



Thirsty For Change

Alaa Salah
Sudan

☀ Call to Action

Learn how you can support Sudanese women and children in their fight for a more just society, and a better life for all. Follow Alaa on Instagram: [@alaa_salah39](https://www.instagram.com/alaa_salah39)

☀ Values

- Courage
- Commitment
- Social Justice
- Equality
- Environmentalism

☀ Lessons Learned

The fight for justice doesn't end when a tyrant falls. Instead, that's when it truly begins.

Education is a precious privilege.

Always remember there are people out there willing to risk their lives to obtain it. What will you do to help them?

There are many challenges that stand between dreams and reality; let hope be the fuel that propels you toward your goals.

Known internationally as the “Woman in White,” or Sudan’s “Lady Liberty,” Alaa Salah rose to fame as one of the activists who helped to topple the corrupt regime of Omar al-Bashir.

The photo of her standing on the hood of a car amidst a group of peaceful protesters became a viral symbol of the grassroots fight for freedom in Sudan. Even after the al-Bashir regime fell, Alaa has made it her mission to create a better country for future generations. Her goal is to ensure that all Sudanese are able to access an education. This includes educating future generations about climate change, which is threatening to disrupt the traditional farming patterns of communities in Sudan, and lead to increasing instability.

☀ Language Arts

Working in groups, you will create a poster in which you examine Alaa’s mission, her accomplishments, and her influence in Sudanese politics, specifically the plight of women in Sudan, and her fight for women’s rights. After creating your poster, conduct a [Gallery Walk](#)¹ with your peers.

Read [Alaa’s statement before the U.N.](#)² Pull out the main ideas and write a brief explanatory essay on the major topics she addressed, and their importance for Sudan, Africa, and the world.

What is the story of Darfur? How did climate change contribute to the genocide that happened in this region? Create a presentation in which you explore how climate change has caused or contributed to war and genocide in this region that was once part of the “Bread Basket of Africa.”

Who was Omar al-Bashir? What was life like for women in Sudan during his regime? How did his actions (or lack of action)

worsen conditions for the Sudanese people, especially women? After finding the answers to these questions, write a narrative from the point of view of a young Sudanese woman from Darfur, in which you have her explain these issues to an audience unfamiliar with Sudan and its people.

STEM Activities

In this [lesson plan from Trop ICSU³](#), students will learn about river systems, and the features that determine their significance for the regions they flow through. The Nile is one of the longest rivers in the world; it flows through 11 countries in northeastern Africa. Students will explore the Nile's role in providing food and water security, and in influencing the economy of Sudan -- and the impact climate change is having on the river.

In this [activity from PBS⁴](#), students will be introduced to the factors that contribute to desertification, and will explore some of the solutions that have been implemented in Africa. The lesson includes an in-depth analysis of NASA data related to rainfall and desertification; an investigation of vulnerability to desertification, and population density; and a student-led microclimate investigation.

Sudan's vulnerability to climate change is shown by the fact that food security is mainly determined by rainfall.

Examine this [dataset of rainfall data in Sudan from 1901-2015⁵](#). What is the average trend in rainfall over that period of time? Is the amount of rainfall increasing, decreasing, or constant? What inferences can you make from this data, about likely future precipitation trends in Sudan? How does climate change affect average rainfall?

Sustainability Innovations

As a part of the United Nations voluntary national review, five key messages have been highlighted as the basis for reaching Sudan's sustainable development goals (SDGs). Learn about [organizations⁶](#) that are addressing Sudan's SDGs. How can each of these organizations expand their outreach?

As a part of the United Nations Environment Programme, Sudan launched its first-ever [State of Environment and Outlook Report⁷](#). What needs are highlighted in this report? How do Alaa's goals correspond with the needs of Sudan as depicted in the report?

The [CTC Group⁸](#) is a privately owned group of companies in Sudan that focus on leading private sector businesses with diversified goals. They currently have 17 partnerships to assist Sudan in reaching its SDGs, and to highlight future technologies to help reduce the carbon footprint in their business processes.

Sustainability Career Pathways

Architectural Engineer. Alaa studied [architectural engineering⁹](#), which is a multidisciplinary approach to planning, designing, building, and operating buildings in ways that factor in energy use, environmental considerations, and sustainability. If you like to think about how to design sustainable buildings, you might want to consider a career in architectural engineering. Learn more [here¹⁰](#).

Permaculturalist. Agriculture can be extremely hard on the land in a variety of ways, including by expanding desertification. On the other hand, it can also be restorative. [Permaculture¹¹](#) agricultural practices can produce higher yields, employ more farmers, heal the land, and not harm people or animals. Today there are hundreds of opportunities for training in permaculture, which can be

applied on large farms, small farmsteads, in back yards, urban or school gardens, or anywhere you might raise plants. Learn more at freepermaculture.com¹², which has an online introduction to permaculture, and a database of permaculture jobs and volunteer opportunities.

Environmental Security Expert. Just as climate change and desertification can cause conflict over shrinking resources, conflict can in turn inflict ecological damage. The new field of [environmental security](#)¹³ works to reduce environmental conflicts, and prevent environmental damage caused by conflict. Jobs are available in governments, with the United Nations, or with institutions like the World Bank, and in think tanks like the [Woodrow Wilson Center's Environmental Change and Security Program](#)¹⁴, which offers [internships](#)¹⁵ in the field.

1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Shk9Liavzqk>

2 <https://www.womenpeaceandsecurity.org/resource/statement-unsc-wps-open-debate-october-2019/>

3 <https://tropicsu.org/>

4 <https://mass.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/249a2eb4-0461-4361-b81e-3e071d40e37c/farming-the-desert-science-lesson-plan/>

5 <https://tradingeconomics.com/sudan/precipitation>

6 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/sudan>

7 <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/sudan-first-state-environment-outlook-report-2020>

8 <https://ctcgrouppltd.com/sustainability>

9 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architectural_engineering

10 <https://www.ae.psu.edu/academics/what-is-architectural-engineering.aspx>

11 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permaculture>

12 <https://www.freepermaculture.com/>

13 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_security

14 <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/environmental-change-and-security-program>

15 <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/opportunity/internships-the-environmental-change-and-security-program>

