



## Sudan Media Forum Weekly Briefing Issue [15] | November 17, 2025

A curated weekly update on the most significant news from Sudan.

---

Hello,

Welcome to your weekly briefing. This week, the conflict continues to expand beyond El Fasher into Kordofan, as the army resists international calls for a ceasefire while political tensions rise on multiple fronts. In El Fasher, mounting testimonies reveal systematic atrocities and a massive displacement wave, with more than 100,000 people fleeing in just two weeks as children face the worst humanitarian crisis in Sudan's history. The United Nations has launched an urgent investigation into rights violations and warns of a collapsing aid response. Meanwhile, Egypt advances plans to cultivate one million feddans in northern Sudan, and emerging cultural initiatives highlight Sudan's rich identity despite the war.

---

### Top Story of the Week

[Kordofan Becomes New Frontline as RSF Tightens Grip and Battles Escalate After Fall of El Fasher](#)



Military mobilization has intensified across the Kordofan region as large-scale fighting shifts there following the fall of El Fasher—the last major city in Darfur—to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The RSF has tightened its siege on Babnousa in West Kordofan, where fierce clashes erupted between the two sides on Sunday.

RSF drone strikes also targeted oil production facilities in Heglig, located between South Kordofan and White Nile State, killing an engineer and injuring several workers. The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) announced that it intercepted RSF drones over Omdurman and in the Marawi area of Northern State.

The army declared it [had regained control](#) of Um Dam Haj Ahmed, northeast of El Obeid, the capital of North Kordofan, as well as Kazgeil to the south. It said its forces were advancing to break the sieges imposed on other towns in the state. On Saturday, the army deployed significant reinforcements and allied units across North Kordofan. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Sudan's military chief and head of the Sovereign Council, called on all individuals capable of bearing arms to join the fight against the RSF. He rejected the humanitarian ceasefire proposal pushed by the international Quartet, saying no truce could be discussed unless the RSF "lays down its weapons and gathers its fighters in designated areas."

"There will be no ceasefire and no negotiations with the RSF," Burhan asserted, adding: "We tell the mediators that dialogue will only happen after the rebels disarm... We will continue fighting until we bring the RSF to justice and eliminate it."

Sudanese Foreign Minister Mohieddin Salem reiterated that the government "does not officially engage" with the Quad. "We deal bilaterally with our brothers in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and with our friends in the United States," he said. Khartoum objects to the UAE's presence in the Quad, accusing Abu Dhabi of supporting the RSF with weapons and fighters.

---

## Political & Security Update

### US Calls for Global Action to Halt Arms Flow to RSF as Atrocities Mount in El Fasher

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has [urged coordinated](#) international action to stop the flow of weapons and support to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which he said have committed “horrific atrocities.” Rubio noted that this assistance is “clearly coming from outside Sudan—not only from countries financing it, but also from those allowing their territories to be used for transport and shipment.”

He accused the RSF of perpetrating “sexual violence and atrocities, including some of the worst violations committed against women, children, and innocent civilians.” Rubio rejected RSF claims that such abuses were the work of “rogue elements,” insisting: “These are not rogue actors. They are doing this systematically.”

Rubio also voiced deep concern over the low number of civilians fleeing besieged areas. “We fear the reason they are not leaving is because they are dead, or too ill and starved to move,” he said, describing the situation as “horrific.” Fewer than 89,000 out of an estimated 260,000 people trapped in El Fasher have managed to escape.

Meanwhile, President Trumb’s Special Envoy, Mossad Bolous, [described the humanitarian](#) situation in Sudan as the world’s largest crisis today, pointing in particular to the rapidly deteriorating conditions in El Fasher in recent weeks. He stressed that the crisis is “utterly unacceptable” and must be halted immediately, urging all parties to agree to a humanitarian ceasefire “without delay.” Speaking in Doha, he confirmed that “the ceasefire is currently under negotiation.”

Sudan’s Foreign Ministry [welcomed Rubio’s remarks](#). Foreign Minister Mohieddin Salem said Rubio’s acknowledgment of RSF brutality and the need to halt arms supplies sends “a strong message to countries involved in the Sudan peace file—whether they are supplying weapons to the RSF or allowing their territory and borders to be used for the

transfer of arms and mercenaries.”

The RSF dismissed Rubio’s comments. Basha Tabeeq, adviser to the RSF commander, called the US Secretary’s remarks “misguided,” arguing they do not serve the objectives of the Quartet or the US-led ceasefire initiative. He added that such statements give the other party “a sense of diplomatic victory,” reinforcing its rejection of a truce and fueling further military escalation.

## UN Rights Council Launches Urgent Fact-Finding Mission into Atrocities in El Fasher



The United Nations Human Rights Council on Friday adopted a resolution [establishing a fact-finding mission to investigate](#) violations and crimes committed against civilians in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur. The decision came during an emergency session in which member states unanimously endorsed the draft resolution.

