Advocacy dossier

# Mohamed Eldai Musa

محمد الضي موسى

Killed Sudan

Mohamed Eldai Musa was 28 years old when he was killed by armed militia in West Darfur. He monitored human rights abuses and organized civil resistance through grassroots networks in one of Sudan's most dangerous regions.

01

# The case at a glance

Mohamed Eldai Musa was 28 years old when he was killed by armed militia in West Darfur. He monitored human rights abuses and organized civil resistance through grassroots networks in one of Sudan's most dangerous regions.

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| 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 Mohamed Eldai Musa, 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 Mohamed Eldai Musa.

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

03

## How the case unfolded

**5 March 2022**

Extrajudicial killing

### Killed by armed militia in Jabal Moon

Mohamed Eldai Musa was shot in the head and chest by armed militia while conducting a human rights assessment near attacked villages in West Darfur. He died immediately.

**5 March 2022**

Context

### Youseif Yagoub Ahmed killed

Youseif Yagoub Ahmed, one of Mohamed's colleagues, was also shot in the head and chest and killed immediately in the same attack.

**6 March 2022**

Context

### Mohamed Ibrahim Yahya dies from injuries

Mohamed Ibrahim Yahya, the third human rights monitor attacked alongside Mohamed Eldai Musa, died from severe chest injuries sustained in the militia attack.

04

# The full story

## Background and Work

Mohamed Eldai Musa was a human rights monitor and community organizer in West Darfur, one of Sudan's most volatile regions. He was a member of the Darfur Human Rights Monitors network, a coalition of monitoring groups operating across the five Darfuri states. The network documented abuses in areas where formal human rights mechanisms had withdrawn or failed to reach.

He was also active in a local resistance committee, part of the informal grassroots networks that organized civil disobedience against the government of Omar al-Bashir. These committees played a central role in the 2019 revolution and remained a major organizing force in Sudanese civil society. In West Darfur, where state authority was contested and armed groups operated with near impunity, the committees provided one of the few structures for collective action and mutual protection.

Mohamed's work combined monitoring and activism. He and his colleagues travelled into remote and dangerous areas to assess the human rights and humanitarian situation, often in the immediate aftermath of attacks. Their documentation provided evidence of abuses that would otherwise have gone unrecorded, and informed advocacy efforts by national and international organizations.

## The Attack

On 5 March 2022, armed militia attacked the villages of Karka, Um Kharoba, and Um Jumina in West Darfur. Mohamed and two colleagues, Youseif Yagoub Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim Yahya, were travelling on a road in Jabal Moon, near the attacked areas, conducting a field assessment of the human rights and humanitarian situation.

Armed militia opened fire on the three men. Mohamed was shot in the head and chest. He died immediately. Youseif Yagoub Ahmed was also killed on the spot, shot in the head and chest. Mohamed Ibrahim Yahya survived the initial attack with severe chest injuries but died the following day, on 6 March 2022.

The killings took place in the context of a broader outbreak of violence in West Darfur, where armed groups had carried out a series of attacks on villages and civilians. The three men were killed while performing their human rights work, in an area where they had gone specifically to witness and document abuses.

## Context and Consequences

The murders took place two years after the withdrawal of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), whose mandate was terminated by UN Security Council Resolution 2559 in 2020. The departure of UNAMID left a protection vacuum in Darfur, and the human rights situation deteriorated rapidly. Armed militia groups operated with increasing freedom, and attacks on civilians became more frequent and more deadly.

Human rights defenders and monitors in Darfur found themselves in severe danger. The work of documenting abuses required travelling into areas where violence was active or imminent, often

without any form of protection. The three men killed in Jabal Moon were among the most vulnerable: local monitors with no international status or armed escort, moving through areas controlled by militia.

Mohamed Eldai Musa was 28 years old when he was killed. His death, alongside those of his two colleagues, illustrated the deadly cost of human rights monitoring in one of the world's most dangerous regions for defenders. The attack eliminated three experienced monitors at a time when their documentation was most urgently needed.

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