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#StandWithSudan

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

Hello ,

Welcome to your weekly briefing. This week, The newsletter covers a dangerous military escalation in Sudan, marked by the expanded use of drones and continued bombardment and fighting from Al-Jazira to Darfur and the Blue Nile, amid a severe deterioration in security and humanitarian conditions. It also tracks Saudi-US diplomatic efforts to secure a humanitarian truce, alongside international warnings of the world's worst hunger and displacement crisis as the war reaches its 1,000-day mark. In addition, the newsletter examines controversial political, legal, and economic developments, while highlighting human stories and civil initiatives—most notably a Sudanese experience in empowering children with UN support—capturing both the depth of the tragedy and ongoing attempts at resilience.

 **Top Story of the Week**

Drone Warfare Intensifies Across Sudan as Fighting Spreads From Al-Jazira to Darfur



[Local sources said that](#) a Rapid Support Forces (RSF) drone attacked a Sudan Shield Forces camp at two locations in the Al-Butana plain, east of Al-Jazira State, killing one soldier and wounding five others.

On Monday, the Sudanese army announced it had repelled an RSF attack targeting three strategic sites in Northern State. In a statement, the 19th Infantry Division said its air defenses in Merowe successfully intercepted “suicide drones” launched by the RSF against the division’s headquarters, Merowe Air Base, and the Merowe Dam. The statement added that all drones were shot down before reaching their targets, with no casualties or damage reported.

Meanwhile, clashes have resumed in West Darfur near the Chadian border between the Joint Force allied with the Sudanese army and the RSF and its allies, amid conflicting reports over actual control on the ground.

The [Sudanese army also said](#) its air and ground units carried out intensive strikes on RSF positions in the Darfur and Kordofan regions, as well as on supply routes extending toward southern Libya. Army spokesperson Brig. Gen. Asim Awad stated on Friday that the RSF had lost more than 240 combat vehicles and suffered hundreds of casualties. He added that several strategic drones, hideouts, and operating stations at Nyala Airport were destroyed.

In contrast, the RSF claimed on Thursday that it had shot down a Turkish-made “Akinci” drone over the city of Nyala, South Darfur, alleging the aircraft was attempting to “target civilians.”

[RSF attacks on the localities](#) of Tina, Um Baru, and Karnoi in North Darfur—areas predominantly inhabited by the Zaghawa ethnic group—have displaced thousands and sharply worsened the humanitarian situation. Residents fled to valleys and caves under harsh conditions, while reports indicated that RSF forces looted markets and hospitals.

Political & Security Update

Saudi–US Diplomatic Push Seeks Humanitarian Truce in Sudan



The past week has seen intensified diplomatic efforts involving Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and the United States to secure a humanitarian truce in Sudan, to be followed by a ceasefire between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

On Wednesday, Saudi Arabia’s deputy foreign minister [arrived in Port Sudan](#), while the Saudi foreign minister traveled to Washington. These moves followed a meeting held in Riyadh on the war in Sudan between the US Special Envoy for the Middle East and Africa, Massad Boulos, and senior Saudi officials.

According to Sudan’s Sovereignty Council, Council Chairman and Army Commander Abdel Fattah al-Burhan met in Port Sudan with Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister Walid Al-Khuraiji. A statement said the talks addressed the peace initiative jointly sponsored by the Saudi Crown Prince and the US president, aimed at resolving the Sudanese crisis and restoring peace.

In the same context, media reports said a meeting was set to take place in Washington between US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and his Saudi counterpart.

The reports indicated that the Washington talks followed a meeting in Saudi Arabia between Boulos and Saudi officials, which focused on joint efforts—alongside US regional partners—to reach a humanitarian ceasefire in Sudan.

In a post on X, Boulos said he had held a “productive meeting” with senior Saudi officials, focusing on the situation in Sudan and the urgent need to reach a humanitarian truce that would allow aid access and ease civilian suffering.

The meeting included Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman, Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Deputy Foreign Minister Walid Al-Khuraiji, and political adviser Prince Musab bin Mohammed Al-Farhan.

Boulos said discussions also covered coordinated Saudi–US efforts, in consultation with regional partners, to advance de-escalation and push toward calm in Sudan.

Sudan Airstrikes Hit Blue Nile as Fears Grow of Cross-Border Escalation



Military sources said the Sudanese army carried out [airstrikes on Sunday](#) targeting the town of Yabous in the Blue Nile region, a stronghold of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N) led by Abdelaziz al-Hilu.

