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Sudan Media Forum Weekly Briefing

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

Hello ,

Welcome to your weekly briefing. This week, After the army regained control of Kadugli, fighting shifted to the Blue Nile state, with airstrikes targeting civilians and hospitals. The public health and food security situation is critical, while the economy faces severe collapse and widespread poverty and famine. Sudanese refugees confront forced returns, while doctors in exile are restoring hope for displaced people in Uganda. International efforts continue to halt the war and open humanitarian corridors for aid delivery.

Top Story of the Week

Breaking the Siege of Kadugli and RSF Shifts Fighting to Blue Nile, Targets Hospitals and Aid Convoys



The [Sudanese army](#) last Tuesday broke a siege that had been imposed for more than two years on the city of Kadugli, the capital of South Kordofan state, following fierce battles with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N), led by Abdelaziz al-Hilu, which is allied with the RSF. Shortly after the army regained control of Kadugli, the RSF launched a [series of drone strikes](#) that killed at least eight civilians, including women and children, and injured 11 others, after a health center in the city was hit. Drones also carried out indiscriminate attacks on several parts of Kadugli.

In a subsequent statement, the Sudan Doctors Network said the death toll from the drone strikes targeting a number of neighborhoods in Kadugli had risen to 15, adding that the attacks continued until Tuesday evening. According to the network's field teams, seven civilians were killed when the Kashmir neighborhood was struck.

The following day, drones targeted Al-Kuwiek Military Hospital in Kadugli, killing 22 people, including the hospital's medical director and three medical staff members, and injuring eight others. The attack marked the second strike on the city within 48 hours.

Separately, the humanitarian aid coordinator in the [town of Al-Rahad](#), North Kordofan state, reported that 24 displaced people were killed at the town's entrance while arriving from the Dibekir area in South Kordofan, after a drone operated by the RSF struck the vehicle transporting them. The Sudan Doctors Network said eight of the victims were children, including two infants.

Sources also reported that drones attacked a vehicle carrying vegetables and food supplies near the city of Um Rawaba in North Kordofan at dawn on Sunday, killing at least three people, injuring others, and completely destroying the vehicle.

On Friday, the United Nations announced that a [World Food Programme convoy](#) was hit by a drone attack in North Kordofan state, accusing the RSF of responsibility. The attack occurred just hours after the convoy departed from Kosti, in White Nile state, en route to deliver life-saving food assistance to displaced families near El Obeid, killing at least one person and injuring another.

Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Arab League, and the Muslim World League all [condemned the attacks](#) attributed to the RSF. In two separate statements, however, the RSF denied the allegations, rejecting claims that it had targeted Al-Kuwiek Hospital in South Kordofan, a humanitarian aid convoy, or a bus carrying displaced civilians, and described the accusations as part of a "systematic disinformation campaign."

Meanwhile, Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission announced on Friday that the [first relief convoy](#) had arrived in the cities of Kadugli and Dilling in South Kordofan, carrying approximately 2,250 tonnes of humanitarian assistance.

At the same time, the RSF and SPLM-N expanded the fighting into [the Blue Nile region](#). On Tuesday, they launched attacks on three locations in the southeastern Sudanese region, seizing control of the strategic town of Dim Mansour and several other sites. A Sudanese official accused Ethiopia of facilitating the passage of the attacking forces. The official further claimed that the drones used to strike army defenses in the Blue Nile region were launched from bases overseen by the United Arab Emirates in Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz region, alleging that Ethiopian authorities enabled the forces to transit through their territory.

Political & Security Update

US-Led Quad Reaches Draft Peace Deal for Sudan as Push Grows for Humanitarian Truce



Massad Boulos, Senior Adviser to the US President on African Affairs, [announced that](#) the Quad mechanism has reached a document to establish peace in Sudan that is acceptable to both parties to the conflict. Speaking at a humanitarian aid conference held in Washington, Boulos said that “the final text of the Sudan peace agreement has been agreed upon with the Quartet.”

He added that there is a document accepted by both sides of the conflict in Sudan that is expected to lead to a humanitarian truce. The United Nations, he said, has also developed a mechanism for the withdrawal of fighters from both sides from certain areas, allowing for the flow of humanitarian assistance. Boulos explained that the peace agreement, which aims to secure a humanitarian ceasefire and open safe corridors for aid delivery, will be submitted to the UN Security Council once it is endorsed by the Quartet.

