

Aid agencies condemn attacks on civilians in North and West Kordofan and call for protection of civilians and respect of international humanitarian law

Port Sudan – July 18, 2025] Aid agencies operating in Sudan are deeply alarmed and outraged by the reports of indiscriminate killings of civilians in North and West Kordofan, Sudan, following violent attacks that have escalated in the past week.

Airstrikes in two villages in West Kordofan killed at least 23 civilians and injured over 30 others between 10 to 14 July, while attacks in North Kordofan's Bara locality on July 17th killed at least 11 civilians. In separate attacks in Bara locality, at least 300 civilians were killed since July 10th, with 60 deaths confirmed by OHCHR. The targeting of innocent civilians, including women and children, is a grave violation of international humanitarian law and human rights norms.

These attacks also mark an escalation of the violent conflict that has been unfolding in Sudan since April 2023, with both parties vying for strategic access, including for logistical pipelines and to the besieged town of El Fasher.

The deliberate targeting of non-combatants is a clear violation of international humanitarian law (IHL), particularly the principles of distinction and precaution.

We call on all parties to the conflict to uphold their obligations under IHL and under the Geneva Conventions to protect civilians. There must be an independent investigation into these atrocities, and those responsible must be held accountable.

The international community must act urgently to ensure humanitarian access to affected areas and support efforts to bring an end to the ongoing suffering.