

Sudan Cannot Wait!

Sudanese Can not wait for another Conference. People in the Kordofans are under siege as they were in El Fashr last year. No crocodile tears ever again- but robust action NOW.

A brief reflection on a week in Berlin full of Sudan events by Marina Peter, Sudan and South Sudan Forum April 18, 2026



All eyes on the third anniversary of the nation-wide war in Sudan April 15, 2026, the Sudan Humanitarian Conference in Berlin and accompanying side events.

Really? Of course not. But at least after the terrible war crime massacres in El Fashr/Darfur last November, 5 months later there was again some more media and other attention on the worldwide biggest humanitarian catastrophe – despite the new war in Iran, and the latest totally irresponsible inhumane political announcement from the US usually dominating international news.

This must be regarded as a success, as so many Sudanese still and rightly so feel they are forgotten in their tremendous suffering, mourning their murdered ones, being raped, bombed, displaced, denied humanitarian aid and waiting for at least one meal and medical care desperately.

Will they be protected and their basic needs being regarded right now, after the Conference in Berlin? It is appropriate to cast doubts, despite the 1.5 Billion USD pledged there.

- First, experience shows that pledges are easy made, but many later forget to also actually transfer their pledges.
- Secondly, even the amounts pledged will take long to enter the accounts, let alone reach organizations on the ground.
- Thirdly, all warring parties systematically keep on denying humanitarian access, and where they allow, they take it bureaucratically extremely difficult and costly.
- And fourthly and most important, it needs to be noted that a few of those Sudanese groups who are on the ground, have been able to save lives over the last 3 years in the most creative way and proven, that they are able to meet international standards of accountability were present in the conference. **BUT:** besides two, none of the more than 70 representatives of countries and organizations referred to the discussion paper officially shared by the co-host on strengthening local actors and allocating funds directly to them. Emergency Response Rooms demand 15% of all pledges to be directed to those who really can help in this terrible situation- but nobody commented on this demand, let alone regarded it.

Sudanese civil society groups clearly express their tremendous desire for a ceasefire and peace. They demand their voices to be at the center of all meetings and all negotiations. Women and Youth demand their full inclusion- rightly so. And they demand protection and accountability for all crimes committed in the ongoing war. All this was expressed in many ways in side events in the Berlin week. Hosted by the so-called Quintet of EU, AU, League of Arab States, IGAD and the UN forty representatives of civil groups met in an official side event. They were able to come out with a joint statement, for the sake of peace.

For sure another success, especially as they showed that unlike the third part of the Conference, the Ministerial meeting, they were able to agree on something despite their severe political differences.

But again, questions need to be raised here: Those who attended the meeting were handpicked and the criteria being the basis for this not shared. That casts doubts with all those who feel excluded and not represented by them. For the sake of peace, much more transparency and inclusion in all these processes is needed.

Finally, the last part of the Conference, the Ministerial meeting. Out of desperation Sudanese on the ground, but also many others, had high hopes in this, despite all the expectation management by the co-hosts prior to the Conference. Like in London last year, Ministers from all over the world were not able to agree on a joint statement.

Would a joint ministerial statement have helped, signed also by those delivering arms, drones and other support, too, but calling for stopping arms trade, like in Paris 2 years ago? May be not, but it would have set a sign, though. At least the co-hosts released one, which is really worthwhile to read and especially to be implemented.

Sudanese and all others who care for the Sudanese people do not want more words, but action. Volker Tuerk UN High Commissioner for Human rights echoed in the Humanitarian conference what he said several times before: The international community has failed Sudan. The State Minister in the Foreign office in Germany, Serap Güler, is very committed to Sudan, there is no doubt. She expressed she really feels the responsibility to gear up efforts for Humanitarian aid and to contribute to peace after the conference.

In Germany and internationally this must go along with

- Pressure warring parties and all those supporting them from outside without any exception
- Find ways to help protecting civilians by all means, where ever they are
- Supporting local actors directly including 15% direct funding
- agreeing on a Nationwide arms embargo,
- not allowing the UAE any longer to speak in public places about the tremendous humanitarian suffering, to a great deal caused by arms they delivered, like they did in the Conference once again.
- not keeping silent about Egypt killing, arresting and deporting Sudanese under their care;
- holding war criminals accountable in Tribunals as from now.
- stopping all illegal blood gold trade, filling the pockets of war Lords, and following accusations that foreign companies buy this gold, like Volkswagen as found in a recent research and freezing accounts accordingly
- Put Sudanese voices at the center of everything and support all ways that they can meet and discuss

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