

Reporting Sexual Violence in Sudan

January to October 2020



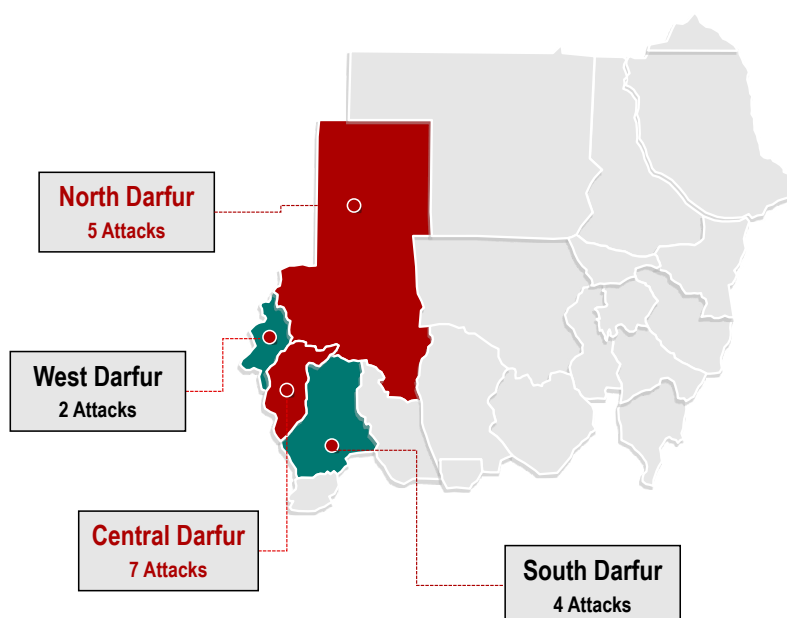
Increasingly, violent sexual attacks in the Darfur region are being reported in the media by families and community leaders.

We know that many more incidents of sexual violence are taking place and going undetected, and are aware that these reported attacks only provide a small glimpse of the reality that women and girls face in Sudan, particularly in the Darfur region.

This document analyses 18 cases of sexual violence against 39 women and girls in the period from January to October 2020: 38 are survivors living with the resultant trauma; one woman was killed after being raped.

Reported incidents of sexual violence in Sudan perpetrated by conflict actors and personnel of state bodies, by state

18	Reported attacks
39	Women/girls affected
1	Reported case of consequences for the perpetrator



Data period: January to October 2020

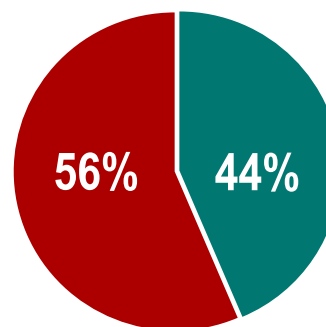
Age of survivors

Survivors are aged between eight and 50, with the majority being women above the age of 18.

However, a high percentage of survivors are girls under the age of 18 (17 reported survivors, over 40%).

The publicly collected data did not identify cases of sexual violence perpetrated against boys or men.

Women and girls affected by sexual violence



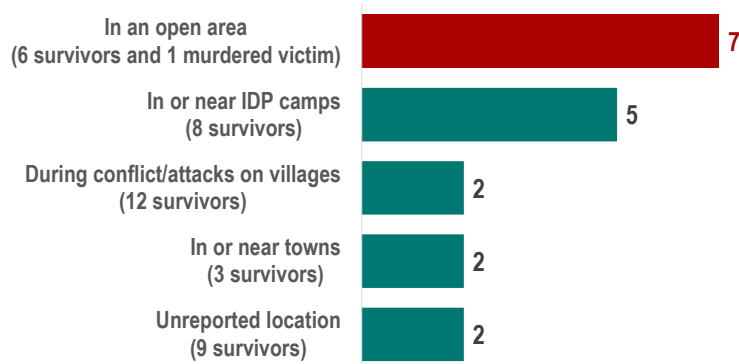
■ 17 girls (below the age of 18) ■ 22 women (above the age of 18)

First-contact sexual violence

Sexual violence is often perpetrated at first contact. In other cases the survivor is lured away or abducted to another location and sexual violence is committed, sometimes once, but at times repeatedly.

First-contact sexual violence frequently affected women and girls working in the fields or collecting firewood, but also inside or near IDP camps, during attacks on villages, or in towns.

Location types of perpetrators' first contact with survivors



An eight-year-old girl was beaten and raped by a member of the paramilitary Border Guard while she was grazing cows near Nierteti town, Central Darfur. A local search group captured him and handed him over to the Nierteti Police Department.

Three girls aged between 14 and 17 were raped inside Krinding IDP camp, West Darfur, by unidentified perpetrators.

Six women and three girls were abducted from the location of first contact and raped in captivity. Three women and two girls were beaten during the attacks on them, one woman was raped and beaten to death, while a 17-year-old girl was shot and badly injured.

Single victim, gang and mass rapes

In 12 attacks a single victim was targeted. Girls were frequently targeted while alone (eight of the 17 girls compared to four of the 22 women).

Attacks on individuals took place while the girl or woman was in an open area, near or in an IDP camp, or in a town/city.

Single victims were often the targets of gang rapes. Gang rapes were reported in nine of the 12 reported attacks on single victims.

Mass rapes are common during attacks on villages, with a significant number of women and girls being sexually assaulted. Six of the attacks included in this report involved the mass rape of 18 women and nine girls.

