

Prayer Service for Sudan

Introduction: Sudan is the 3rd largest country in Africa, area-wise and by population. It is found in the northeast section of the continent. A conflict in Sudan erupted on April 15, 2023 between members of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) vying for power. Since then, the war has plunged the country into devastation.

Sudan is currently facing one of the most severe and under-recognised humanitarian crises in the world. This conflict has led to mass displacement, economic collapse, widespread hunger, and the breakdown of healthcare and education systems. The situation has been exacerbated by targeted attacks on civilians, ethnic cleansing in Darfur, and the systematic obstruction of humanitarian aid. International bodies, including the United Nations and the African Union, have labelled Sudan as the worst humanitarian crisis globally. The scale of human suffering is staggering. A conservative estimate suggests that between an estimated number of 145,000 and 150,000 civilians have been killed (U.S. Congressional Research Service, 2025; *The New York Times*, 2025; Médecins Sans Frontières, 2024). At least 15 million people have been displaced, and 8.7 million are on the brink of famine. The displacement crisis continues to grow, with millions seeking refuge in neighbouring countries that are struggling to accommodate the influx of Sudanese refugees.

Over 18 million Sudanese face acute food insecurity. The economy has collapsed, millions are unemployed, and access to essential services has nearly vanished. More than 70% of Sudan's healthcare facilities are inoperable, leading to the spread of diseases and a lack of medical care for the injured and sick.

Women and children are disproportionately affected by this crisis. Gender-based violence, including sexual violence as a weapon of war, has been systematically and widely used. Reports document mass rape, forced marriages, and human trafficking as part of the conflict's brutal tactics (Action Against Hunger, 2024).

Sudanese men are also subjected to torture and public humiliation. Meanwhile, children are growing up in a warzone, their drawings shifting from depictions of hope to images of guns and blood (Waging Peace, 2023). Schools remain closed, depriving an entire generation of education and stability, and many children suffer from severe malnutrition and trauma.

While we urge the U.S. and other countries, as well as the UN, to intercede on the part of the suffering people of Sudan, we also call on all people of all faiths to join in praying for an end to the atrocities in Sudan, atrocities that rival the more publicized wars in Ukraine, Russia, Palestine, and Lebanon.

Our Response: A World Day of Prayer for Sudan

In the spirit of faith and solidarity, Pax Christi International is launching the World Day of Prayer for Peace in Sudan on 11 April 2025. This global initiative invites people of all faiths to stand in unity, raise awareness, and pray for peace, justice, and healing in Sudan. On 11 April 2025, we come together to pray, raise awareness, and take meaningful action for peace. Whether you are an

individual, a faith leader, or a community organiser, your participation can make a difference.

Inspired both by the legacy of St. Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese woman who overcame enslavement and became a symbol of resilience and faith, and by the suffering, courage, resilience and faith of all women in Sudan today who are supporting their communities and working for peace, we reaffirm our commitment to peace and justice. And so let us pray:

Don't be silent, Merciful God, Allah, Adonai,

Don't be silent, Most High. Please speak to us! Without your word our darkness can't be driven away, our tears can't dry, and Sudan won't be healed. Help us!

Speak this in that is living heartlessly and hatefully, awash with pain, a country full of peace plans and friendly speeches, but war and treachery lie between the lines. Evil dwells in people's words.

Your word will remove the bitterness, anger, and murder that lie like a boulder blocking the entrance of our souls' tomb. By your word, life, truth, mercy, and love will rise. Speak Divine One, for the sake of Sudan! End its evil with your Word.

Speak when we open our mouths; speak when we love and cry. Speak, for we are listening. Through us, speak your heavenly message. Save your people.

(adapted from

<https://www.mothersunion.org/sites/default/files/resources/public/Prayers%20for%20Sudan.pdf>)

A Reading from Pope Francis's World Day of Peace Message, 2017, *Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace*

Violence is not the cure for our broken world. Countering violence with violence leads at best to forced migrations and enormous suffering because vast amounts of resources are diverted to military ends and away from the everyday needs of young people, families experiencing hardship, the elderly, the infirm, and the great majority of people in our world. At worst, it can lead to the death, physical and spiritual, of many people, if not of all.

