

Advocacy dossier

Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik

طارق حسن يعقوب الملك

Killed **Sudan**

Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik, 50, was a founding member of the Darfur Bar Association and served on the steering committee of the Sudanese Bar Association. He filed cases against the Rapid Support Forces for attacks on IDP camps. He was killed in his home in El Geneina on 18 June 2023.

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The case at a glance

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Status	Country
Killed	**Sudan**

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Order a full, independent, and impartial investigation into the killing of Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik, 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 Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik.

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

03

How the case unfolded

1995

Defender activity

Co-founded Darfur Bar Association

Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik was one of the founding members of the Darfur Bar Association, established to provide legal aid to victims of human rights violations in Darfur.

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. Tareg later joined a legal team filing cases against the RSF for this attack.

28 April 2022

Context

Second RSF attack on Krinding camp

The Rapid Support Forces attacked the Krinding IDP camp again. Tareg was part of a group of lawyers who filed cases accusing the RSF of this attack and the one of January 2021.

15 April 2023

Context

Armed conflict erupts in Khartoum

Armed conflict broke out in Khartoum between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces. Violence spread rapidly to Darfur, including El Geneina.

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 Tareq Hassan Al Malik (Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik) among the committee's lawyers.

May 2023

Threats and intimidation

Death threats against lawyers

The Darfur Bar Association announced in May 2023 that defenders and lawyers, including Tareg, had received death threats from militia members. The IBA Human Rights Institute reported that he had received repeated death threats in the days before his death.

11 May 2023

Context

Jeddah Declaration signed

The warring parties signed the Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, recognizing obligations under international humanitarian law. The agreement was not implemented.

17 June 2023

Context

Killing of Abd Elrazeg Adam Mohammed

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

18 June 2023

Killing

Tareg killed in his home

Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik was killed in his house in El Geneina, West Darfur. He was 50 years old and left behind a wife and four children.

18 June 2023

Context

Killing of El Sadeg Mohammed Ahmed Haroun

El Sadeg Mohammed Ahmed Haroun, a lawyer and member of the Darfur Bar Association who had worked on cases against the RSF, was killed in El Geneina on the same day as Tareg.

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 Tareq Hassan Al Malik (Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik) 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 Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik 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 El Sadeg Mohammed Ahmed Haroun 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

Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik was one of the founding members of the Darfur Bar Association, established in 1995 at a time when Darfur faced escalating violence and displacement. The association provided legal aid to victims of human rights violations across the region. In 2020 it received the Democracy Award in recognition of its sustained work supporting survivors of atrocities.

Tareg also served on the steering committee of the Sudanese Bar Association, the national body representing Sudan's legal profession. His practice focused on representing individuals and communities targeted by armed groups and state forces. He built cases that documented patterns of violence and sought accountability through Sudan's courts.

In the years preceding his death, Tareg was part of a legal team that filed cases against the Rapid Support Forces, a paramilitary group implicated in widespread abuses in Darfur. The cases centered on attacks against the Krinding camp for internally displaced persons in El Geneina on 16 January 2021 and 28 April 2022.

Death Threats and the Outbreak of Armed Conflict

On 15 April 2023, armed conflict erupted in Khartoum between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces. The violence spread rapidly to Darfur, where RSF units and allied militias had an established presence. El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, became a focal point of fighting and atrocities against civilians.

By May 2023, the Darfur Bar Association announced that its members had received death threats from militia members. Despite the threats, Tareg and his colleagues continued their work. On 11 May 2023, the warring parties signed the Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, recognizing obligations under international humanitarian law. Compliance on the ground was non-existent.

The Killing

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, Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik was killed in his house in El Geneina. He was 50 years old, married, and the father of four children.

Also on 18 June, El Sadeg Mohammed Ahmed Haroun, another lawyer and member of the Darfur Bar Association who had worked on the cases against the RSF, was killed in El Geneina. The three killings occurred within two days. Front Line Defenders believes the three were killed because they witnessed a violent clash between the RSF and the Sudanese army while carrying out their human rights work.

Context and Pattern of Violence

The killings of Tareg, Abd Elrazeg, and El Sadeg were part of a broader pattern of violence targeting human rights defenders in West Darfur. In the weeks preceding their deaths, three other defenders, Mohammed Ahmed Kudia, Khamis Arabab, and Khidir Sulieman Abdelmageed, were also killed in El Geneina. The legal profession and documentation networks became explicit targets as the conflict intensified.

Human rights defenders in Darfur face threats from multiple armed actors. The Rapid Support Forces, accused in numerous cases filed by Darfur Bar Association lawyers, operate with impunity. Militia groups aligned with the RSF have conducted targeted killings, mass displacement, and systematic violence against specific ethnic communities in West Darfur. Lawyers and monitors who document these abuses are systematically silenced.

International Response

International organizations condemned the killings and called for investigations. The Jeddah Declaration, signed by the warring parties in May 2023, has not been implemented. By mid-2023, no investigation into the deaths of the three lawyers had been announced.

Tareg Hassan Yagoub Elmalik spent his career defending those whom armed groups sought to erase. He built legal cases on behalf of victims in a system that offered little protection to those who challenged impunity.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/tareg-hassan-yagoub-elmalik/

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