



South Darfur: SAF Airforce Unit launches airstrike on RSF sites in Nyala

The African Center for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) expresses deep concern for the civilians caught in the crossfire between the conflicting parties in Nyala, South Darfur. ACJPS calls upon the Sudanese authorities to carry out an impartial and independent investigation into the allegations of arbitrary arrests, detention, and custodial death committed by the warring parties. This must be done with a view of bringing the perpetrators to book and ensuring compensation for victims and victims' families. We further call upon the Rapid Support Forces to disclose all the names of the detainees who were held at the National Intelligence and Security Services headquarters (including those who perished during the attack by SAF). In this release, ACJPS documents an incident where the SAF Airforce Unit aerial bombed different locations in Nyala resulting in the death, injury, and displacement of several civilians.

On 16 September 2024, at around 01:35 pm, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) Airforce Unit launched a new series of airstrikes targeting several Rapid Support Forces (RSF) locations in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur State. The locations targeted include; the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security building, the Police offices located in the Nyala industrial area, and the former National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) headquarters currently under the control of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). These airstrikes resulted in the death of **18** people including **nine** detainees who were injured while trying to flee from the National Security headquarters. Those who sustained injuries were rescued and evacuated to Nyala Hospital for medical attention.

In October 2023, when RSF besieged Nyala, they also seized the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) building and turned it into a detention center. It is reported that at least **100** people were detained in the building when it was shelled by SAF.

ACJPS talked to one of the survivors who escaped from NISS after the attack and he had this to say “.... *I was detained in NISS together with more than 50 other detainees. The detainees included both civilians and members of RSF who had been arrested and detained for indiscipline. The other*

day, a bomb fell in the yard in the middle of the building consequently destroying some parts of the building and killing 16 detainees including five civilian detainees....”

Some of the people who were killed were;

1. Gafar Mohamed Alhassan aka Almesri (m) an Advocate who had gone to visit one of the detainees
2. Daudi Suleiman (m)
3. Abdul Aziz Baraka (m)
4. Rwdah Juma (f) a tea vendor who was killed near the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security
5. Yousef Abdul Gani Ahmed (m)
6. Anas Babkir (m)
7. Hassan Abdul Kareem (m)
8. Fadul Allah Jar Alnabi (m)
9. Alsadiq Abdallah (m)
10. Maghoob Alamin

Those who sustained injuries

1. Adam Ahmed (m)
2. Osman Alkhalifa (m)
3. Hassan Abu Shiba (m)
4. Eltahir Idris (m)
5. Abdul Majid Ibrahim (m)
6. Elshekh Alsmami(m)
7. Mukhtar Haroon (m)

Other developments

On 11 September 2024, the SAF Airforce aerial bombed a residential area in the West Aljeer neighborhood of Nyala destroying several houses. It is alleged that this particular neighborhood was targeted because it is mainly occupied by Arabs.

Background

Since taking over Nyala, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) announced a new Civil Administrative body in South Darfur. Consequently, Major General Bashir Adam Isa was appointed as the Police Director in South Darfur. Major General Bashir was the RSF commander in 2022 before being transferred to Khartoum. In 2013, he was appointed as the director of the Traffick Police Unit in

South Darfur. A reliable source informed ACJPS that Major General Bashir is currently responsible for the arbitrary arrests of people in South Darfur.

RSF also appointed Colonel Saleh Al-Fouti RSF to command the 16th Infantry Division, which was renamed the 1st Division. They also ordered the police and prosecutors to resume their duties in South Darfur.

SAF has severally attempted to regain control of Nyala by randomly targeting RSF sites within the city and surrounding areas. The RSF has countered these attacks with a heavy barrage of ground-based anti-aircraft missiles. These intense fights have forced the residents to flee and desert the city.