aspirations for freedom, peace, and justice.’

[...] Field sources told Sudan Tribune that the army withdrew from its headquarters at the division command on Saturday evening, retreating towards the Al-Daraja Al-Ula neighbourhood in the west of the city after intense RSF shelling.

[...] Over the past three days, the RSF had made rapid advances towards the division's headquarters, taking control of the North Darfur government secretariat, the ministerial complex, and several government institutions near the military base, tightening its siege."

(Source: Sudan Tribune, "[Sudan's RSF says it seized key army base in El Fasher](#)", 26 October 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

"The attack comes as RSF forces push deeper into El Fasher, fighting block by block against Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and allied rebel formations defending the 6th Infantry Division headquarters in the city center — the last functioning army division in all of Darfur. The RSF has seized control over the rest of the region."

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, "[Worshippers massacred in RSF drone strike on Mosque in El Fasher](#)", 19 September 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

2. Civilian targeting – nature of violations

Killings

Eisa Dafalla is a Sudanese journalist specialising in media coverage of Darfur, whose reports have been published in international and local media outlets. In email correspondence with Asylos, he describes extrajudicial killings that have occurred in El Fasher.

"Civilians in the city of El Fasher have been subjected to grave human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings carried out with firearms, and brutal torture that in many cases ended in death, particularly targeting young men and elderly men. [...] Residents of El Fasher have endured all forms of torture and humiliation, ranging from verbal abuse and being described as "Falangeet" — a term meaning "slaves" — to the taking of lives."

(Source: Eisa Dafalla, Email correspondence with Asylos, 8 January 2026)

Based on testimonies from survivors, several web sources describe mass indiscriminate killings of male civilians by RSF forces by beating and shooting. Several sources also refer to video evidence of mass killings.

"Survivors who escaped El Fasher in Sudan's North Darfur State have detailed to Amnesty International how fighters with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) executed scores of unarmed men [...] as they captured the city. Amnesty researchers interviewed survivors who described witnessing groups of men shot or beaten, and taken hostages for ransom."

(Source: Amnesty International, "[Sudan: El Fasher survivors tell of deliberate RSF killings and sexual violence – new testimony](#)", 25 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

"According to these RSF sources, the killings took place in multiple locations inside and outside the city. Many were killed while trying to flee, while others were executed inside their homes, particularly in the First Degree neighborhood, which reportedly saw the highest number of victims."

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, "[Investigation: The Killing Fields of El Fasher](#)", 3 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

"Accounts from exhausted survivors also paint a picture of terror and violence.

‘The situation in el-Fasher is extremely dire and there are violations taking place on the roads, including looting and shooting, with no distinction made between young or old,’ one man told the BBC Arabic service. He had escaped to the town of Tawila, a hub for those displaced from el-Fasher.

Another woman, Ikram Abdelhameed, told the Reuters news agency that RSF soldiers separated fleeing civilians at an earthen barrier around the city and shot the men.”

(Source: BBC, [“Reports of mass killings in Sudan have echoes of its dark past”](#), 31 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“‘More details are emerging of atrocities committed during and after the fall of El Fasher to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan. Since the RSF made a major incursion into the city on 23 October, we have received horrendous accounts of summary executions, mass killings, rapes, attacks against humanitarian workers, looting, abductions and forced displacement,’ he [UN Human Rights Spokesperson Seif Magango] said.”

(Source: UN Office at Geneva, [“UN Human Rights Spokesperson Seif Magango on atrocities in El Fasher, Sudan”](#), 31 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“Shaken, scratched and left with just the clothes he is wearing, Ezzeldin Hassan Musa describes the brutality of Sudan’s Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the wake of the paramilitary group taking control of el-Fasher city in the Darfur region. He says its fighters tortured and murdered men trying to flee.

[...] ‘We were divided into groups and beaten. The scenes were extremely brutal. We saw people murdered in front of us. We saw people being beaten. It was really terrible.

I myself was hit on the head, back, and legs. They beat me with sticks. They wanted to execute us completely. But when the opportunity arose, we ran, while others in front were detained.’

Near to Ezzeldin sits Ahmed Ismail Ibrahim, his body bandaged in several places.

He says his eye was injured in an artillery strike, and he left the city on Sunday after receiving treatment in hospital.

He and six other men were stopped by RSF fighters.

‘Four of them - they killed them in front of us. Beat them and killed them,’ he says, adding that he was shot three times.”

(Source: BBC, [“‘We saw people murdered in front of us’ - Sudan siege survivors speak to the BBC”](#), 30 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“Several videos have since emerged showing men wearing military fatigues and some with what appear to be RSF patches carrying out extreme acts of violence around el-Fasher. The UN’s Sudan coordinator said it had received ‘credible reports of summary executions’ in the city during an interview with the BBC on Wednesday.

[...] The clip showed the unarmed man sitting amid dozens of dead bodies in a hallway. As the video progressed, he was seen turning towards the camera which followed an armed man who was descending the stairs. The fighter then raised his rifle and fired a single shot knocking the unarmed man to the ground, where he lay motionless.

[...] The fighter, who goes by the name of Abu Lulu, has long had his activities with the RSF documented on a social media profile viewed by BBC Verify.[...] But Abu Lulu has also appeared in at least two videos which show him participating in the execution of unarmed men who are kneeling and under armed guard. Reverse image searches show all the videos have appeared online since the weekend.

In one video he was seen addressing an injured man lying on the ground, berating him for not sharing information before threatening to rape him. The RSF fighter then shot the captive several times using an automatic rifle.

A separate video shows Abu Lulu standing alongside several RSF troops carrying AK-style assault rifles and guarding a group of at least nine unarmed captives. After addressing the men, Abu Lulu aimed his rifle at the group and opened fire. In the aftermath the other armed men raised their arms and cheered.”

(Source: BBC, “[New videos show executions after RSF militia takes key Sudan city](#)”, 29 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

Targeting based on ethnicity

Several sources describe violations against civilians being ethnically motivated.

