

Joint Statement of Commitments from Jeddah Talks Between Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces

November 7, 2023 (DJIBOUTI, Djibouti): As co-facilitators of the talks in Jeddah between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), also participating on behalf of the African Union, and the United States are able to announce that the SAF and RSF have committed to take steps to facilitate increased humanitarian assistance, and to implement confidence-building measures (CBMs).

The talks in Jeddah remain focused on a narrow set of objectives – to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, establish ceasefires and other confidence-building measures, and build toward a permanent cessation of hostilities.

Reaffirming their obligations under the May 11, 2023 Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, both the SAF and RSF committed to:

1. Participate in a joint humanitarian forum led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to resolve impediments to humanitarian access and deliveries of assistance.
2. Identify points of contact to assist with movements of humanitarian personnel and assistance.
3. Implement confidence-building measures related to the following themes:
 - Establishment of communication between SAF and RSF leaders
 - Arrest of prison escapees and fugitives
 - Improvement of each side's official media discourse, and reduction of inflammatory rhetoric
 - Actions concerning each side's warmongers and pro-war elements

Implementation of these measures will be in parallel.

The belligerent parties also made specific, individual commitments regarding the facilitation of humanitarian access, which are detailed in these SAF ([English](#); [Arabic](#)) and RSF ([English](#); [Arabic](#)) documents.

These shared and individual commitments can represent important steps toward facilitating increased humanitarian access to help ease the suffering of the Sudanese people. It is now up to the SAF and RSF to fully implement their commitments.

The co-facilitators regret that the parties were unable to agree on ceasefire implementation arrangements during this first round. There is no acceptable military solution to this conflict. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, IGAD also on behalf of the African Union, and the United States call upon the SAF and RSF to put the Sudanese people first, silence the guns, and seek a negotiated end to this needless war.

Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) Humanitarian Commitments at Jeddah Talks (English Translation as of November 4, 2023)

1. Expedite customs clearance of relief goods within seven working days maximum.
2. Pending entry visas will be dealt with immediately, with the possibility of giving multiple entry visas for the Country Director of the organization.
3. Travel permits for areas impacted by pandemics, to include various types of medical emergencies, will be waived.
4. Stay permits and work permits will be issued and/or extended to the Country Director of the organization for one year, and for other staff of the organization to six months.
5. Military focal points [for civil-military coordination] have already been nominated, their names will be communicated to the co-facilitators forthwith.
6. SAF side agrees to the formation of the joint Humanitarian Forum led by UN OCHA to solve challenges facing smooth delivery of humanitarian assistance.
7. Pertaining to the loaded 90 trucks which are supposed to depart Port Sudan for designated destinations [in Khartoum], the authorities in Port Sudan have already been alerted to facilitate and expedite the procedures and to provide safety and security for the convoys (personnel, trucks and goods) until they reach their destination in full coordination with UN OCHA.

Humanitarian Commitments made by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) During Jeddah Talks (English language translation as of November 4, 2023)

We reaffirm:

1. Our commitment to allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief, including medical and surgical equipment, and ensure relief personnel the freedom of movement required for their functions.
2. Our commitment to protect and respect humanitarian workers, assets, supplies, offices, warehouses, and other facilities. Armed actors must not interfere in the actions of humanitarian operations. While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution. It is prohibited to attack, harass, intimidate, or arbitrarily detain personnel, or to attack, destroy, misappropriate, or loot relief supplies, installations, material, units or vehicles.
3. We agree to refrain from interference with principled humanitarian operations and never accompany side by side humanitarian personnel carrying out humanitarian activities, in conformity with the Amended Directives and Procedures for Humanitarian Action in Sudan.

To support our commitments and show progress on improving humanitarian access, we specifically:

4. Agree to appoint liaisons for civil-military coordination (CMCOORD), led by OCHA, to engage in a CMCOORD system to facilitate movement of humanitarian personnel and supplies and serve as an avenue for humanitarian deconfliction. An updated list of liaisons and their areas of responsibility will be shared by November 4, 2023.
5. Agree to establish a RSF coordination unit led by Major General Mohammed Alawai Kulu by November 2, 2023, responsible for the safety and security of humanitarian operations, including the protection of civilians and their ability to safely access assistance, as well as the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, supplies, and movement. The membership of the coordination unit has been shared with OCHA.
6. Agree to participate in a UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UN-OCHA) led humanitarian forum comprising high-level representatives of the parties to the conflict, member states, and humanitarian organizations, to: identify solutions to humanitarian access challenges in Sudan; oversee implementation of actions to improve humanitarian access; respond to allegations of diversion and theft of humanitarian assistance; and troubleshoot life-threatening incidents.
 - a. By November 4, 2023, agree to terms of reference and membership of the humanitarian forum.
 - b. By November 9, 2023, attend the initial meeting of the humanitarian forum.
 - c. Demonstrate implementation of agreements made with the humanitarian forum
7. Agree to establish a safe route for humanitarian movement from Port Sudan into and throughout Khartoum. RSF will facilitate the timely inspection of humanitarian cargo once along the route. RSF agrees to work with OCHA to establish safe delivery routes within Khartoum and ensure beneficiary freedom of movement to receive assistance.