

*(Translated from Arabic)*

**Popular Defence Forces Act of 1989 (5 November 1989)**

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| Name of Act                                 | 1. The present Act is called “The Popular Defence Forces Act of 1989”.   |
| Abrogation and exception                    | 2. The Popular Defence Forces Act of 1981 is hereby abrogated, although all the regulations, orders and rules issued pursuant thereto shall remain in force unless they are amended or repealed under the terms of the present Act.  |
| Interpretation                              | 3. In the present Act, unless the context suggests otherwise: <sup>1</sup><br>(a) “The Commander” means the Commander of the Popular Defence Forces.<br>“The Commander-in-Chief” means the most senior officer who has assumed the command of the People’s Armed Forces.<br>“The Popular Defence Forces” means the forces established pursuant to article 4.<br>“The Council” means the Council of the Popular Defence Forces established pursuant to paragraph 1 of article 9.<br>(b) Any word or term for which no interpretation is given in the present Act shall have the interpretation given in the Popular Armed Forces Act. |
| Establishment of the Popular Defence Forces | 4. Paramilitary forces known as the “Popular Defence Forces” shall be established under the authority of the Commander-in-Chief and shall be made up of Sudanese citizens who satisfy the criteria laid down in the present Act.   |

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<sup>1</sup> Act No. 40 of 1974.

- Aims of the Popular Defence Forces
5. The Popular Defence Forces shall endeavour to train their members in civil and military protection and shall raise their security awareness, instil in them a military spirit and military traditions and discipline so that they will be able to assist the People's Armed Forces and other regular forces whenever needed.
- Functions of the Popular Defence Forces
6. The Popular Defence Forces shall perform the following functions:
- (a) Assist the People's Armed Forces and other regular forces whenever needed;
  - (b) Contribute to the defence of the nation and help to deal with crises and public disasters;
  - (c) Any other task entrusted to them by the Commander-in-Chief himself or pursuant to a recommendation of the Council.
- Appointment of the Commander
7. (1) The Commander-in-Chief shall appoint a commander for the Popular Defence Forces from among the officers of the People's Armed Forces and other regular forces who shall have at least the rank of Brigadier General.
- (2) The Commander-in-Chief may appoint any number of officers from the People's Armed Forces to serve under the Commander.
- (3) The Council, with the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, may select any number of members of other regular forces to work in the leadership of the Popular Defence Forces and serve under the Commander.
- Duties of the Commander
8. The Commander shall issue:<sup>2</sup>
- (a) With the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, an annual training manual;
  - (b) With the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, the standing orders of the Popular Defence Forces;
  - (c) The orders and instructions needed to direct the performance, maintain the discipline and cohesion and guarantee the efficiency of the Popular Defence Forces.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

Establishment  
and composition  
of the Council

9. (1) A consultative council, known as “The Council of the Popular Defence Forces” shall be established and shall be constituted as follows:<sup>3</sup>

- (a) Chief of Staff (Chairman);
- (b) Commander of the Popular Defence Forces (Rapporteur);
- (c) Director-General of the Police Forces;
- (d) Deputy Director of the Department of Military Affairs;
- (e) Representative of the Ministry of Education (members);
- (f) Representative of the security forces;
- (g) Representative of the Office of Federal Government;
- (h) Any other individual whom the Commander-in-Chief

deems suitable.

(2) The regulations shall establish where and how Council meetings shall be run and the procedure for taking decisions and making recommendations.

Council’s areas  
of competence

10. (1) The Council shall have competence for advising the Commander-in-Chief on all matters affecting the Popular Defence Forces.

(2) Without prejudice to paragraph 1, the Council shall have competence for providing advice on the following:

- (a) The areas in which the Popular Defence Forces should be established;
- (b) Issues relating to military training of the Popular Defence Forces and national and cultural education for their members;
- (c) Issues relating to the duties and activities of the Popular Defence Forces;
- (d) Any other subjects relating to the Popular Defence Forces.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

- Conditions of acceptance as a volunteer in the Popular Defence Forces
11. In order to be accepted as a volunteer in the Popular Defence Forces a person must satisfy the following criteria:
- (a) He must have been born Sudanese;
  - (b) He must be not less than 16 years old;
  - (c) He must be medically fit;
  - (d) He must be of good conduct.
- Call-up of the Popular Defence Forces
12. The Commander-in-Chief may issue an order for the call-up of the Popular Defence Forces in any of the following circumstances:
- (a) For training;
  - (b) At times of crises and disasters;
  - (c) When a war breaks out or is expected to break out;
  - (d) In any other cases that he thinks appropriate.
- Release of volunteers
13. The directors of government departments, public institutions and agencies and public and private enterprises, or any other employee, shall release a person who has been accepted or called up by the Popular Defence Forces.
- Training
14. (1) The Popular Defence Forces shall receive training based on the annual training manual issued by the Commander-in-Chief pursuant to article 8.
- (2) Without prejudice to paragraph 1, training shall consist of the following programmes:
- (a) Military training;
  - (b) Civil defence training;
  - (c) National education;
  - (d) Cultural education.
- Proportion of recruits
15. The proportion of persons recruited to the Popular Defence Forces shall not exceed 25 per cent of the total workforce of a single institution, whether in the public sector or the private sector.

- Rights and privileges
16. (1) A person enlisted in the Popular Defence Forces shall retain his right to a job, a salary, raises and promotions in the public and private sectors during the period of training and call-up, provided that the private sector does not have to pay the salaries of those it employs for a period of more than three months.
- (2) An enlisted person who is a student shall retain the right to continue his studies after completing his period of service.
- (3) For the purposes of the National Service Act, an enlisted person shall be credited for every period of time he spends in the service of the Popular Defence Forces.
- Applicable law
17. During the period of training and call-up, members of the Popular Defence Forces shall be subject to military laws and the military courts shall have competence for trying them.
- Exemption from service
18. A person enlisted in the Popular Defence Forces shall be exempted from service during the training and call-up periods for any of the following reasons:
- (a) Health;
  - (b) Discipline;
  - (c) Family;
  - (d) Security.
- Budget
19. The Popular Defence Forces shall receive a separate budget from the Ministry of Defence which shall be disbursed according to the directives of the Commander-in-Chief.
- Issuance of regulations
20. (1) The Commander-in-Chief may issue the regulations, orders and rules necessary for the implementation of the present Act and regulate all matters for which the Popular Defence Forces have responsibility, providing them with training and weapons and ensuring discipline and cohesion.

(2) Without prejudice to paragraph 1, these regulations, orders and rules may provide for the following:

(a) The extension of service in the Popular Defence Forces and progression through the ranks;

(b) Uniforms and training activities;

(c) Monthly pay during the call-up and training period;

(d) Appointments, allowances, subsistence, accommodation and travel expenses during the training and call-up period;

(e) The procedures for enrolling in the Popular Defence Forces.

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