“Hanaa El Tijani, a member of Sudan’s Youth Network for Civil Monitoring, described the RSF takeover as ‘an unprecedented explosion of violence and grave violations against civilians,’ Radio Dabanga reported. She said the network documented the ‘mass killings of hundreds of civilians, in addition to the execution of dozens of patients and medical staff inside the Saudi Hospital, which was the last functioning health facility in the city.’

The RSF ‘targeted doctors and health workers inside hospitals, and carried out widespread raids on homes and mosques, in addition to documented cases of gang rape,’ stressing that these actions constitute ‘a systematic pattern of mass killing and ethnic cleansing against non-Arab communities in the city.’”

(Source: Africa Defense Forum, “[Videos Reveal Brutality Unleashed by RSF in El-Fasher](#)”, 2 December 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

“Two sources from the Rapid Support Forces confirmed to Sudan War Monitor that the massacre was systematically carried out on the basis of ethnic motives, noting that the forces had planned in advance to target certain groups within the city.

Arrangements also included removing non-Arab members of groups allied with the Rapid Support Forces and preventing them from entering the city. These men were reportedly gathered in nearby towns of Zamzam and Jago Jago to ensure that fighters would not intervene to stop the killings against their own ethnic groups or of their family and relatives.”

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, “[Investigation: The Killing Fields of El Fasher](#)”, 3 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“On October 26, 2025, eyewitnesses and survivors who had arrived in Tawilah gave accounts of the RSF seizing groups on the way and separating them on the basis of their ethnicity. In a particular account, men identified as being from the Zaghawa tribe were lined up, accused of being part of the Joint Forces allied with SAF. They were summarily executed on the spot.”

(Source: SIHA, “[El Fasher and Its Surroundings Face Endless Cycles of Genocide – The Time for Empty Rhetoric is Over. The Time to Act is Now](#)”, 29 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

Kidnappings and enforced disappearance

Eisa Dafalla is a Sudanese journalist specialising in media coverage of Darfur, whose reports have been published in international and local media outlets. In email correspondence with Asylos, he refers to people being released after a ransom was paid.

“After the fall of the city on October 26 and 27 — two extremely bloody days — my own family alone lost approximately 18 people who were killed, while more than 30 others remain missing and their current whereabouts are unknown, except for seven individuals who were released after a ransom was paid.”

(Source: Eisa Dafalla, Email correspondence with Asylos, 8 January 2026)

Instances of kidnapping and detention of men, women and children and demand for ransoms from their families are reported in several web sources.

“FI*, a 50-year-old man visibly exhausted, was detained for ten days, beaten, and forced to endure unspeakable violence, including a rope tied around his neck. His captors demanded 10 million Sudanese pounds [4,000 USD] for his release ‘They got drunk and took us to the desert. They made us lie down in bushes, beat us and humiliated us terribly. They said they would kill us and they shot at us with a lot of live ammunition’, he says. In the end, his captors let him go after he paid 500,000 Sudanese pounds [200 USD] because his wounds were badly infected.”

(Source: MSF, “[One month after RSF takeover of El Fasher, displaced people survive in precarious conditions while others remain blocked or unaccounted for](#)”, 26 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“Despite communication challenges, UNHCR and its partners have received reports of gross protection violations within El Fasher and during flight to Tawila, some 50 Km Southwest of El Fasher including arrests and detention of youth and men, forced recruitment including of children, sexual violence against women and girls, extortion, killings and other forms of physical abuse, especially at numerous checkpoints. There is no safe passage for those wishing to flee and movement restrictions have been imposed preventing civilians to seek safety.”

(Source: UNHCR, “Flash Update #1: Escalation of Conflict in El Fasher and Kordofan”, 6 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“The New Humanitarian also spoke to several individuals who had been detained for ransom outside El Fasher, whose fall to the RSF cements Sudan’s de facto partition between paramilitary areas in the west and army-held areas in the centre and east.

The sources said their families were forced to pay thousands – and in some cases tens of thousands – of dollars for the RSF to release them and transport them to safer areas.”

(Source: The New Humanitarian, “[Pay up or be executed: El Fasher survivors speak of kidnappings and mass killings](#)”, 3 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“Since the beginning of August 2025, crimes of kidnapping and enforced disappearance of women and children in El Fasher City and Abu Shouk Displaced Camp have become the norm due to the increasing expansion of the RSF in the city.

On Tuesday, August 12, 2025, the RSF raided a house in the Al-Wadi neighbourhood and kidnapped Suad Haroun (64 years old), Amna Haroun (68 years old), Awatif Saleh (65 years old), Tayamun Ahmed Al-Tijani (5 years old), Tanizil Ahmed Al-Tijani (12 years old), Mohamed Ahmed Al-Tijani (15 years old, male), and Maryam Majrous (65 years old). All were taken to an unknown location.

We have also confirmed additional cases of kidnapping and enforced disappearance which occurred on August 23, 2025, where the following victims were been taken from Abu Shouk Camp, to an unknown location by RSF: Halima Adam (50 years old)—Block 14; Heba Mohammedin (18 years old, female); Aisha Adam (50 years old)—displaced from Kutum; Zainab Suleiman Abdullah (55 years old)—Block 1 M7; Fatima Mohamed Hajar (30 years old); and Jamila Ahmed Ali (30 years old) were all taken to unknown locations.

In March 2025, we documented the abduction of 30 women and children from Kraso Village in Eastern El Fasher and Hai El Thura. They were taken to a medical supply building located east of El Fasher that is currently serving as an incarceration centre, where women and children were forced into various forms of labour and subjected to sexual violence.”

(Source: SIHA, “[We stand firm against the enforced disappearance, torture and mass killing of women and children in North Darfur](#)”, 31 August 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

The following source refers to the mass killing of groups of men, women and children who had been kidnapped and whose families could not pay a ransom.

“A 24-year-old man said that of a group of 200 men, women and children, only four people who could pay a ransom ended up surviving four different encounters with RSF soldiers at checkpoints on the way to Tawila.

‘The rest were killed. They killed children, the elderly, and women. I cannot describe the scene, it was unbearable to watch people die right in front of you, each with a single bullet,’ he was quoted as saying.

