

**Country/entity** Sudan

**Region** Africa (excl MENA)

**Agreement name** Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan

**Date** 11 May 2023

**Agreement status** Multiparty signed/agreed

**Interim arrangement** Yes

**Agreement/conflict level** Intrastate/intrastate conflict

### **Sudan Conflicts (1955 - )**

Agreements relate to several distinct dyads, and also the negotiated independence of South Sudan, and subsequent internal conflict in South Sudan. Sudan-South Sudan. The long-standing conflict between the north and the south of the country dates back to colonial times, where the British introduced a so-called 'Southern Policy', severely hampering population movements between these big regions. Immediately after gaining independence in 1956, southern movements started to fight for independence; this fight became professionalised in 1983 with the foundation of the soon internationally supported Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). When the Islamic Front government introduced strict sharia laws in the south after it took over power in 1988 the war intensified. A decade later, the military situation reached a stalemate, enabling internationally facilitated peace negotiations to begin in 1997. After more fighting, a final negotiation push began in 2002, leading to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005.

Sudan-South Sudan post referendum. South Sudan became independent in July 2011; since then, relations between the two countries are complicated and violent conflict led by the SPLM (North) in the Sudanese Nuba mountains region has since intensified.

Darfur. Other long-standing violent conflicts are in the east and the west of the country. In the east, the Beja Congress, established in 1957, is the spearhead of a currently 'peaceful' opposition movement. In the west, the violent conflict in Darfur intensified in the early 2000s and rapidly gained international attention, even resulting in genocide charges against leading figures of the Sudanese government. The situation on the ground is complex, with over a dozen organisations (most notably the Sudanese Liberation Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement) fighting the Sudanese government and allied groups like the Janjaweed – although all parties have switched sides on numerous occasions. Several mediation attempts have not been successful, due to the shaky commitment of the Sudanese central government and the distrust among the armed opposition.

South Sudan - internal

In December 2013, after president Salva Kiir accused opposition leader Riek Machar of attempting a coup, violent conflict broke out between government forces of the SPLM/A and anti-governmental groups. In addition, several other political militias as well as communal militias have joined the conflict. In 2015 the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) was signed. Due to unsuccessful implementation the agreement was revitalized in 2018. In September 2019, Kiir and Machar agreed to establish a power-sharing government after struggles on forming a unity transitional government.

Close

Sudan Conflicts (1955 - )

**Stage** Framework/substantive - partial

**Conflict nature** Government/territory

<b>Peace process</b>	Sudan Transition Process
<b>Parties</b>	Sudanese Armed Forces, Rear Admiral, Mahjoub Bushra Ahmed Rahma  Rapid Support Forces, Brigadier General, Omer Hamdan Ahmed Hammad
<b>Third parties</b>	United States, Saudi Arabia
<b>Description</b>	The "Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan," signed on May 11, 2023, by representatives of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), outlines a series of commitments primarily centered on the protection of civilians and the facilitation of humanitarian aid amid ongoing conflict. The commitments include respecting international humanitarian and human rights law, ensuring the protection and well-being of civilians, preventing incidental harm, and facilitating the unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief. Furthermore, the declaration emphasizes the necessity of discussions towards a short-term ceasefire and a subsequent permanent cessation of hostilities.

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**Agreement document**      [SD\\_230511\\_Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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**Groups**

<b>Children/youth</b>	Groups→Children/youth→Substantive <b>Commitments</b>  ... Refrain from the recruitment of children and the use of children in hostilities. ( Locate in agreement)
<b>Disabled persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Elderly/age</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Migrant workers</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Racial/ethnic/ national group</b>	Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical <b>Commitments</b> 1. We agree that the interests and well-being of the Sudanese people are our top priority and affirm our commitment to ensure that civilians are protected at all times. ( Locate in agreement)
<b>Religious groups</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Indigenous people</b>	No specific mention.

