ERD Organization

ERD Organization NEWSLETTER

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WOMEN Empowerment in action:

ERD Organization, entirely led by young women, fuels grassroots change. We are dedicated to boosting women's political, social, and economic access across Sudan, actively engaging them in governance, peacebuilding, and the post-2019 political transition.

BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD

Lawyers and women's rights advocates Challenge Sudan's Personal Status Law Fueling Wartime Abuse.

FINISH READING ON PAGE 2





A WELCOME CONVICTION

ERD welcomes the conviction of Ali Kushayb, one of the leaders of the Janjaweed militias implicated in human rights abuses and crimes against humanity for the early 2000s genocide in Darfur.

FINISH READING ON PAGE 3



THE BETRAYAL OF TRUST

ERD strongly condemns the sexual assault of a child by a local Islamic studies teacher at Doha School in El-Obaid, Kordofan State.

FINISH READING ON PAGE 4





BEYOND The Battlefield

Sudanese Lawyers and women's rights activists Challenge Sudan's Personal Status Law Fueling Wartime Abuse.

Last week, on the 8th and 9th of October, the ERD Organization hosted a critical roundtable entitled *" Women in War and the Future of Laws in Sudan , Personal Status Laws and Case study"* it took place at our office in Kampala, convening women's rights advocates and legal experts to tackle the devastating impact of Sudan's existing legal framework, particularly the **1991 Personal Status Law**, during the ongoing conflict. The Project Titled *"Advocating for Legal Reform and its Role in Post-Conflict Arrangements,"* the roundtable was a declaration that the era of accepting discriminatory legislation is over.

Strategy: The core of the roundtable was a meticulous, article-by-article dissection of the laws that have caused immense suffering for women and girls, including clauses permitting child marriage, restricting a mother's custody (even after divorce), and the contradictory travel restrictions that trap mothers fleeing war zones. Participants didn't just lament the laws; **they developed a sophisticated legal roadmap to challenge these provisions**, identifying critical contradictions with the Sudanese Child Law and international conventions ratified by Sudan.

Optimism: The consensus emerging from the workshop was a bold, unified demand for a comprehensive, modern **Civil Law** to replace the outdated system. The commitment and clarity of the joint strategy ensures that the fight for legislative reform will be a central pillar of Sudan's political transition.





"The convictions of Ali Kushayb represent an important acknowledgment of the enormous suffering endured by the victims of his heinous crimes, as well as a first measure of long overdue redress for them, and their loved ones." ~Volker Türk



The Impunity Must End: ERD Organization Welcomes Ali Kushayb's ICC Conviction

Better late than never

The ERD Organization, driven by the dedication of young women leaders across Sudan, welcomes the historic conviction of Ali Kushayb by the International Criminal Court (ICC). This landmark decision is more than just a legal outcome; it is a profound declaration that impunity will not stand and a crucial step toward realizing the justice that fueled Sudan's December 2019 Revolution.

For over two decades, the women and girls of Darfur have borne the unbearable weight of atrocities, systematic violence, forced displacement, and sexual assault. This verdict is a moment of necessary recognition for every victim who bravely shared their testimony. It affirms that the rule of law can and will reach those who believe themselves untouchable. It is a powerful validation of the tireless, dangerous work of grassroots activists and human rights defenders.

This conviction sends an undeniable message to perpetrators past and present: there is no safe haven for those who commit crimes against humanity. As we continue our work to ensure women's active participation in governance, peacebuilding, and the ongoing political transition, we see this ICC verdict as momentum. It reinforces our belief that the path to a stable, democratic Sudan must be paved with accountability and the full inclusion of women's voices.

We stand in solidarity with the victims and their families, celebrating this milestone while recognizing that the fight for comprehensive justice, including reparations and further arrests, continues. ERD remains committed to pushing for a legal and political environment where human rights are protected and women are at the forefront of shaping Sudan's future.

STATEMENT: The Betrayal of Trust – ERD Organization Condemns Sexual Assault of 7-Year-Old Girl in Kordofan



The ERD Organization, an organization dedicated to empowering grassroots women and driving human rights, governance, and justice in Sudan, unequivocally condemns the brutal sexual assault of a seven-year-old girl by an Islamic studies teacher at a Doha school in Kordofan State.
This horrific act is a profound betrayal of the deepest trust placed in an educator and a safe institution. Schools must be sanctuaries where children are nurtured, protected, and free from harm. When a figure of authority, especially one entrusted with religious instruction, uses their position to inflict violence upon a child, it represents a catastrophic failure of protection and morality within the community.

Institutional Failure and Systemic Betrayal

This assault is not merely an isolated crime but a tragic reflection of the systemic failure of oversight within Sudan's educational and religious institutions. It occurs in a region like Kordofan, which is already a flashpoint in the conflict, where protection systems have completely collapsed. The use of an educational setting, particularly by a religious teacher, to perpetrate violence draws attention to the long-standing need for rigorous vetting and accountability within all learning environments. Children in Sudan deserve to feel safe in the very places dedicated to their growth and instruction.

The Urgent Need for Protection

This isolated act of violence is a tragic symptom of a broader crisis: the ongoing vulnerability of women and girls in Sudan due to weak protection mechanisms and systemic legal gaps. With reports confirming that sexual violence is widespread and used as a systematic weapon of terror against children across conflict zones, this case highlights the urgent necessity of legal reform that prioritizes the safety and rights of children above all else.

We stand in resolute solidarity with the young survivor and her family. Their courage in speaking out must be met with comprehensive physical and psychological support, and the full weight of the state must be brought to bear to ensure justice is served.