A 26-year-old woman said her husband was only able to pay a ransom for her and their children, and was killed in front of them.”

(Source: Al Jazeera, “[Thousands missing, new horrors emerge after RSF taking of Sudan’s el-Fasher](#)”, 1 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

The following source also mentions the forced recruitment of male adults and children into armed groups for those unable to pay ransoms.

“Unable to pay ransoms, families have lost young male relatives to arrests or forced recruitment into armed groups.”

(Source: UNHCR, “[UNHCR: Displaced civilians fleeing Sudan’s Darfur, Kordofan regions navigate serious violations, deadly routes](#)”, 14 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

Rape and sexual violence

Eisa Dafalla is a Sudanese journalist specialising in media coverage of Darfur, whose reports have been published in international and local media outlets. In email correspondence with Asylos, he indicates that the Rapid Support Forces have perpetrated rape.

“Rape has also been used as a weapon of war by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), targeting girls who had not yet reached the age of majority, as well as elderly women over the age of seventy.”

(Source: Eisa Dafalla, Email correspondence with Asylos, 8 January 2026)

Several web sources report instances of sexual violence against women and girls by RSF forces.

“Hanaa El Tijani, a member of Sudan’s Youth Network for Civil Monitoring, described the RSF takeover as ‘an unprecedented explosion of violence and grave violations against civilians,’ Radio Dabanga reported. [...] The RSF ‘targeted doctors and health workers inside hospitals, and carried out widespread raids on homes and mosques, in addition to documented cases of gang rape [...]’”

(Source: Africa Defense Forum, “[Videos Reveal Brutality Unleashed by RSF in El-Fasher](#)”, 2 December 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

“Sulaima Ishaq, Sudan’s Minister of State for Human Resources and Social Welfare and director of the unit fighting violence against women and children, details that they have documented 25 cases of rape that occurred within El Fasher University, where many civilians had sought refuge, although she warns that the real number is much higher. Ishaq emphasizes that they have evidence that the paramilitaries killed at least 300 women when they took the city, some of whom were ‘physically and sexually assaulted and then murdered.’”

(Source: El Pais, “[Torture, bloodshed and despair: Tens of thousands of people remain trapped in El Fasher, Sudan](#)”, 27 November 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

“Ibtisam* left the Abu Shouk neighbourhood of El Fasher with her five children on the morning of 27 October. Along with a group of neighbours, they headed west towards Golo, where they were stopped by three RSF fighters.

Ibtisam* said:

‘One of them forced me to go with them, cut my Jalabiya [a traditional robe], and raped me. When they left, my 14-year-old daughter came to me. I found that her clothes had blood and were cut into pieces. Her hair at the back of her head was full of dust.’

Ibtisam* told Amnesty that her daughter remained silent for the next few hours until she saw her mother crying: ‘She came to me and said, “Mum, they raped me too, but do not tell anyone.” After the rape, my daughter really became sick... When we reached Tawila, her health deteriorated, and she died at the clinic.’

Khaltoum*, 29, attempted to escape El Fasher in the afternoon of 26 October with her 12-year-old daughter. Together with more than 150 others, they reached the “Babul Amal” gate on the western side of the city. They were stopped by RSF fighters who separated the men from the women, and killed five men.

Khaltoum* was then taken with her daughter and around 20 other women to Zamzam internally displaced camp – more than 10km away – on foot. There, RSF fighters separated the younger women and told them to queue to be searched.

Khaltoum* told Amnesty:

‘They selected about eleven of us... I was taken to a Rakuba [makeshift shelter], and an armed RSF fighter and another who was not armed accompanied me. They searched me and then the unarmed man raped me while the other one watched. He kept me there the whole day. He raped me three times. My daughter was not raped, but the other 10 women they selected for the search were all raped.’”

(Source: Amnesty International, “[Sudan: El Fasher survivors tell of deliberate RSF killings and sexual violence – new testimony](#)”, 25 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“Survivors who escaped El Fasher in Sudan’s North Darfur State have detailed to Amnesty International how fighters with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) executed scores of unarmed men and raped dozens of women and girls as they captured the city.

[...] Female survivors described how they were subjected to sexual violence by RSF fighters, as were some of their daughters.”

(Source: Amnesty International, “[Sudan: El Fasher survivors tell of deliberate RSF killings and sexual violence – new testimony](#)”, 25 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“Women and girls who escaped the Darfur city of El Fasher after it was seized by the Rapid Support Forces last month have described brutal sexual violence by its fighters in interviews by reporters on the ground for The New Humanitarian. Five survivors said they were gang-raped by RSF and affiliated fighters, and two described other sexual assaults. They said the abuse lasted for hours or even days, sometimes occurring in the presence of family members they were fleeing with. Most said they saw multiple other women and girls being raped, and all described incidents in different areas outside of El Fasher, indicating the abuse – which has also been documented by [humanitarian and human rights groups](#) – was widespread.

‘RSF soldiers took turns on us,’ said a 20-year-old woman and mother of four who was kept captive for two days by fighters. ‘Each time, a group would arrive in military vehicles, take us to a room, and rape us violently before leaving.’ The woman said she was with a group of 12 other women and girls who were also gang-raped, and that she was threatened with being shot.”

(Source: The New Humanitarian, “[Women and girls fleeing El Fasher describe widespread RSF sexual violence](#)”, 21 November 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

“Families arriving in Tawila, about 50 km from El Fasher, and surrounding areas recount unimaginable horrors prior to and during their escape. Women and girls report rape and sexual violence while fleeing El Fasher.”

(Source: UNHCR, “[UNHCR: Displaced civilians fleeing Sudan’s Darfur, Kordofan regions navigate serious violations, deadly routes](#)”, 14 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“A 19-year-old girl said she was raped by soldiers after they asked if she was a virgin.”

(Source: Al Jazeera, “[Thousands missing, new horrors emerge after RSF taking of Sudan’s el-Fasher](#)”, 1 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“More details are emerging of atrocities committed during and after the fall of El Fasher to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan. Since the RSF made a major incursion into the city on 23 October, we have received horrendous accounts of summary executions, mass killings, rapes, attacks against humanitarian workers, looting, abductions and forced displacement,” he said.”

