



**FORTY-SECOND REPORT OF THE PROSECUTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CRIMINAL COURT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1593 (2005)**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report reflects the activities pursued by the Office of the Prosecutor (“OTP” or “Office”) of the International Criminal Court (“ICC” or “Court”) in relation to the situation in Darfur from July to December 2025. It is the Forty-second Report of the Office pursuant to United Nations Security Council (“UNSC”, “Council” or “Security Council”) resolution 1593 (2005).

During the siege of El Fasher by the Rapid Support Forces (“RSF”) since 2024, and in particular following the fall of the city into their control at the end of October 2025, the Office has received information and evidence reflecting a myriad of crimes allegedly committed against civilian populations by members of the RSF.

As noted in its previous reports to the Security Council, the Office’s mandate pursuant to the Council’s resolution 1593 (2005) is ongoing, and alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the hostilities in El Fasher and its surrounding areas as well as in West Darfur fall within the jurisdiction of the Court.

The significant escalation of the conflict in El Fasher and its surrounding areas over the period leading to the takeover of the city has been accompanied by a significant increase in reports of Rome Statute violations including rapes, summary executions, detention, mistreatment, killing of persons of non-Arab ethnicity, desecration of corpses and other alleged offences. Graphic images of these horrendous crimes and their celebration by perpetrators have been widely circulated, shocking the conscience of humanity and leading to global condemnations. They have also triggered the submission of additional communications to the Office in support of its investigations.

In response, the Office is working to ensure that the collection and review of evidence in relation to El Fasher is carried out in real-time and expedited by the Darfur Unified Team, building on current work that also continues in relation to alleged crimes committed in West Darfur, and drawing on the prior preservation of evidence initiated by the Office in relation to events in North Darfur.

Based on the work carried out to date with respect to events since October 2025, including analysis by the Office of communications including video and imagery stemming from El Fasher, it is the initial assessment of the Office that both crimes against humanity and war crimes have been committed in El Fasher.

The Office is now working intensively to establish linkage evidence and thereby confirm the identity of individual perpetrators responsible for these crimes. In support of these efforts, the Office is engaging proactively with witnesses, victims, civil society organisations (“CSOs”), private entities, and States to secure information and necessary evidence. The first accounts shared with the Office closely mirror the video and imagery already analysed and have underlined the need for urgency of action and result in accountability efforts. The Office is committed to these objectives and will continue to need the important cooperation of all partners in this work.

The investigation in relation to Al Geneina and its surrounding areas has also accelerated in the reporting period, with more focused investigative lines and identification of key witnesses, while the Office continues to further its analytical work, relying on the cooperation of States, UN bodies, CSOs and others to progress and strengthen inquiries.

While the Office’s efforts intensify in relation to crimes allegedly committed since 2023, this reporting period has marked a landmark in attempts to ensure accountability for earlier crimes. On 6 October 2025, Mr Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman (“Mr Abd-Al-Rahman”) was convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Mr Abd-Al-Rahman was found to be the *Janjaweed* leader known as “Ali Kushayb”, and to have exercised authority over recruitment, logistics, and operations of the Janjaweed in 2003-2004 during the commission of significant atrocities. His conviction confirmed his role as direct perpetrator, co-perpetrator and his responsibility for ordering the commission of crimes.

The conviction and sentencing of Mr. Abd-Al-Rahman to imprisonment for 20 years mark several historic firsts in relation to the Darfur situation. It is the first conviction and sentencing resulting from a referral by the Security Council to the Court, the first conviction in the Darfur situation and the first conviction on grounds of gender persecution of males.

While this judicial development comes amidst significant ongoing suffering in Darfur, affected communities have underlined that it represents an important outcome for the hundreds and thousands of victims who fled their homes in 2003-2004 and who have since been sheltered in refugee and internally displaced persons camps. The Trial Chamber has since initiated the reparations proceedings in the case of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman – a process which many victims are eager to see move forward.

Cooperation is critical to advancing the Darfur investigations, and support from several African States, in particular, has been essential to progress achieved. During the reporting period, the cooperation received from the Government of Sudan in the form of assistance to

the Office's investigations and the facilitation of missions to Sudan has been welcomed, while still requiring further progress. In this regard, the visit to The Hague in December 2025 of the Attorney-General of Sudan and Head of Sudan's Investigative Committee into Violations of national and international laws, accompanied by a committee led by the cooperation focal point, provided an opportunity not only to better understand the Court's functioning and activities, but also to underline the importance of cooperation in advancing the Office's work. Commitments made by the Sudanese delegation during this visit will have to be upheld.

In contrast, efforts by the Office to engage with the RSF have been in vain despite the appointment in early 2025 of an RSF focal point to interface with the Office, as well as the submission of requests for assistance and multiple follow-ups by the Office. As such, the promises made by the RSF to cooperate with the OTP have not been fulfilled. The Office will nevertheless continue to seek further cooperation in the next period, in line with its duty to collect both incriminating and exonerating evidence.

