



Sudan Media Forum Weekly Briefing

Issue [14] | November 10, 2025

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

Hello,

Welcome to your weekly briefing. This week's newsletter highlights: Sudan's war expands from Darfur to Kordofan as fierce battles and mass displacement unfold, with over 50,000 civilians trapped under RSF control in El Fasher. The UN warns of looming atrocities and mass graves amid reports of widespread sexual violence. Médecins Sans Frontières withdraws after a deadly hospital strike that killed patients and pregnant women. Economically, the Central Bank ends its gold export monopoly as Sudan faces a staggering \$5 billion revenue loss.

Top Story of the Week

From El Fasher to Kordofan: Sudan's War Deepens as El Fasher Civilians Trapped Under RSF Control



Fierce battles have erupted across the Kordofan states between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), following the latter's full control of El Fasher. On Sunday, the RSF [launched an attack](#) on the 22nd Infantry Division of the Sudanese army in the city of Babnousa, West Kordofan State.

The Babnousa Emergency Room announced the complete displacement of the city's 177,000 residents, stating in a brief Facebook post on Sunday that the displacement rate had reached 100%, turning Babnousa into a ghost town as fighting consumed the area.

On Friday and Saturday, RSF forces carried out coordinated drone strikes targeting Sudanese army positions in four cities across four states — Omdurman in the capital, Atbara in River Nile State, El Obeid in North Kordofan, and Dilling in South Kordofan. Military sources said the army's air defenses intercepted several drones that targeted Atbara Airport and the military zone in Omdurman.

In Dilling, [South Kordofan](#), the RSF and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N) led by Abdelaziz al-Hilu shelled the city with heavy artillery for the second time in 24 hours. Local sources reported that the drone and artillery attacks on Dilling and El Obeid killed at least six civilians, including a child.

Meanwhile, witnesses and survivors from El Fasher [said on Sunday](#) that RSF forces are detaining more than 50,000 civilians in five main locations within the city and preventing them from leaving. The RSF has reportedly confiscated satellite internet devices (Starlink) and mobile phones in an apparent attempt to isolate the detainees from the outside world. The forces have also coerced captives—especially young men—into recording video and audio messages sent through RSF members' phones to their families, demanding ransom payments ranging from 5 million to 100 million Sudanese pounds in exchange for their release.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than 81,000 people have been displaced from El Fasher, including over 10,000 who fled to Al-Dabba locality in the Northern State.

Political & Security Update

Sudan Truce in Limbo: RSF Accepts Ceasefire, Army and Rebels Reject Terms Amid Civilian Threats



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While U.S. presidential advisor for Africa, Masud Boulos, confirmed that both sides in the Sudanese conflict have provisionally agreed to enter a truce, with details still being arranged, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) announced on Thursday their acceptance of the humanitarian ceasefire proposed by the Quad Mechanism, and began discussions on the arrangements for halting hostilities.

The Sudanese army's position remains [unclear regarding](#) the proposed truce. Meanwhile, the Council of Security and Defense welcomed efforts to end the suffering of the Sudanese people but emphasized the ongoing mobilization to defeat the RSF militarily. Army leaders pledged to continue the fight and eliminate the RSF, signaling an apparent [rejection](#) of the truce.

The Joint Force of Armed Movements rejected any notion of a ceasefire while RSF forces continue to occupy cities, neighborhoods, hospitals, and civilian facilities. The coalition described any political statements on a truce as "an attempt to whitewash violence and give the aggressor the opportunity

to reposition under the banner of peace.”

They stressed that a genuine truce requires the withdrawal of invading forces from cities, protection of civilians, and accountability for perpetrators of crimes and violations, asserting that these steps form the foundation for any credible peace process.

Darfur Regional Governor, Minni Arko Minawi, [added that](#) any ceasefire that does not ensure the withdrawal of RSF forces and their mercenaries from urban and civilian areas, and does not include civilian protection and prosecution of perpetrators, would be considered a step toward the fragmentation of Sudan.

French Mediation to Host New Sudanese Political Talks in Cairo Following Switzerland Consultations

The French organization Promediation is expected to host a [new round of consultations](#) between Sudanese political forces in Cairo, Egypt, in mid-November, following a similar round held in Switzerland just days earlier.

The Swiss city of Nyon hosted the previous round of political consultations at the end of October, bringing together numerous Sudanese factions. Participants subsequently announced that they had reached an agreement on the need to halt the war and engage in a comprehensive political process aimed at ending the conflict and laying the groundwork for democratic civilian governance.

