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Sudan Media Forum Weekly Briefing

Issue [22] | January 26 , 2026

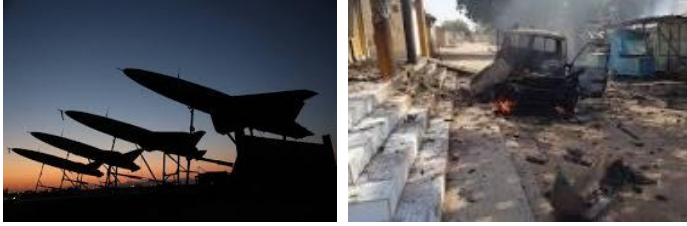
A curated weekly update on the most significant news from Sudan.

Hello ,

Welcome to your weekly briefing. This week, the pace of war in Sudan is accelerating, as fighting spreads from Kordofan to Blue Nile State, bringing a growing toll of civilian casualties, escalating violations, mass displacement, and deepening humanitarian and economic collapse. Amid stalled political initiatives, internationally documented crimes, the breakdown of education, and the collapse of the national currency, civilian suffering continues to intensify — turning Sudan into one of the world’s gravest humanitarian crises.

Top Story of the Week

Sudan War Widens: Heavy Fighting in Kordofan and Blue Nile Leaves Civilian Casualties



Intense attacks have continued across parts of South and North Kordofan by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), leaving dozens of civilians killed and wounded, as the violence expanded to include Blue Nile State in the country's southeast.

[Government sources](#) reported that on Sunday, RSF forces — in coordination with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N) led by Abdelaziz al-Hilu — launched a large-scale offensive targeting several areas in the Blue Nile region, advancing from territories inside South Sudan.

In South Kordofan, [Sudan Doctors Network](#) said, a man and a woman were killed and dozens injured in the city of Al-Daleng after a drone strike carried out by an RSF drone allied with the SPLM-N.

Meanwhile, Sudanese Armed Forces air defenses shot down three drones over the city of El-Obeid, North Kordofan, on Thursday morning. Earlier, the Sudanese army had repelled a large-scale RSF attack involving artillery and drones on the Wadi Al-Hout area, north of El-Obeid. Military sources confirmed that the army successfully halted RSF advances toward Wadi Al-Hout, a strategic defense line that prevents forces from penetrating deeper into El-Obeid and the military airport. They reported that North El-Obeid was subjected to heavy artillery shelling and suicide drone attacks, focusing on advanced defensive positions securing the northern entrances to the city.

Local [civilian sources said](#) the shelling resulted in civilians being injured in surrounding villages, amid continued heightened security measures by the Sudanese Armed Forces and allied forces to repel ground infiltration attempts following the bombardment. The attacks also triggered a new wave of displacement, with people northern areas fleeing toward central El-Obeid. Sources warned of a deteriorating humanitarian situation due to the siege imposed on the city's main access routes.

In a separate development, an RSF drone was sighted over the city of Singa in Sennar State, leading to the suspension of schools and a one-day school closure, according to military sources.

Political & Security Update

US–Saudi Initiative Proposes Phased Ceasefire in Sudan as Civilian Coalition Launches European Diplomatic Push



The Sudanese government has [received a new initiative](#) led by the United States and Saudi Arabia aimed at ending the war in Sudan, according to sources cited by Asharq News. The proposal is based on a phased approach, beginning with the declaration of a “humanitarian truce,” followed by a stage to halt hostilities, ultimately leading to a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Sources said that the Chairman of Sudan’s Sovereignty Council, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, has discussed the US-Saudi proposal with a number of his partners during intensive meetings and consultations, with a formal response expected to be delivered to the US administration.

Separately, a delegation from the [Civil Democratic Coalition of Revolutionary](#) Forces, known as “Somoud,” led by former Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, launched a European tour last week to discuss the Sudan crisis. The tour began with meetings in Paris with Emmanuel Blatmann, Director General for African Affairs at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and officials responsible for Sudan and the Horn of Africa portfolio.