A senior official said that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and their allies continue to mobilise thousands of fighters near the localities of Kurmuk and Qeissan along the Ethiopian border, amid rising military tensions in the area.

The air assault was described as a pre-emptive move in response to intensified mobilisation by the RSF and the SPLM-N, which are reportedly preparing to launch attacks on parts of the Blue Nile region from Ethiopian territory, with backing from the United Arab Emirates.

According to military sources, Sudanese warplanes struck supply trucks and fighter assembly camps in Yabous from the early hours of Sunday morning.

Meanwhile, a senior government official told Sudan Tribune that both the central government and the Blue Nile regional administration are closely monitoring the influx of thousands of mercenaries from Ethiopia and South Sudan, in addition to fighters arriving from Colombia. The

official said these forces had been observed near Kurmuk and Qeissan along the Ethiopian border.

He further claimed that the town of Assosa, in Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz region, continues to receive Emirati cargo aircraft arriving from Puntland in Somalia's self-declared Somaliland region, carrying military supplies and foreign experts overseeing the operation of drones and air defence systems.

Pakistan Nears \$1.5bn Arms Deal to Supply Sudanese Army with Jets and Drones

Sources told *Reuters* that Pakistan is in the final stages of concluding a \$1.5 billion deal to supply Sudan with weapons and aircraft, in what would represent significant support for the Sudanese army in its confrontation with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The deal reportedly includes 10 Karakoram-8 light attack aircraft, more than 200 drones for reconnaissance and strike missions, and advanced air defense systems. It also covers Super Mushshak trainer aircraft, as well as a number of JF-17 fighter jets, which were jointly developed with China and are manufactured in Pakistan.

RSF Transfers Detainees to Nyala as Reports Warn of Deaths in Detention



[Volunteers said that](#) the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have transferred dozens of detainees from West Kordofan to the city of Nyala in South Darfur. The RSF is holding more than 19,000 people, including around 5,000 civilians, in detention facilities in Nyala, which it has designated as the seat of its parallel administration. Reports have warned of deaths inside the detention centres due to hunger, torture and medical neglect.

In a statement, the Dar Hamar Emergency Room said that “RSF militias forcibly transferred around 40 young detainees from the town of Al-Nuhud in West Kordofan to Nyala.” It added that the detainees had been abducted from various areas across West Kordofan.

The group expressed grave concern over the fate of other detainees with whom all contact has been lost, saying it has no information about their condition and does not rule out the possibility that they may have been executed inside detention centres.

A member of the Dar Hamar Emergency Room said the RSF attack on the areas of Um Jak and Jadallah on Wednesday was accompanied by a wide campaign of arbitrary arrests targeting local residents. He also reported that RSF elements had sought financial ransoms from some families in exchange for the release of their relatives.

UK Foreign Secretary: The World Is Failing the Sudanese People Catastrophically



UK Foreign Secretary [Yvette Cooper has said](#) the world is “catastrophically failing the Sudanese people,” announcing plans to hold an international conference in partnership with Germany in Berlin next April, marking three years since the outbreak of the war in Sudan.

In an article published to coincide with the 1,000th day of the conflict, Cooper wrote: “The world is failing the Sudanese people in catastrophic ways. Today marks a bleak milestone—1,000 days since the outbreak of a brutally violent and devastating war, marked by unspeakable atrocities, millions facing famine, horrific abuses against Sudanese women, and a humanitarian crisis now larger than any other in the 21st century.”

She warned that the security repercussions of the conflict could extend far beyond Sudan and persist for many years to come.

Cooper said she was determined to ensure continued international attention on the unfolding atrocities and to make 2026 the year in which the world mobilises its efforts to secure peace. She added that the war in Sudan has taken on regional and global dimensions, describing it as “a war that represents a global test of our ability to rapidly mobilise effective coalitions.”

She noted that she held talks last month in Washington with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and with the US president's senior adviser on Africa, and that she has remained in close contact with members of the Quad on next steps. She stressed the need to focus international efforts on securing and guaranteeing a ceasefire, similar to the approach taken in Gaza.

Cooper also said the United Kingdom would use its voice—and its presidency of the UN Security Council next month—to prevent Sudan from once again slipping down the list of international priorities.

45 Sudanese Parties and Civil Groups Sign 'Cairo Charter' to End War and Restore Civilian Rule

Forty-five political parties, movements, trade unions and public figures have [signed a comprehensive national document](#) titled the "Cairo Charter," aimed at charting a clear path to ending the armed conflict and fulfilling the demands of the December Revolution, with a strong focus on rebuilding civilian legitimacy and restoring the constitutional process.

