



Statement

Stop Sudan Famine Crime

Date: 19 September 2026

Sudan is teetering on the brink of a man-made famine. Fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the rival Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has displaced more than 10 million people, while 25 million endure acute food shortages. Nearly 5 million are suffering at emergency levels, according to local reports. Community kitchens that once supported vulnerable families have shut down due to lack of resources, while the number of people in need continues to rise. Many households previously relied on remittances from relatives in the diaspora, but after more than three years of conflict, those lifelines are collapsing under the weight of global inflation and prolonged hardship.

In addition to the devastation caused by war, natural factors are worsening the crisis. A severe lack of rainfall in rain-fed agricultural areas, including El Gedaref State and South Kordofan State, has led to poor harvests and threatens food security at a time when millions of Sudanese are already struggling to access food and essential commodities.

Both warring parties are deliberately using starvation as a method of warfare, a practice that constitutes a war crime. Their tactics have compounded economic collapse, driving inflation to unprecedented levels. Prices of food and essential commodities have more than doubled within a single month, sparking protests across the country, including in neighbourhoods of the capital, Khartoum.

In the Nuba Mountains (areas controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Army – SPLA/M North), regional authorities have already declared famine. Yet the central government in Port Sudan remains in denial, even as the economic situation spirals out of control. Threats of security crackdowns have failed before and will not resolve the crisis.

Tactics of Starvation

- Besieging densely populated areas.
- Blocking major roads to prevent the transport of goods.
- Preventing food from reaching areas controlled by rivals.
- Destroying warehouses, water sources, and farms.

- Denying civilians access to humanitarian aid.

Accountability and Urgency

The crisis in Sudan raises urgent questions about accountability for these atrocities. While we welcome steps taken by the United States administration and the European Union in imposing sanctions on those responsible for prolonging the war and devastating civilian lives, these measures are not enough. More decisive action is needed to avert the death of millions of Sudanese people.

The current famine is more catastrophic than the 1984–1985 famine, which was caused by natural factors. Today, starvation is being deliberately inflicted on civilians, making it a crime against humanity.

Call to Action

- End the ongoing war immediately, to free resources that can be redirected to basic services and alleviate the suffering of millions of Sudanese.
- Guarantee immediate humanitarian access to deliver food, water, and medical aid to those in desperate need.
- Strengthen accountability mechanisms to prosecute those responsible for using starvation as a weapon of war.
- Intensify international pressure to compel both warring factions to agree to a cessation of hostilities, without which humanitarian assistance cannot reach affected populations.

Justice Africa Sudan, in collaboration with Sudanese, regional, and international organisations and activists, will continue to campaign to ensure that those responsible for these heinous crimes are held to account. Ending the culture of impunity is essential to protecting civilians and restoring hope for Sudan's future;

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