The reporting period has also seen increased engagement between the Office and the UN Fact Finding Mission for the Sudan ("FFM-Sudan") and several non-State actors including private entities and CSOs in many areas pertaining to the situation in Darfur. The Office has also initiated contacts with the African Union Fact Finding Mission on the Sudan, following the completion of the first phase of its work consisting of virtual consultations that led to the publication of its July 2025 report on the human rights situation in the Sudan. These initiated contacts will be pursued in the coming period.

The Office however continues to seek further cooperation from all partners, including States Parties to the Rome Statute and non-States Parties, and regional and international organisations. Such cooperation is critical to support the Office's continued efforts to bring a measure of justice to the Darfur victims and survivors. Assistance that would allow for accelerated action includes in particular:

- Engaging with the Office to identify ways in which operational cooperation could be provided, for example through:
 - (i) sharing of satellite imagery/intelligence relevant to the investigation, especially with respect to El Fasher;
 - (ii) supporting the identification, screening and interview of Darfuri diaspora in domestic jurisdictions.
- The provision of information/evidence relevant to crimes committed in West and North Darfur, including through the OTP Link;

- Facilitation of travel by Office staff through the provision of visas to conduct witnesses' interviews on States' territory; and
- The secondment of national experts in specialised technical areas in support of the analytical activities of the Office.

In light of the above and the present report, the Office intends to pursue its mandate pursuant to UNSC resolution 1593 (2005) with focus on the following objectives:

- Accelerate progress in the ongoing investigations into crimes allegedly committed in West Darfur and North Darfur;
- Expand cooperation with States and other partners in support of all OTP Darfur investigations;
- Enhance engagement with relevant non-States Parties likely to cooperate with the Office in relation to the Darfur situation;
- Increase engagement with CSOs, affected communities and grassroot organisations in Chad, Darfur, and elsewhere as appropriate;
- Consolidate progress with respect to the cases of Messrs Al Bashir, Hussein and Harun and secure the arrest and surrender of these individuals through cooperation with Sudanese authorities.

The conflict in Sudan has caused an unprecedented humanitarian crisis which now appears to even go beyond what the country experienced two decades ago. The widespread famine, the rapidly increasing death toll, mass displacement, the nature and forms of crimes committed including gender-based crimes, summary executions, mistreatment, the intentional targeting of civilians, including particular ethnicities and categories of persons, cannot leave us indifferent.

The suffering resulting from this conflict and the violations of international humanitarian law are a test for our collective commitment to ensuring that all lives have equal value under international law. Concerted, collective action is essential if we are to deliver on this commitment and ensure accountability for ongoing mass atrocities.

The history of Darfur is clear: impunity will fuel further cycles of violence, instability and suffering. Through our common work under UNSC resolution 1593 (2005) and building on the real-time investigations currently being carried out by the Office, it is possible for us to break this cycle. But this will require all partners to work together, in the interests of the Darfuri people, whose suffering continues.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Following the referral from the UNSC pursuant to Resolution 1593 (2005), the Prosecutor of the ICC opened on 6 June 2005 an investigation into the situation of Darfur. In this framework, the Prosecutor also announced on 13 July 2023 that the Office commenced investigation into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during hostilities happening in Darfur, since the outbreak of violence on 15 April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (“SAF”) and the RSF and their allied armed groups.
2. This Report provides an update on the implementation of the investigative and prosecutorial strategy of the Office in relation to the situation in Darfur, Sudan following the report presented in July 2025 by the Deputy Prosecutor (“Forty-first Report”). This Report focuses on key lines of inquiry as well as the key principles underpinning the Office's strategy in this situation.
3. It is recalled that upon assuming office in June 2021, the Prosecutor immediately and voluntarily recused himself pursuant to article 42(6) of the Rome Statute in any case where a conflict of interest may arise due to his prior participation in ICC proceedings as counsel. In relation to any line of inquiry in which this recusal applies, responsibility for oversight of investigations was taken by Deputy Prosecutor Nazhat Shameem Khan.
4. Following the Prosecutor’s leave on 16 May 2025, Deputy Prosecutor Khan has assumed full responsibility for management and oversight of all lines of inquiry in the situation in Darfur.

II. PROGRESS ON THE ROADMAP

5. In continuation of the approach followed by the Office in recent reports, this section informs about the progress made in relation to the four key lines of inquiry, notably the continuation and deepening of the Office’s investigative efforts in the context of the prevailing situation in Darfur and the conclusion of a critical phase in respect of the trial of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman.

(i) Progress in key lines of inquiry

- a. The ongoing investigation into crimes allegedly committed in Darfur since April 2023
6. As widely reported by the United Nations and other international actors, the humanitarian situation in Sudan continues to rapidly deteriorate because of ongoing hostilities, large-scale displacement, the collapse of basic services and the widespread commission of alleged international crimes.
7. This requires urgent and collective action. In a conflict fuelled by impunity that has continued to erode social cohesion, displaced entire communities and exposed civilians to repeated cycles of violence, it is vital to retain focus on delivering accountability for crimes committed against the people of Darfur. Much more can be done by the international community, in partnership with actors including the ICC, to prevent further suffering. This requires a re-set, a re-focusing of effort and a renewal of concerted political will, together with commitment of support to humanitarian efforts and accountability for crimes committed in Darfur.
8. In this context, and while seeking to address significant challenges to the implementation of its mandate, the Office has worked intensively in advancing in its investigations into ongoing crimes.

