Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

Hearing - One Year After the Fall of El-Fasher: How Transnational Networks Finance Crimes in Sudan

Submission for the Record by Sudanese Physician from El Fasher
October 17, 2026

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the Commission,

El Fasher was not merely a city. It was a living community of families, markets, schools, and generations of memory. Over time, and in full view of the international community, it was transformed into a landscape of killing, destruction, torture, and atrocities bearing the hallmarks of genocide.

The United Nations Independent International Fact Finding Mission has documented that the siege of El Fasher lasted more than 500 days. Following the city's fall, the Rapid Support Forces committed acts consistent with ethnically targeted violence and gender based atrocities.

But let us be clear about the nature of this war. This is not a war between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces. These are not national armies, nor are they an armed opposition with genuine social roots. They are militia deformations produced by decades of deliberate destabilization of Sudan by global powers. This is not a Sudanese civil war in the conventional sense. It is a historically rooted conflict, with regional and international proxies, interests, and supply lines. At times it has taken the form of a civil war backed from abroad. At other times, it has taken other shapes. But it has never been merely Sudanese.

The events in El Fasher did not occur in isolation. They were enabled by external networks that supplied weapons and financing, in exchange for the systematic exploitation of Sudan's natural resources. The militias are the instruments. The interests are elsewhere.

And the story did not end with the city's fall. After the massacre, some were displaced. Some became refugees. Some returned to El Fasher. And some could never leave. They remain there today, living under the same forces enduring humiliation, deprivation, racism, and the daily consequences of a war economy. Their suffering did not make headlines. But it continues.

What is most troubling is not only that these atrocities occurred in plain sight. It is that they continue in silence. The world has moved on. Today, after we have been displaced, killed, and scattered, even talking about El Fasher has become a luxury. It is remembered only on anniversaries, for fundraising appeals, or for claiming to defend human rights.

It is not enough to condemn. It is not enough to call on the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces to stop fighting. That is treating the symptom, not the disease. We must expose the full equation of this war to every actor, every supply line, every interest. We must strip away the portrayal of this conflict as a purely Sudanese affair. We must force the global powers that sustain it to listen.

Humanitarian assistance and protection are essential. But they are like pouring water into a waterskin full of holes. No matter how much you pour, it will not hold. As long as the war continues, every effort at relief is swallowed by the same wound. The holes must be mended first. The war must be stopped first.

If the international community is serious about assisting Sudan, it must begin with a single, decisive step: ending the war. This is not impossible. This is achievable through political will if the world chooses to use it.

We ask that El Fasher not be remembered only on its anniversary. We ask that it be remembered until the war ends.

Thank you.