In a related development, the foreign ministers of [Egypt and Saudi Arabia](#)—Badr Abdelatty and Prince Faisal bin Farhan—on Sunday called for the withdrawal of armed militias from Sudanese cities as part of efforts to protect civilians. According to an official spokesperson, both ministers stressed the priority of establishing safe humanitarian corridors and zones for civilians, underscoring the importance of the Rapid Support Forces’ withdrawal to ensure civilian safety. The Sudanese government has also demanded the withdrawal of the RSF from cities and occupied sites, among other conditions, as a prerequisite for agreeing to a ceasefire.

Meanwhile, US diplomats told [Sudan Tribune](#) that extensive efforts are currently underway within the “Peace Council” to end the conflict in Sudan, with a timeline set to halt the war before the end of the first quarter of this year. The diplomats said the ongoing work on the Sudan file aims to bring the bloody conflict to a decisive end and address complex issues, foremost among them military and security sector reform. The process, they added, includes a شرط to exclude extremist elements—particularly Islamist groups—from both the military and political spheres.

They also pointed to intensive contacts by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio with his counterparts in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates to coordinate positions. According to the diplomats, the proposed US plan includes the immediate declaration of a humanitarian truce, expected to begin implementation following the international humanitarian conference in support of Sudan.

Fighting Escalates in Blue Nile as SPLM-N Accuses Army of Deadly Drone Strikes on Civilians

Fighting and military operations have continued on the Blue Nile front since last week. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N), led by Abdelaziz al-Hilu, said the Sudanese Armed Forces carried out a [Bayraktar drone strike on the town](#) of Yabus in New Fung (Blue Nile state), killing nine civilians, including women and children.

Meanwhile, military sources said the armed forces repelled a new attack on the Al-Silk area in southern Blue Nile on Wednesday.

In a statement, the SPLM-N said the attack destroyed 155 homes and caused extensive damage to property and this season's agricultural crops, forcing more than 300 families to flee into forests and valleys without shelter or food.

The movement also said another army-operated drone carried out airstrikes on the town of Shali Al-Feel in the Kurmuk district of Blue Nile last Friday, setting 25 homes ablaze along with all their contents. The strikes also destroyed a mill and storage facilities containing large quantities of sorghum and other food supplies, killed 15 people, injured dozens, and displaced large numbers of residents. The SPLM-N warned it would respond with force.

Sudanese Journalists' Union Condemns 100 Days of Arbitrary Detention of Journalist Muammar Ibrahim



The Sudanese Journalists' Union has condemned the passage of [100 days since the arbitrary detention](#) of journalist Muammar Ibrahim by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), after he was arrested while leaving El Fasher and transferred to the city of Nyala in South Darfur state. The union said he has been held without charge, without legal basis, and without being allowed contact with a lawyer or his family.

In a statement issued on Friday, the union described the detention not merely as an arrest, but as an “organized crime against press freedom and the public's right to know.” It said the treatment of Muammar Ibrahim constitutes a direct attack on fundamental human values and reflects a systematic policy aimed at silencing free voices, intimidating journalists, and turning them into hostages in conflicts to which they have no connection.

The union added that the world's silence in the face of such a blatant assault on humanity is unacceptable and unjustifiable. It stressed that Ibrahim's continued detention represents a dangerous escalation in the targeting of media workers in Sudan, and an attempt to impose total media blackout on the public, in clear violation of all international conventions guaranteeing freedom of opinion, expression, and the right to information.

The Sudanese Journalists' Union called on all free people around the world to stand in solidarity and demand the immediate and unconditional release of Muammar Ibrahim. It held the Rapid Support Forces fully responsible for his life and safety, and urged urgent intervention by the international community and organizations concerned with

freedom of expression and press freedom, including the United Nations, to pressure the relevant authorities to put an end to these violations.

Sudan Accuses UAE and Regional States of Fueling Arms Flows to Darfur Despite UN Embargo

Sudan's Interior Minister Babakr Samra said the Darfur region continues to witness [a large influx of advanced weapons](#) despite the arms embargo imposed on the region, accusing the United Arab Emirates and neighboring countries of supplying Darfur with weapons "in full view of the international community."

Samra made the remarks during a meeting with a delegation from the UN Panel of Experts tasked with monitoring the arms embargo on Darfur, where discussions focused on the continued flow of weapons into the western Sudanese region.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Interior, the minister said that weapons are reaching Darfur via Libya—through forces loyal to retired Libyan General Khalifa Haftar—as well as through Chad and African ports. He added that the smuggling is taking place with the knowledge of the international community and amid its silence toward the countries involved, describing this as a crime against the Sudanese people.

