

CONFLICT AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH KORDOFAN STATE

All eighteen (18) states in Sudan have been differently affected by the ongoing armed conflict in Sudan. South Kordofan State is an agricultural hub located in the southern part of Sudan. It borders West Kordofan, North Kordofan, and White Nile states and shares an international border with South Sudan. It is also located approximately 580 kilometers from Khartoum. South Kordofan is one of the Sudan's richest states with millions of cultivable acres of land, including more than four million acres of horticultural farms and it possesses the country's biggest gum Arabic stock and the remaining forests in Sudan which have been affected by the ongoing conflict. When the armed conflict broke out in Sudan, several factories in Khartoum that produced supplies such as water, fuel, and medical supplies were destroyed which also contributed to the general destabilization of South Kordofan's economy. In this release, the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) has documented incidents of attacks and human rights violations against the residents of South Kordofan State.

Forced Displacements of civilians from the war-torn areas

When the armed conflict broke out in Khartoum State on 15 April 2023, thousands of civilians fled the state and sought refuge in South Kordofan State and other areas under the control of the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement-Northern Sector (SPLM/NS) such as the Kuada area control areas. And as the conflict spread to other states including North Kordofan, a large number of people fled from areas of; Al-Obeid, the capital, Alrahad, and Umruaba areas due to the gunfights between the warring parties to South Kordofan. Additionally, during the first week of December 2023 RSF seized Aljazeera State, further escalating the number of IDPs in South Kordofan. Currently, South Kordofan hosts approximately **600,000** IDPs from several neighboring states.

Attacks on Aldalang city

In January 2024, RSF troops driving 60 Landcruiser vehicles and others on motorcycles arrived in Aldalang city and attacked the SAF base. The attack lasted for approximately two hours that is; from 11:00 Am to 01:00 Pm as RSF forces engaged with SAF forces. Not only did RSF attack the SAF base but they also attacked other areas like the Aldalang market, Altomat and Almasir areas and Mother Bakhit Hospital before retreating. At least 17 civilians were killed and 21 others sustained serious injuries during the attack. Following the incident, the state government of South Kordofan issued a statement indicating that SAF was supported by some troops from SPLM/NS and thus were able to defeat RSF. However, Gen. Abdul Aziz Al-Hello, the SPLM/NS general command released another statement denying the allegations. A credible source also informed ACJPS that the alliance between SAF and SPLM/NS is not possible as there have been incidents where SPLM/NS attacked SAF bases.

Inter-tribal conflict between the Nuba, Hawazma, and Messeria tribes in Aldalang city, South Kordofan State

On 5 October 2023, two men belonging to the Hawazma tribe and residents of Aldalang city were killed by unknown assailants. The Hawazma people accused the Nuba of the murders and quickly launched an attack on the Gadra neighborhood which is mainly occupied by the Nuba. The attack resulted in the death of **seven** people belonging to the Nuba tribe and the displacement of thousands as several homes were burned down. The Nuba tribe then later responded by attacking the Bella neighborhood which is predominately occupied by the Hawazma tribe resulting in the death of **three** people and the displacement of residents. This incident caused the Messeria tribe to side with and support the Hawazma tribe as they are both nomads.

In a separate incident, on 28 November 2023, a group of Nuba people attacked the Abu-Zabad a neighborhood within Aldalang predominantly occupied by a nomadic group called Dar Neila and burned it down. The incident resulted in the death of **three** people belonging to the Dar Neila group. This also caused all the three nomadic groups in Aldalang i.e. Hawazma, Messeria, and Dar Niela to leave the Adalang city to West Kordofan State in the areas of Aldebibat, Alhamadi, Alsunkaia, and Alfrishaia.