The charter is grounded in a sober assessment of the gravity of the current situation and the accelerating erosion of state institutions in Sudan, warning that the country is approaching a point of no return. In its preamble, the document reaffirms commitment to the revolution's core slogans—freedom, peace and justice—while stressing that ending the war must be the absolute top priority, superseding all other issues, in order to protect the national fabric from fragmentation and division.

Signatories agreed on a set of fundamental commitments, including unconditional adherence to the unity of Sudan's territory and people, and prioritising the protection of civilians and the delivery of humanitarian assistance above all else. The charter also emphasises the activation of justice and accountability mechanisms and the need to ensure an end to impunity.

The document seeks to unify the civilian bloc within a single centre bringing together political parties, trade unions, women and youth. It further underscores the restoration of constitutional institutions and the reform of the security and military sectors, in coordination with international mediators such as the Quad mechanism. The charter also calls for rejecting racist rhetoric and adopting a media discourse that supports peace and builds on the outcomes of the Nairobi Declaration of Principles.

Sudan Bar Faces Backlash After Revoking Licences of 31 Lawyers

Sudan's legal community has voiced [widespread criticism](#) after the Sudanese Bar Association in Port Sudan revoked the licences of 31 lawyers, barring them from practising before all courts and legal bodies.

The decision was issued by the Lawyers Admission Committee of the Bar Association—formed in Port Sudan following the outbreak of the April 15 war—which lawyers accuse of being aligned with the former regime ousted by the December Revolution. The committee said the decision was based on findings that those affected had joined the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) or were involved in political or armed organisations, arguing that this constituted a violation of the ethics and honour of the legal profession. It said the move was grounded in Articles 25(1)(h), 25(2), 65 and 66 of the Legal Profession Act.

The decision drew sharp criticism from broad segments of lawyers and human rights advocates, who described it as politically motivated. Among the most vocal critics were the Democratic Lawyers Alliance and the Steering Committee of the Sudanese Bar Association, which said the cited legal provisions do not relate to a lawyer's professional, trade union, intellectual or political activity. Instead, they argued, the articles concern specific disciplinary procedures linked to professional practice and do not apply to the cases covered by the decision.

In a separate statement, the Sudanese Bar Association declared the decision null and void, saying it had been issued by an unauthorised body that had usurped the powers of the Disciplinary Council. The association stressed that any disciplinary sanctions must be issued exclusively by the Disciplinary Council, rendering the decision unlawful. It added that the move “violated all fundamental procedural requirements.”

 **Humanitarian Focus**

1,000 Days of War: UN Agencies Warn Sudan Faces the World's Worst Hunger and Displacement Crisis



UN relief agencies marked 1,000 days since [the outbreak of the war](#) in Sudan by highlighting its devastating toll, describing it as the world’s largest hunger crisis and the biggest emergency displacement situation globally. Civilians, they said, continue to “pay the price for a war they did not choose” with each passing day.

Latest UN data show that 9.3 million people remain displaced by the conflict across Sudan, while more than 4.3 million have fled across borders. More than 21 million people are suffering from acute food insecurity nationwide.

Fighting continues “on multiple fronts in Kordofan,” according to Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). He said sieges have cut off roads leading to Kadugli—the capital of South Kordofan state—and Dilling, restricting access to food, healthcare, farms and markets. Daily drone and missile attacks persist, while in Darfur “ground clashes and drone strikes from the air continue,” he added.

Laerke said children are still being killed and injured amid ongoing hostilities, with reports indicating that eight children were killed in an attack on the city of El Obeid in North Kordofan earlier this week. According to UNICEF, nearly 5,000 children have been displaced every day since the conflict began in April 2023.

UNICEF spokesperson Ricardo Pires said many children have been displaced repeatedly, “with violence following them wherever they flee.” He warned that millions of children are also at risk of rape, including infants.

The statement also highlighted “widespread” violence and sexual abuse against women, estimating that around 12 million people—mostly women and girls—are at risk of gender-based violence.

Laerke noted that 1,000 days is nearly half the duration of the Second World War, issuing an urgent appeal calling for: first, an immediate cessation of hostilities and genuine steps toward a lasting peace; second, full compliance with international humanitarian law, including facilitating

aid access across conflict lines and protecting civilians, aid workers and civilian infrastructure; and third, renewed mobilisation of funding.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said nearly one-third of Sudan’s population has been displaced during the conflict—more than 15 million people, including 11.58 million internally displaced and about 4 million who fled across borders at the height of the crisis. IOM Director General Amy Pope said the conflict has “taken a devastating toll on the Sudanese people,” adding: “The resilience of the Sudanese people must be met with sustained international action.”