(Source: UN Office at Geneva, “[UN Human Rights Spokesperson Seif Magango on atrocities in El Fasher, Sudan](#)”, 31 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“In March 2025, we documented the abduction of 30 women and children from Kraso Village in Eastern El Fasher and Hai El Thura. They were taken to a medical supply building located east of El Fasher that is currently serving as an incarceration centre, where women and children were forced into various forms of labour and subjected to sexual violence.”

(Source: SIHA, “[We stand firm against the enforced disappearance, torture and mass killing of women and children in North Darfur](#)”, 31 August 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

Attacks on hospitals

Several sources describe an RSF attack on civilians in a hospital in October.

“RSF soldiers killed patients inside El Fasher’s Saudi Maternity Hospital, according to videos circulated by the perpetrators. One clip shows about a dozen bodies on the floor, as an RSF soldier shoots an elderly survivor. World Health Organization Director Tedros Ghebreyesus said he was “appalled and deeply shocked by reports of the tragic killing of more than 460 patients and companions at Saudi Maternity Hospital in El Fasher.”

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, “[Thousands killed and others escape in chaotic rout of El Fasher defenders](#)”, 30 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

On 26 October, Saudi Maternity Hospital, the only partially functioning hospital in El Fasher, was attacked for the fourth time in a month, killing one nurse and injuring three other health workers. On 28 October, six health workers, four doctors, a nurse and a pharmacist, were abducted. On the same day, more than 460 patients and their companions were reportedly shot and killed in the hospital.

(Source: WHO, “[WHO condemns killings of patients and civilians amid escalating violence in El Fasher, Sudan](#)”, 29 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“On October 27, 2025, RSF soldiers mercilessly executed civilians in houses and those seeking refuge in Rashid dormitory, El Fasher University. On the same date, SIHA also received testimonies that over 300 patients were executed in Al Saudi and Plan Hospitals, among them pregnant women and children.”

(Source: SIHA, “[El Fasher and Its Surroundings Face Endless Cycles of Genocide – The Time for Empty Rhetoric is Over. The Time to Act is Now](#)”, 29 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“The data and analysis presented in this report further corroborates Yale HRL’s 27 October finding that large-scale mass killing has been occurring in El-Fasher since likely Sunday 26 October 2025, following RSF’s takeover of the city. These mass killings include an instance at the former Children’s Hospital, which has served as an RSF detention center and then a designated mass killing site between 27-28 October 2025, Saudi Hospital, and apparent attacks on people attempting to flee to safety.”

(Source: Yale Humanitarian Research Lab, “[HUMAN SECURITY EMERGENCY: Day Two of RSF Control: Mass Killings Continue in El-Fasher](#)”, 28 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

Targeting of civilians outside of El Fasher

Several sources report that RSF also targeted civilians outside the city.

“After SAF withdrew, the massacre did not remain limited to El Fasher but rather the Rapid Support Forces stalked survivors, attacking those fleeing the city on their way to Tawila, east of Jebel Marra.

Of a group of around 2000 men in civilian clothes that can be seen in a video, only 200 made it to the IDP-camps, sources in Tawila claimed. The others were chased by RSF motorcyclists and camel riders and killed, wounded or re-captured and detained, with their captors demanding huge ransoms for their release [...] Even for those who survive and escape the city, the road to safety is perilous and there has been an uptick in reports of kidnap-for-ransom by the RSF and their allies.

The 35-year old Abdel-Hamid Al-Hadi Abdel-Hamid managed to escape El Fasher on the morning of October 27 together with his wife. Outside the city RSF-soldiers stopped them, beat and took all their belongings. After that they searched him and his wife, even in their private parts. The horrors didn't end there. 'When we reached Gerny we joined around 300 – 400 families. The RSF selected around 18 people and shot them, then they asked us to bury those people. They took us to the school where again they came and selected people, young and elders and took them.' According to Abdel-Hamid there are still hundreds of people detained at the school."

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, "[Investigation: The Killing Fields of El Fasher](#)", 3 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

Prior to the capture of El Fasher by the RSF in October, several sources, including a detailed report by Amnesty International, reported on earlier instances of indiscriminate killing of civilians by the RSF, including in a mosque and IDP camp.

"From 11 to 13 April 2025, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) launched a large-scale assault on Zamzam, the largest camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sudan's North Darfur State. This attack was part of the RSF's military campaign, started in May 2024, to capture El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur State. While the RSF and its allied militias laid siege to El Fasher for 18 months, they also attacked nearby villages and other IDP camps.

[...] RSF fighters used explosive weapons in populated areas in Zamzam IDP camp and were seen randomly shooting their weapons in populated residential areas. [...] Amnesty International found a pattern of reports of RSF fighters deliberately shooting and killing civilians. Combined, eyewitnesses reported seeing RSF fighters shoot and kill 47 civilians hiding in homes, fleeing the violence, at a humanitarian organisation's clinic and while seeking refuge in a mosque during the attack. IDPs also witnessed killings by the RSF or their affiliated militias during their displacement journeys. Eyewitnesses also recalled seeing RSF fighters shoot and kill one physically disabled person, one mentally disabled person, three older persons, and one injured person. Eyewitness accounts and video evidence demonstrate that the RSF targeted civilians due to their perceived affiliation to the Joint Forces of Armed Struggle Movements (JFASM, or Joint Forces) – an alliance of former Darfur rebel groups, fighting alongside the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) – and the SAF."

(Source: Amnesty International, "[A Refuge Destroyed](#)": RSF Violations in Darfur's Zamzam Camp for Internally Displaced Persons", 2 December 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

"A militia drone strike on Friday morning massacred scores of civilians during dawn prayers in El Fasher, collapsing a mosque onto its congregation and leaving the prayer hall strewn with bodies. Witnesses described worshippers crushed beneath bricks and rubble, with rescue efforts slowed by the devastation."