Al-Wathiq Al-Burir, Secretary-General of the National Umma Party, said the upcoming meeting, scheduled for November 15, is part of efforts to strengthen Sudanese dialogue and end the war, continuing discussions from previous rounds to reach a consensus on launching the Sudanese political process and intra-Sudan dialogue.

He added that the meeting falls within regional and international efforts to find a resolution to Sudan’s national crisis through a fully Sudanese-led inclusive dialogue. The discussions will cover key issues, including Sudan’s territorial and national unity, ending the war and violations against civilians, and the importance of opening humanitarian corridors through a temporary truce to allow aid delivery to affected areas.

UN Rights Chief Warns of Looming Atrocities in Darfur and Kordofan as RSF Accused of Ethnic Killings and Systematic Sexual Violence



The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights renewed his call for an immediate end to the violence in Darfur and Kordofan, urging the international community to take urgent and bold measures to halt the escalating atrocities.

In a press statement, Volker Türk, the UN Human Rights Chief, said that “shocked civilians remain trapped inside El Fasher, prevented from leaving.” He added: “I fear the continuation of horrific atrocities within the city — including summary executions, rape, and ethnically motivated violence.”

Türk also issued a stark warning about the rapidly deteriorating situation in Kordofan, noting the

sharp rise in civilian casualties, destruction, and mass displacement since the RSF's seizure of El Fasher. "There are no signs of de-escalation," he said. "On the contrary, developments on the ground clearly point to preparations for an intensification of hostilities."

"Given the catastrophic violence in El Fasher," he continued, "States are warned that further massacres and atrocities are inevitable unless swift and decisive action is taken."

Meanwhile, a group of UN human rights experts expressed deep alarm over reports of widespread and systematic atrocities committed by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in El Fasher — including "extensive, deliberate, and sadistic acts of sexual violence used as a strategy of domination and humiliation aimed at destroying communities."

"We are particularly appalled," the experts said, "by reports of women being raped in front of their relatives and held for days in conditions amounting to torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment."

Eyewitnesses reported that RSF fighters stormed displacement shelters, selecting women and girls at gunpoint, and committing mass rapes of at least 25 victims. At least 100 displaced families were forced to flee under heavy gunfire, while elderly people were terrorized.

Reports also indicated that fleeing civilians were subjected to humiliating body searches, forced disappearances, kidnappings for ransom, and that women who tried to escape suffered additional sexual assaults. Entire groups intercepted on the road were reportedly beaten and subjected to racial abuse.

The experts further cited credible accounts of ethnically targeted summary executions of civilians in El Fasher carried out by the RSF.

ICC Urges Evidence Submission as Reports Emerge of RSF-Led Atrocities in El Fasher

The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has expressed deep concern over recent reports from El Fasher detailing mass killings, rape, and other crimes allegedly committed during attacks by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

In a statement last week, the Prosecutor's Office [urged all parties and individuals](#) to submit information and evidence related to these incidents (<https://otplink.icc-cpi.int>)— a move aimed at strengthening ongoing investigations and ensuring accountability for the violations. The office also provided an online link for submitting such materials directly.

According to the statement, the reported atrocities appear to form part of a broader pattern of violence that has engulfed the Darfur region since April 2023. The office noted that, if proven, these acts may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the ICC.

The statement recalled that, under UN Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005), the Court holds jurisdiction over crimes committed in the context of the Darfur conflict.

The Prosecutor's Office confirmed that it has been investigating alleged crimes in Darfur since the outbreak of hostilities in April 2023. It said it is working intensively to strengthen engagement with victim groups and civil society, and to enhance cooperation with national authorities and international organizations.

The office added that it is taking [immediate steps](#) within its ongoing investigation into the alleged crimes in El Fasher to preserve and collect relevant evidence for use in future prosecutions.

RSF Drone Strike Kills Patients in North Darfur, Prompting MSF to Pull Out



On November 3, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) carried out a drone strike on Korno Hospital, killing several patients, including children and two pregnant women, as part of a broader offensive targeting Tine and Um Baru.

[Médecins Sans Frontières](#) (MSF) announced on Thursday that it had been forced to withdraw from parts of North Darfur following repeated drone attacks. The organization said its teams were working to resume support for health facilities and ensure access to medical care, but that “the repeated airstrikes make this extremely difficult.”