The mandate grants the International Fact-Finding Mission on Sudan the authority to launch an immediate investigation into recent breaches of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in and around El Fasher, with a particular focus on identifying those responsible for the atrocities documented by multiple reports.

The resolution also calls on UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk to urge the Security Council to promptly refer the situation in Sudan to the International Criminal Court.

Türk condemned the ongoing violence in El Fasher, describing it as a “stain on the conscience of the international community,” which he said has failed to stop the bloodshed.

Sudan’s Foreign Ministry, along with several civil society groups, [welcomed the Human Rights Council’s](#) decision, which condemned the grave abuses committed by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and their allied militias in and around El Fasher. These violations include ethnically targeted killings, torture, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention of civilians, forced recruitment, and the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence as a

weapon of war.

## Fletcher from Sudan: Situation in El Fasher “Terrifying” as UN Dispatches Rapid Assessment Team



UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Tom Fletcher has warned that El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, is facing one of the [worst humanitarian crises](#) in Sudan after enduring more than 560 days under siege. Speaking to "Sudan Tribune" on Friday during a visit to Tawila—where thousands of civilians fleeing El Fasher have sought refuge—Fletcher said satellite imagery and survivor testimonies reveal “harrowing accounts” of rape, torture, and extortion around the city. He described the situation as [“terrifying,”](#) [stressing](#) that the scale of the crisis has overwhelmed humanitarian responders.

During his visit to Tawila, Fletcher met women who, he said, had endured “some of the worst horrors of the El Fasher siege.” He confirmed that the UN is working to deploy an assessment team to the city, provided full security guarantees can be obtained, and is attempting to evacuate the wounded and secure safe corridors for civilians wishing to leave.

The UN official warned of an operational breakdown driven by severe funding shortages, noting that this year’s \$4-billion humanitarian appeal for Sudan has received only one-third of the required resources.

Following conversations with women who fled El Fasher, [Fletcher stressed](#) the urgent need to halt atrocities and ensure accountability for the perpetrators. He underscored that the international community bears responsibility for protecting civilians and preventing further brutality.

Fletcher said he had pressed Sudanese authorities—led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan—as well as the Rapid Support Forces, to grant unfettered humanitarian access across all areas in need, and to ensure the protection of aid workers and civilians.

Over the past week, Fletcher conducted a multi-stop mission in Sudan, including meetings with government officials in Port Sudan and a trilateral discussion with Sudanese Foreign Minister Mohieddin Salem and Egypt’s Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty on the deepening humanitarian crisis. The [talks focused on the need](#) for greater international engagement and pressure on the RSF and the foreign actors supporting it. His tour also included several locations across Darfur, where conditions continue to deteriorate sharply.

## Sudanese Prosecutor Orders Journalists to Surrender

Sudan’s Senior Public Prosecutor has issued [an official notice ordering](#) a group of journalists and activists to surrender themselves within one week. The announcement is based on a broad criminal complaint invoking multiple provisions of the Criminal Act, the Counterterrorism Law, and the Cybercrimes Act.

The notice cites Article 78 of the 1991 Criminal Procedure Act, which allows prosecutors to publish public summonses when arrest warrants cannot be executed. It also references criminal case No. 4968/2025, which includes charges related to state security, incitement, terrorism, and cybercrimes.

The publicly released notice lists several journalists and activists, labeling them as fugitives evading enforcement of arrest warrants. Prosecutors claimed there is “reason to believe” the named individuals are deliberately concealing themselves to avoid arrest, urging them to surrender at the nearest police station within seven days. The announcement also called on the public to assist in their capture.

No official clarification was provided about which authority initiated the complaints, leading observers to conclude the case may be linked to security entities or de facto authorities seeking to curb the influence of independent media voices abroad.

Walid Al-Nour, Social Secretary of the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate, dismissed the charges as “malicious” and aimed at silencing professional journalists, calling the move a clear attempt to instill fear among media workers and obstruct their duty.

## The Emergency Lawyers Condemn Drone Strikes on Aid Convoys



The Emergency Lawyers group [condemned drone strikes](#)—allegedly carried out by the Sudanese army—on humanitarian aid trucks in Central Darfur on 6, 9, and 13 November as convoys made their way to El Fasher. In a statement issued Saturday, the group said the attacks destroyed several trucks and placed civilians and humanitarian staff “in extreme danger,” at a time when hundreds of thousands rely on emergency assistance amid a near-total collapse of basic services across the region.

The group stressed that targeting humanitarian convoys constitutes “a grave violation of international humanitarian law,” undermining both local and international efforts to deliver food and medicine to areas facing severe crisis. It warned that such attacks risk worsening hunger and disease, turning humanitarian operations into “an instrument of war” and stripping them of their neutrality and legitimacy.