The discussions focused on the devastating consequences of the war in Sudan, its catastrophic humanitarian impact, and the grave violations committed by both parties to the conflict.

In a statement, the “Somoud” coalition stressed the need for the international community to play an active role in securing an immediate end to the war, warning that continued fighting risks the disintegration of the Sudanese state and threatens its unity. The coalition also cautioned that the ongoing conflict could turn Sudan into a hub for terrorism, posing serious risks to regional and international peace and security.

During the meetings, the delegation presented a comprehensive vision for resolving the crisis, centered on the immediate declaration of an unconditional humanitarian truce to allow the delivery of aid to affected populations and to create conditions for the launch of an inclusive political process.

The coalition said the political process should include all Sudanese forces, excluding the Islamic Movement and its various political fronts. It also stressed the importance of accountability for serious violations, including war crimes and crimes against humanity, and called for an end to external support for the warring parties.

Sudan Army Moves to Form Transitional Legislature Amid Push for Political Legitimacy



Informed sources told [Sudan Tribune](#) that the leadership of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) is currently undertaking wide-ranging political moves aimed at ending the constitutional vacuum through the formation of a Transitional Legislative Council.

Sources said the military leadership has entered a series of intensive consultations with political parties aligned with the army, in a bid to secure civilian political backing that would provide legitimacy for the anticipated council. The appointments, according to the sources, will be made by decree of the Sovereignty Council.

Military sources indicated that the proposed composition of the legislative council will be dominated by pro-army political parties, members of armed movements that signed peace agreements, and representatives from Sudan's regions. The appointments are also expected to include a group of technocrats, representatives of the states, and figures from civil society.

Observers believe the accelerated pace of these consultations is driven by several strategic objectives, including the approval of budgets and legislation, undercutting international initiatives, and passing a number of agreements and understandings with countries supportive of the Sudanese Armed Forces — effectively creating a new political reality from within.

35 Killed and Injured in Sudanese Army Airstrike as Military Intelligence Seizes 400 Homes in Kordofan



Emergency Lawyers Group said , [A drone operated by the Sudanese army](#) struck a market in the Abu Zaeema area in North Kordofan on Friday, January 23, killing five civilians and wounding 30 others, including women and children.

Sudanese rights activist and Emergency Lawyers Group member Rehab Mubarak said [military intelligence](#) has confiscated 400 homes belonging to civilians in the town of Um Rawaba, North Kordofan state, on accusations of collaborating with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Mubarak said the seizures were carried out through what is known as the army intelligence’s “security cell,” a unit operating under military intelligence authority.

In a post on her Facebook account, Mubarak cited sources from the Taiba neighbourhood in Um Rawaba as confirming the confiscation of hundreds of homes from their owners on allegations of cooperation with the RSF. She said the security cell also assaulted the wife of a lawyer and forcibly evicted her from their home after her husband was arrested and taken to the security cell’s premises.

Mubarak added that Um Rawaba is experiencing widespread fear and panic among residents due to what she described as a heavy-handed security crackdown, forcing many families to flee their neighbourhoods.

The Sudanese army announced in late January 2025 that it had regained control of Um Rawaba — one of the largest cities in North Kordofan — from the RSF, which had held the town since September 2023.

ICC Prosecutor Documents War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity in El Fasher



The [International Criminal Court's](#) Deputy Prosecutor, Nazhat Shameem Khan, said the Office of the Prosecutor has documented war crimes and crimes against humanity in the city of El Fasher in North Darfur, particularly in late October, based on evidence and information collected by the office.

Briefing the UN Security Council on the situation in Darfur, Khan warned that the region is undergoing what she described as “mass torture,” saying that the fall of El Fasher to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) was accompanied by an organised and systematic campaign that particularly targeted non-Arab communities.

She said the campaign included rape, arbitrary arrests, executions and mass graves, all committed on a large scale.

Khan also referred to investigations into events in El Geneina in 2023, noting that eyewitnesses provided evidence of attacks on camps for internally displaced people, looting of property, arbitrary detentions, gender-based crimes and crimes against children.