**Other groups** No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced persons** No specific mention.

**Social class** No specific mention.

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## Gender

**Women, girls and gender** **Commitments**  
...  
Refrain from any form of torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, including sexual violence of all kinds.  
Locate in agreement

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## State definition

**Nature of state (general)** **Preamble**  
...  
We affirm our unwavering commitment to the sovereignty of Sudan and to maintaining its unity and territorial integrity.  
Locate in agreement

**State configuration** No specific mention.

**Self determination** No specific mention.

**Referendum** No specific mention.

**State symbols** No specific mention.

**Independence/secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/unification** No specific mention.

**Border delimitation** No specific mention.

**Cross-border provision** No specific mention.

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**Governance**

**Political institutions (new or reformed)** No specific mention.

**Elections** No specific mention.

**Electoral commission** No specific mention.

**Political parties reform** No specific mention.

## Civil society

### Preamble

...

We, the undersigned, representing the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), with this Declaration of Commitment, reaffirm our core obligations under International Humanitarian Law to facilitate humanitarian action to meet the needs of civilians.

Locate in agreement

...

### Commitments

...

Ensure that checkpoints are not used to infringe upon the principle of the freedom of movement for civilians and humanitarian actors.

Locate in agreement

...

Take all possible measures to collect and evacuate the wounded and sick, including combatants, without discrimination, and allow humanitarian organizations to do so;

Locate in agreement

...

Treat all persons deprived of their liberty in a humane manner and provide principal humanitarian organizations with regular access to persons in detention.

Locate in agreement

...

We agree on the need to allow principal humanitarian operations to resume and to protect humanitarian personnel and assets, including to:

Locate in agreement

...

Allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief, including medical and surgical equipment, and ensure relief personnel the freedom of movement required for their functions.

Locate in agreement

...

Facilitating the safe, rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian personnel through all available routes (and any established humanitarian corridors) as needs require, into and within the country, including the movement of humanitarian convoys.

Locate in agreement

Adopting simple and expedited procedures for all logistical and administrative arrangements necessary for humanitarian relief operations.

Locate in agreement

...

Refraining from interference with principal humanitarian operations and never accompany side by side humanitarian personnel carrying out humanitarian activities, in conformity with the Amended Directives and Procedures for Humanitarian Action in Sudan.

Locate in agreement

Protect and respect humanitarian workers, assets, supplies, offices, warehouses, and other facilities.

Locate in agreement

Armed actors must not interfere in the actions of humanitarian operations.

Locate in agreement

While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution.

Locate in agreement

...

4. We commit to exert all efforts to ensure that these commitments – and all obligations

**Traditional/  
religious leaders** No specific mention.

**Public  
administration** No specific mention.

**Constitution** No specific mention.

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### **Power sharing**

**Political power  
sharing** No specific mention.

**Territorial power  
sharing** No specific mention.

**Economic power  
sharing** No specific mention.

**Military power  
sharing** No specific mention.

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### **Human rights and equality**

**Human rights/RoL  
general** **Commitments**

...

Respect the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and operational independence.

Locate in agreement

...

Refraining from interference with principal humanitarian operations and never accompany side by side humanitarian personnel carrying out humanitarian activities, in conformity with the Amended Directives and Procedures for Humanitarian Action in Sudan.

Locate in agreement

...

While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution.

Locate in agreement

**Bill of rights/similar** No specific mention.

**Treaty  
incorporation** No specific mention.

<b>Civil and political rights</b>	<p>Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Torture <b>Commitments</b> ... Refrain from any form of torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, including sexual violence of all kinds. ( Locate in agreement) Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Humane treatment in detention <b>Commitments</b> ... Treat all persons deprived of their liberty in a humane manner and provide principal humanitarian organizations with regular access to persons in detention. ( Locate in agreement) Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Freedom of movement <b>Commitments</b> ... Ensure that checkpoints are not used to infringe upon the principle of the freedom of movement for civilians and humanitarian actors. ( Locate in agreement) ... Uphold and not hamper the right of civilians to pass and travel via roads and bridges, inside and outside the State of Khartoum. ( Locate in agreement) ... Allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief, including medical and surgical equipment, and ensure relief personnel the freedom of movement required for their functions. ( Locate in agreement)</p>
<b>Socio-economic rights</b>	<p>No specific mention.</p>

**Rights related issues**

<b>Citizenship</b>	<p>No specific mention.</p>
<b>Democracy</b>	<p>No specific mention.</p>
<b>Detention procedures</b>	<p><b>Commitments</b> ... Refrain from engaging in forced disappearances and arbitrary detention of civilians. Locate in agreement ... It is prohibited to attack, harass, intimidate or arbitrarily detain personnel, or to attack, destroy, misappropriate or loot relief supplies, installations, material, units or vehicles. Locate in agreement</p>
<b>Media and communication</b>	<p>No specific mention.</p>



**Mobility/access****Commitments**

...

