



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The senseless war in Sudan must immediately stop**

The Horn of Africa Civil Society Forum (HoACSF)<sup>1</sup> and its member organizations are alarmed by the outbreak of military clashes in Khartoum and across Sudan since 15 April 2023, between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Any continuation of the senseless war can only serve the selfish interest of the commanders of the two warring parties and further derail the Sudanese hopes for freedom, peace, justice and peaceful transition to democratic civilian rule after 30 years of oppression.

According to the Central Committee of Sudan Doctors, an estimated 100 civilians have been killed, and thousands have been injured. Besides, the fights in Khartoum have caused serious humanitarian crisis, affecting most of the civilian population during the last days of the holy month of Ramadan.

In four days, indiscriminate attacks have occurred on the civilian population areas, individual civilians, and civilian objects in the Capital city of Khartoum. Civilians' houses, properties, and hospitals were attacked and continue to be attacked and damaged due to crossfire by projectiles and stray bullets. In addition, the RSF and SAF are looting and ransacking shops and markets in Khartoum and other states. The SAF and RSF fighting is conducted without any precautions to safeguard the civilian population, nor do they have any regard for their obligations under international humanitarian law requiring all parties to refrain from attacking the innocent civilian population and objects.

The Forum has received reports from Khartoum that the ongoing fighting is causing a severe humanitarian crisis. The population lacks access to food, water, and medical facilities. The injured continue to lack medical care due to ongoing fighting. In addition, many power and water stations

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<sup>1</sup> The Horn of Africa Civil Society Forum (HoACSF) is a regional network of civil society organizations [70 members] that monitors the shrinking civic space in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Somaliland, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

have been damaged and stopped operating; numerous residential areas have no electricity or water supply that is likely to lead to another catastrophe arising from hunger and starvation as well as diseases.

It is against this backdrop of seemingly escalating armed conflict between the two warring parties, and the ensuing and fast-deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sudan.

**The Horn of Africa Civil Society Forum calls on SAF and RSF to :**

- Immediately cease fire and implement the transition to civilian government;
- Stop with immediate effect the deliberate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure especially hospitals;
- Take steps to minimize civilian casualties in accordance with their obligations under International Humanitarian Law (IHL);
- Implement regular ceasefires to allow civilians access to humanitarian assistance, food, water, and medical treatment;
- Immediately cease all attacks on humanitarian organizations, their staff, and their premises.

**The Horn of Africa, Civil Society Forum, also calls on:**

- The African Union (AU) to engage with the SAF, the RSF and civilian groups to :
  - a. Agree to a ceasefire.
  - b. Return all armed groups to their barracks;
  - c. Finalize the political agreement for transition to a civilian government.

**The Horn of Africa, Civil Society Forum, also calls on:**

- The United Nations, the United States of America, United Kingdom, the European Union, the United Arab Emirate, Egypt, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Turkey to collaborate and coordinate to fully support the AU engagement to stop the fighting in Sudan and ensure the transition to a civilian government.

Endorsed by the following HoACSF <sup>2</sup>member Organizations and Affiliates

1. Al Khatim Adlan Centre for Enlightenment and Human development (KACE), Sudan.
2. Arladi Environmental and Human Rights Organizations (AEHRO), Somalia.
3. Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia (AHRE), Ethiopia.
4. Centre for Development and Research (CDR), South Sudan
5. Citizen Rights and Development (CRD), Rwanda.
6. Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA), Uganda.
7. Europe External Programme with Africa (EEPA), Belgium.
8. Kenya National Civil Society Centre (KNCSC), Kenya.
9. Resource Rights Africa (RRA), Uganda.
10. Vision Ethiopian Congress for Democracy (VECOD), Ethiopia.

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