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, "[Worshippers massacred in RSF drone strike on Mosque in El Fasher](#)", 19 September 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

"A coordinated assault by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) against Abu Shouk Camp in northern El Fasher on Monday, August 11, left dozens of dead, including both combatants and civilians.

[...] Abu Shouk IDP Camp was formed by the survivors of the first Darfur Genocide in the early 2000s. The community is predominantly composed of Fur, Zaghawa, and other non-Arab communities who fled the Arab Janjaweed, the predecessor of the RSF."

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, "[RSF Attack on Abu Shouk Kills Dozens](#)", 13 August 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

3. Fatalities - prevalence, including number of child fatalities

Eisa Dafalla is a Sudanese journalist specialising in media coverage of Darfur, whose reports have been published in international and local media outlets. In email correspondence with Asylos, he outlines his knowledge of the number of fatalities resulting from the violence in El Fasher.

“Killings in El Fasher occurred in several phases. The first phase began after the siege was imposed on May 15, 2024, during which drone strikes and artillery shelling were used. The city witnessed well-known massacres, most notably the massacre at the First Degree Neighborhood Mosque, where more than 70 people were killed, and the massacre at the Dar Al-Arqam displacement shelter, in addition to other massacres caused by artillery and drone attacks on mosques, civilian homes, and markets.

Entire families were subjected to extermination. Government and international organizations estimate that the number of those killed reached the thousands by October 25, 2025.

After the fall of the city on October 26 and 27 — two extremely bloody days — my own family alone lost approximately 18 people who were killed, while more than 30 others remain missing and their current whereabouts are unknown, except for seven individuals who were released after a ransom was paid.”

(Source: Eisa Dafalla, Email correspondence with Asylos, 8 January 2026)

Among the web sources consulted, there are varying estimates of the number of fatalities in El Fasher, but sources agree that the figure is in the thousands.

“In the initial aftermath, humanitarian workers estimated the death toll at more than 2,500 people. But Darfur Governor Minni Minnawi on November 20 told reporters that the RSF killed 27,000 in three days. Since the civil war began in April 2023, more than 150,000 people have been killed and about 12 million have been forced from their homes.”

(Source: Africa Defense Forum, “[Videos Reveal Brutality Unleashed by RSF in El-Fasher](#)”, 2 December 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

“The Sudan Doctors Network estimates that 2,000 people were killed during the takeover of El Fasher. Nathaniel Raymond, director of Yale Humanitarian Research Lab, believes the death toll is far higher. He estimates it could be in the tens of thousands. The Yale team has studied satellite images showing hundreds of objects scattered across the city, consistent with the size and shape of human bodies.”

(Source: The Observer, “[‘We saw so many bodies that we lost count’: uncovering the hidden horror of El Fasher](#)”, 24 November 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

“[Executive Director of the Yale Humanitarian Research Lab] Raymond added that, based on UN figures and what can be seen on the ground in el-Fasher, ‘more people could have died [in 10 days]... than have died in the past two years of the war in Gaza’.

‘That’s what we’re talking about. That’s not hyperbole,’ he told Al Jazeera, stressing that thousands of people need emergency assistance.”

(Source: Al Jazeera, “[RSF digging mass graves in Sudan’s el-Fasher to ‘clean up massacre’: Expert](#)”, 4 November 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

“Although estimates of the number of victims vary, RSF sources indicate that the death toll is at least 7,000 people, most of them civilians in the city.”

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, “[Investigation: The Killing Fields of El Fasher](#)”, 3 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“Based on the available evidence, which is still emerging and being analyzed, Sudan War Monitor preliminarily estimates that the death toll is in the thousands (3,000 or more). This total includes both combatant casualties, who were killed during the final battle for the city or while trying to escape, and non-combatant casualties, including civilians and soldiers who had put down their weapons and taken off their uniforms.”

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, “[Thousands killed and others escape in chaotic rout of El Fasher defenders](#)”, 30 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

Child fatalities

Eisa Dafalla is a Sudanese journalist specialising in media coverage of Darfur, whose reports have been published in international and local media outlets. In email correspondence with Asylos, he refers to the number of child fatalities.

“Children and women are among the groups most severely affected by the war in El Fasher. Many children died due to famine and malnutrition, in addition to artillery shelling and drone attacks.

Estimates by international organizations and the Ministry of Health in North Darfur State indicate that the number of child victims is in the thousands.”

(Source: Eisa Dafalla, Email correspondence with Asylos, 8 January 2026)

According to a statement by WHO, more than 460 people were killed during the attack on the Saudi Maternity Hospital in El Fasher.

“The World Health Organization (WHO) condemns the reported killing of more than 460 patients and their companions, as well as the abduction of six health workers, on 28 October from the Saudi Maternity Hospital in El Fasher.”

(Source: WHO, “[WHO condemns killings of patients and civilians amid escalating violence in El Fasher, Sudan](#)”, 29 October 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

According to Save the Children, one in five civilians killed in El Fasher in October were children.

“Save the Children analysed casualty reports from the Sudan Doctor’s Network - a group of medical professionals tracking the war –in October and found at least 115 civilians were killed and a further 102 injured in six attacks on the besieged town. Among these casualties were 17 children killed, and 22 children injured [1].”

(Source: Save the Children, “[In deadly October, nearly one in five civilians killed in El Fasher were children](#)”, 22 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

UNICEF estimates that over 1000 children have been killed since the start of the siege in April 2024.

“Since the start of the siege in April 2024, more than 1,100 grave violations have been verified in Al Fasher alone, including the killing and maiming of over 1,000 children. Many were struck down in their homes, inside displacement camps, or in marketplaces.”

(Source: UNICEF, “[After 500 days under siege, children in Sudan’s Al Fasher face starvation, mass displacement, and deadly violence](#)”, 26 August 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

4. Casualties – prevalence, including estimated number of child casualties

Eisa Dafalla is a Sudanese journalist specialising in media coverage of Darfur, whose reports have been published in international and local media outlets. In email correspondence with Asylos, he discusses the lack of precise statistics relating to injured civilians.

“There are no precise statistics, but the number of injured civilians is very large, with the majority suffering amputations as a result of the weapons used. [...] many children died as a result of complications from their injuries and the lack of adequate medical care, according to unofficial estimates and humanitarian organizations.”