---

## Humanitarian Focus

[UNHCR: 100,000 Flee El Fasher in Two Weeks as Survivors Describe “Unimaginable Horrors”](#)



The UN Refugee Agency ([UNHCR](#)) [has reported that](#) nearly 100,000 people have fled El Fasher and surrounding villages in the past two weeks alone. Jacqueline Wilma Parlevliet, head of the agency's sub-office, said many of those fleeing remain "trapped somewhere," adding that families who reached Tawila—about 50 kilometres from El Fasher—described "unimaginable horrors" both during and after their escape.

Speaking to journalists in Geneva via video briefing, Parlevliet highlighted extensive reports of rape, sexual violence, and scenes of profound desperation. "Parents are searching for their missing children, many of whom are traumatised by the conflict and the dangerous journey to safety," she said. She added that many families had lost young male relatives to arrest or forced recruitment by armed groups, often because they could not afford to pay ransom.

Parlevliet warned that thousands of people—especially the elderly, persons with disabilities, and the wounded—remain trapped in and around the city, "either because they are being prevented from leaving or because they lack the means or physical strength to flee."

Meanwhile, the [Humanitarian Aid Commission](#) in Al-Dabba, in Sudan's Northern State, announced that it has received around 57,000 displaced people fleeing the Darfur and Kordofan regions. They are now living in a camp in the Al-Afaad area of Al-Dabba town. The commission also reported that an additional 10,236 civilians left El Fasher between 9 and 12 November due to escalating insecurity, with displaced families spreading across El Fasher, Tawila, and Kutum.

Kawther Jaafar, the commissioner in Al-Dabba, said many of the new arrivals were suffering from shrapnel wounds, fractures, and severe malnutrition among children. The number of families in the camp, she noted, has risen sharply from 200 to 650—now exceeding 32,000 people—with expectations of further influxes in the coming days.

[UNICEF Warns: 10 Million Sudanese Children Displaced and Facing Life-](#)

## Threatening Shortages



Sheldon Yett, UNICEF's Representative in Sudan, has [warned that 10 million children](#) have been displaced and are now in urgent need of comprehensive assistance packages that include food, vaccinations, and basic essentials. He said children across the country are suffering from severe shortages of food and healthcare amid limited resources and overwhelming humanitarian needs. Many, he stressed, lack adequate vaccination doses and have no access to schooling.

According to the United Nations, five million Sudanese children are now homeless as a result of the conflict. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) also reports that more than 70 percent of children who fled from El Fasher to Tawila are suffering from malnutrition.

Figures show that the total number of displaced Sudanese has reached 10 million— including 1.8 million in South Darfur and 1.7 million in North Darfur. Another 978,000 people have been displaced from Central Darfur, while more than 21 million face severe levels of food insecurity.

Despite this unprecedented crisis, only 40 percent of displaced people across Sudan are receiving any form of assistance.

---

## Economic Snapshot

### Egypt Plans to Cultivate 1 Million Acres in Northern Sudan Amid Push for Agricultural Cooperation



Egypt aims to cultivate up to [one million acres in Sudan's northern states](#) over the next three years, taking advantage of abundant land and water, provided Sudan's security situation improves and stabilizes, according to an Egyptian government official. He explained that the first phase of the project will begin next year, covering 250,000 acres, targeting crops such as wheat, corn, soybeans, and rice.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between the Egyptian and Sudanese ministers of agriculture in mid-October, where both sides discussed ways to strengthen agricultural cooperation. The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture will mobilize private sector investors interested in working in Sudan, while the Sudanese government will provide the necessary land for cultivation.

Historically, Sudan has been known as the "breadbasket" of the Arab world, due to its vast arable land, water availability, and favorable climate. However, it faces structural challenges, including limited investment, weak infrastructure, and political instability, amid more than two years of ongoing conflict between the army and the Rapid Support Forces.

Sudan has already attracted agricultural investments from several Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as part of efforts to enhance their food security.

---

## In-Depth & Culture

### "The Sudanese Kitchen" : How a Chef's Journey Captured Sudan's Diverse Food Story



"The Sudanese Kitchen" is a distinctive new cookbook by British-Sudanese chef Omar El-Tigani, featuring more than one hundred traditional recipes collected during his travels across Sudan — particularly from communities beyond the capital, Khartoum. Far more than a recipe collection, the book maps Sudan's rich cultural diversity through its food.

El-Tigani, who describes himself as an ["honorary chef,"](#) has no formal culinary training, but has built deep expertise through hands-on research and fieldwork. Speaking to OkayAfrica, he says: "I gave myself that title because I developed so many skills while creating this book."

