



Justice Africa Sudan

HUMAN RIGHTS ALERT

Justice Africa Sudan (JAS) Condemns Escalating Drone Attacks on Civilians and Civilian Infrastructure in Abyei District and West Kordofan State

22 October 2026

Justice Africa Sudan (JAS) expresses grave concern over a series of reported drone attacks that struck civilians and civilian infrastructure in Al-Dabbab, Al-Mujlad, and the Al-Na'am Market (Ostrich) border area of Abyei and West Kordofan State between 18 and 19 October 2026. These incidents raise serious concerns regarding violations of international humanitarian law and the worsening protection crisis facing civilians in conflict-affected areas of Sudan.

JAS strongly condemns the reported drone attack carried out by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) against Al-Na'am (Ostrich) Market, one of the largest civilian and commercial centres serving communities along the Sudan-South Sudan border.

According to information received from local sources, community representatives, and civil society actors, the attack involved more than ten missiles launched from drones that directly struck the fuel market within Al-Na'am Market. The strikes reportedly triggered massive fires that rapidly engulfed the market and spread to densely populated residential neighbourhoods. Preliminary reports indicate that numerous civilians, including traders, market workers, women, children, and other residents, were killed or injured.

Justice Africa Sudan is deeply alarmed by reports that civilian infrastructure and residential areas were directly affected by the attack. Markets, fuel facilities serving civilian populations, homes, and other civilian objects enjoy protection under international humanitarian law and must not be targeted.

Particularly concerning is the fact that the attack reportedly occurred within the Abyei Area, which falls under the mandate and protection of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). The incident raises serious questions regarding the safety of civilians and the effectiveness of existing protection mechanisms in a region already affected by conflict, displacement, and insecurity.

Beyond Abyei, JAS has also received reports of additional drone attacks in Al-Dabbab and Al-Mujlad, including allegations that a civilian commercial transport vehicle was struck, resulting in significant civilian casualties. Reports indicate that civilian vehicles, marketplaces, fuel facilities, and residential areas have been repeatedly affected, causing substantial loss of life, injuries, destruction of civilian property, and heightened risks of displacement.

Justice Africa Sudan emphasises that attacks directed against civilians or civilian objects, as well as indiscriminate attacks that fail to distinguish between military objectives and civilian populations, constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes. All parties to the conflict are bound by their obligations under international law to respect and protect civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Identified Victims of the Al-Na'am (Ostrich) Market Drone Attack

Justice Africa Sudan has received the names of a number of civilians reportedly killed during the attack on Al-Na'am Market. Documentation and verification efforts are ongoing; however, the following individuals have been identified among those reported killed:

1. Barsham Fadl
2. Ahmed Abu Dak
3. Nahid Al-Tu'aymah
4. Fadlallah Hamdi
5. Azraq Salouma
6. Adam Walid
7. Hammad Bakhtan
8. Ismail Adam Jaber
9. Mohamed Al-Nour Taif
10. Abdo Abu Hamid Adam
11. Jamal Mohamed Taha
12. Abdelgadir Al-Sadiq Murayrah
13. Salah Al-Din Qadoun Rahma
14. Mohamed Abdullah
15. Salfa Abdullah
16. Issa Ali Al-Afif
17. Mubarak Musa Adam
18. Al-Fatih Issa Adam
19. Tahameed Imarah

Justice Africa Sudan extends its deepest condolences to the families and communities of those killed and stands in solidarity with all individuals affected by these attacks, including the injured, displaced, and bereaved.

Calls for Immediate Action

Justice Africa Sudan calls for:

1. An immediate, independent, impartial, and transparent international investigation into the reported drone attacks in Al-Na'am, Al-Dabbab, and Al-Mujlad and the resulting civilian casualties.
2. Urgent action by UNISFA, the United Nations, the African Union, IGAD, and relevant international human rights mechanisms to investigate these incidents and strengthen civilian protection measures in Abyei and West Kordofan.
3. Unrestricted humanitarian access for medical personnel, humanitarian organisations, and independent human rights monitors to assist affected communities and document violations.
4. The preservation of evidence and systematic documentation of casualties, injuries, and damage to civilian property to support future accountability and justice efforts.
5. The protection of civilians from further aerial attacks and military operations in populated areas, in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.
6. Accountability for all individuals, commanders, and military structures responsible for unlawful attacks against civilians and civilian objects, regardless of affiliation.

Justice Africa Sudan is also deeply concerned by the growing use of drone warfare by both the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The increasing deployment of drones and other aerial weapons in populated areas has contributed to rising civilian casualties, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and the expansion of humanitarian suffering across Sudan. All parties must take immediate measures to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution.

The protection of civilians must remain an absolute priority. Lasting peace and stability in Sudan can only be achieved through full respect for international humanitarian law, effective civilian protection measures, and accountability for serious human rights violations.

Justice Africa Sudan urges the international community not to remain silent in the face of repeated attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. Failure to investigate these incidents and hold perpetrators accountable risks encouraging further violations, entrenching impunity, and deepening Sudan's humanitarian crisis.

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