

Situation in Darfur, Sudan

ICC-PIOS-CIS-SUD-006-019/26_Eng

The Prosecutor v. Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman

Updated: January 2026

ICC-02/05-01/20

Convicted of 27 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, in Darfur, Sudan, between August 2003 and April 2004. Sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment on 9 December 2025. The verdict and sentence are under appeal. Accused is in ICC custody.

Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman



Date of birth: 1949

Place of birth: Sudan

Nationality: Sudanese

First warrant of arrest: 27 April 2007

Second warrant of arrest: made public on 11 June 2020

Transfer: 9 June 2020

Initial appearance: 15 June 2020

Confirmation of charges: 9 July 2021

Opening of the trial: 5 April 2022

Closing statements: 11 - 13 December 2024

Conviction: 6 October 2025

Sentence: 9 December 2025

Crimes

On 6 October 2025, Trial Chamber I **found Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman guilty** of 27 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, in Darfur, Sudan, between August 2003 and April 2004.

ICC Trial Chamber I analysed the evidence submitted and discussed before it at trial and found that Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, a *Janjaweed* leader, **was guilty beyond any reasonable doubt, of the following:**

- **as a direct perpetrator** for murder and torture as crimes against humanity and war crimes, as well as outrages upon personal dignity as a war crime and persecution as a crime against humanity.
- **as a co-perpetrator**, for the joint commission with Janjaweed and/or Government of Sudan Forces, in relation to at least 200 captives and/or detainees during the Mukjar and Deleig Operations, of murder, attempt murder and torture as war crimes and crimes against humanity, outrages upon personal dignity as a war crime, and persecution as a crime against humanity.
- **for ordering** the Janjaweed to commit, during the Kodoom and Bindisi Operation, murder and rape as war crimes and crimes against humanity, attack against a civilian population, outrages upon personal dignity, pillaging and destroying the enemy's property as war crimes; and forcible transfer of population, persecution and other inhuman acts as crimes against humanity.

The Prosecutor had brought four other counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes against Mr Abd-Al-Rahman but the Chamber did not enter a conviction on these counts considering that the criminal conducts underlying these counts were already covered by other counts for which a conviction was pronounced.

Key judicial developments

REFERRAL AND OPENING OF THE INVESTIGATION

The International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur was established by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan pursuant to Security Council resolution 1564. The Commission reported to the UN in January 2005, that there was reason to believe that crimes against humanity and war crimes had been committed in Darfur and recommended the referral of the situation to the ICC.

Using its authority under the Rome Statute, the United Nations Security Council referred the situation in Darfur since 1 July 2002 to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in resolution 1593 on 31 March 2005.

Following the referral from the United Nations Security Council, the Prosecutor received the conclusion of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur. In addition, the Office of the Prosecutor requested information from a variety of sources, leading to the collection of thousands of documents. The Prosecutor concluded that the statutory requirements for initiating an investigation were satisfied and decided to open the investigation on 6 June 2005.

WARRANTS OF ARREST

On 27 April 2007, Pre-Trial Chamber I issued a [first arrest warrant against Mr Abd-Al-Rahman](#). On 11 June 2020, Pre-Trial Chamber II reclassified as public [a second warrant of arrest](#).

ARREST AND TRANSFER

On 9 June 2020, Mr Abd-Al-Rahman was transferred to the ICC's custody after surrendering himself voluntarily in the Central African Republic. On 15 June 2020, the case of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman was severed from the case of Mr Ahmad Muhammad Harun since Mr Harun has not yet been surrendered to the Court.

INITIAL APPEARANCE

On 15 June 2020, Mr Abd-Al-Rahman appeared before Pre-Trial Chamber II's Single Judge Rosario Salvatore Aitala. The hearing was held in the presence of the Prosecutor and the Defence. Mr Abd-Al-Rahman was represented by his Duty Counsel Mr Cyril Laucci and appeared via video-link from the ICC Detention Centre.

The Single Judge verified the identity of the suspect, and ensured that he was clearly informed of the crimes he is alleged to have committed and of his rights under the Rome Statute of the ICC in a language he fully understands and speaks. The judge also set the date for the confirmation of charges hearing.

CONFIRMATION OF CHARGES

[The confirmation of charges](#) hearing took place on 24 -26 May 2021. On 9 July 2021, Pre-Trial Chamber II [confirmed](#) all the charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity brought by the Prosecutor against Mr Abd-Al-Rahman and committed him to trial before a Trial Chamber.

TRIAL

On 21 July 2021, the Presidency constituted Trial Chamber I to be in charge of this case. Trial Chamber I is composed of Judges Reine Alapini Gansou, Joanna Korner and Althea Violet Alexis-Windsor.

The trial opened before Trial Chamber I on 5 April 2022 and the closing statements took place on 11-13 December 2024. A total of 74 witnesses gave evidence during the trial: 2 were called by the Chamber, 54 by the Prosecution, 17 by the Defence and 1 by the participating victims through their legal representatives. A total of 1861 items of evidence were recognised as formally submitted into evidence. The Chamber authorised 1591 victims to participate in the trial proceedings through one team of legal representatives.

VERDICT

On 6 October 2025, Trial Chamber I found Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman guilty of 27 counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes, in Darfur, Sudan, between August 2003 and April 2004.

SENTENCE

On 9 December, Trial Chamber I [sentenced](#) Mr Abd-Al-Rahman to 20 years of imprisonment. The time spent in detention, from 9 June 2020 onwards, will be deducted from his sentence. Mr Abd-Al-Rahman will remain in the ICC detention centre until the ICC designates a country to serve his sentence.

NEXT STEPS

On 6 November 2025, the Defence of Mr Abd-Al-Rahman filed its notice of appeal against the judgment in the case. The Defence and Prosecution filed their notices of appeal against the sentence on 8 and 9 January 2026, respectively. The Appeals Chamber will rule on these appeals in due course.

On 9 December 2025, Trial Chamber I issued an [order for submissions on reparations](#), giving instructions and deadlines to the Prosecution, the Legal representatives of victims, the Defence, the Registry, the Trust Fund for Victims and the Government of Sudan for various submissions on reparations to victims. The Chamber will then render its decision on reparations in the case in due course.

Participation of victims

To date, the judges have authorised 1591 victims to participate in the trial. They are represented by their Legal representative, Natalie von Wistinghausen and Associate Counsel Anand Shah.

Composition of Trial Chamber I

Judge Joanna Korner, Presiding Judge
Judge Reine Alapini-Gansou
Judge Althea Violet Alexis-Windsor

Representation of the Office of the Prosecutor

Karim A.A. Khan KC, Prosecutor
Nazhat Shameem Khan, Deputy Prosecutor
Julian Nicholls, Senior trial lawyer

Defence Counsel

Cyril Laucci, Lead Counsel
Iain Edwards, Associate Counsel

Legal Representatives of the Victims

Natalie von Wistinghausen