Finding written Sudanese recipes — especially in English — was not an easy task. He began by documenting dishes he grew up eating in his family, originally from northern Sudan. But he soon realized that "the Sudanese kitchen" could not be represented without the overlooked cuisines of Darfur, Kordofan, and eastern Sudan. "I wanted to create a food map that reflects all of Sudan, not just the central regions that have long dominated the country's image," he says.

The project received support from DAL Group and the World Food Programme, enabling research trips, photography, and oral-history interviews. These journeys unfolded against the backdrop of Sudan's 2019 revolution and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic – conditions that, El-Tigani notes, gave the work a sense of resistance. “For me, archiving our culture is a form of defiance against the erasure imposed by authorities and militias,” he explains.

The book highlights the blend of influences that shape Sudanese cuisine – from the Middle East and Turkey to West Africa – reflected in beloved local dishes across the country.

Organized into five symbolically titled chapters – “Sowing the Seeds,” “Growing Roots,” “Sprouting Shoots,” and culminating in “Bearing Fruit,” which features traditional drinks – each recipe is paired with a personal anecdote or historical insight, giving the book a deeply archival quality.

El-Tigani hopes this work will spark further exploration of Sudanese gastronomy, both among Sudanese and global readers. “I wanted to challenge the narrow narratives about Sudan in Western media, which often reduce the country to war and crisis. Sudan is so much more than that.”

---

## Further Reading

### East Nile: A City Caught Between Loss and Lawlessness, Yearning for the Silence of War



Residents are forced to endure deteriorating conditions with no alternatives, after enduring displacement journeys from one state to another without receiving humanitarian or relief aid, and having lost their livelihoods. Many prefer to return to their homes despite the destruction. Women and children are the most active in seeking a means to put food on the table, as employment opportunities for most young people remain scarce. Neighborhoods in the Haj Yousif area and across East Nile locality continue to live in total darkness and without access to drinking water, except in a few areas where local residents have pooled resources to provide solar energy and clean water. [Read the full story](#)

## Dissolution of Popular Resistance Committees: Does It Pave the Way for Army Acceptance of the Quad's Truce ?

As Sudan's April war approaches its third year, Washington is attempting to pierce the country's darkness through renewed mediation efforts led by the Quad, aiming to halt the conflict with a humanitarian truce, followed by a permanent ceasefire and a Sudanese-led political process.

These diplomatic efforts – urging both warring parties, the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), to accept a truce that could stem the bloodshed and mounting humanitarian suffering – had barely been underway when the RSF announced its acceptance of the Quad's proposal for a humanitarian ceasefire. The army, meanwhile, has yet to clearly state its position on the initiative. [Read the full story](#)

## Women's Bodies Have Become a Crime Scene in Sudan

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women ([UN Women](#)) has warned of the escalating violence faced by women and girls in Sudan, saying that “women's bodies have become a crime scene.”

Anna Mutavati, UN Women's Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, said that every day the world delays action on Sudan, “another woman gives birth under bombardment, buries her child due to hunger, or disappears without justice.”

She noted that women have reported extreme hunger, displacement, rape, and shelling in El Fasher – “the epicenter of Sudan's latest catastrophe” – where pregnant women were forced to give birth in the streets after the last functioning maternity hospital was looted and destroyed.

“Women tell us that on their terrifying journeys, every step taken to fetch water, collect firewood, or stand in food lines carries a high risk of sexual violence,” Mutavati warned. She stressed that women's bodies “have become a crime scene in Sudan,” adding that “there are no safe spaces left” for women to access protection or basic psychosocial support. Mutavati also said that many women and girls in Sudan may go entire days without eating. Women often skip meals to feed their children, while adolescent girls frequently receive the smallest portions – a pattern that is severely undermining their long-term nutrition and health.

## “We Won't Forget You” : UK Children Walk 250 Kilometres in Solidarity with a Sudanese Mother



In an inspiring humanitarian initiative that unfolded over seven days last October, a group of 24 participants – children and adults from across the United Kingdom – organized a series of collective walks covering a combined distance of 250 kilometres. Their mission: to raise funds and draw attention to the dire humanitarian conditions facing families in Sudan’s Darfur region.

The idea began with Rosie Hazleton, founder of the “Stride for Sudan” initiative, after she heard a BBC report about a Sudanese mother who was forced to walk for an entire week with her three children, with almost no food and only scarce amounts of water, in search of safety as violence escalated in Darfur. [Read The full story](#)

---

**Thank you** for reading. Your awareness and engagement are crucial. Please consider sharing this newsletter with others who may find it informative.

Feedback is always welcome! Just reply to this email.

Best regards,

[Newsroom Team/Sudan media Forum]





[Sudan Media Forum](#)



[facebook](#)



[X](#)

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please reply to this email with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

---

---