Economic Snapshot

RSF Moves to Establish Parallel Banking System, Deepening Sudan’s Economic Fragmentation



The civil administration affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), in cooperation with the “Ta’sis” (Founding) Alliance, has begun taking concrete steps to establish a central bank and [a parallel banking system](#) in areas under its control—an initiative that threatens to further entrench institutional and economic fragmentation in war-torn Sudan.

In recent days, the civil administration in East Darfur State announced the launch of procedures to establish the “Future Bank,” the region’s first banking institution, aimed at addressing acute cash shortages and the collapse of the conventional financial system.

Mohamed Idris Khater, head of the civil administration in East Darfur, said the bank would rely on “electronic banking” to overcome logistical challenges and provide fundamental solutions to the absence of banking services in the Darfur and Kordofan regions.

For his part, Hasab al-Nabi Mahmoud, a member of the leadership body of the Ta’sis Alliance, outlined a broader plan that includes appointing a finance minister as part of a transitional

“Government of Unity and Peace,” establishing a new central bank, and initiating the issuance of civil documentation, alongside addressing land disputes and court-related matters.

Mahmoud argued that over the past three years Sudanese citizens have faced worsening economic hardships linked to the national economy, the Central Bank of Sudan, and the Ministry of Finance—institutions he accused the Justice and Equality Movement of having “hijacked” as part of a war-time division of state institutions treated as “spoils” by parties based in Port Sudan. He stressed that “the time has come to reclaim state institutions,” asserting that this would be achieved through the creation of new national institutions to serve the Sudanese people under a “Ta’sis Alliance government.”

Culture & In-Depth

Sudanese entrepreneur Fadwa Hussein empowers children through an academy supported by "UNIDO"



What began as a challenge faced by working mothers like [Fadwa has grown](#) into the "Suleiman Hussein Academy" , nurtured with support from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), specifically its Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Bahrain, in collaboration with the International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Fadwa told UN News: “UNIDO helped us with ideas and guided us on how to start our journey toward building the project.”

The partnership materialized in what Fadwa described as a “first step”—integrating children with special needs into the academy, particularly children with autism.

She added: “UNIDO representatives would come to Sudan to hold lectures and workshops for students, helping us plant the seed of entrepreneurship in children from the age of 10.”

The academy, together with UNIDO, encouraged children to launch small projects, such as printing a book or preparing food products, and to showcase their work and marketing skills within the academy.

Since its founding in 1994 as a small kindergarten with fewer than ten students, the Suleiman Hussein Academy has grown into a vibrant educational institution serving more than 650 students from preschool through secondary school. Its philosophy focuses on holistic development, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and leadership.

Fadwa and her sister Fadia’s efforts led to Fadwa being recognized among 60 women entrepreneurs worldwide, spotlighted during UNIDO’s 21st General Conference in 2025 held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

At the conference, standing before a display featuring her image as part of UNIDO’s “ELLEvate” campaign, Fadwa encouraged women and girls to draw inspiration from her experience.

She specifically urged women to explore careers in early childhood education, noting that many countries lack institutions or companies providing kindergartens for working parents. She also emphasized the importance of continuous development to keep pace with global trends.

Reflecting on her journey, Fadwa addressed women directly: “Whatever your field of study, if you find passion in any profession, follow that path. No matter the challenges, there are always solutions.”

Further Reading

[**Sudan on the Brink of Famine: Besieged Cities and Weak International Response**](#)



Sudan’s hunger crisis is no longer just a warning—it has become an everyday reality in entire cities, where survival is measured in meals rather than days. In these areas, local “tukayas” (informal communal kitchens) have become a forced substitute for both the state and the market. Between Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) data confirming the existence of actual famine and field reports of families going without food for two consecutive days, Sudan now faces the most severe food security emergency in its modern history. Meanwhile, international response continues to falter amid ongoing conflict, sieges, and economic collapse. [Read the full story](#)

Khartoum Through the Eyes of Returnees



Halimah Hussein, who recently returned to Khartoum from Egypt, said: “I heard from my sisters that the situation was stable and conditions had improved, but upon my return, I found a completely different reality. The economic situation is extremely difficult, and security remains fragile, with sporadic disturbances involving some youth, mobilized groups, and joint forces.

Theft and looting continue in several neighborhoods.” [Read the full story](#)

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Best regards,

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