(Source: Eisa Dafalla, Email correspondence with Asylos, 8 January 2026)

Sudan Tribune also reports that 3,100 people with gunshot wounds and 1600 cases of gender-based violence were reported among people who had fled El Fasher to the Tawila area in October.

“Adam Rejal, spokesperson for the General Coordination of Displaced Persons and Refugee Camps in Darfur, confirmed 1,600 cases of gender-based violence and 3,100 people with gunshot wounds. The figures were drawn from data gathered in the Tawila area, where hundreds of thousands of El Fasher residents fled after the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) took control of the city in late October.”

(Source: Sudan Tribune, “[Sudan civil groups report thousands shot in El Fasher, warn of starvation](#)”, 21 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

According to Save the Children, 102 people were injured in October in attacks on El Fasher, 22 of whom were children.

“Save the Children analysed casualty reports from the Sudan Doctor’s Network - a group of medical professionals tracking the war –in October and found at least 115 civilians were killed and a further 102 injured in six attacks on the besieged town. Among these casualties were 17 children killed, and 22 children injured [1].”

(Source: Save the Children, “[In deadly October, nearly one in five civilians killed in El Fasher were children](#)”, 22 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

5. Population displacement from El Fasher

Internally Displaced Persons

Eisa Dafalla is a Sudanese journalist specialising in media coverage of Darfur, whose reports have been published in international and local media outlets. In email correspondence with Asylos, he discusses the dynamics of internal displacement resulting from the violence in El Fasher.

“The majority of residents were internally displaced to the city of Ad-Dabbah in Northern State and to camps in the town of Tawila. Others fled to the areas of Ambro, Kornoy, and Tina in North Darfur, before being forced to flee again to Chad after coming under attack by the Rapid Support Forces.
[...] in addition [...] large numbers [...] [have been] internally displaced persons in eastern and northern Sudan, particularly in areas under the control of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudanese government.”

(Source: Eisa Dafalla, Email correspondence with Asylos, 8 January 2026)

The same source points to the historic dynamics of internal displacement.

“The people of El Fasher have been trapped in a cycle of continuous displacement since 2003. Initially, they were displaced from their villages to Zamzam Camp, then from Zamzam to El Fasher following the attack on the camp in April 2024, and subsequently to other areas.”

(Source: Eisa Dafalla, Email correspondence with Asylos, 8 January 2026)

Several web sources describe mass internal displacement to various regions of Sudan following the capture of El Fasher, although the numbers vary between sources.

“UNHCR and partners continue to receive alarming reports of serious violations against civilians who fled from El Fasher, North Darfur and arrived in other locations within North Darfur, Northern and White Nile States (see UNHCR’s 14 November Media Briefing Note) since the 26 October takeover of the city by the Rapid Support Forces. The Humanitarian Aid Commission reported that over 300 IDP families (approximately 1,500 individuals), have arrived in Ad Dabbah locality, Northern State, from El Fasher since 26 October. Authorities anticipate additional arrivals in the coming days as displacement continues.”

(Source: UNHCR, “[Flash Update #2; 17 November 2025; Escalation of Conflict in El Fasher and Kordofan](#)”, 17 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“Since the takeover of El Fasher, 2,000 people fleeing Darfur and Kordofan have arrived in Ad Dabbah in Northern State, some covering more than 1,000 kilometres, sometimes travelling for up to 15 days. They join some 35,000 who managed to reach Ad Dabbah during the long siege, and thousands more are thought to be on their way.”

(Source: UNHCR, “[UNHCR: Displaced civilians fleeing Sudan’s Darfur, Kordofan regions navigate serious violations, deadly routes](#)”, 14 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“Between 26 October and 9 November 2025, an estimated 88,892 individuals (19,350 households) were displaced from Al Fasher town and surrounding villages. Of these individuals, the vast majority (79%) remain within Al Fasher locality, mainly in rural villages located to the west and north of Al Fasher town. A smaller proportion have arrived in locations across Tawila (7%) or other localities in North Darfur (1%) localities. An estimated 13 per cent have reached other states in Sudan, including Central Darfur, East Darfur, South Darfur, Northern, West Darfur, West Kordofan, and White Nile. According to DTM eld teams, the majority (75%) of those displaced since 26 October 2025 were already IDPs, who were initially displaced from the major IDP camps (Zamzam, Abu Shouk) or locations within Al Fasher town during previous escalations and then displaced again after 26 October 2025.”

(Source: IOM, “[DTM Sudan Focused Flash Alert: Al Fasher, North Darfur \(Update 011\)](#)”, 10 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“Out of an estimated 70,000 people who fled El Fasher, humanitarians say less than 10,000 people have made it to Tawila as of 3 November.”

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, “[Investigation: The Killing Fields of El Fasher](#)”, 3 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“Some experts have expressed concern at the relatively low numbers arriving at places like Tawila now. ‘This is actually a point of worry for us,’ says Caroline Bouvoir, who works with refugees in neighbouring Chad for the aid agency Solidarités International. ‘In the past few days we have about 5,000 people who have arrived, which considering we believe there were about a quarter of a million people still in the city, that is obviously not that many,’ she says.

[...]

‘We believe that many people are stuck currently in different locations between Tawila and el-Fasher, and unable to move forward - either because of their physical condition or because of the insecurity on the road, where militias are unfortunately attacking people who are trying to find safe haven.’”

(Source: BBC, [“‘We saw people murdered in front of us’ – Sudan siege survivors speak to the BBC”](#), 30 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

UNHCR also reports that three-quarters of those displaced from El Fasher have been displaced before.

“Nearly 100,000 people have been displaced from El Fasher and surrounding villages in the last two weeks, seeking safety in other parts of North Darfur and neighbouring states. Three-quarters of the newly displaced had already been forced from their homes before, primarily from Zamzam and Abu Shouk camps and unsafe neighbourhoods in El Fasher.”

