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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 -))
Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Sudan Transition Process
Parties	Sudanese Armed Forces, Rear Admiral, Mahjoub Bushra Ahmed Rahma Rapid Support Forces, Brigadier General, Omer Hamdan Ahmed Hammad
Third parties	United States, Saudi Arabia
Description	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.

Agreement
document

[SD_230511_Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan.pdf](#)  |
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Groups

Children/ youth	Groups→Children/youth→Substantive COMMITMENTS ... Refrain from the recruitment of children and the use of children in hostilities. (📄 Locate in agreement)
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ ethnic/ national group	Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical 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)
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/ displaced persons	No specific mention.
Social class	No specific mention.

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.

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.

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 of International Humanitarian Law—are fully disseminated within our ranks and appoint focal points to engage with humanitarian actors to facilitate their activities. (📄 Locate in agreement)

5. We will enable responsible humanitarian actors, such as the Sudanese Red Cross, to lead the International Committee of the Red Cross efforts

Traditional/
religious
leaders No specific mention.

Public
administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

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.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	<p>COMMITMENTS</p> <p>...</p> <p>Respect the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and operational independence. (📄 Locate in agreement)</p> <p>...</p> <p>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)</p> <p>...</p> <p>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)</p>
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.

Civil and political rights	<p>Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Torture COMMITMENTS ... Refrain from any form of torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, including sexual violence of all kinds. (📄 Locate in agreement)</p> <p>Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Humane treatment in detention COMMITMENTS ... 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)</p> <p>Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Freedom of movement 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)</p> <p>... 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)</p> <p>... 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>
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention
procedures

COMMITMENTS

...

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)

Media and
communication

No specific mention.

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	<p>Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians</p> <p>COMMITMENTS</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>...</p> <p>Distinguish at all times between civilians and combatants and between civilian objects and military targets. (📄 Locate in agreement)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Take all feasible precautions to avoid and minimize civilian harm, with an aim to vacate urban centers, including civilian houses. (📄 Locate in agreement)</p> <p>Civilians should not be used as human shields, for example. (📄 Locate in agreement)</p> <p>...</p> <p>Allow all civilians to voluntarily and safely leave areas of hostilities and any besieged areas. (📄 Locate in agreement)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of groups</p> <p>COMMITMENTS</p> <p>...</p> <p>Commit to respect and protect medical personnel and public installations. (📄 Locate in agreement)</p> <p>...</p> <p>Protect and respect humanitarian workers, assets, supplies, offices, warehouses, and other facilities. (📄 Locate in agreement)</p>
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
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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.

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)

...

4. We commit to exert all efforts to ensure that these commitments—and all obligations of International Humanitarian Law—are fully disseminated

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.

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

...

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)

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. 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)

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)

do not impede medical evacuations, including during active hostilities.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/
rebel and
opposition
group
forces

PREAMBLE

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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)

do not impede medical evacuations, including during active hostilities.

Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	<p>COMMITMENTS</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>
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

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.