El Fasher and its surrounding areas

9. Following the takeover of El Fasher by the RSF on and around 26 and 27 October 2025 the Office has received and analysed numerous reports of allegations of the commission of systematic and widespread crimes. These reports have included the submission to the Office of a number of graphic videos and images depicting a similar pattern of crimes previously seen being allegedly committed by the RSF in other areas of Darfur, including detention, mistreatment, and killings of persons from non-Arab tribes. Further analysis indicates acts of celebrating direct executions of persons of non-Arab ethnicity and the desecration of their bodies afterwards. In addition, information reviewed, as provided by partner organisations and open-source collections, corroborates this reality. This includes satellite imagery indicating mass killing events and attempts to conceal crimes through the establishment of mass graves.

10. In parallel, and despite several challenges relating to access to many victims whose whereabouts remain unknown and who are vulnerable having been displaced to other locations following the takeover of El Fasher, the Office is urgently establishing to the extent possible direct and indirect contact with affected communities on the ground. These victims' accounts also reflect the forms of violations depicted in the video, audio and image material submitted to the Office. Through engagement with Darfuri communities and diaspora liaising directly with those in El Fasher, the Office has received several leads it is now pursuing.
11. The Office has also engaged in this period with all parties involved in the conflict to underline that it is investigating those responsible for alleged crimes and to require the provision of information by belligerents on the ground.
12. Additionally, during this reporting period, the Office received a number of composite submissions from civil society organisations, bringing together a range of information relevant to allegations of Rome Statute crimes committed in El Fasher since October 2025 and in the lead-up to this period. It is the initial assessment of the Office based on information received to date that both crimes against humanity and war crimes have been committed in El Fasher.
13. On 3 November 2025, as it undertook initial work to assess and triage information incoming from El Fasher, the Office issued a statement underlining its [profound concern](#) and reaffirming the importance of the immediate collection of evidence in relation to reported crimes.
14. In that statement, the Office called upon all individuals and organisations engaged in the pursuit of justice and accountability to submit, through the secure [OTP Link platform](#), any information or evidence related to recent and prior events in El Fasher. Following this call for submissions, the Office has received a range of communications including audiovisual material via its abovementioned online platform related to alleged atrocities in El Fasher.
15. The OTP strongly encourages all partners, and in particular members of affected communities, to submit further information to the Office in relation to alleged crimes committed in El Fasher through this platform. All information received is reviewed by the Office, and many submissions already received through this channel have proved to be of significant value to the Office's investigations into these alleged crimes.

16. The security situation in the northern State of Darfur has deteriorated so rapidly that the International Organization for Migration (“IOM”) estimated in December 2025 that the number of people displaced between 26 October and 8 December had reached more than 107,000, representing over 24,000 families. The IOM further noted that about three quarters of those who fled since late October had already been uprooted before, many from major displacement camps such as Zamzam and Abu Shouk, or from neighbourhoods inside El Fasher during earlier intensifications of hostilities. While some of the civilians who were able to flee El Fasher have found shelter in other localities within or outside Sudan, their position is highly unstable, and these families remain at severe risk of further violations.
17. The tragedy that unfolded during the 500-day siege of El Fasher was entirely manmade. This conflict has been perpetuated by regional and international actors whose material and financial assistance only guarantees that this catastrophe in Darfur worsens and that war crimes and crimes against humanity will needlessly continue. The cycle of violence perpetuated by the ongoing conflict underlines a dire reality: civilians – women, girls, children, men, and the elderly – continue to bear the brunt of the ongoing conflict.

Al Geneina and its surrounding areas

18. In the reporting period, the work of the Office has also continued unabated in respect of the investigation of allegations of crimes committed in Al Geneina and its environs, which remain at the centre of the Office’s current investigative focus.
19. In this regard, the Office has further refined and accelerated implementation of its investigation plan, focussing *inter alia* on attacks against civilian populations, targeting of persons by reason of the identity of a group or collectivity, and gender-based crimes.
20. The Office has continued to conduct witness interviews during deployments to countries hosting Sudanese refugee communities and other relevant locations. These interviews have included victims and other individuals with direct knowledge of priority incidents.

