



12 February 2022

## **NGO-community call for action to ensure protection of National NGOs and Aid workers in Sudan.**

The Sudan NGO Forum and Sudan INGO Forum jointly condemn, in the strongest terms, the recent attacks on national aid workers in Blue Nile, Central Darfur and West Darfur.

The Fundamental Principles of Humanitarian Action state that humanitarian action should be conducted independent of any political, financial, or military objectives, without prejudice with the sole aim to reduce suffering wherever it is found. NGOs across Sudan are often the first line of response for those in need and play an instrumental part role in supporting communities impacted by conflict, flooding and other shocks as well as supporting social cohesion and peacebuilding efforts at the local level. In 2022, through the support of National and International NGOs, alongside other humanitarian actors, well over 9 million people across Sudan received food, water, shelter, healthcare and other lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance to meet their most basic needs.

We are therefore concerned by the recent acts of violence against national NGO colleagues in Blue Nile, Central Darfur and West Darfur States in the last weeks (details of which are outlined below with the consent of the relevant NNGOs and affected staff), which in Blue Nile led to the tragic death of ADD colleague Dr. Adam Tirabas as he undertook his mission, with other ADD colleagues, to implement community activities within the UN-funded project in the Yara areas of Geisan locality, Blue Nile State.

Attacks on any aid worker are felt across the entire aid community whether they be national or international, here in Sudan or further afield. As such the Sudan NGO Forum and Sudan INGO Forum stand together in solidarity with the victims of these attacks and send our deep sorrow, condolences to the family of the deceased and wishes an urgent recovery for those injured.

Attacks on humanitarian workers, as with the targeted and indiscriminate attacks on all civilians, are a violation of international humanitarian law. In addition, such attacks serve to impede the timely delivery of assistance to those most in need.

As such we appreciate the steps taken by relevant authorities to address these issues and hold those responsible accountable in accordance with global standards. We stress the need for all relevant duty bearers to respect all humanitarian workers and ensure their protection, stressing that workers in this field aim to provide humanitarian assistance to local communities, in accordance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence and within the parameters of domestic laws and procedures.

**Ibrahim Modi**

Chairman of the Sudan NGOs Forum

**Anthony Neal**

Sudan INGO Forum Coordinator



### **27 January 2023: Blue Nile: Attack on Addition for Disaster Aid and Development Organization (ADD) 2023**

On 27<sup>th</sup> January, a team from the Addition for Disaster Aid and Development Organization, Blue Nile Office, which was on a mission to implement community activities within the United Nations Development Fund project in the Yara area of Geisan locality, after completing the necessary procedures with the official authorities in the Humanitarian Aid Commission in the state, were involved in an armed incident leading to the death of Dr. Adam Tirab.

ADD Organization team consisted of four employees of the organization who believe in the principles/standards of humanitarian voluntary work and take upon themselves the task of improving the conditions of their communities for the better, as their mission was the Implementation of capacity building courses in Yara and Daim Saad in Geisan locality.

ADD team moved at 5:00 pm from the Yara area to Daim Saad, after their permission was confirmed to move and complete the rest of the tasks. While on their way, they found themselves in an area that became affiliated with unofficial parties. Although the vehicle they were in carried the flag of the organization, affiliated members opened fire at the team which caused death and injuries to the team members.

Dr. Adam Tirab was killed during the shooting with a head injury and one of the team members was injured. The main office was contacted to make the necessary arrangements to facilitate Dr. Tirab body and aid the injured member. The Commission was also informed, who contacted the local and security authorities, where the civil administration and community leaders in the Yara and Dim Saad areas are informed and aware of the incident. The body was evacuated from the area, the group and the car were released from the unidentified area to Yara the next day of the accident.

### **5 February 2023: Central Darfur: Attack on Truth for Development Organization (TDO)**

On 5<sup>th</sup> of February, **Truth for Development Organization (TDO)** team was enroute to field visit to Abbata from Zalinge at 2pm, they got attached unknown armed group, shot the driver, and hijacked the vehicle, one hour later, the vehicle was returned. The driver was seriously injured and been hospitalized since then. The TDO has paused their operations until next week.

### **7 February 2023: Attack on Ayoub Hamid the Executive Director of Generation Organization and the chairman of the National NGO forum in West Darfur.**

On 7<sup>th</sup> of February, at 7pm **Ayoub Hamid the Executive Director of Generation Organization and the chairman of the National NGO forum** in West Darfur was attacked by unknown armed men whilst he heading home from the office. After sustaining serious injuries, Ayoub with support Sultan of West Darfur was transferred to Khartoum on 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2023. His health situation remains serious and expected to run surgery on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of February.