Effects of the inter-tribal conflicts

- √ **The exodus of the Nomadic tribes from Aldalang to West Kordofan State:** The warring parties have used the tension between the communities to further their agenda, especially using Hate Speech. Sudan has witnessed several similar incidents for instance; the incidents that happened in East Sudan in 2019 between Nuba and the Bani Amier and the incidents in Kirinding camps 1 and 2 during the period between 2019-2021 in West Darfur. Recently, the tensions have pushed the communities to pick sides and support any one of the warring parties for example, the Nuba have sided with SAF with the hope that the national army will help them defend their motherland and the nomadic tribes on the other hand who fled from Aldalang have sided with RSF.
- √ **Restriction of movement:** Because the nomads blamed their displacement on the Nuba, they established a checkpoint in an area called Tibah and restricted the movement of people and goods to and from the Aldalang city. They also established several other checkpoints around Aldalang locality for example barricades were erected approximately 60 kilometers from Aldalang cutting it off from Aldebibet. By so doing, the non-nomadic group in Aldalang was restricted from leaving the city.
- √ There have also been several incidents of extra judiciary killings targeting the Nuba people

Attacks on Alkatma and Habila villages

There were two incidents that happened in Alkatma and Habila villages in South Kordofan State December 2023 that indicate that the attacks were intended to displace residents land take over thir agricultural land. This tactic has previously been used in 2011 during the conflict between SAF and SPLM/NS in South Kordofan when Militia allied to SAF displaced people only to take over their farm lands.

The Incident in Alkatma village; Sometime in December 2023, RSF launched an attack on Alkatma village located approximately 15 kilometers East of Aldalang. The village is a hub for vegetables and fruits majority of which is supplied to Aldalang. It is also mainly occupied by residents belonging to the Hausa tribe. The attack resulted in the massive displacement of people as their homes were burned down.

Incidents in Habila village;

On 11 December 2023, RSF troops launched an attack on Habila village located a few kilometers East of Aldalang. Habila village hosts one of the agricultural projects. The Habila and Altartar villages have very good agricultural lands whose harvests feed the South Kordofan market and other markets in Alrahad and Umruaba in North Kordofan State. RSF successfully managed to control the Habila village and did not meet any resistance from the SAF troops in Habila. A credible source informed ACJPS that SAF did not interfere because of an agreement between some SAF soldiers belonging to the Nomadic tribes and RSF. The attack resulted in the death of approximately **13** Male residents from the Nuba tribe, the burning down of the market, the looting of property, and the displacement of approximately **20,000** people with at least **7,000** others fleeing to Aldalang and others to the areas of Tunji, Gardud, Alkrugul, Abu Aldaker and Kauda.

In another incident in Habila, Sergeant Suleiman Mohamed Izierg Aljeger, a SAF official belonging to the Hawazma tribe was accused by other soldiers belonging to the Nuba tribe of plotting with RSF to raid the SAF base in Habila. They also accused the sergeant of delaying to supply fuel to the base leaving it vulnerable to an attacked two days later by RSF. The sergeant was gruesomely killed and his corpse crucified in Aldalang. Consequently, the SAF command in Aldalang was suspended following this incident.

Other developments

The warring parties have on several occasions failed to honor both local and international cease-fire agreements and allow humanitarian access to the Sudanese people especially those in hard-to-reach areas like South Kordofan.

During the last week of May 2023, SPLM/NS launched a series of attacks on several small SAF bases in the Kauda area and other areas under the control of the Sudanese Government. They have resultantly seized and gained control of approximately 10 SAF bases. They further launched new attacks targeting major towns such as Aldalang which resulted in intense gunfights. On 7 April

2024, SPLM/NS launched another attack targeting the Alkuik a village located approximately 30 kilometers East of Aldalang leading to the displacement of approximately **200** families.

The local Ceasefire committee formed by the native administration in North Kordofan attempted to reach a deal with RSF when they seized Al-obeid town to allow humanitarian Aid into the town and to West Kordofan State. Unfortunately, the negotiations met a dead end when SAF aerial bombed the town a few days later as the warring parties then resumed fighting.

The transportation of goods from Aljazeera State to South Kordofan was greatly affected when RSF seized Aljazeera State in December 2023.

During the period between December 2023 to 10 January 2024, Habila village and Aldalang city witnesses a new series of attacks by RSF.