Sexual abusers mostly acted in groups of usually more than five men. Most sexual abusers were armed with guns, and were sometimes riding on motorcycles, horses, camels or donkeys. There was no information about the number of perpetrators for nine attacks.

Six women and two girls were held for two days and raped by gunmen in Saraf Omra locality, North Darfur.

A 41-year-old IDP woman was raped and beaten to death by ten armed men in a night-time attack on her village near Kambo Adam Omar farmland, Central Darfur.

Perpetrators

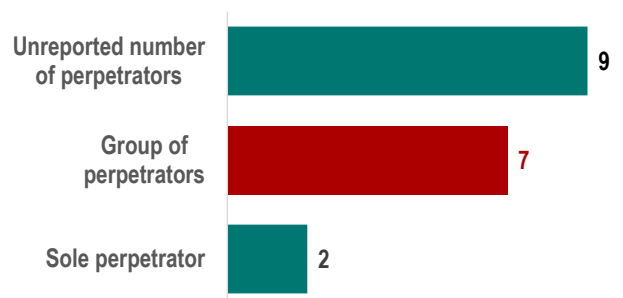
At least 36 different perpetrators are mentioned in the 18 reported attacks.

Most are described as unidentified armed men with no specific details on which group they belong to.

However, members of the Sudan Liberation Army (Central Darfur), the paramilitary Border Guard (Central Darfur) and the Sudan Armed Forces (South Darfur) were all named as perpetrators/abusers.

Armed and unarmed pastoralists perpetrated acts of sexual violence in all four Darfur states: South Darfur (2), Central Darfur (1), North Darfur (1) and West Darfur (1).

Number of perpetrators involved in a single attack

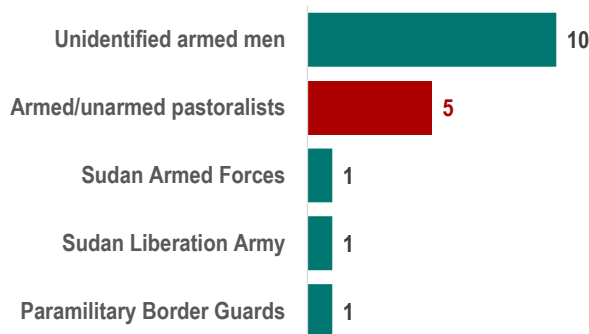


A 17-year-old female IDP was shot and raped in Nerititi locality, Central Darfur by seven militiamen riding on horses and motorcycles.

A 50-year-old woman was raped in Nertiti locality, Central Darfur, by armed bandits riding horses and donkeys as she was returning with others from a market.

A primary schoolgirl was gang raped inside Kass IDP camp, South Darfur, by four armed men on camels while gathering firewood with her brothers, who were bound and beaten.

Perpetrator affiliations



Only in one case of sexual violence was the perpetrator held accountable.

After the attack, community members captured the sexual abuser – a member of the paramilitary Border Guard who had raped and beaten an eight-year-old girl while she was grazing cows – and handed him over to the police. It is unclear whether the police took any further action.

It is unclear how much support survivors of sexual violence receive.

A woman and her four daughters were raped in Tairo village, Central Darfur, during fighting between two factions of the Sudan Liberation Army.

A woman was raped in Nyala city, South Darfur, by three armed men wearing Sudan Armed Forces uniforms.

A 15-year-old IDP girl was gang raped near Otash IDP camp, South Darfur, by pastoralists.

Access the data cited in this report [here](#).

Reporting conflict-related sexual violence

The accounts presented in this document highlight how women and girls are at risk of being the targets of sexual violence while pursuing their ordinary daily activities, which are often related to providing for their families.

These testimonies highlight the extent to which the state and local communities fail women and children across Darfur in particular. Perpetrators are rarely held accountable.

Reporting sexual violence is an important first step towards stopping such violence. Survivors who report their experiences need support from their families and communities.

Reporting is important for efforts to raise awareness of the problem of sexual violence, highlight patterns that can help prevent it, and pressure security forces to take their responsibilities towards women and girls seriously.

Reporting is also essential to holding perpetrators accountable.

Reporting of brutal, conflict-related sexual violence has increased. Yet it is clear that the data presented here is only a fraction of the sexual violence that women and girls have experienced in Sudan, and particularly in Darfur. Reporting remains patchy and more work needs to be done to increase it.

Research and data limitations

This document was compiled as part of an event-based approach to documenting attacks involving sexual violence. Event descriptions from multiple sources were cross-checked and consolidated into a single dataset of recorded incidents that were coded using standard definitions.

The incidents reported are neither a complete nor a representative list of all attacks involving sexual violence in Sudan and have not been independently verified. The figures presented in this report can be cited as the total number of publicly available reported attacks and the number of women and girls affected by such conflict-related sexual violence in Sudan as identified by Insecurity Insight.

The data summarised in this document has been systematically compiled from information available in open sources, either as published in the Sexual Violence in Conflict Monthly News Brief or obtained from Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED); www.acleddata.com

The dataset suffers from limitations inherent in the information provided by the sources used. These publicly available sources use different methodologies, and certain biases within individual sources influence the data.

The information may contain inaccuracies. Most importantly, the cases referred to are not a representative sample of sexual violence in Sudan, but merely reflect the attacks that survivors and their families were courageous enough to report.

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