

Protection of Civilians in Urban Warfare: The Case of the Recent Sudanese Conflict

Online Symposium

28 May 2023

In recent weeks, Sudan has experienced an escalation of armed conflict in its capital, Khartoum, involving General Mohamed Hamadan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, leader of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and General Abdelfatah Al Burhan, Chairman of the Sovereignty Council and the leader of the Sudanese military. This ongoing armed conflict, occurring the streets of Khartoum, has resulted in significant loss of life for both parties to the conflict. Moreover, the conflict has severely impacted access to water, food, and medical supplies, forcing over 250,000 civilians to seek refuge in Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan while displacing an additional 800,000 individual.

Protecting civilians during armed conflicts is considered the backbone of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), which provides civilians with a protection framework. This protection extends to their surroundings such as properties, assets, and the environment, known as ‘civilian objects.’

The Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies (CHS) is organising a one-day event, inviting academics, legal and policy experts, and non-governmental (NGOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) to discuss the protection of civilians in Sudan’s recent armed conflict. The event will explore ways to mitigate the challenges of urban conflicts, the role of humanitarian diplomacy, and the importance of adhering to humanitarian principles. The event aims to provide a platform for key policy recommendations to be offered on with a view to urging conflicting parties to respect International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Islamic Sharia Law, and, local norms during urban armed conflicts.

The event will be held on Sunday, May 28, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. (Doha time), [via Zoom](#) and live-streamed on Social Media platforms. Interpretation between Arabic and English will be available.



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Symposium Programme	
4:00 – 4:30	Reducing Civilian Harm in Urban Warfare: IHL and Islamic Perspective Dr. Muhammed Munir, Regional IHL and Islam Advisor, Jordan
4:30 – 5:00	Challenges of Displacement and Refugees: The Case of Sudan Crisis Dr. Fawzi Oussedik, academic and expert in the international humanitarian law
5:00 – 5:30	Providing humanitarian aid and medical services in light of conflict in Sudan Dr. Hatem Abdelrahman, Head of Sudanese Doctors Association in Qatar
5:30 – 6:00	Q&A