

ICJ KENYA PRESS STATEMENT: COMMEMORATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT – JUSTICE FOR SUDAN’S SURVIVORS REMAINS NON-NEGOTIABLE

Nairobi, Kenya | 19 June, 2026

As the United Nations commemorates the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, the ICJ- Kenya stands in solidarity with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Sudan and across the world, while renewing its call for accountability, justice, and reparations for victims and survivors of these grave violations.

The 15th day of April, 2026, marked three years into the devastating conflict in Sudan. Reports from international and regional human rights mechanisms including the UN and the Joint AU/ACHPR’s Fact Finding Missions to Sudan, civil society organizations, humanitarian actors and survivors continue to reveal the widespread and systematic acts of sexual violence perpetrated against women, girls, men, and boys during the ongoing conflict in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). These violations include gang rape, sexual slavery, forced marriages, rape, sexual exploitation, and other forms of gender-based violence. Most of these sexual violations amount to serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Conflict-related sexual violence has been used not only as a weapon of war but also as a means of terrorising communities, displacing populations, and undermining the dignity, security and fundamental rights of individuals. Women and girls have borne a disproportionate burden of these atrocities, while survivors continue to face immense barriers in accessing justice, medical care, psychosocial support, and protection.

ICJ Kenya is very concerned by the persistent culture of impunity surrounding these violations. The failure to effectively investigate and prosecute perpetrators risks normalising sexual violence as an inevitable consequence of an armed conflict and perpetuates cycles of abuse and trauma.

Sexual violence in conflict is not an unavoidable by-product of war but rather a serious violation of international law and a grave assault on human dignity. Survivors deserve justice, reparations, and protection, while perpetrators must be held accountable regardless of their affiliation, position or rank.

ICJ Kenya also recognises the courage and resilience of survivors who continue to speak out despite significant risks and challenges. Their voices are critical in exposing violations, combating impunity, and shaping pathways toward sustainable peace and justice.

As the international community commemorates this important day, we call upon:

- 1. Regional and international relevant accountability mechanisms to conduct prompt, independent, impartial, and effective investigations into all allegations of conflict-related sexual violence and to prosecute those responsible.**
- 2. Regional and international bodies to strengthen the efforts aimed at documenting violations, preserving evidence, supporting accountability initiatives, and protecting survivors and witnesses.**
- 3. All parties to the conflict in Sudan to immediately cease acts of sexual violence and ensure full compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.**
- 4. Humanitarian actors and development partners to expand access to survivor-centred services, including healthcare, psychosocial support, legal assistance, and economic empowerment programmes for survivors of sexual violence.**
- 5. The international community to ensure that accountability for conflict-related sexual violence remains a central component of all peace, mediation, and transitional justice processes relating to Sudan.**

The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict serves as a reminder that peace cannot be achieved without justice, and justice cannot be achieved while survivors of sexual violence remain unheard, unsupported, and denied accountability.

ICJ Kenya thus reaffirms its commitment to advocating for human rights, advancing the rule of law, and supporting efforts to ensure that perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence in Sudan are brought to justice and that survivors receive the recognition, protection, and reparations they deserve.

Christine Alai,



Chairperson

ICJ Kenya