This includes allowing safe passage for civilians to leave areas of active hostilities on a voluntary basis, in the direction they choose.

Locate in agreement

...

Allow all civilians to voluntarily and safely leave areas of hostilities and any besieged areas.

Locate in agreement

...

Treat all persons deprived of their liberty in a humane manner and provide principal humanitarian organizations with regular access to persons in detention.

Locate in agreement

...

We agree on the need to allow principal humanitarian operations to resume and to protect humanitarian personnel and assets, including to:

Locate in agreement

...

Facilitating the safe, rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian personnel through all available routes (and any established humanitarian corridors) as needs require, into and within the country, including the movement of humanitarian convoys.

Locate in agreement

...

While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution.

Locate in agreement

**Protection measures**

Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians

**Commitments**

1. We agree that the interests and well-being of the Sudanese people are our top priority and affirm our commitment to ensure that civilians are protected at all times.

( Locate in agreement)

This includes allowing safe passage for civilians to leave areas of active hostilities on a voluntary basis, in the direction they choose.

( Locate in agreement)

...

Distinguish at all times between civilians and combatants and between civilian objects and military targets.

( Locate in agreement)

Refrain from any attack that may be expected to cause incidental civilian harm that would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.

( Locate in agreement)

Take all feasible precautions to avoid and minimize civilian harm, with an aim to vacate urban centers, including civilian houses.

( Locate in agreement)

Civilians should not be used as human shields, for example.

( Locate in agreement)

...

Allow all civilians to voluntarily and safely leave areas of hostilities and any besieged areas.

( Locate in agreement)

Commit to safeguard the needs and necessities indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, which can include foodstuffs, agricultural areas, crops, and livestock.

( Locate in agreement)

Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of groups

**Commitments**

...

Commit to respect and protect medical personnel and public installations.

( Locate in agreement)

...

Protect and respect humanitarian workers, assets, supplies, offices, warehouses, and other facilities.

( Locate in agreement)

**Other**

No specific mention.

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**Rights institutions**

**NHRI**

No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions**

No specific mention.

**Justice sector reform**

**Criminal justice and emergency law** No specific mention.

**State of emergency provisions** No specific mention.

**Judiciary and courts** No specific mention.

**Prisons and detention** No specific mention.

**Traditional Laws** No specific mention.

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**Socio-economic reconstruction**

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction**

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance

**Preamble**

...

We, the undersigned, representing the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), with this Declaration of Commitment, reaffirm our core obligations under International Humanitarian Law to facilitate humanitarian action to meet the needs of civilians.

( Locate in agreement)

...

**Commitments**

...

Take all possible measures to collect and evacuate the wounded and sick, including combatants, without discrimination, and allow humanitarian organizations to do so;

( Locate in agreement)

...

Treat all persons deprived of their liberty in a humane manner and provide principal humanitarian organizations with regular access to persons in detention.

( Locate in agreement)

3. We recognize that humanitarian activities solely aim to alleviate human suffering and protect the lives and dignity of persons who are not or are no longer fighting.

( Locate in agreement)

We agree on the need to allow principal humanitarian operations to resume and to protect humanitarian personnel and assets, including to:

( Locate in agreement)

...

Allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief, including medical and surgical equipment, and ensure relief personnel the freedom of movement required for their functions.

( Locate in agreement)

...

Facilitating the safe, rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian personnel through all available routes (and any established humanitarian corridors) as needs require, into and within the country, including the movement of humanitarian convoys.

( Locate in agreement)

Adopting simple and expedited procedures for all logistical and administrative arrangements necessary for humanitarian relief operations.

( Locate in agreement)

Observing the implementation of regular humanitarian pauses and days of tranquility as needed.

