

Advocacy dossier

Al-Fadil Ismail Adam Abdelbari

الفاضل إسماعيل آدم عبد الباري

Detained (pretrial) **Sudan**

Al-Fadil Ismail volunteers with the Emergency Response Room in Zalingei, Darfur, and coordinates aid in his community. RSF forces arrested him in Zalingei's main market on 5 November 2025, and he was last reported, in April 2026, to be held in Zalingei central prison without charge.

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The case at a glance

Al-Fadil Ismail volunteers with the Emergency Response Room in Zalingei, Darfur, and coordinates aid in his community. RSF forces arrested him in Zalingei's main market on 5 November 2025, and he was last reported, in April 2026, to be held in Zalingei central prison without charge.

Status	Arrested	Country
Detained (pretrial)	**5 Nov 2025**	**Sudan**

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Release Al-Fadil Ismail immediately and unconditionally.

02 Drop all charges related to the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights.

03 Ensure unrestricted access to legal counsel, family, and adequate medical care while in detention.

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Documented violations

Each violation and the international standard it breaks.

Arbitrary detention International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9

Denial of family visits UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), Rule 58

Denial of legal counsel International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14(3)

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How the case unfolded

5 November 2025

Arrest

Arrested by RSF in Zalingei market

Al-Fadil Ismail was arrested by Rapid Support Forces soldiers at approximately 5:00 p.m. in the main market of Zalingei, Central Darfur, near his shop by the Grand Mosque.

5 November 2025

Transfer between places of detention

Transferred to RSF intelligence facility

Following his arrest, he was taken to an RSF intelligence facility in the Karank neighbourhood, located in a former doctors' hostel and health insurance building, where he was interrogated.

5 November 2025

Transfer between places of detention

Moved to Zalingei central prison

Later on the same day, after interrogation at the RSF intelligence site, he was transferred to Zalingei central prison, where he has remained detained without charge.

18 November 2025

Context

Still held without charge, last known information

He was still held in Zalingei central prison without charge, without access to his family or a lawyer, and with no public explanation.

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The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: this record was checked again on 12 November 2026. Al-Fadil Ismail was last reported, on 29 April 2026 by the EU human rights defenders mechanism ProtectDefenders.eu, to be held by the Rapid Support Forces in Zalingei central prison without charge; no release, charge or transfer has been reported since.

Background and Work

Al-Fadil Ismail Adam Abdelbari graduated from the Faculty of Economics at El Geneina University and returned to his community in Zalingei, the capital of Central Darfur State. He ran a shop near the Grand Mosque in the city's main market, a hub where residents gathered for commerce and conversation in calmer times.

Awfy became known for his volunteer work with the Emergency Response Room in Zalingei's Kanjomiyya neighbourhood. These grassroots emergency cells emerged during Sudan's 2018 and 2019 revolution and evolved into vital community infrastructure after the 2021 military coup. When civil war erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces in April 2023, volunteers like Awfy became essential coordinators of survival, tracking displaced families, distributing food and medicine, and documenting attacks.

Awfy also served as a member of the Zalingei Resistance Committees Coordinating Body, a loose federation of neighbourhood-level organising groups that reject military rule and demand civilian governance. His role combined humanitarian logistics with civic organising, making him visible both to the community he served and to the armed forces that viewed such committees as threats.

The Arrest

On 5 November 2025, at approximately five o'clock in the afternoon, Rapid Support Forces soldiers arrested Awfy in the main market of Zalingei. The arrest took place near his shop, steps from the Grand Mosque, in a public area that would have been crowded at that hour. Witnesses reported that RSF personnel took him without explanation.

Awfy was driven to an RSF intelligence facility located in the Karank neighbourhood, housed in a building that previously served as a doctors' hostel and health insurance office. There he was interrogated. Later that same evening, he was transferred to Zalingei central prison, where he was still held on 18 November 2025, the last date for which information is available.

Detention Without Charge

As of 18 November 2025, no charges had been filed against Awfy. No formal complaint had been registered. No public statement had been issued by RSF authorities or any branch of Sudanese government explaining the grounds for his detention. His family had been given no information about when, or whether, he will face a court.

This pattern of arrest without legal process has become widespread in RSF-controlled areas of Darfur since the outbreak of war. Volunteers associated with resistance committees and emergency response networks have been detained, disappeared, and in some cases killed. The RSF

views these civic structures as extensions of its rival, the Sudanese Armed Forces, or as obstacles to its territorial control.

Context: Darfur Under the RSF

The Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary group that emerged from the Janjaweed militias of the early 2000s, controls much of Darfur as of late 2025. Its conduct during the current conflict has been marked by mass atrocities, including ethnic cleansing, sexual violence, and the systematic targeting of civilian infrastructure. Human rights defenders, doctors, and community organisers have been arrested, tortured, and executed.

Resistance committees like the one Awfy belonged to are descendants of the neighbourhood organising networks that toppled Omar al-Bashir's dictatorship in 2019. They reject both the RSF and the Sudanese Armed Forces, calling instead for civilian rule and accountability for war crimes. This stance has made them targets for both warring parties, but particularly for the RSF, which lacks any pretence of legal authority.

Legal and International Obligations

Sudan remains a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, both of which guarantee the right to liberty and security of person, prohibit arbitrary detention, and require that anyone arrested be promptly informed of charges and brought before a judge.

The RSF operates outside any of these frameworks. It maintains detention facilities, conducts interrogations, and imprisons civilians without reference to law. Awfy's case is emblematic: arrest in public, transfer to an intelligence site, imprisonment without charge, and silence from the detaining authority.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/al-fadil-ismail/

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