21. As a result, the Office has been able to gather additional evidence in support of the commission of a wide range of crimes under the Rome Statute in West Darfur. This includes evidence relating to killings, attacks against camps for internally displaced persons, pillaging, indiscriminate targeting of civilian populations, detentions, gender-based crimes, and crimes against and affecting children. This progress reflects the Office's continued intensive investigative efforts, including field-oriented activities conducted across several jurisdictions, as well as sustained analytical work aimed at assessing and contextualising the information collected.
22. Priority has been given in the reporting period to the investigation of gender-based crimes and crimes against and affecting children. Multiple lines of inquiry related to these crimes have continued to be integrated into investigation planning, and interview prioritisation. The Darfur Unified Team continues to consult regularly with the OTP's specialised units to ensure that due consideration is given to the psychosocial welfare, safety and dignity of survivors, and that investigative activities are conducted in a survivor-centred, trauma-informed and gender responsive manner.
23. During the reporting period, analytical work progressed in relation to several priority incidents, including the preparation and updating of incident-based and thematic analytical products, the analysis of patterns of killings, gender-based crimes and crimes against and affecting children, and the assessment of group structures and potential command relationships. The processing and integration of evidentiary material into the Office's analytical systems has continued in order to support the development of linkage evidence between crimes, perpetrators and organisational structures.
24. While progress has been achieved during the reporting period, the Office continues to face significant challenges in advancing its investigative activities in relation to Al Geneina and surrounding areas. These include ongoing security, operational and logistical constraints.
25. Witnesses have expressed fears of retaliation or reprisals. Limitations related to access to certain locations relevant to its investigative priorities, and the resource-intensive nature of processing large volumes of evidence have also represented challenges the Office has sought to address as it seeks to accelerate investigations.

26. Looking ahead, the Office will continue to advance its investigative activities in relation to Al Geneina and surrounding areas of West Darfur. The Office will maintain its focus on the identified priority incidents and will continue to pursue the collection and analysis of evidence relevant to both the crime base and linkage, with particular attention to allegations of gender-based crimes and crimes against and affecting children, which remain a priority for the Office. In doing so, the Office will continue to balance investigative progress with the need to ensure the safety, security and well-being of witnesses and affected communities, and will continue to seek the cooperation and assistance of States and other relevant actors, as appropriate, in support of its work.
- b. The trial of Mr Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb
27. The current hostilities in Darfur and across Sudan have demonstrated that justice and accountability for the long-standing crimes committed against the people of Darfur remain more essential than ever before.
28. During this reporting period a major step was taken together with all partners in finally addressing the legacy of impunity that has caused such pain to Darfuris and which has fuelled further violence in the region.
29. On 6 October 2025, the Court issued the first judgment stemming from the Security Council's referral of the Darfur situation, convicting Mr Abd-Al-Rahman on 27 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Mr Abd-Al-Rahman was convicted of all charged criminal conduct as the Chamber declined to enter cumulative convictions for four counts. The judgment followed a trial which commenced on 5 April 2022 and concluded on 13 December 2024.
30. In its judgment, the Chamber found that Mr Abd-Al-Rahman was indeed the Janjaweed leader known as "Ali Kushayb" and that he exercised authority over recruitment, logistics, and operations of the Janjaweed during the period of the alleged mass atrocities in 2003 and 2004. Mr Abd-Al-Rahman was found to be criminally liable as a direct perpetrator, a co-perpetrator and for ordering the commission of crimes. The Chamber also noted the impact on victims and their communities, including the long-term harm caused as the result of the crimes, in particular, executions, sexual violence and mass forced displacement.

31. Among the over 100 witnesses who were called or relied upon by the parties during the trial, some have shared with the Court their suffering, the impact of the crimes committed by Mr Abd-Al-Rahman, and the consequences of impunity until now:

- Witness P-0584 testified to the suffering he still experiences, almost 20 years later, as a result of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman's crimes:

"I personally felt that death would have been better for me than what happened. If I knew that this would happen, it would have been better for me to die, because I'm living in real difficulty right now. The main reason for all my suffering is Ali Kushayb. I have improved a little [with psychological treatment] but I still suffer from nightmares. Every night I dream of my old friends, my childhood friends that I used to play and chat to. None of them is still alive except just one person. [...] My friends and my relatives, many of them died. They were killed. And I still suffer from nightmares and sleeplessness. I sometimes can't sleep for more than one hour. The memories keep coming back to me. It just flashes in front of me, and I am in real suffering."

- On the impact of the crimes, as tragically illustrated again by the deteriorating and alarming situation unfolding in Darfur today, P-0020 stated in Court that:

"The conflict in West Darfur impacted the Fur community economically, socially, culturally, even emotionally and psychologically. If you can imagine, a small child is being asked at school to make a drawing. He or she would draw a plane or someone on back horse or riding a camel and firing at people, or they would draw, for example, houses that are being burning and burned down. Economically, the Fur community lost all its resources. Even the fields and the agricultural lands were destroyed. The people had to leave their regions, and they are now living in the suburbs of cities, or they are refugees in the neighbouring countries ... the Fur community lost their identity and their historic features."

- P-0020 further described the impact of impunity, underscoring the significance of the conviction of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman:

"Justice and asking for justice is a human request for a person to be treated with dignity and justice and equity. This does not require a person to be educated to call for it. But the natural existence of a human being requires this to be provided for. And so when people see that there's injustice towards a number of people or a certain individual and there's nothing that they can do, there will be chaos, panic, fear and terror."