The statement said Samra discussed with the UN experts the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1591 on the arms embargo on Darfur, noting the lack of compliance by several neighboring states.

Samra further said that the international community's silence over the continued arms flows into Darfur, along with the UAE's provision of military equipment to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the opening of smuggling routes by neighboring countries, has significantly contributed to the violations and inhumane practices committed by the RSF against civilians. He added that the proliferation of weapons has led to serious abuses against civilians, the latest of which he described as the massacre in El Fasher and the displacement and forced flight of the city's residents.

UK Pledges £20 Million to Support Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Sudan



The United Kingdom has announced [£20 million in aid to help survivors](#) of conflict-related sexual violence in Sudan access medical and psychological support. It also called for urgent global action to secure a ceasefire and urged all countries to pressure both parties to stop the bloodshed and protect women and children from rape and abuse.

British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper, following a visit to the Adré region on the Sudan-Chad border, said she personally heard testimonies reflecting the world's failure to protect Sudanese women and girls over the past three years.

She noted that with more than 1,000 days since the outbreak of the war, Sudan now represents the largest humanitarian catastrophe of the 21st century. The evidence of atrocities is undeniable, particularly those targeting women and children, who bear an unbearable burden. Cooper described the situation as a war on women's bodies, involving unprecedented levels of sexual violence, sexual enslavement, and abductions.

The new UK funding, she explained, will provide support to survivors, equip communities to address the stigma faced by survivors and children born of rape, improve the quality of services delivered directly to them, and implement long-term measures to prevent violence against women and girls.

Speaking on the issue, the Foreign Secretary said: "The world must not turn a blind eye to what is happening. The international community has failed the women of Sudan. The stories we hear of brutal assaults, sexual torture, and public rape used as a weapon of war against women and children fleeing the conflict are truly horrifying. This is a war on women's bodies. Yet, too often, no one hears these stories, while the world turns its back."

US Raises \$1.5 Billion for Sudan as Washington Launches New Humanitarian Fund

Massad Boulos, Senior Adviser to the US President for Arab and African Affairs, said the administration of President Donald Trump has mobilized [\\$1.5 billion in assistance for Sudan](#). He added, "We hope that a humanitarian truce in Sudan will be agreed upon in the coming weeks."

During a donors' conference held in Washington, the United States announced the launch of the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) in partnership with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), aimed at delivering a flexible and rapid response to urgent humanitarian needs.

US officials said the fund seeks to deliver life-saving assistance to more than 14 million people facing catastrophic conditions, including the risk of famine and widespread displacement. They noted that the initiative includes an agreement with the United Nations to introduce critical reforms to make humanitarian operations more transparent, efficient, and accountable to donors.

The US government pledged an additional \$200 million to support the fund, while the United Arab Emirates announced a contribution of \$500 million.

The Popular Resistance " Report Death of 300 Wounded Detainees in Shala Prison



The Popular Resistance in North Darfur state said that [300 wounded detainees have died](#) inside Shala Prison, southwest of El Fasher, over the past two months, due to infected wounds and the spread of maggots.

In a statement, the group said that most of the detainees are wounded civilians suffering from fractures and serious injuries caused by indiscriminate shelling that targeted the city, and that they have received no medical care.

The statement reported daily deaths inside Shala Prison as a result of severe shortages of food and health services, accusing the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of detaining more than 9,000 civilians at the facility. It said RSF forces leave the bodies of deceased detainees inside the prison for extended periods, in a grave violation of human dignity, before forcing other prisoners to bury them in the western yard of the prison, about 400 metres from its perimeter.

The Popular Resistance also warned of a cholera outbreak inside the prison, with between five and 10 detainees dying each week due to the spread of the disease and the absence of preventive measures and treatment.

In a related development, the group accused the RSF of carrying out summary executions of civilians, saying that 15 wounded people were killed last week inside Al-Rashid dormitory at the University of El Fasher, after being falsely accused of belonging to the Joint Force.

The statement described the humanitarian situation in El Fasher as extremely catastrophic, with dozens dying each week as a result of direct killings, medical neglect, hunger, and the spread of epidemics. It called on international and humanitarian organizations to intervene urgently and immediately to save civilians and detainees from what it described as ongoing and grave abuses.

Armed Clashes and Arrests Shake Relations Within the Army, RSF, and Allied Armed Groups in Al Jazirah and East Darfur

The so-called “Gezira Liberation Movement,” one of the groups armed to fight alongside the army during the war, reported the killing of two Popular Resistance members in Rufaa, Al Jazirah state, central Sudan, and the arrest of their leader during a raid conducted by a military intelligence unit early on Saturday.

