

Advocacy dossier

El Sadeg Mohammed Ahmed Haroun

الصادق محمد أحمد هارون

Killed **Sudan**

A lawyer with the Darfur Bar Association who filed cases against the Rapid Support Forces for attacks on displaced-persons camps. Killed in El Geneina, West Darfur, in June 2023 after lawyers of the association had received death threats from militia members.

01

The case at a glance

A lawyer with the Darfur Bar Association who filed cases against the Rapid Support Forces for attacks on displaced-persons camps. Killed in El Geneina, West Darfur, in June 2023 after lawyers of the association had received death threats from militia members.

Status **Killed**	Country **Sudan**

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Order a full, independent, and impartial investigation into the killing of El Sadeg Mohammed Ahmed Haroun, with timely public reporting on findings.

02 Identify and prosecute those responsible, both the direct perpetrators and any state officials who ordered, enabled, or covered up the killing.

03 Provide effective reparation to the family of El Sadeg Mohammed Ahmed Haroun.

04 Take immediate steps to protect other defenders working in the same field from similar attacks.

02

Documented violations

Each violation and the international standard it breaks.

Extrajudicial killing International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 6

Threats and intimidation UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12

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How the case unfolded

16 January 2021

Context

RSF attack on Krinding IDP camp

The Rapid Support Forces attacked the Krinding camp for internally displaced persons in El Geneina, West Darfur. Haroun later joined a legal team filing cases against the RSF for these attacks.

28 April 2022

Context

Second RSF attack on Krinding camp

A second RSF attack on the Krinding IDP camp took place. Haroun and colleagues documented the violence and pursued legal accountability through Sudan's courts.

15 April 2023

Context

Armed conflict erupts in Khartoum

Armed conflict broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces in Khartoum, quickly spreading to Darfur and placing human rights defenders at acute risk.

24 April 2023

Threats and intimidation

Phone threats against the Krinding victims' lawyers

A lawyer on the committee representing victims of the 2019 attack on Krinding camp told Human Rights Watch that he and other committee members began receiving anonymous phone threats on 24 April 2023, the day fighting reached El Geneina. Human Rights Watch lists El Sadeg Mohammed Ahmed Haroun among the committee's lawyers.

May 2023

Threats and intimidation

Death threats issued to lawyers

Lawyers and human rights defenders of the Darfur Bar Association received death threats from militia members.

11 May 2023

Context

Jeddah Declaration signed

The warring parties signed the Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, recognising obligations under international humanitarian law. Compliance remained minimal.

17 June 2023

Context

First defender killed in El Geneina

Abd Elrazeg Adam Mohammed, a 28-year-old human rights defender and member of the Darfur Network of Monitors, was killed along with his parents and four brothers in El Geneina.

18 June 2023

Context

Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik killed

Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik, a founding member of the Darfur Bar Association and member of the Sudanese Bar Association steering committee, was killed in his home in El Geneina.

18 June 2023

Killing

Haroun killed in El Geneina

El Sadeg Mohammed Ahmed Haroun was killed in El Geneina, West Darfur, on the same day as fellow lawyer Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik. The perpetrators have not been identified. Front Line Defenders believes the defenders killed on 17 and 18 June were killed because they witnessed a violent clash between the RSF and the Sudanese army while carrying out their human rights work.

9 May 2024

Other act

Human Rights Watch documents the killing of El Geneina lawyers

In its report on the 2023 attacks on El Geneina, Human Rights Watch named As Sadig Mohammad Ahmad Haroun (El Sadeg Mohammed Ahmed Haroun) among four lawyers killed between late April and June 2023, three of whom served on the committee for victims of the 2019 Krinding camp attack. It said it could not corroborate whether they were killed because of their work.

July 2026

Context

Port Sudan court sentences RSF leaders in absentia over El Geneina

A court in Port Sudan sentenced Rapid Support Forces leader Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo and 15 other RSF figures, including West Darfur commander Abdul Rahman Juma Barkallah, to death in absentia for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in El Geneina, including the June 2023 killing of Governor Khamis Abakar. Published reports do not say whether the killings of lawyers in the city formed part of the case.