- In addition, P-0011 shared the value of the process of justice and the experience of victims and survivors with the International Criminal Court:

“When you are alienated and defenceless and someone comes to you offering to help, it had such a soothing impact on our psyche. We were kicked out of our land, which was not easy. Today, as I testify here, I am thinking in my head positively about this Court and that it would help and support us. I am very positive about this Court standing by our side.”

32. This case reflects a series of landmarks with respect to the situation in Darfur. It is the first conviction in a situation referred to the ICC by the UN Security Council, the first conviction in the Darfur situation, and the first conviction for gender persecution against males by an international criminal tribunal.
33. Following the judgment, the Prosecution filed its written submissions on the sentence on 5 November 2025 and presented its oral submissions on the sentence from 17-19 November, along with the Defence and Common Legal Representatives of the Victims. The Prosecution requested the Chamber to enter a sentence of life imprisonment given the gravity of the crimes, as well as multiple aggravating factors. The Defence requested the immediate release of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman, or in the alternative a sentence of seven years of imprisonment, or the imposition of a fine, partly relying on the Sudanese legal framework to justify its request.
34. On 9 December 2025, the Chamber delivered its sentencing judgment which sentenced Mr Abd-Al-Rahman to 20 years imprisonment. The Chamber noted multiple aggravating factors including the significant number of victims, discriminatory motive, particular vulnerability and defencelessness of the victims, particular cruelty with which the crimes were committed and Mr Abd-Al-Rahman’s high degree of participation and intent. It also noted that Mr Abd-Al-Rahman’s advanced age, good conduct in detention and during trial and the fact that he surrendered himself to the Court, constituted mitigating factors for the purposes of sentencing.
35. Regarding next steps, on 6 November 2025, the Defence filed its notice of appeal against the judgment on conviction, and its appeal brief is presently due on 30 January 2026. Additionally, on 8 and 9 January 2026 respectively, the Defence and the Prosecution filed notices of appeal against the sentencing judgment. Moreover, on the same day of the sentencing judgment, 9 December 2025, the Trial Chamber filed an order for submissions on reparations, inviting the Prosecution to make submissions by 4 May 2026.

36. This conviction, secured on the basis of common action by the Security Council, the International Criminal Court and in partnership with affected communities, underlines what can be achieved through collective effort towards accountability. It offers renewed hope that cycles of impunity for grave crimes in Sudan can be halted, through work across all partners.

c. Cases of Omar Al Bashir, Abdel Raheem Hussein, and Ahmad Harun

37. As reflected in the conviction and sentencing of Mr. Abd-Al-Rahman, the Office remains steadfast in its pursuit of accountability for these historical crimes and continues this work through its dedicated team focused on Darfur. Engagements with victims, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders concerned with Sudan consistently reflect a deep and enduring expectation: that past crimes will not be set aside, and that the suspects who remain at large will, with States' cooperation and assistance, be located and brought before the Court.

38. Now, more than at any point since 2003, it is essential that those responsible for atrocities committed in Darfur are held to account—both to ensure a complete judicial record of past crimes and to help enable reconciliation and the restoration of peace in Sudan.

39. As outlined further below, the Office recognises the significant cooperation provided by the Government of Sudan in support of investigative activities in this period, including facilitating the Office's visit to Port Sudan in August 2025 and related engagements with relevant counterparts. This cooperation is welcomed and appreciated as a meaningful contribution to the Office's mandate. At the same time, the Office underscores that cooperation must now translate into urgent, concrete progress on the arrest and surrender of suspects subject to outstanding ICC warrants—namely Messrs Al Bashir, Hussein, and Harun—so that they may be held accountable for their alleged crimes.

40. The Government of Sudan has clear opportunities to provide effective assistance regarding the suspects' current status and location. The Office therefore calls on the Government to intensify efforts to locate, arrest, and surrender the suspects.

41. The Office strongly encourages any individual or organisation with information relevant to the criminal responsibility of these three suspects, or information concerning their precise whereabouts, to come forward. In particular, the Office seeks

cooperation from current or former officials of the Government of Sudan, the Sudanese Armed Forces, the Central Reserve Forces, or the former National Intelligence and Security Service. The Office recalls that, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1593 (2005), the Government of Sudan is obligated to provide full cooperation in the cases involving Messrs Al Bashir, Hussein, and Harun.

d. The case of Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain

42. Former Commander of the Justice and Equality Movement, Mr Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain ("Mr Banda"), is charged with three counts of war crimes, allegedly committed during an attack carried out against the African Union Peacekeeping Mission at the Haskanita Military Group Site in Darfur on 29 September 2007. Mr Banda remains a fugitive from justice.

43. As previous reports have made clear, upon assuming office, the Prosecutor immediately and voluntarily recused himself from the case of Mr Banda, pursuant to article 42(6) of the Rome Statute. Accordingly, Deputy Prosecutor Nazhat Shameem Khan oversees investigative activities in this case, which have continued during the reporting period.

