



DUBLIN
Front Line Defenders – Head Office
Second Floor, Grattan House
Temple Road, Blackrock
Co. Dublin, A94 FA39, Ireland

info@frontlinedefenders.org
www.frontlinedefenders.org

phone +353 1 212 3750
fax +353 1 212 1001

BRUSSELS
Front Line Defenders – EU Office
Square Marie-Louise 72
1000 Brussels
Belgium

euoffice@frontlinedefenders.org
www.frontlinedefenders.org

phone +32 2 230 9383
fax +32 2 230 0028

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Sudan: Killing of three Human Rights Defenders in Darfur

On 5 and 6 of March 2022 three human rights defenders, **Youseif Yagoub Ahmed**, **Mohamed Ibrahim Yahya** and **Mohamed Eldai Musa** were killed in Jabal Moon, West Darfur by armed militia while they were doing an assessment on the human rights and humanitarian situation in West Darfur. The three human rights defenders were members of Darfur Human Rights Monitors network, a network of human rights monitoring groups in the five states of Darfur.

[Youseif Yagoub Ahmed](#), 35 years old, was a human rights defender, a graduate of Al Neelain University, a member of the Darfur Human Rights Monitors network, and he worked with World Concern in West Darfur. World Concern is a Christian relief and development organization working in the poorest and most remote areas.

[Mohammed Ibrahim Yahya](#), 27 years old, was a human rights defender, a graduate of Sudan University for Technology, a member of Darfur Human Rights Monitors network, a teacher and member of the “Reading for Change Group”. The group advocates for human rights and democracy in Sudan.

[Mohamed Eldai Musa](#), 28 years old, was a human rights defender, member of a Darfur Human Rights Monitors network and a member of a resistance committee in West Darfur, which is an informal, grassroots network of Sudanese residents that started organising civil disobedience campaigns against the government of Omar al-Bashir in 2013 and became a major organised network playing a key role in Sudan.

On 5 of March armed militia attacked Karka, Um Kharoba and Um Jumina in West Darfur. The three human rights defenders were killed while travelling on a road in Jabal Moon near the attacked areas. Youseif Yagoub Ahmed and Mohamed Eldai Musa were killed immediately after being shot by live bullets in the head and chest. Mohammed Ibrahim Yahya died the following day as a result of severe injuries to his chest due to the militia attacks.

As a consequence of the spread of militant groups in Darfur, human rights defenders and activists are in severe danger as a result of their work. The human rights situation in Darfur in general has deteriorated after the withdrawal of the United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) two years ago, following the termination of its mandate according to a UN Security Council resolution (2559/2020).

Front Line Defenders condemns the murder of human rights defenders Youseif Yagoub Ahmed, Mohammed Ibrahim Yahya and Mohamed Eldai Musa as it believes they were killed

as a result of witnessing the outbreak of a violent clash while they were carrying out their human rights work in West Darfur. Front Line Defenders is concerned about the escalation of violence in West Darfur, and the dangerous context in which human rights defenders and civilians find themselves.

Front Line Defenders urge the authorities to in Sudan to:

1. Immediately carry out an impartial and independent investigation into the murder of human rights defenders Youseif Yagoub, Mohammed Ibrahim Yahya and Mohamed Eldai Musa;
2. Fully implement Sudan's National Plan for the protection of civilians, and to restore public order and the rule of law in Darfur;
3. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Sudan are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

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