9 July 2026

Context

ICC reports progress in El Geneina investigation

International Criminal Court Deputy Prosecutor Nazhat Shameem Khan told Reuters that new evidence linked crimes committed in El Geneina and El Fasher to leadership levels. No public arrest warrants had been issued, and she said court rules prevented her from saying whether any had been sought.

04

The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: this record was checked again. No investigation into the killing of El Sadeg Mohammed Ahmed Haroun has been reported. In July 2026 a court in Port Sudan sentenced Rapid Support Forces leaders to death in absentia over crimes in El Geneina, and the International Criminal Court reported progress in its El Geneina investigation, but neither has been reported to cover his killing. Human Rights Watch named him, with Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik and Khamis Arabab, among lawyers for the victims of the 2019 Krinding camp attack who were killed in 2023; Abd Elrazeg Adam Mohammed and Khidir Sulieman Abdelmageed were killed in the city in the same weeks.

Background and Work

El Sadeg Mohammed Ahmed Haroun was a lawyer and human rights defender based in El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur State. He was a member of the Darfur Bar Association, a professional body of Sudanese lawyers established in 1995 to support legal practice in a region marked by protracted conflict and displacement. In 2020, the association received the Democracy Award in recognition of its work providing legal aid to victims of human rights violations across Darfur.

Haroun's work focused on representing individuals and communities affected by violence, particularly those displaced by attacks on civilian areas. He was part of a group of lawyers who filed cases against the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary group that emerged from the Janjaweed militias active during earlier phases of the Darfur conflict. The cases accused the RSF of carrying out attacks on the Krinding camp for internally displaced persons in El Geneina on 16 January 2021 and 28 April 2022. These attacks involved killings, sexual violence, and the destruction of shelters, targeting some of the most vulnerable populations in the region.

Threats and Context of Armed Conflict

In May 2023, lawyers and human rights defenders affiliated with the Darfur Bar Association began receiving death threats from militia members. The threats came as Sudan entered a new phase of armed conflict following the outbreak of fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the RSF in Khartoum on 15 April 2023. The violence quickly spread to Darfur, where the RSF had a strong presence and where ethnic and communal tensions were reignited.

West Darfur became one of the most affected areas. Civilian populations faced widespread attacks, forced displacement, and severe restrictions on movement. Human rights defenders found themselves at acute risk, both because of their documentation work and because of their legal challenges to armed actors. The warring parties signed the Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan on 11 May 2023, recognising their obligations under international humanitarian law, but compliance remained minimal. Defenders and civilians alike were left exposed.

The Killings in El Geneina

On 17 June 2023, Abd Elrazeg Adam Mohammed, a

28-year-old human rights defender and member of the Darfur Network of Monitors, was killed in El Geneina along with his parents and four brothers. The following day, 18 June, two more defenders were killed in the city.

Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik, a lawyer and founding member of the Darfur Bar Association who also served on the steering committee of the Sudanese Bar Association, was killed in his home. El Sadeg Mohammed Ahmed Haroun was killed in El Geneina the same day. Both men were members of the Darfur Bar Association and both had been involved in legal efforts to hold the RSF accountable for attacks on civilians.

The three defenders are believed to have been killed because they witnessed a violent clash between the RSF and the army while carrying out their work. Over the preceding weeks, at least three other human rights defenders, Mohammed Ahmed Kudia, Khamis Arabab, and Khidir Sulieman Abdelmageed, had also been killed in El Geneina.

Legacy and Wider Impact

Haroun's death forms part of a broader pattern of violence against defenders in Darfur during the 2023 conflict. His legal work, representing survivors of RSF attacks and filing cases that sought accountability, made him a target in an environment where documentation itself had become a form of resistance. The elimination of lawyers and monitors in El Geneina has had a chilling effect on the few remaining mechanisms for accountability in the region.

The Darfur Bar Association continues to operate under severe constraints, with many of its members displaced, in hiding, or killed. The killing of Haroun and his colleagues represents not only the loss of individual lives but also the systematic dismantling of legal and human rights infrastructure in West Darfur at a time when it was most urgently needed.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/el-sadeg-mohammed-ahmed-haroun/

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