In a statement, [the movement said](#) that the operation, carried out by the army’s military intelligence, resulted in the detention of Sheikh Al-Rayh Aloub in Rufaa, along with his brother and several members of the Popular Resistance, which fights alongside the army. They were taken to an unknown location. The statement added that an exchange of gunfire occurred during the raid, killing two Popular Resistance members in the city.

Separately, a report from the police chief aligned with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) said that a [senior RSF officer, a pro-RSF tribal leader](#), and several soldiers were killed last week in a town in East Darfur state following violent clashes between two RSF factions.

The report noted that the clashes resulted in five deaths, including the regional commander and the tribal leader, and three others were injured. The number of casualties is expected to rise as confrontations spread to the home of tribal leader Mohamed Jafar, which was set on fire.

According to available information, the disputes erupted after tribal leader Mohamed Jafar detained several citizens from the family of the slain officer, accusing them of cooperating with the army. The detainees were reportedly beaten at the holding site, and Jafar attempted to transfer them to the “Daqrees” prison in Nyala city.

UK Imposes Sanctions on Leader of an Armed Group, RSF Leaders and Colombian Mercenaries Over War Crimes



The United Kingdom [announced sanctions](#) against Abu Aqila Kekel, commander of Sudan’s Shield Forces allied with the army, a field commander and adviser to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) leader, and three Colombians involved in recruiting mercenaries for the RSF.

In a statement, the British Foreign Office said the UK “has imposed a new package of sanctions, effective immediately, against six individuals suspected of committing atrocities in the Sudanese war or fueling the conflict by providing mercenaries and military equipment.”

The sanctions include RSF field commander Hussein Barsham, held responsible for committing mass atrocities, including ethnically motivated violence, forced displacement, and attacks on civilians, particularly in Darfur.

The UK also sanctioned Abu Aqila Mohammed Kekel, commander of the Shield Forces allied with the army, holding him accountable for atrocities committed in early 2025 in Al Jazirah state.

The sanctions package also targeted Mustafa Ibrahim Abdel Nabi Mohammed, director of Gulf Bank, majority shareholder in Shield Solutions Company, and adviser to the RSF commander, suspected of illegally funding the RSF-led military campaign.

Additionally, the UK sanctioned Claudia Viviana Alifero Ferrero, Mateo Andres Duque Botero, and Alvaro Andres Cejano Bisera for their role in recruiting former Colombian army personnel to train and fight with the RSF.

♥ Humanitarian Focus

WHO Warns of Critical Reproductive Health and Food Security Crisis in Sudan for 2026



The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that [“8.1 million women and girls](#) of reproductive age—including more than 803,000 pregnant women—require urgent reproductive health services, with an estimated 1.1 million births expected during 2026.”

The organization said it needs \$97.7 million this year to assist 20.4 million people, including 4.9 million internally displaced persons. It aims to provide direct health services to 6.6 million individuals out of the 20.1 million people planned for assistance.

WHO warned that food insecurity is an additional factor exacerbating the health crisis, with 19.1 million people expected to face high levels of food insecurity during the first half of 2026. It also highlighted the continued spread of epidemic diseases, including cholera, measles, malaria, and dengue fever, amid low routine vaccination coverage, with more than 30% of children remaining unvaccinated. The report noted that approximately 37% of health facilities in Sudan are out of service, while 63% are only partially operational.

📌 Economic Snapshot

Sudan: 71% Living Below Extreme Poverty Line Amid Ongoing War



Global organizations report that [71% of Sudanese live below the extreme poverty line](#), and more than 15 million face high levels of acute hunger, with famine declared in parts of Darfur and Kordofan. Reports indicate that Sudan's economy has contracted by more than 42% compared to the pre-war period between the army and Rapid Support Forces (RSF), with the Sudanese pound depreciating by 483%, oil production halted, and exports declining. Around 60% of Sudanese have completely lost their sources of income, and infrastructure has been destroyed. Direct and indirect losses are estimated at \$150–250 billion. The exchange rate has soared to over 3,500 SDG per USD, compared with 500 SDG before the conflict.

Economist Najm Eldin Dawood notes that inflation exceeded 256% by the end of 2024, according to IMF estimates. This is attributed to supply chain disruptions, the collapse of local production, and printing money to finance the massive war-induced deficit, leading to a catastrophic devaluation of the Sudanese pound. Foreign currency reserves have almost vanished, external financing and remittances have halted, and strategic exports such as gold have declined amid widespread smuggling.