Air bombardment of Alhambra Village by SAF

On 14 March 2024, the Sudanese Air Force unit air bombed the Alhambra village located in Dalaman in South Kordofan State targeting Alhdara primary school. The attack resulted in the death of 13 people including 11 children and injured 51 others

Some of those who lost their lives were;

1. Abubaker Abdul Wahid A baker (m) aged 15
2. Aljaile Alzain Ramadan Osman (m) aged 11
3. Egbal Gamid Hazim Altoum (f) aged 15.
4. Entisar Ahmed Bashir Gaboush (f) aged 9
5. Gisma Abdul gadir Idriss Geger (F) aged 11
6. Haja Abdul Bagi Alnao Saees (f) aged 16.
7. Hassan Ali Kajo Abdul Jabar (m) aged 19

Those who sustained injuries include;

1. Abdullah Mufarah Alhaj (m) aged 17
2. Abdul Mutalib Anaier Koko (m) aged 15
3. Adam Suliman Salih Abdul Bain (m) aged 11
4. Ahmed Hasan A baker (m) aged 13
5. Ahmed Mohamed Ali Kajo (m) aged 13
6. Ahmed Salih Gaboush (m) aged 9
7. Alawia Suliman Torkawe (f) aged 15
8. Alhaj Abdu llah Ali Ganbo (m) aged 11
9. Ali Dawood Musa Al-Amaldeen (m) aged 7
10. Altoum Ahmed Hamad Aleasir (m) aged 12
11. Amar Musa Gad AL Kareem (m) aged 35

12. Anfal Alnoor (f) aged 9 months
13. Eltyeb Babikir (m) aged 13
14. Eltyeb Hamid Abu Hasheem (m) aged 9
15. Fatima Ahmed Altom (f) aged 6
16. Gamila Dawood Kago Abdul Fatah (f) aged 14
17. Gisma Hasan Ramadan (f) aged 11
18. Hanan Hamad Nasir (f) aged 10
19. Hassab Allah Ali Kago (m) aged 14
20. Hussien Hamid Hazim Altium (m) aged 11
21. Ismail Omer Hamdok Ali (m) aged 11
22. Khadiga Kago Gadalkareem Shalu (f) aged 16
23. Khalil Abdul khier Kome (m) aged 14
24. Khatir Abdul Raheem Sadan (m) aged 12
25. Kome Hussien Musa Sabeel (m) aged 15
26. Madina Ahmed Bashir Gaboush (f) aged 13
27. Mahasin Hazim Altoum (f) aged 13
28. Mariam Rahal Khamis Farag Allah (f) aged 10
29. Marwa Abdul llah Alhaj (f)
30. Mashair Alshareef Hazim Altoum (f) aged 13
31. Mastoura Alsharif Hasim (f) aged 14
32. Mohamed Ali Kajo Abdul Jabar(m) aged 14
33. Musa Mohamed Musa Kajo(m) aged 49
34. Musab Abdu (m) aged 11
35. Nasma Hamadeen Ahmed (f) aged 8
36. Nedal Adam Ismail (f) aged 12
37. Osman Alzain Ramadan (m) aged 10
38. Osman Salih Gaboush Salih (m) aged 11
39. Rahama Abudallah Rahma(m) aged 33
40. Sabreen Abudullah Ali (f) edged 10
41. Sahar Fedal Hassan Abdul Fatah (f) aged 3
42. Sahrizad Kome Musa (f) aged 16
43. Samar Fedal Hassan Abdul Fatah (f) aged 3
44. Samira Mugadam Omer (f) aged 11
45. Suliman Mohamed Ali (m) aged 14
46. Yageen Omer Abdu llah Ganbo (f) aged 10
47. Yasir Alnoor Basheer (m) aged 9
48. Yousif Abdul Bagi Alnao (m) aged 12
49. Zahara Musa Al-Amaldeen (f) aged 9
50. Zaidan Adam Ali (m) aged 11
51. Zuhail Hassan Abubaker (f) aged 7