June 4, 2025 | 6:00–8:00 PM

How civil society saves lives in times of war and what Germany can do

FAZ-Atrium, Berlin

INVITATION | SUDAN

How civil society saves lives in times of war and what Germany can do

June 4th, 2025, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm | FAZ- Atrium, Mittelstraße 2-4, 10117 Berlin

The outbreak of war in Sudan in April 2023 triggered the world's largest humanitarian crisis and forced millions to flee. Since then, civil society actors have been providing life -saving assistance under extreme conditions – but their voices are often not heard. Together with representatives of Sudanese civil society, we would therefore like to discuss the following questions:

1. What different forms of local civil society engagement exist in Sudan and what challenges do they face?

2. What instruments are available to support civil society engagement in Sudan in a targeted and sustainable manner?

3. Which contribution or initiative to peace policy can or should the new German government make in Sudan?

We would like to explore these and other questions **as follows:**

Please register only via this link, thank you.

Introductory remarks

Niddal Salah-Eldin, former member of the Board of Directors, Axel-Springer SE

The War in Sudan

A short background interview with **Dr. Gerrit Kurtz,** German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

Panel discussion with

Mona Rishmawi, Member of the UN Fact-Finding Mission Sudan
Derya Türk-Nachbaur MP (SPD), Committee on Foreign Affairs, Deutscher Bundestag
Hajooj Kuka, Emergency Response Rooms Khartoum
Fatima Ahmed, Zenab for Women in Development
Anita Ohl-Meyer, German Federal Foreign Office

Moderation: **Anna Dushime**, Journalist

The event will be held in German and English (with simultaneous translation). A reception will follow.

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Background

On 15 April 2023, a power struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) under General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) under Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo escalated into a war. This war has led to the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with over 30 million people in need of assistance. Since the outbreak of war, 12.7 million people have fled within or outside the country. 24.6 million people are affected by severe to catastrophic food insecurity. The United Nations Fact-Finding Mission documented the most serious war crimes, including rape, sexual slavery and looting.

At the same time, numerous civil society actors in Sudan are carrying out life-saving humanitarian work every day under extreme conditions. Volunteer neighbourhood assistance groups, known as Emergency Response Rooms, are a central pillar of local care for the population, organising soup kitchens and basic medical care, for example. Many Sudanese and international non-governmental organisations are also continuing their humanitarian work. Despite this central role, Sudanese civil society is not being heard in many forums.

A broad alliance of civil society organisations is therefore hosting an event that will focus on perspectives from Sudanese civil society and explore what the German government can do to strengthen local actors in Sudan and work towards an end to the war.