(ii) Progress across the key principles for renewed action in the Darfur situation

a. Empowering victims, witnesses and affected communities

44. Following the submission of the Forty-first report, the Office's engagements with CSOs have been further strengthened, with a range of types of engagements, both at the Court's headquarters as well as abroad and in the field. These interactions related to all lines of inquiry in the situation and have strengthened the Office's relationships with several organisations either in the identification of leads, the provision of information, or the documentation of crimes occurring in Darfur.

45. In July 2025, in close cooperation with the Registry of the Court, the Office participated in an outreach workshop for Darfur civil society organisations based in Uganda, with a specific focus on gender-based crimes.. This workshop provided Sudanese participants – with a majority of female representatives of CSOs – the opportunity, through their interactions with experts from the Court, to deepen their understanding of gender-based crimes including the recently-updated OTP policy in this respect, and

consider the best ways to engage and collect information from vulnerable persons in international crimes documentation activities.

46. The five-day programme touched upon specific issues in the context of the Darfur situation and allowed for a dialogue on shared concerns on gender-based crimes, while also providing the participants the necessary tools and best practices to manage their interactions with victims, witnesses and other actors involved in both armed conflicts and accountability efforts. This workshop, which resulted from the existing collaboration and cooperation between grassroots organisations and the Court, and which was initiated at their request, was a first of this kind involving four different units or expertise from the Court including the OTP Gender and Children Unit. It provides a basis for a model that can potentially be replicated across the situations under investigation before the Court.
47. The Office also met with several Darfuri diaspora organisations respectively on 8 October 2025 in The Hague and on 4 November in London to engage on the judgment convicting Mr Abd-Al-Rahman of 27 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. These interactions served to underline not only the commitment of the Office to maintain its communication with CSOs and diaspora organisations but also the resolve of these organisations to see justice delivered and deepen their understanding of the Court's decisions. The Office will continue to seek to expand such engagements in the coming reporting period as they represent critical opportunities to build additional partnerships in support of the Office's investigations.
48. In connection with the 6 October 2025 judgment, jointly with the Registry, the Office conducted an outreach mission in early November to Eastern Chad to engage with leaders of the refugee communities of Gaga, Goz Amir, Goz Beida, Kerfi and Zabout refugee camps. These engagements, which were intended to explain the judgment and the steps to be undertaken by the Office and the Court generally, were also an occasion to address several concerns from the refugees in relation to the situation in Darfur since April 2025, and especially with respect to the takeover of El Fasher by the RSF. While the conviction of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman was clearly welcome, several participants voiced their concerns about the impunity that still prevails, including for the perpetrators of the crimes in Darfur from 2003 onwards, and the crimes allegedly presently being committed.

49. The Office, alongside other experts and organisations, also attended a Uganda-based workshop on the review of the documentation efforts of several Sudanese CSOs, from 19 to 21 November, at the invitation of the Wayamo Foundation. The workshop gave the opportunity to share best practices with the CSOs on their documentation efforts with a particular focus on evidence collection for future accountability mechanisms in relation to crimes allegedly committed in Darfur and other parts of Sudan.
50. Throughout the last six months, the Office has also engaged with international CSOs in connection with its ongoing investigations on a variety of issues, while extending its reach to other Sudanese organisations for leads purposes. Notably, the Office held online and in-person meetings with Sudanese CSOs to discuss issues relevant to the Office's investigations.
51. In furtherance of contacts established in 2024 and reported in the Office's Thirty-ninth Report, and following unsuccessful attempts during the previous reported period to meet with the tribal Arab leaders from Darfur, the Office was able, despite several logistical challenges, to hold another meeting in October 2025 with representatives of the Arab tribal leaders, to discuss the modalities of their cooperation with the Office.

b. Cooperation with Sudanese national authorities and others

52. As the conflict in Sudan continues with intensity between the SAF and RSF and allied armed groups, the Office's efforts to secure cooperation from a variety of States and non-state actors are being progressed with the aim to collect further evidence on the crimes suffered by the ever increasing number of victims in Darfur.
53. In furtherance of UNSC Resolution 1593 (2005) and the 2021 Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Office and the Government of Sudan, the cooperation level received from the Government of Sudan has progressed positively in the reporting period through several meetings both in Port Sudan and The Hague. The Office has also submitted a number of new requests for assistance to the Government of Sudan, some of which have been executed promptly during the reporting period.
54. In July and August 2025, representatives of the Office including investigators travelled to Port Sudan to conduct meetings and collect evidence in relation to ongoing investigations. These activities generated several leads which have since been pursued by the Office.

