

Briefing to the Security Council by Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Alice
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Mo969President,

Genocide is preceded by risk factors and indicators. Many of them relate to deficits in the protection of civilian populations. Protection of civilians from the risk of genocide requires taking timely action so that the crime can be prevented.

Ever since the conflict erupted in April 2023, alarms have been relentlessly raised of systematic and indiscriminate attacks against innocent civilians in Khartoum, Darfur, Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Gezira, among others.

Mr. President,

Members of the Council

In October last year, I undertook a visit to Chad, including the eastern border with Sudan, aimed at collecting firsthand information from refugees from the West Darfur region.

What I heard was horrifying. Refugees based in Farchana and Adre, many of them Masali ethnic community described the vicious violence they were subjected to and outspokenly alluded to elements which could indicate explicit intent to destroy their particular ethnic group.

Intent to destroy is one of the key elements of the crime of genocide. Article II of the Genocide Convention defines the crime as any of a series of acts with intent to destroy, LQ ZKROH RU LQ SDUW D QDWLRQDO HWKQLFDO UDFLDO

Violence that has allegedly been inflicted upon them include, among others, persistent use of rape as a weapon of war and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence; burning of entire villages; forced displacement; deprivation of conditions of life, including bombing of medical facilities and transportation, and deliberately limiting access to water and electricity. This is accompanied by thH XVH RI GHURJDWRU\ ODQJXDJH DV EODFNV DQG DV μVO

Sexual and gender-based violence provides a clear gender dimension of this vicious violence, together with the targeting of young men and boys.

Age pyramid statistics in the refugee camps I visited demonstrate that adolescents were present in the camps in a proportion that is far lower than the representation of the adult population and the standard representation of males in refugee camps across the world. This indicates that this

The situation in West Darfur clearly targets one part of the population (Masalit) who fled to Chad, but many were killed on the way or in the conflict. Refugees arriving from Sudan, particularly in Chad, indicate that violence is based on ethnicity, including against Masalit.

I have also received reports by institutions collecting data on only hate speech and incitement of large-scale information operations aimed at supporting RSF activity, including glorification of war crimes. Such reports outline users operating from other countries as source of such operations.

Witnesses and legal professionals involved in legal efforts to bring accountability for past violations are victims of targeted attacks.

Prominent community leaders have been killed.

Mass graves have been documented.

Leaders are calling on civilians to take up arms. Such calls are being amplified through social media.

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The main parties to the conflict, RSF and Sudan Armed Forces, continue to show disregard for international human rights and humanitarian law and they are not upholding their obligations.

Uncontrolled militias with no understanding of chain of command or of the most basic international obligations in conflict constitute a major risk for vulnerable innocent civilians. Uncontrolled forces are reportedly operating with impunity.

There is no distinction, proportionality and precaution in ongoing military operations. The focus

In addition, the lack of effective supplies impacts on communities in Darfur who have no or little access to lifesaving humanitarian aid.

Violence is only increasing. The protection presence that existed in the past with UNAMID
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Today, reports from El Fasher raise well-founded concerns of risk of large-scale violence affecting thousands of people. Just last week, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, Ms. Clementine Nkweta
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against protected groups continue fuelling the cycle of violence. We see clear, explicit and unquestionable signs of an intent to destroy, in whole or in part, protected groups.

This is not just a descriptive list of what is happening in the country.

This is a list of risk factors and indicators for the crime of genocide. Genocide, the gravest of crimes.

Insufficient reaction to Sudan by the global community belittles any progress we have made collectively for the prevention of the gravest of crimes.

It is imperative that all possible actions aimed at the protection of innocent civilian populations, in El Fasher as in the entire territory of Sudan, are expedited to stop ethnically motivated violence.

Access to humanitarian assistance for population in desperate need is essential. Urgent safe passage is necessary for civilians wishing to flee El Fasher. All possible attention and support for displaced populations in Sudan and in the region is imperative.

Even more tragically, this violence is not new.

In Darfur, the same groups of people were targeted on the basis of their ethnicity, twenty years ago. In Chad, I saw the refugee camps they escaped to, side by side, one camp twenty years old and the other camp just some months old.

The conflict has exacerbated the existing ethnic divisions, encouraging more ethnically tribally motivated killings, particularly in Darfur.

The motives or incentives to attack remain, hate speech and incitement to violence, and violence against women and children is used as a tool of terror. The warring parties maintain their financial capacities to engage in fight rather than in dialogue, allegedly with support from outside the country. The security vacuum has widened, and the warring parties are exploiting it to further advance identity-based mobilization and recruitment campaigns. Decades of engagement aimed at building real and lasting peace and security in Sudan, already challenged by periodic cycles of conflict, have been set back dramatically in this close to two years of vicious and inexcusable violence.

Perpetrators of past violence have largely not been held accountable. Impunity for serious violations of international human rights, of genocide and related crimes, their incitement, constitutes a risk factor for the commission of further crimes. The absence of accountability for genocide and related crimes perpetrated in Darfur twenty years ago is contributing to the current episodes of horror.

It remains imperative that accountability for such crimes is ensured. Perpetrators should be brought before competent courts with jurisdiction and held accountable in order to break the cycle of impunity and violence.

Likewise, it is important that venues for accountability for the crimes being committed at the moment, not only in Darfur but in the entire territory of Sudan, are identified, promoted and documented. This includes by supporting the work of those who are documenting what is happening.

In my statements, I have asked you, the United Nations Security Council, as well as the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, to continue considering all available tools within the respective peace and security architectures to urgently protect populations and to create a conducive environment for a peaceful and durable resolution of the conflict, including expediting opportunities for coordinated dialogue and in a concerted manner. Ongoing efforts, also including the League of Arab States, must persevere with the aim of ending the fighting and suffering of the people of Sudan.

Indeed, only warring parties can stop the fighting, but the international community remains responsible to take action to protect the Sudanese people from genocide. This Council has a special responsibility to consider measures in accordance with the gravity of the situation we are facing.

Seventy-five years after the adoption of the 1948 Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the human rights and humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Sudan constitutes a blight on our collective conscience. It also contravenes the very essence of the international obligations to prevent and punish the crime of crimes, as enshrined by the Convention.

The protection of civilians in Sudan cannot wait. The risk of genocide exists in Sudan. It is real and it is growing every single day.

Thank you very much.