

## **Sudanese Journalists Syndicate report in the week ending 23 June**

### **Threats to life of journalists are on the increase.**

On 13 June, Journalist Wijdan Abu Qurun, was injured by stray bullets in the foot in the Bant neighborhood of Omdurman on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

In a report on 19 June, The Sudanese Journalists Syndicate (SJS) condemned the shooting of journalists Osama Sayed Ahmed and Ahmed El Buseili, who work for Al Jazeera news channel, by snipers on El Sitteen Street in Khartoum on Friday 16 June. There is not much information about the condition of the journalists after the shooting. The syndicate "condemns this criminal act" and holds the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) fully responsible for the shooting, as the incident occurred in an area controlled by these forces.

The SJS reminds both warring parties that they need to adhere to international laws and conventions that guarantee the protection of journalists and condemn deliberate attacks against journalists in accordance with Resolution 1738 of the UN Security Council. The SJS also called on all media institutions to protect their journalists by providing them with professional safety tools and balancing the importance of obtaining information with the importance of the journalist's safety. The media must ensure that the journalist [themselves] does not turn into news.

### **Events in West Darfur call for international investigation and intervention.**

The city of El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur state, also witnessed a bloody massacre that claimed the lives of hundreds of our people under a complete blackout. As a result of the large scale massacre, health services stopped because doctors and medical personnel as well as journalists were attacked. The fate of dozens of journalists in the city is still unknown due to the difficulty of contacting them.

The Sudanese Journalists Syndicate condemns in the strongest terms the atrocities committed by the armed militias backed by the Rapid Support Forces against civilians in the city of El Geneina and the capital of Central Darfur State, the city of Zalingei and Kutum in North Darfur State. The atrocity is exemplified by the killing of the governor of West Darfur State, Khamis Abdullah Abkar, in an ugly manner that is rejected by all and carried in a manner that is contrary to humanity and Sharia laws.

The Sudanese Journalists Syndicate calls for a fair and transparent investigation into this massacre, ensure that the results of such investigation be made public, and those found to be involved and accountable for these heinous crimes to be brought to justice.

The union stresses that justice and redress for the victims is one of the main entrances to stop this war that claimed the lives of thousands of Sudanese, destroyed their homes and displaced hundreds of thousands of them, and we call on everyone to lead a campaign to stop the war immediately and end the bloodshed of the Sudanese and the men and women journalists reporting about the incidents and war crimes.

Since the first day of the outbreak of the war, the union's voice has been loud calling for the need to stop the fighting. Rather, the union has called with others to stop slipping into war, aware of what the war produces, something we are witnessing in the city of El Geneina, which is cut off from its connection with the world by blocking communications and the Internet and targeting Health and service facilities.

Sudanese Journalist Syndicate

PS:

More information regarding the situation of medical doctors, grass root activists and journalists in Darfur and beyond can be found in a number of reports that are on line available through Radio Dabanga:

<https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/more-violations-against-journalists-in-sudan-biggest-threat-in-el-geneina>

<https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/military-intelligence-continues-to-detain-activists-in-sudan>

<https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/listen-radio-dabanga-journalist-interviewed-by-bbc-world-service-on-the-desperate-situation-in-west-darfur>