55. In September, the Government of Sudan's designated Cooperation Focal Point participated in the Court's seminar of situation countries focal points, a yearly meeting financially supported by the European Union, during which various focal points engage and exchange on their practical experiences and cooperation challenges relating to their interactions with the Court. The Focal Point's participation was also a valuable opportunity to discuss pending and future requests for assistance and any related challenges.
56. On the margins and in the context of the sentencing decision against Mr Abd-Al-Rahman in early December 2025, a delegation of the Government of Sudan, led by the Attorney General of Sudan and Head of the Investigative Committee on the violations of national and international laws, established following the beginning of hostilities between SAF and RSF, visited the Court. This working visit offered another occasion to engage on the Court's functioning, the situation prevailing in Darfur, new cooperation avenues and related issues, and updates on the Office's activities. The delegation also had the opportunity to engage with other sections and entities of the Court including on topics such as the participation of victims in the Court's proceedings and reparations.
57. With respect to the RSF, building on their designation of a new focal point in January 2025, the Office has been seeking information from the RSF in the context of its investigations. In this regard, the Office has sent three requests for cooperation to the RSF. Whereas the first request was partially executed, the two others communicated by the Office in August and November 2025, have yet to be executed. Several follow-ups with the designated focal point have remained largely unanswered to date.
58. As indicated in the OTP's last Report in relation to the Darfur situation, this current reporting period was identified as a moment to assess whether the RSF would provide the OTP with substantive information or assistance, and thus demonstrate a genuine readiness and willingness to cooperate. While the RSF had indicated in earlier engagements its commitment to cooperate with the Office's investigations, these commitments have not translated into timely and concrete actions. To the extent that the RSF would remain open for communication, the Office will continue to seek its cooperation, consistent with its statutory obligation to collect both incriminating and exculpatory evidence, and expects the execution of the outstanding requests for cooperation.

c. Increasing avenues for accountability: Cooperation with third States, international and regional organisations

59. The Office has continued to rely on the cooperation of States and international and regional organisations in furtherance of its activities in the situation.
60. The ongoing cooperation from the Government of Chad remains important in the Office's work towards achieving justice for victims of crimes allegedly committed in Darfur. Indeed, this cooperation has enabled the conduct of several field deployments for both investigative and outreach activities in the reporting period. Other African countries have also extended cooperation to the Office in relation to both abovementioned areas of activities. The Office has also engaged with a limited number of States on assistance they could provide in relation to its investigations. As reflected below, expansion of engagement with non-States Parties will be a priority in the coming reporting period.
61. Over the past six months, in the context of the cooperation framework established between the FFM-Sudan and the OTP, the Office was able to rely on the FFM-Sudan's assistance in relation to leads and evidence in support of its inquiries. Both entities also held several online meetings to discuss ways to further streamline their cooperation and assistance.
62. The Office has also been engaging at both strategic and operational level with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict ("SRSG on SVC") in relation to the situation in Darfur, addressing the critical issue of sexual crimes allegedly committed during the ongoing conflict. In mid-December 2025, the UN SRSG on SVC, ICC Deputy Prosecutor Nazhat Shameem Khan, and experts from the FFM-Sudan held a joint online meeting during which the situation in Darfur, including the identification of focal points, the exchange of information and avenues for synergies were discussed, addressing in particular the widely reported allegations of gender-based crimes committed in the situation.
63. Consultations with these UN partners have highlighted the clear targeting of women, girls and children and the prevalent use of rape, public nudity and other sexual crimes to denigrate, humiliate and further subject these vulnerable civilians to unimaginable conditions and trauma. These clearly evidenced practices are the plain marker of a reality that has been denied for decades in Darfur: that rape is a weapon of war and that today more than ever women, girls and children are bearing the brunt of the current conflict.

64. The Office has also initiated contact with the African Union Fact Finding Mission on the Sudan, having taken note of activities carried out by the Joint African Union Fact Finding Mission led by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights ("ACHPR") as mandated by the African Union Peace and Security Council, and in particular its publication of its July 2025 report entitled "Report of the virtual joint fact-finding mission on the human rights situation in the Sudan".. The Office's initial contact was positively welcomed, and steps are underway to determine how best to establish cooperation between the two institutions.

III. LOOKING FORWARD

(i) Assessment of situation benchmarks

65. During the reporting period, despite a major focus placed on the collection of evidence in support of the ongoing investigations, the Office has attempted to fulfil the objectives set in July 2025. The below reflects the progress made in this respect.

- *Expand assistance to complementarity initiatives with States investigating potential perpetrators:* This objective requires further action to implement. During the reporting period, a number of requests for assistance by States to the Office were either delayed due to overarching work pressures on the Darfur Unified Team, not further pursued by the requesting parties or assessed to not be feasible by the Office due to specific circumstances. To seek to strengthen work in this area, the Office is developing an incoming request brochure aimed at outlining the forms of assistance and information that the Office can provide in support of domestic investigations and will host a dedicated session of the OTP Complementarity and Cooperation Forum aimed at strengthening two-way cooperation with national authorities with respect to the situation in Darfur.
- *Increase engagement with CSOs, affected communities and grassroots organisations in Chad, Darfur, and elsewhere as appropriate:* This benchmark has been met. As reported above, the Office has extensively engaged with both international and local CSOs in relation to Darfur and has furthered its partnerships through the sharing of information, participation in workshops dedicated to strengthening grassroots CSOs documentation work for accountability purposes, or through briefings and updates about the Office's activities.