“The evidence shows that patterns of atrocities seen in El Geneina were repeated in El Fasher in 2025, and that this criminality is being reproduced from one city to another across Darfur. It will continue until this conflict ends and the culture of impunity that fuels it is dismantled,” she said.

Khan stressed that sexual violence, including rape, is being used as a weapon of war in Darfur, adding that systematic and effective investigations into these crimes will remain a top priority for the Office of the Prosecutor. She also underscored the obligation of all parties to the conflict to comply with international law and to refrain from targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure.

[Sudan's Gezira State Files 60,000 Criminal Complaints Against RSF, Accusing It of Mass Killings](#)

Sudan's Gezira state authorities said on Saturday they had registered more than [60,000 criminal complaints](#) against the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), accusing the paramilitary group of direct killings that left more than 6,000 civilians dead.

The RSF, which controlled Gezira state between December 2023 and early 2025, carried out killings and sexual violence in retaliatory attacks targeting hundreds of villages and residential communities, state officials said.

Gezira Governor Al-Tahir Ibrahim said the RSF had killed more than 6,333 civilians in direct attacks, while more than 10,000 others died as a result of the war. He added that authorities had documented over 60,000 cases of violations, including murder, looting and theft committed by the force across the state.

The governor also said the RSF recruited underage children, with 97 minors arrested while fighting in its ranks during the liberation of the state. He accused the group of practicing forced marriage and child marriage, and of deliberately starving residents of the city of Hailaliya by blocking the entry of food and medical supplies, leading to the deaths of more than 1,200 people. Ibrahim further accused the RSF of deliberately destroying infrastructure, the Gezira agricultural scheme and the Agricultural Research Corporation, including the destruction of its gene bank, which contained 27,000 genetic samples.

Sudan War Kills, Detains Dozens of Lawyers, Emergency Lawyers Group Says



Sudan's Emergency Lawyers Group said 48 of its members have been [killed or detained](#) by both sides of the conflict since the outbreak of war on April 15, 2023, until January this year.

The group said a security cell — a force composed of the army, police and intelligence services with powers of arrest, search and investigation — has been carrying out arrests of activists, lawyers, doctors, teachers and emergency room volunteers on allegations of collaborating with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

In areas under RSF control, the group said the paramilitary force has systematically silenced civilian voices through intimidation, arbitrary detention and assassinations.

Mohamed Salah al-Din, a member of the Emergency Lawyers' executive office, said that around 16 lawyers have been killed and 32 others detained by both sides of the conflict. He added that 24 lawyers have been released in recent months, while eight remain in detention.

He condemned what he described as the continued targeting of civilian forces associated with Sudan's December Revolution because of their opposition to the war and their support for a civilian democratic transition.

Al-Din said most cases of targeting and detention of lawyers stem from their legal representation of victims in politically motivated and malicious prosecutions. He warned that many detainees face threats and intimidation, undermining the right to legal representation, due process, and the integrity of judicial proceedings and trials.

RSF Accused of Looting Civilians, Killing Trader in West Kordofan

A local [emergency room](#) in Dar Hamar, West Kordofan state, accused Rapid Support Forces (RSF) elements of looting civilians at gunpoint after blocking the Al-Obeid–Al-Nehoud road.

The group said on Thursday evening the RSF stopped unarmed civilians traveling from Al-Obeid carrying food supplies for local communities, seized their goods and cash, and confiscated four motorcycles belonging to villagers. They also reported that one civilian was killed while transporting goods on animal-drawn cart from Al-Obeid to his family in the northern countryside of Al-Nehoud.

Villages in the Al-Nehoud and Wad Banda areas have been repeatedly targeted by armed groups on motorcycles and military vehicles, who rob civilians traveling between villages. Local traders and residents have come under direct gunfire during these raids, resulting in multiple injuries. The attacks have forced hundreds of families to flee their homes and take shelter in valleys, amid a complete absence of security protection in the rural areas.