( Locate in agreement)

Refraining from interference with principal humanitarian operations and never accompany side by side humanitarian personnel carrying out humanitarian activities, in conformity with the Amended Directives and Procedures for Humanitarian Action in Sudan.

( Locate in agreement)

Protect and respect humanitarian workers, assets, supplies, offices, warehouses, and other facilities.

( Locate in agreement)

Armed actors must not interfere in the actions of humanitarian operations.

( Locate in agreement)

While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution.

( Locate in agreement)

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** No specific mention.

**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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**Land, property and environment**

**Land reform/rights** No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** No specific mention.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian rights or access** No specific mention.

## **Security sector**

### **Security Guarantees**

#### **Commitments**

...

While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution.

Locate in agreement

### **Ceasefire**

Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments

#### **Commitments**

...

7. In furtherance of the principles and commitments contained herein, we commit to prioritizing discussions to achieve a short-term ceasefire to facilitate the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance and restoration of essential services, and we commit to scheduling subsequent expanded discussions to achieve a permanent cessation of hostilities.

( Locate in agreement)

### **Police**

No specific mention.

## Armed forces

### Preamble

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Locate in agreement

We affirm our unwavering commitment to the sovereignty of Sudan and to maintaining its unity and territorial integrity.

Locate in agreement

We recognize that commitment to the Declaration of Commitment will not affect any legal, security, or political status of the parties signing it, nor will it be linked to participation in any political process.

Locate in agreement

...

### Commitments

1. We agree that the interests and well-being of the Sudanese people are our top priority and affirm our commitment to ensure that civilians are protected at all times.

Locate in agreement

This includes allowing safe passage for civilians to leave areas of active hostilities on a voluntary basis, in the direction they choose.

Locate in agreement

2. We affirm our responsibility to respect International Humanitarian Law and international human rights law, including obligations to:

Locate in agreement

Distinguish at all times between civilians and combatants and between civilian objects and military targets.

Locate in agreement

Refrain from any attack that may be expected to cause incidental civilian harm that would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.

Locate in agreement

Take all feasible precautions to avoid and minimize civilian harm, with an aim to vacate urban centers, including civilian houses.

Locate in agreement

Civilians should not be used as human shields, for example.

Locate in agreement

Ensure that checkpoints are not used to infringe upon the principle of the freedom of movement for civilians and humanitarian actors.

Locate in agreement

Allow all civilians to voluntarily and safely leave areas of hostilities and any besieged areas.

Locate in agreement

Commit to safeguard the needs and necessities indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, which can include foodstuffs, agricultural areas, crops, and livestock.

Locate in agreement

Looting, ransacking, and ravaging are prohibited.

Locate in agreement

Commit to vacate and refrain from occupying, as well as to respect and protect all public and private facilities, such as hospitals and water and electricity installations, and refrain from using them for military purposes.

Locate in agreement

Commit to respect and protect medical transports such as ambulances and refrain from using them for military purposes.

Locate in agreement

Commit to respect and protect medical personnel and public installations



**DDR**

No specific mention.

**Intelligence  
services**

No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel  
and opposition  
group forces**

**Preamble**

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Locate in agreement

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**Commitments**

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Locate in agreement

Commit to respect and protect medical personnel and public installations

<b>Withdrawal of foreign forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Corruption</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Crime/organised crime</b>	<p><b>Commitments</b></p> <p>...</p> <p>Looting, ransacking, and ravaging are prohibited. Locate in agreement</p> <p>...</p> <p>It is prohibited to attack, harass, intimidate or arbitrarily detain personnel, or to attack, destroy, misappropriate or loot relief supplies, installations, material, units or vehicles. Locate in agreement</p>
<b>Drugs</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Terrorism</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Transitional justice**

<b>Transitional justice general</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Amnesty/pardon</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Courts</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mechanism</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Prisoner release</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Vetting</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Victims</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Missing persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reparations</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reconciliation</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Implementation**

**UN signatory** No specific mention.

**Other international signatory** No specific mention.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar** No specific mention.

**Enforcement mechanism** No specific mention.

**Related cases** No specific mention.

**Source** No specific mention.

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