Let us pray

- for comfort in their grief.
- for the displaced people in Sudan and those seeking refuge in neighbouring countries who need shelter, safety, food, clothing and basic supplies.
- against the exploitation and abuse of children, girls, and women. (Plan International reported that families are being separated by private contractors offering transport out of Sudan, raising concerns about the safety of children and girls as conflict in Sudan escalates.)
- that flames of hope will burn in the hearts of the Sudanese people.
- that people of faith will reach out to the Sudanese people in love and bring much fruit in the middle of this crisis.
- for an end to the violence, that the fighting would stop and that peace would be restored to the country.

- for servant-hearted leaders of Sudan.
- Pray for reconciliation.

(adapted from <https://www.ffmpega.org/single-post/prayers-for-sudan>)

A Reading adapted from Mothers' Union

Despite efforts to the contrary, the war in Sudan is continuing, growing in scope and brutality. In western Sudan, away from the cameras of the media, multiple atrocities have been committed. Millions of people have been forced from their homes. Thousands are struggling to find shelter, sleeping under trees by the roadside without having access to food, shelter, clean drinking water or other essentials. The UN describe it as an unimaginable humanitarian crisis.

Many families are trapped in the war zones – people who could not afford transport, or families with members who could not easily run, or people who just hoped the fighting would not last long. Now they have no way of escape.

(<https://www.mothersunion.org/sites/default/files/resources/public/Prayers%20for%20Sudan.pdf>)

A Prayer by the Imam of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Sudais:

Allah, grant safety to our people in Sudan.

Allah, secure and protect Sudan.

Allah, shield it from strife.

Allah, help it overcome hardships.

Allah, keep it away from wars.

Allah, we ask You to safeguard it with Your protection.

Allah, guide those who intend good for Sudan to all that is good, and for those who intend harm, turn their plots against them and bring their schemes to ruin, Lord of the Worlds.

Allah, be there for our people in Sudan, for they have no one but You.

Allah, we entrust to You everyone in Sudan—its youth, men, women, children, and elders. Protect them with Your ever-watchful care, for You are capable of all things.

A Reading from the Crisis Group

What should be done? Key external actors should focus on making progress toward a ceasefire and engage in intensive iterative diplomacy to persuade the parties that none will benefit from the continued pitiless combat and that a comprehensive peace deal is needed. Critical to this will be gaining the backing of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UAE, the outside powers with most influence over the belligerents. Absent such an agreement, Sudan faces the prospect of decades-long state collapse, while the fragile region to which it belongs becomes further embroiled in the fighting.

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/sites/default/files/crisiswatch/crisiswatch-october-2024-cif-sudan.pdf>

Let us pray that the International Community and the actors involved in the conflict:

- Protect civilians and provide safe passage for those fleeing conflict zones. Deliver humanitarian aid to those in urgent need.
- Implement an inclusive peace process that engages civil society, emphasizing women's roles in peacebuilding. Call for an immediate ceasefire by RSF and SAF, with adherence to international humanitarian law.

- Safeguard Emergency Response Rooms and volunteers offering critical assistance. The UN Security Council and African Union must lead efforts to prevent further atrocities and protect civilians.
- Enforce the UN arms embargo on Darfur and halt all arms transfers to warring factions. Urge international allies to stop violations of the arms embargo and renew commitment to peace and justice for the Sudanese people.

https://paxchristi.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Statement_Sudan_Nov2024_EN.pdf

Closing Prayer:

Nourishing One, we especially remember all the children who are being impacted by this conflict and pray for your protection on them and their families.

Compassionate One, we know that people are hurting deeply and our thoughts are with them. You know the hearts of all involved, and we pray that you will heal their hurts - bringing about peace and reconciliation.

Consoling One, we pray for the people of Sudan who have already seen so much devastation in their country. May you comfort them in their grief. Keep the flames of hope alive we pray, and restore the nation.

And God, Allah, Adonai, we pray that you will be with aid workers at this time; keep them and their families safe.

In your name we pray, Amen.

(adapted from <https://www.worldvision.org.uk/about/blogs/pray-for-sudan/>)

Learn more here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/131YFVZ_fIVRV6BLI1-MbgGOhgUBFIBQ3/view