Sudan Crisis on the Agenda at Davos Amid Calls for Urgent Ceasefire



The World Economic Forum in Davos on Thursday dedicated a session to [discuss the situation in Sudan](#), focusing on the escalating humanitarian crisis and its regional implications, with participation from senior United Nations officials.

Side meetings highlighted Sudan's plight, including a meeting between Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and U.S. President Donald Trump, where both leaders emphasized the urgent need for a humanitarian truce and an end to the suffering of the Sudanese people. Discussions among world leaders explored solutions to transition from emergency aid delivery to international pressure mechanisms and political and field stabilization. Proposals also called on the UN Security Council to expand the current arms embargo on Darfur to cover all of Sudan to prevent further escalation of the conflict.

Speakers at the session warned that Sudan remains at the top of the emergency watch list for the third consecutive year, with millions requiring urgent assistance amid severe shortages of water, food, and shelter. They stressed that the conflict "is not a background crisis but a frontline crisis," expressing concern over the potential spillover into neighboring countries.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Burhan Saleh, said the Sudanese conflict is no longer a purely domestic issue, noting that its humanitarian and security repercussions extend beyond the country's borders. He highlighted gaps in protection systems for refugees and internally displaced persons revealed during recent visits to Chad and Kenya, reporting that roughly one-third of families lack adequate shelter and that healthcare and psychosocial support services meet less than 20% of actual needs.

The forum also stressed the urgent need to address funding shortfalls, noting that only 28% of the UN humanitarian plan had been financed as of early 2026.

□ Humanitarian Focus

Over 8 Million Sudanese Children Denied Education After 1,000 Days of Conflict



Two international organizations have warned that more than eight million children in Sudan have been denied their right to education after over 1,000 days of ongoing conflict.

[UNICEF said](#) the prolonged crisis threatens to create a lost generation, putting the country’s future at serious risk, deepening inequality, and delaying recovery for decades. Speaking to UN News on the International Day of Education, UNICEF Sudan spokesperson Eva Hinds said the widespread collapse of the education system reflects unprecedented damage to infrastructure and essential services caused by the war. She noted that one-third of schools in the country are no longer usable due to destruction or conflict-related damage.

Hinds said around 6,400 schools have been fully closed, while 11% of schools are being used as shelters for displaced families or for non-educational purposes, effectively taking nearly half of school buildings out of educational service. She added that nearly five million children have been displaced from their homes since the conflict began, disrupting access to teachers and learning materials and severely affecting continued education.

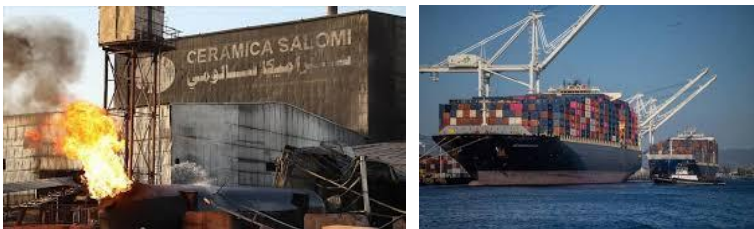
[Save the Children described](#) roughly half of school-age children in Sudan as having dropped out of the education system due to the war, calling it one of the worst education crises in the world. Its report noted that millions of Sudanese children have missed nearly 500 school days since the start of the war, exceeding the number of days missed by children in any other country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inger Ashing, CEO of Save the Children International, said in a video briefing from Stockholm that the international community is “failing Sudanese children at this critical time,” stressing that an urgent response is needed to prevent long-term collapse of the education system.

The report highlighted that large numbers of schools have been closed or damaged due to fighting, while others have been repurposed as shelters for displaced families, disrupting education across wide areas of the country.

□ Economic Snapshot

Sudan Faces Severe Economic Strain Amid War, Gold Smuggling, and Collapsing Exports, Finance Minister Says



Sudan’s economy is facing an “extremely difficult phase” due to ongoing war, military spending, and declining revenues from gold and oil, Finance Minister Gibril Ibrahim said. The war has lasted nearly three years. Ibrahim said the government has raised the share of the 2024 budget allocated to [military operations from 36% to 40%](#), and that rebuilding areas recaptured by the army would require about \$200 billion.

