



### **Is the idea of peace in Sudan slowly becoming a myth?**

The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) documents new patterns of violations and early warning signs of an escalation of armed conflict that is; attacks on civilians by the RSF in Al Gazira State consequently leading to the death and displacement of hundred residents, and the armament of civilians in Eastern Sudan and Darfur region. ACJPS expresses deep concern over the recent developments in Sudan and their effects on the civilians who continue to suffer either directly through extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, sexual violence, etc or indirectly through the restriction of humanitarian aid, obstruction of health care, etc. by the conflicting parties.

#### **Al Gezira State**

The announcement made by former RSF command in Al Gazira, Mr. Abu Agla Kikal informing the public that he had left RSF and joined SAF was met with a ruthless reaction from RSF as they embarked on carrying out a series of violent attacks on in Tamboul, an area where Mr. Kikal originates and other surrounding areas in Al Gazira were also affected. The incidents resulted in the killing of hundreds of civilians among other violations.

ACJPS was reliably informed, that there had been an undercover armament of civilians by Mr. Kikal to engage in the fight against RSF however, when RSF was tipped off about the said plan, they reacted by launching attacks on civilians in Al Gazira, turning the state into a war zone. There have been several reports about the armament of civilians by SAF through tribal and political leaders. The involvement of civilians solidifies the theories that the Sudan war is far from coming to an end.

#### **Eastern Sudan**

In Eastern Sudan, six armed groups have been training since the eruption of the war, two of which went for training in the neighboring Eritrea, and the other four continue to train within Sudan. To date, these groups have not been involved in the ongoing war or even supported any of the warring parties. Mr. Alain Daoud, the leader of one of the armed groups said that these armed groups are neutral and will not engage in the current war in support of or against any party. However, there are rumors that some of these groups may soon engage and participate in the war. Nonetheless we

a fearful that any provocation to these well trained armed groups will only add more fuel to the already blazing Sudan.

### **North Darfur**

In Elfashir, North Darfur, there has been a significant decrease in gunfights involving allied militia particularly those in support of SAF. It is notable that the militia and rebel groups have withdrawn from the checkpoints and have taken a step back from the war, abandoning SAF while RSF on the other hand continues heavy shelling in the city. It is reported that in the recent week, approximately 40,000 civilians have fled Elfashir city to the neighboring Tawilla.

Elfashir remains under siege by RSF and they have recently started mobilizing fighters from North, West, Central, and South Darfur states to join the war and fight against SAF. Additionally, the continued ban of humanitarian to Elfashir (despite RSF's previous commitment to allow the passage of aid to Darfur through Adre Point, the Chadian border) has had outrageous effects on the civilians. The militant control of Elfashir by RSF leaves one wondering about its effects on not only the residents but also the unity of the Sudanese people as a whole in the future.

### **Conclusion**

The armement of civilians, presence of trained armed group, coupled with the absence of serious interventions by the regional and international community are an indication that peace in Sudan is far from becoming a reality.