There are growing fears that, after seizing El Fasher on October 26, the RSF could launch a ground assault on Arouri, Korno, Abu Gumra, and Tine — areas sheltering tens of thousands of displaced people — in an effort to tighten its control over the border with Chad. MSF said its teams in Chad have received 50 wounded individuals injured in the drone attacks since October 24.

RSF Accused of Mass Graves and Evidence Destruction in El Fasher — Yale Report Warns of Systematic Cover-Up



The Sudan [Doctors Network](#) has revealed that Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have, in recent days, collected hundreds of bodies from the streets and neighborhoods of El Fasher, before burying some in mass graves and burning others entirely in what the group described as a desperate attempt to erase evidence of crimes against civilians. The network described the situation as “a full-fledged act of genocide.”

A report by the Yale Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL) confirmed evidence of a systematic effort by the RSF to destroy forensic evidence and prevent international investigators from accessing sites of atrocities committed in El Fasher against civilians.

Using satellite imagery, the report documented the excavation of mass graves and freshly leveled soil at sites of mass executions, indicating deliberate attempts to conceal crimes and obliterate evidence.

The report urged the United Nations and the [International Criminal Court](#) (ICC) to launch an immediate investigation, warning that “any further delay could lead to the permanent loss of critical forensic evidence.”

Dr. Nathaniel Raymond, Director of the Yale Humanitarian Research Lab, said the imagery reveals “a systematic effort to conceal crimes – not merely emergency burials.”

The analysis, conducted by the [Yale School of Public Health](#), examined satellite images captured between mid- and late October, identifying what it described as “suspicious activity consistent with recent burials.” The findings point to the possible existence of multiple mass grave sites in and around El Fasher.

Over 150 Women Raped or Sexually Abused During Flight from El Fasher; 56 Young Women Detained in North Kordofan



Adam Rajal, spokesperson for the General Coordination of [Displaced and Refugee](#) Camps in Darfur, reported that more than 150 women were raped or sexually abused during their escape from El Fasher to Tawila, located approximately 60 kilometers west of El Fasher.

In North Kordofan, lawyer and human rights activist Rehab Mubarak, a member of the Executive Office of the Emergency Lawyers Group, revealed that [56 young Sudanese women](#) were arrested in Al-Obeid, facing charges of “collaboration with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)” in addition to nine other criminal charges. Some of the detainees have already been tried, while others are awaiting trial.

Mubarak stated that all detainees are under 20 years old and have reportedly been subjected to severe sexual exploitation and harassment by both sides of the armed conflict, under detention conditions lacking basic human rights.

She added that charges of collaboration with the RSF have become the most common accusation in Al-Obeid, noting that most detainees are displaced women who fled conflict zones in Gubish, Um Samima, and Um Arda, only to find themselves imprisoned instead of finding safety. According to Mubarak, they continue to endure abusive treatment at the hands of security forces and affiliated networks.

Humanitarian Focus

Famine Declared in El Fasher and Kaduqli as Millions in Sudan Face Severe Food Insecurity



¹ The Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) for Food Security has declared famine in El Fasher, North

Darfur, and Kaduqli, South Kordofan, warning that it could spread to other areas. According to [the report](#), “famine has occurred in El Fasher and Kaduqli and is expected to continue until January 2026, with 20 additional areas in Kordofan and Darfur at risk of famine.”

The report states that 21.2 million Sudanese, representing 45% of the population, are facing high levels of food insecurity. Among them, 6.3 million people are in an emergency phase and 375,000 individuals are in a catastrophe phase.

Malnutrition remains a major concern, with emergency thresholds exceeding 15% in over 60% of surveyed areas between January and July of this year. Four regions in Darfur were reported to have prevalence rates approaching or exceeding the famine threshold of 30%.

Sudan’s Poverty Soars to 71% Amid Conflict, Affecting 23 Million Citizens

A Sudanese minister revealed on Saturday that the country’s [poverty rate](#) has surged to 71% due to the ongoing conflict, noting that the government is seeking to reduce this figure through productive projects and employment opportunities.

The United Nations’ International Organization for Migration (IOM) published results of an assessment on October 25 showing that 86% of households struggle to purchase basic necessities, citing factors such as income decline, inflation, lack of cash circulation, and disruption of local markets.

At a press conference, Minister of Human Resources and Social Welfare, Mutaassim Ahmed Saleh, stated that “the poverty rate in Sudan has risen from 21% to 71% due to the war, according to official reports.” He added that 23 million Sudanese citizens now live below the poverty line.

