



How the RSF's Militia War is destroying Sudan's Health Sector.

Embassy of Sudan-Nairobi

سفارة جمهورية السودان - نيروبي





Doctors Hospital in Khartoum was destroyed by RSF Militia in August 2023

The war unleashed by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) Militia in Sudan is, at its heart, a war against the people. It is not just a military conflict; it is a calculated effort to impoverish the country and dismantle its essential service sectors, especially healthcare. The RSF's Militia insidious strategy targets the backbone of Sudanese society, its healthcare system in a deliberate attempt to force demographic change, driving citizens to flee their homes by depriving them of basic services and security.

The consequences have been catastrophic. Sudan's health sector, once a lifeline for millions, now lies in ruins. Hospitals, clinics, and medical centers across the country, particularly in conflict zones such as Khartoum, Al Jazeera, and Darfur, have been systematically attacked, shelled, and destroyed by RSF Militia. These attacks are not random acts of violence but part of a wider campaign to cripple essential services, leaving vast segments of the population without access to vital medical care. Emergency services, maternal and child healthcare, and treatment for chronic diseases have all but disappeared in these areas.

Healthcare workers have become targets in this war. Doctors, nurses, and medical staff who risk their lives daily to care for the sick and

injured face brutal intimidation, harassment, and even death at the hands of RSF Militia forces. Many have been forced to flee for their lives, abandoning conflict zones where they are needed most. The exodus of medical professionals has deepened an already critical shortage of healthcare workers, compounding the suffering of civilians caught in the crossfire.



Jabal Mara Hospital, shelled by RSF Militia, June 2, 2024

This deliberate destruction of Sudan's health infrastructure has created a ripple effect, extending far beyond the immediate violence. Displacement camps, overcrowded and unsanitary, are now breeding grounds for disease outbreaks, including cholera and malaria. The situation is further exacerbated by the RSF's Militia blockade of supply routes, preventing life-saving medical supplies, medications, and vaccines from reaching those in need. The looting of medical stores and the arrest of humanitarian workers by the RSF Militia have crippled efforts to provide relief, leaving the most vulnerable children, pregnant women, and the elderly at grave risk. Despite these atrocities, the world remains largely silent.

A Snapshot of Destruction: The Numbers Speak for Themselves

Humanitarian organizations and local sources have provided the following estimates on the impact of RSF Militia aggression on Sudan's health sector:

- **Health Facilities Destroyed:** By mid-2024, more than 200 health facilities including hospitals and clinics had been destroyed by RSF Militia in conflict zones, rendering entire regions without access to healthcare.
- **Health Facilities Occupied by RSF Militia:** At least 50 health facilities are now under RSF Militia control, repurposed for military use, effectively cutting off medical services to civilians.
- **Healthcare Worker Impact:** Since the conflict erupted in April 2023, at least 35 healthcare workers have been killed by RSF Militia. Thousands more have fled, with some areas losing up to 60% of their medical workforce.
- **Maternal Mortality:** Maternal mortality rates have surged by 50% in conflict zones due to the destruction of maternity services by the militia.
- **Supply Chain Disruptions:** 70% of healthcare facilities report critical shortages of essential medicines, including antibiotics, vaccines, and medical equipment, largely due to RSF Militia looting and blockade tactics.
- **Routine Immunizations:** Measles vaccination coverage has dropped to below 40% in regions affected by RSF Militia incursions, leaving children vulnerable to preventable diseases.
- **Psychological Impact:** The prevalence of mental health disorders has increased by 50% in areas hardest hit by the conflict, but less than 10% of those in need are receiving care due to the destruction of mental health services.

These figures are not just statistics; they represent a nation in agony. The RSF's Militia deliberate targeting of healthcare infrastructure has created a humanitarian catastrophe that will have lasting consequences for generations.



Zalingei Teaching Hospital, looted by RSF Militia

A Call for Action: The World Must Not Turn a Blind Eye

The situation in Sudan demands an urgent response. The RSF's Militia actions are war crimes and crimes against humanity, particularly in their targeting of civilians, healthcare workers, and vulnerable populations. Yet, the international community's reaction has been woefully inadequate. Statements of condemnation are not enough. The world must take concrete steps to hold the RSF Militia accountable and support Sudan in rebuilding its shattered health system.

Rebuilding Sudan's health sector will require a coordinated, sustained effort from both national and international actors. The international

Community must pressure the RSF Militia to cease its attacks on civilian infrastructure and open supply lines for vital aid.

The people of Sudan, particularly its women, children, and elderly, are suffering needlessly due to the RSF's Militia brutal tactics. The world cannot afford to stand idly by as a nation is torn apart. It is time to act decisively against the genocidal act of RSF Janjaweed.

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