Agricultural exports have collapsed due to disrupted transport, destroyed infrastructure, declining production, and a focus on importing military equipment and essential goods. Imports have dropped sharply due to foreign currency shortages and the collapse of the exchange rate, resulting in acute shortages of basic commodities.

Economist Abu Obeida Said highlights the impact on oil production, noting that major fields have ceased operating fully or partially, foreign technical expertise has left, and field maps and data have been damaged. The Al-Jaily refinery, with a production capacity of nearly 100,000 barrels per day, was bombed, incurring estimated daily losses of \$5 million during shutdowns. Export pipelines were damaged, and China's CNPC withdrew from Block 6 in Palila under force majeure, depriving Sudan of remaining revenue from oil production and transport, further weakening the sector amid armed conflicts.

While domestic oil production collapsed, Sudan increased oil imports to meet local demand, rising from \$991 million in 2018 to a peak of \$2.87 billion in 2022, before falling to \$890 million in 2024, placing enormous pressure on public finances due to lost export revenues and rising import costs.

The agricultural sector is expected to lose more than 50% of production in conflict-affected areas. Farming cycles have been disrupted by mass displacement, livestock and equipment looting, restricted access to land, and rising input costs. Once a potential "breadbasket," Sudan is now unable to meet its basic food needs, deepening the food crisis.

The industrial sector has also suffered dramatically, with over 85% of industrial facilities disrupted, according to the Sudanese Industrialists Federation. Most remaining industries operate at less than 15% of their production capacity due to insufficient energy, damaged infrastructure, and other constraints.

Culture & In-Depth 🗣️

Sudanese Doctors Rebuild Lives and Hope for Refugees in Kampala Amid War Exile



In Kampala's bustling Kabalagala neighborhood, Sudanese dentist Shaimaa Mahmoud starts her day by listening to Quranic verses, drawing strength to face another day in exile. At "Peace Clinic", she and a team of Sudanese doctors provide free dental care to refugees and affordable treatment for locals, turning a small, rundown clinic into a lifeline for hundreds.

Shaimaa fled Khartoum after the 2023 war, leaving behind her belongings and a promising future. Shaimaa's own story is as compelling as those of her patients. A few years ago, she led protests in Khartoum against Omar al-

Bashir’s regime. In her final year of medical school, she was a vocal advocate for women’s rights and civil liberties. She recalls, laughing, how women were once forbidden from wearing pants before the revolution, and she still keeps an old pair of jeans as a memento of a time when even small freedoms were hard-won. Today, she finds herself in an unplanned exile. When the war broke out, she fled without being able to gather her belongings—but her sense of mission has not left her. Her colleague, Dr. Al-Sadiq Ibrahim, lost his clinic in Darfur but rebuilt it in Kampala with his team.

Beyond dental care, the clinic addresses the invisible scars of war: stress-induced teeth grinding, malnutrition, and trauma. For the doctors, this is more than medicine—it is a continuation of the 2019 revolution’s humanitarian spirit. Amid drills and patient whispers, the clinic becomes a bridge between a torn homeland and a new beginning, offering hope to refugees and locals alike.

By Simone Schlindwein – DW

Further Reading

Sudanese Refugees in Egypt... Forced Return on “Trains of Fear”



In the early hours of 31 December 2025, M., a Sudanese refugee living in Cairo, sat on a wooden bench in an overcrowded train car at Ramses Station. In her thirties, she held one child by her side while embracing another. She searched her bag for a registration card issued by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)—but it wasn’t among the belongings returned to her by the police. No one asked whether she truly wanted to return. Hours earlier, she had been detained at a Cairo police station without a record, without a lawyer, and without being informed of the reason for her arrest. Days later, she found herself on the other side of the border, in Dongola, northern Sudan—a country still engulfed in open war and severe civilian rights violations. [Read the full story](#)

In “Zamzam”... Survival Is Purely a Matter of Chance



A volunteer recounts the desperate attempts to break the blockade on medicine. One tried buying a donkey and a camel to smuggle medical supplies and some clothing, but attacking forces pursued and killed him along with the animals, deliberately spilling the medicine on the ground, leaving patients to face death without painkillers. On 16 January 2025, the situation escalated when a hospital run by Relief International was stormed, and nine volunteer doctors were killed in cold blood. Our source describes carrying their bodies himself from the scene. He adds: “The attackers didn’t stop there—they stormed the kitchen, killed everyone inside, and deliberately spilled the food on the floor to cut off the last lifeline.” [Read the full story](#)

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