(Source: UNHCR, [“UNHCR: Displaced civilians fleeing Sudan’s Darfur, Kordofan regions navigate serious violations, deadly routes”](#), 14 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

According to a report recently published by Amnesty International, an RSF attack on an IDP camp in April resulted in mass displacement.

“RSF fighters used explosive weapons in populated areas in Zamzam IDP camp and were seen randomly shooting their weapons in populated residential areas. Shooting in such a manner may constitute an attack without a specific military target, and therefore an indiscriminate attack. The civilian harm during the assault was high and resulted in the displacement of around 400,000 persons between 13 and 14 April alone.”

(Source: Amnesty International, [“A Refuge Destroyed”: RSF Violations in Darfur’s Zamzam Camp for Internally Displaced Persons”](#), 2 December 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

Cross-border displacement

Eisa Dafalla is a Sudanese journalist specialising in media coverage of Darfur, whose reports have been published in international and local media outlets. In email correspondence with Asylos, he refers to cross-border displacement to multiple countries resulting from the violence in El Fasher.

“The violence has significantly contributed to the flight of thousands of people to neighboring countries, most notably Chad, Libya, Uganda, South Sudan, and Egypt [...]”

(Source: Eisa Dafalla, Email correspondence with Asylos, 8 January 2026)

According to an update from UNHCR, over 10,000 refugees have been registered in Chad since the October attack in El Fasher.

“Since the latest attack in El Fasher at the end of October, 10,206 new arrivals from 3,857 families have been registered in Chad. This brings to the total number of newly arrived refugees registered in Chad to 169,678 individuals from 53,287 families.”

(Source: UNHCR, [“Flash Update #32: New Sudanese Refugee Influx into Chad”](#), 25 November 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

6. Access to aid in El Fasher

Eisa Dafalla is a Sudanese journalist specialising in media coverage of Darfur, whose reports have been published in international and local media outlets. In email correspondence with Asylos, he describes severe challenges in accessing humanitarian aid in El Fasher.

“Throughout the months of the siege, humanitarian assistance was not allowed to enter by the Rapid Support Forces, and the international community failed to exert sufficient pressure to allow aid delivery, which led to the deaths of thousands due to famine.

After the RSF took control of the city and committed serious violations against civilians, limited humanitarian assistance was allowed to enter for a small number of people who were besieged and forced to remain after the RSF refused to allow them to leave. To this day, the majority of civilians remain excluded from aid.”

(Source: Eisa Dafalla, Email correspondence with Asylos, 8 January 2026)

MSF, UNHCR and The New Humanitarian report that there is no access to aid for civilians in El Fasher.

“‘The people who survived the extreme violence remain in grave danger in and around El Fasher. Humanitarian access is blocked, people still alive are trapped, while direct information on the current situation inside and around the city is very limited,’ says Myriam Laaroussi, MSF emergency coordinator in Darfur.”

(Source: MSF, [“One month after RSF takeover of El Fasher, displaced people survive in precarious conditions while others remain blocked or unaccounted for”](#), 26 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“UNHCR has been informed by those who managed to reach safer locations that many civilians, including women, children, and other vulnerable groups, remain trapped inside El Fasher without access to food, water, medical care, and other essential services. With communications down inside El Fasher, reports have yet to be verified but suggest that some 50,000 people may still be inside the city, unable to leave.”

(Source: UNHCR, [“Flash Update #2; 17 November 2025; Escalation of Conflict in El Fasher and Kordofan”](#), 17 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“At the same time, conditions back in El Fasher are fast reaching breaking point. Community networks and local sources have told UNHCR teams that thousands of people, particularly the elderly, those with disabilities and the wounded, remain trapped, either prevented from leaving the city or lacking the means or strength to flee.”

(Source: UNHCR, [“UNHCR: Displaced civilians fleeing Sudan’s Darfur, Kordofan regions navigate serious violations, deadly routes”](#), 14 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“In the weeks before the city fell, I heard from one woman who said the animal feed (ambaz) that people were relying on had become too expensive, that mutual aid groups were on their knees, and that water was so restricted that people had stopped bathing.

The only bits of food remaining, the woman said, were the seeds of a tree that people never used to eat. More bitter than lemon, you have to soak them in water for a week to remove the taste.”

(Source: Ahmed Gouja/The New Humanitarian, [“An atrocity foretold: How the RSF siege of El Fasher turned into genocidal slaughter”](#), 30 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

According to several sources, access to aid was also extremely limited prior to the complete capture of El Fasher.

“After being driven out of the capital, Khartoum, in March, the RSF intensified its attacks on El Fasher. In April, it attacked the nearby Zamzam refugee camp and Abu Shouk, another camp. The next month, they began building a wall of earth – a berm – around El Fasher, choking off supplies.

People became desperate as prices rocketed and markets closed. Many resorted to eating ombaz, an animal feed made from peanut husks. In the hospitals, medical staff drank IV fluids to keep their sugars up. Residents said they became infested with lice because there was no soap.

‘Every day we woke up searching for something to eat, and we rarely found anything,’ said Abdulhafiz Ahmed, an 18-year-old student. ‘Prices were extremely high, and we had no money at all.’

Khadija Adam, a mother of seven, said: ‘My son would go out searching for food and bring back ombaz when he could, but even that eventually became unavailable.’

As the famine bit harder, drones buzzed above the city and shells rained down. The RSF launched many attacks, encroaching on El Fasher’s eastern and south-eastern neighbourhoods. As the last functioning medical facility, Saudi maternity hospital dealt with a constant flow of wounded. Civilians moved into its grounds, hoping for meals from the hospital kitchen.

‘There was no medicine, no money, no food,’ said Nur. ‘People smuggled in medicine with great difficulty, and even the smugglers were often killed. Sometimes the army’s special operations would attack places where the RSF stored medicine. Many wounds became infected.’”

(Source: The Observer, “[We saw so many bodies that we lost count: uncovering the hidden horror of El Fasher](#)”, 24 November 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

“Sudanese journalist Abdallah Hussain explained that, before the RSF’s full takeover, el-Fasher was already reeling from an 18-month siege imposed by the paramilitary group.

