

NGOs Call for Ceasefire and Urgent Humanitarian Action in Sudan

May 9, 2023

Collective Statement for Action to Protect Civilians and Refugees

As representatives of various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and humanitarian groups, we write to express our deep concern about the ongoing conflict in Sudan. The undersigned organizations urgently call for a ceasefire from all parties involved in the conflict, which has now entered its fourth week. The situation has caused devastation to the people of Sudan, the healthcare system, and refugees who have fled to and from neighboring countries. Moreover, the international community cannot ignore the risk of biological hazards, [as reported by the World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), and the potential for the conflict to spread to other countries in the region.

[According to the UN](#), at least 604 people have been killed in Sudan, 5,100 injured, and around 334,000 internally displaced. [Human Rights Watch reports](#) parties to the conflict have used explosive weapons in densely populated urban areas, contributing to the civilian death and injury toll and damaging critical infrastructure. Each day the conflict continues, more civilians are at risk of death, injury, and displacement.

Sudan has been a haven for refugees from neighboring countries, with a long history of hosting and protecting them. Most recently, the conflict in Ethiopia has led to tens of thousands of Tigrayan refugees arriving in Sudan since November 2020, facing new challenges due to limited access to essential services. Additionally, the ongoing conflict in Sudan has led to a surge in internal displacement of Tigrayans across Sudan. Therefore, it is imperative to prioritize the safety of refugees affected by the crisis in Sudan over any political or military interests.

We demand immediate and unrestricted access for humanitarian aid organizations and aid workers to provide vital assistance and support to all those affected. We urge all parties to prioritize protecting healthcare services, ensuring access to essential medicines and medical supplies, protecting healthcare workers and facilities, and addressing mental health needs. Additionally, the recent seizure of a laboratory containing measles, polio, and cholera isolates by one of the warring parties, as warned by the World Health Organization, constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian law, which mandates the protection of medical facilities and personnel. As outlined in the Geneva Conventions, legal protections must be provided to civilians in times of war. Therefore, we call on all parties involved to abide by international humanitarian laws to prevent the escalation of human suffering and loss of life.

In light of the urgent humanitarian situation in Sudan, we implore all parties to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians and refugees affected by the crisis. We urge the Sudanese authorities to take immediate action to address this dire situation and work towards a sustainable and peaceful resolution of the conflict. Furthermore, we call upon the international community, including the UN and its bodies, to take immediate action to support the people of Sudan during this difficult time.

Signatories:

Health Professionals Network for Tigray (HPN4Tigray)

Asmelash Grant Foundation (AGF)

Security and Justice for Tigrayans (SJT)

Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)

Legacy Tigray

Tigray Human Rights Forum (THRF)

Save Tigray Global Fund

Giving Back To Our Roots

Global Society of Tigray Scholars & Professionals (GSTS)

Tigray Action Committee (TAC)

Dekna Foundation

Irob Anina Civil Society (IACS)

Tigray Center for Information and Communication (TigrayCIC)

Teana Sabawian

Tigray Disaster Relief Fund (TDRF)

Omna Tigray

International Society for Better Health Access (ISBHA)

Women of Tigray