In an interview with Agence France-Presse, he said the government is seeking deals for ports on the Red Sea, which handles around 12% of global commercial shipping. Saudi Arabia and Qatar are considered the main prospective partners, while Russia had expressed interest in a “small port for supply storage” but has not taken steps yet.

Ibrahim said Sudan “lost all state revenue sources at the start of the war,” noting that most industries, major companies, and economic activity were concentrated in central Sudan, accounting for roughly 80% of state revenue.

Although gold production has been rising year by year, a significant portion is smuggled to Gulf countries, particularly the United Arab Emirates. He said only 20 tons of gold were exported through official channels out of 70 tons produced in 2025. In 2024, despite 64 tons of production, government revenue from gold reached only \$1.57 billion due to smuggling.

Agricultural exports have fallen by 43%, as the RSF controls key producing areas of gum arabic, sesame, and peanuts in West Darfur and South Kordofan. Livestock exports, largely from Darfur, have dropped by 55%.

Oil revenues have fallen by more than 50%, with severe damage to the country's most productive refinery. Ibrahim added that authorities are now seeking companies "willing to invest money" in infrastructure and other sectors to help revive the economy.

Culture & In-Depth

"Sudan: Memory and Testimony" Exhibition — Walls Tell the Story



The exhibition "[Sudan: Memory and Testimony](#)" opened in Paris, turning art into a platform for cultural memory and humanitarian support, according to the organizers, Khartoon magazine.

"Every exhibited work, every book purchased, every step inside the exhibition becomes real support," the magazine said. "All proceeds go to aid Sudan and Sudanese people, proving that art can be resistance, memory, and testimony."

The initiative, organized by Sudanese expatriates and friends of Sudan, combines cultural and humanitarian objectives, aiming to show that memory and solidarity cannot be erased by war and violence.

Upon entering the gallery, visitors encounter more than 200 political cartoons and artworks by prominent Sudanese artists, forming a living archive of the conflict in Sudan. These include pieces from Khartoon's own collection, documenting and preserving moments that the war sought to erase.

The exhibition also features Sudanese books displayed in Paris for the first time, including Sudanese Kitchen, a book that preserves household memory through recipes, and Sudan Retold, an attempt to reclaim the country’s story in the voices of its people.

The 2026 Paris exhibition marks Khartoum’s first participation in France and includes a full program of art, film screenings, discussions, live music, and direct meetings with Sudanese artists and filmmakers.

□ Further Reading

From Classrooms to Camps: The Battle to Save Childhood in Wartime



The campaign “Pen Instead of a Gun – Children, Not Soldiers” has revealed a dangerous escalation in child recruitment in Sudan, warning that the phenomenon is no longer confined to traditional conflict zones but has spread across the country. The campaign said the practice is being driven by poverty, mass displacement, and the collapse of the education system, creating conditions that expose children nationwide to exploitation and forced recruitment. [Read the full story](#)

Dismissal of 31 Lawyers in Sudan Deepens Crisis of Judicial Independence and the Legal Profession

The decision to dismiss and suspend the licenses of 31 male and female lawyers in Sudan has triggered widespread controversy and condemnation across legal, political, and human rights circles. The decision, issued by the Lawyers Admission Committee in the city of Port Sudan, includes the termination of the dismissed lawyers’ membership in the Bar Association and a complete ban on their right to practice the legal profession. [Read the full story](#)

Sudan: What Are the Social and Economic Risks of the Collapse of the National Currency?



In recent days, widespread activity has been observed inside banks operating in Port Sudan, marked by rapid increases in the buying and selling rates of the US dollar. Omdurman National Bank recorded a sharp surge in its selling rate, rising from 2,570 to 3,627 Sudanese pounds within a short period — an increase of nearly 41%. [Read the full story](#)

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