- *Continue the preservation of evidence in relation to events in El Fasher and surrounding areas in North Darfur:* This benchmark has been met. While the Office's initial investigative focus relates to crimes allegedly committed in West Darfur, it did prioritise the preservation of evidence in relation to North Darfur and especially El Fasher, with this work now moving to a new phase as outlined above. New partnerships have been developed with the provision of leads and other information to the Office, in particular following the takeover of El Fasher by the RSF at the end of October 2025.
- *Progress and secure pending cooperation requests from State and non-State entities:* This benchmark has been partially met. While cooperation with the Government of Sudan has been pursued with concrete outcomes, the Office continues to encourage further progress to be made. There are also a number of outstanding requests for cooperation pending with other States, due to potentially slow decision-making processes or the complexity of some requests. These will be pursued in the coming period.
- *Consolidate progress with respect to Messrs Al Bashir, Hussein and Harun cases and secure the arrest and surrender of these individuals through cooperation with Sudanese authorities:* This benchmark is ongoing. The Office continues to require the support of States within and outside the UN Security Council, including the Government of Sudan, in relation to the outstanding arrests warrants.

(ii) Updated objectives

66. In light of the progress achieved thus far and the importance of furthering the Office's work in the Darfur situation, the following objectives are set for the next six months:

- **Progress meaningfully the ongoing investigations into crimes allegedly committed in West Darfur and North Darfur:**
 - With the Office's focus on events characterised by a reported large criminality in West Darfur (Al Geneina) and North Darfur (El Fasher), the Office will aim to substantially progress its investigations in relation to the war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in those locations, with a view to address the individual criminal responsibility of relevant persons.

- The Office notes in this regard that following an amendment to the Regulations of the Court by ICC judges, all applications for arrest warrants or summons to appear, pursuant to article 58 of the Rome Statute, are to be classified as secret or under seal, unless otherwise authorised by a Chamber.
- **Expand engagement with States Parties in support of all OTP Darfur investigations:**
 - The Office will pursue its requests for assistance seeking the cooperation of States and other entities, including the Government of Sudan. It will also continue to expand engagement with UN bodies, CSOs, as well as with parties to the conflict with a view to obtaining information that will assist its investigations;
 - The Office will also seek to further advance modalities of cooperation with the African Union FFM on the Sudan to advance its investigative activities.
- **Enhance engagement with relevant non-States Parties likely to cooperate with the Office in relation to the Darfur situation:**
 - Having determined that, despite accelerating its investigative priorities, it still needs to operate in other relevant States that are not parties to the Rome Statute, the Office will aim to re-engage or initiate engagements with several non-States Parties with a view to progressing its investigations.
- **Increase engagement with CSOs, affected communities and grassroots organisations in Chad, Darfur, and elsewhere as appropriate:**
 - In continuation of activities and efforts made during the reporting period, the Office will continue to engage with CSOs and affected communities, through the strengthening of its partnerships, interactions and other activities. The Office will aim to share expertise where appropriate and relevant with CSOs, including to conduct a follow-up activity dedicated to gender-based crimes and vulnerability management with selected CSOs.

- **Consolidate progress with respect to the cases of Messrs Al Bashir, Hussein and Harun and secure the arrest and surrender of these individuals through cooperation with Sudanese authorities:**
 - While the ongoing investigations remain the current priority for the Office in the situation, the cases relating to Messrs Al Bashir, Hussein and Harun will continue to be progressed, notably in light of their recent reported public appearances and the obligation on the Government of Sudan to arrest and surrender them to the Court by virtue of the UNSC Resolution 1593 (2005).

IV. CONCLUSION

67. As the security and humanitarian situation continues to spiral in Darfur, with extensive international humanitarian law violations ongoing, the Office continues to hear a clear and consistent message from affected communities: that the pursuit of justice offers essential hope to victims and survivors where there appears to be no foreseeable future for peace and stability. Reflecting this, the Office will continue to stay the course in its investigative work, prioritising the objectives set above for the next reporting period.
68. The Office will particularly continue to broaden the scope, intensity and numbers of its cooperation partners to deepen its efforts towards meaningful results in the context of its investigations. The provision of assistance and cooperation in various forms by States and non-State actors is essential to the Office in expediting the finalisation of its ongoing work, supporting the deployment of its investigators and the collection of critical evidence.
69. The Office remains committed to continue its engagements with the Government of Sudan and to see recent promises of further assistance materialise in the coming period. It will also continue its cooperation with UN bodies, including the FFM-Sudan and other regional entities such as the ACHPR, while pursuing or following up on other cooperation avenues.
70. If the real potential of this cooperation can be fully leveraged, the upcoming period offers the Office and all those committed to see justice delivered in the Darfur situation an opportunity to break the cycle of impunity in the region. This can only be done together, through accelerated action and common focus.