



Sudan Justice & Accountability Coalition (SJAC)

STATEMENT

Statement on Systematic Violations and Forced Deportations of Sudanese Refugees in Egypt Following the April 15, 2023, Conflict

Date: 29 September 2026

Introduction

The Sudan Justice & Accountability Coalition (SJAC), representing over 20 civil society organizations, has documented widespread and systematic human rights violations against Sudanese refugees who fled the war that erupted on 15 April 2023. While hundreds of thousands sought safety in Egypt, many have instead faced arbitrary detention, maltreatment, and forced deportation by Egyptian authorities in clear violation of international conventions and norms.

Refugees frequently lose legal status due to bureaucratic delays in issuing or renewing documents, leaving them vulnerable to arrest and deportation. Despite UNHCR registration efforts, Egyptian authorities have carried out sweeping security campaigns known as “*al-kashat*”, forcibly deporting Sudanese refugees in violation of the principle of non-refoulement a cornerstone of international refugee law prohibiting the forced return of individuals to countries where they face persecution or serious harm.

Some of the documented violations

- Deaths: 9 fatalities during raids; 4 deaths in detention due to denial of medical care.
- Mass Deportations: Over 2,000 refugees forcibly returned.
- Detention: 75 refugees remain imprisoned in degrading conditions.
- Abuse: Torture, harassment, fabricated charges, and sexual violence inside detention facilities.

Detention Conditions

Refugees endure overcrowding, disease outbreaks, poor sanitation, lice infestations, and meagre food rations. Arbitrary visitation fees are imposed, while testimonies reveal corruption and illicit financial transactions involving detention officers.

Breakdown of Legal Protection & Vulnerable Groups

UNHCR has failed to provide effective protection, leaving refugees without legal recourse. Victims cannot access courts, while lawyers often refuse cases. Vulnerable groups—including women, children, the elderly, and refugees from Darfur and Kordofan—face heightened risks:

- Legal limbo: Refugee card renewals delayed until 2028.
- Arbitrary arrests: Targeting expired documents or appearance alone.
- Dangerous migration routes: Refugees forced into smuggling paths through Libya to Europe, risking death at sea.
- Family separation: Mothers deported, leaving children unattended; one child with disabilities died alone.
- Elderly victims: Arbitrary arrests and deportations of people over 75, leading to severe health crises.
- Inhumane detention: Refugees held with criminal prisoners, worsening abuse.
- Denial of justice: Police refuse to accept complaints from Sudanese refugees lacking valid permits.

SJAC Calls For:

- To Egyptian Authorities: Immediately halt forced deportations, respect the principle of non-refoulement, release arbitrarily detained refugees, improve detention conditions, investigate deaths and torture, and exempt vulnerable groups (patients, mothers, elderly).
- To UNHCR: Fulfil legal and humanitarian obligations, accelerate registration processes, and provide effective protection and legal aid.
- To International Human Rights Mechanisms: Pressure Egypt to end systematic violations, uphold refugee rights, and establish safe legal pathways to prevent refugees from resorting to deadly smuggling routes.

Contact

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