‘No aid was allowed to access the city, and no healthcare facilities [were] operating,’ Hussain told Al Jazeera from the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, on Tuesday. ‘Now it’s getting even worse for the citizens who remain trapped.’”

(Source: Al Jazeera, “[RSF digging mass graves in Sudan’s el-Fasher to ‘clean up massacre’: Expert](#)”, 4 November 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

“Radio Dabanga reported yesterday that El Fasher’s healthcare system has nearly totally collapsed. The Children’s Hospital, Southern Hospital, Saudi Hospital, and Military Hospital have been shelled, rendering them mostly inoperable, while limited health centers lack medicines and medical supplies, including gauze, surgical instruments, and life-saving medications.”

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, “[RSF Attack on Abu Shouk Kills Dozens](#)”, 13 August 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“Statement by the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. in Sudan, Sheldon Yett (Port Sudan, 12 August 2025)

I am appalled by reports of a large-scale attack on the El Fasher area, the besieged capital of North Darfur State, including the Abu Shouk displacement camp, yesterday. Once again, civilians are paying the highest price in this conflict. [...] Abu Shouk camp is already among the famine-hit areas in North Darfur. Equally alarming – amidst these reports of an escalation of hostilities in and around El Fasher – is that exit routes from the city have been blocked, effectively trapping civilians under siege.

We continue to receive deeply troubling reports that the siege and intensifying hostilities have left people in El Fasher with extremely limited access to food, safe water and medical care. Recent reports that in just one week, more than 60 people — most of them women and children — have died from malnutrition in El Fasher, are also extremely worrying.”

(Source: UN Sudan, “[El Fasher and Abu Shouk camp: A call to stop attacks on civilians, allow safe passage and aid](#)”, 12 August 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

7. Limitations on access to information on the situation in El Fasher

Eisa Dafalla is a Sudanese journalist specialising in media coverage of Darfur, whose reports have been published in international and local media outlets. In email correspondence with Asylos, he describes extreme challenges for journalists in areas controlled by both the Sudanese Armed Forces, and the Rapid Support Forces, and refers to an internet blackout.

“Before the fall of the city [El-Fasher], the situation was extremely difficult. Some journalists worked from areas controlled by the Sudanese Armed Forces and were subjected to harassment from time to time. In areas controlled by the Rapid Support Forces, independent journalism is not permitted at all. [...] After the fall of the city, a near-total blackout was imposed. Internet access — including satellite internet services such as Starlink — was banned even for civilians. As a result, El Fasher has effectively been cut off from news coverage, and information only emerges through members of the Rapid Support Forces or civilians who have managed to escape the city.”

(Source: Eisa Dafalla, Email correspondence with Asylos, 8 January 2026)

According to several web sources, information on the situation in El Fasher is very limited because of communications cuts.

“Documenting many of the abuses committed by the Rapid Support Forces in El Fasher is proving difficult because they have imposed a communications blackout and confiscated internet and cell phone devices. “There is no way to contact people inside to find out about their situation amid the militia’s control and strict measures,” the activist notes.”

(Source: El Pais, [“Torture, bloodshed and despair: Tens of thousands of people remain trapped in El Fasher, Sudan”](#), 27 November 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

“The city is subject to a communications blackout, and the RSF does not permit international journalists to enter. Unlike the horrors of Gaza, which were broadcast in real-time over the internet, the bloodshed in El Fasher – and the rest of Darfur – has unfolded largely out of sight.

[...] International journalists are not permitted to enter El Fasher. Phone and internet lines have been cut, and some people seeking to flee the city are being forced back by armed men. This makes reporting on the violence that accompanied its fall exceedingly difficult.”

(Source: The Observer, [“‘We saw so many bodies that we lost count’: uncovering the hidden horror of El Fasher”](#), 24 November 2025, last accessed: 4 December 2025)

“UNHCR has been informed by those who managed to reach safer locations that many civilians, including women, children, and other vulnerable groups, remain trapped inside El Fasher without access to food, water, medical care, and other essential services. With communications down inside El Fasher, reports have yet to be verified but suggest that some 50,000 people may still be inside the city, unable to leave.”

(Source: UNHCR, [“Flash Update #2; 17 November 2025; Escalation of Conflict in El Fasher and Kordofan”](#), 17 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“With communication networks severely affected, it has been extremely challenging to obtain regular updates from people who remain in El Fasher.”

(Source: UNHCR, [“Flash Update #1; Escalation of Conflict in El Fasher and Kordofan”](#), ??? 6 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“The UN Human Rights Office in Geneva said it received reports that heavy artillery shelling from 22 to 26 October caused numerous civilian deaths, including of local humanitarian volunteers. It noted, ‘It is difficult to estimate the number of civilian casualties at this point, given communications cuts and the large number of people fleeing.’”

(Source: Sudan War Monitor, “[Investigation: The Killing Fields of El Fasher](#)”, 3 November 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)

“News agencies have been unable to contact civilians in the city, where the Sudanese Journalists’ Syndicate says communications, including satellite networks, have been cut off by a media blackout.”

(Source: The Guardian, “[Mass killings reported in Sudanese city seized by paramilitary group](#)”, 28 October 2025, last accessed: 26 November 2025)



About Asylos

Asylos is a network of volunteers providing research assistance to lawyers who represent refugees. Asylos is an international network of over 60 volunteers in 25 countries who provide high-quality Country of Origin Information research for people claiming asylum and their representatives around the world.

Asylos provides services free of charge to lawyers and NGO caseworkers around the world who are assisting asylum seekers through their legal procedures. We produce case-based and broader Country of Origin Information (COI) research reports, used to support a variety of protection-based claims in court.

Contact us if you have any specific needs or have spotted any gap in COI research at info@asylos.org. For more information, please visit our website at: asylos.org

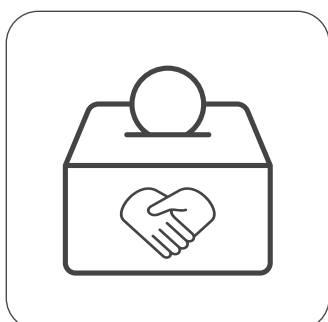
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