Economic Snapshot

Central Bank Ends Gold Export Monopoly, But Sudan Faces \$5 Billion Revenue Shortfall



The Central Bank of Sudan has issued a directive [ending its monopoly](#) on gold exports, allowing companies to export the metal in a move aimed at liberalizing the gold market and promoting competition, according to an official statement.

This follows the bank’s September decision to ban companies and artisanal miners from buying and exporting gold, limiting purchases and exports exclusively to the central bank or its authorized agents.

Under the new directive, companies may export free-market gold and gold from mining residues, provided they comply with export procedures, sell at global market prices, and use advance

payment or confirmed letters of credit. Export proceeds can be used by gold exporters and may also be sold to any bank or back to the central bank. The minimum contract for gold exports is set at 10 kilograms, and government entities and foreign individuals or companies – except for concession companies – are prohibited from exporting the precious metal.

However, the Sudan Gold Exporters Association [warned of](#) “catastrophic effects” from the central bank’s decision to liberalize gold exports, highlighting serious repercussions for the export market and the national economy.

The association stated that Sudan has lost \$5 billion in gold export revenues that never reached the state treasury. While gold production exceeded 53 tons, valued at over \$6 billion, export revenues barely surpassed \$1 billion.

In a press statement, Abdelmonem Al-Sadiq, head of [the exporters association](#), said gold is the country’s primary export resource and was expected to play a critical role in alleviating the severe economic crisis caused by the ongoing conflict.

In-Depth & Culture

Tunisian Filmmaker Documents Sudanese Revolution in Award-Contending Documentary “Sudan Remember us”



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With modest resources and a small camera, Tunisian director Hind Al-Mouadheb succeeded in capturing powerful and poignant moments from the heart of the [Sudanese revolution](#) (2018–2019), presenting scenes imbued with both hope and pain.

Her documentary film, “Sudan Ya Ghali “ Sudan Remember Us ”, was selected for the official competition at the Marrakech International Film Festival 2024 in Morocco. The film explores the Sudanese revolution through human stories of young people aspiring for a free and democratic nation.

The Marrakech festival is considered one of the most important film festivals worldwide, particularly in the Mediterranean region, attracting renowned filmmakers and honoring cinematic achievements, with a strong focus on European, Indian, Arab, and American cinema.

In a statement, Al-Mouadheb explained that the idea for the film stemmed from her friendships with Sudanese refugees in Paris, who asked her to document their struggles and dreams. She added, “I began my journey alone and without major production resources, to present the true Sudan through the stories of ordinary people, far from a purely political angle.”

Despite the dangers she faced while filming in tense regions, Al-Mouadheb emphasized that her commitment to capturing the moment outweighed fear: “If I had thought about the danger, I wouldn’t have completed this film. I was driven by love and friendship.” She also highlighted the

importance of bringing Arab voices to the world stage.

The director has previously produced notable documentaries, including “Paris Stalingrad”, which chronicles the struggles of refugees, and “Tunisia Clash”, which examines social transformations through music.

Further Reading

From El Fasher to Al-Dabba: A Journey of Death, Loss, and Survival



At Hosh Mellit Center in Al-Dabba, Northern State, dozens of displaced families from El Fasher arrive in fragments—physically exhausted and emotionally shattered—after 17 months of siege and fighting. One family of women was seen weeping for their two sons: one killed during the fierce battles that led to the fall of El Fasher, and another who died on the road while fleeing. Their third son remains abducted by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) inside the city.

“A.”, a woman in her forties, recounted that her 15-year-old son was taken away by RSF fighters, who ordered her to leave the city without him and join the mass exodus of civilians escaping the violence. Among the displaced are dozens of children who made the journey from El Fasher to Al-Dabba without their families. They are now receiving psychological support after witnessing unspeakable horrors—both in El Fasher and along their perilous route to safety. [Read the full story](#) [Watch Video](#)

Beyond Kushayb: ICC conviction puts Bashir’s entire regime on trial



The back and feet of “Adam” (a pseudonym), a resident of the Mukjar locality, still bear the marks of the iron used to burn him in 2004. Ali Kushayb’s forces had arrested him on charges of allegiance to (Abdel Wahid al-Nur’s) forces and tortured him by burning him with a hot iron—“the traditional iron heated with charcoal”—and jumping on his stomach until his intestines protruded. More than twenty years after that incident, “Adam,” now in his sixties, still suffers from the effects of the torture, and the abdominal pain never leaves him. [Read the full story](#)

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Best regards,
[Newsroom Team/Sudan media Forum]
