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#StandWithSudan

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, Drone strikes and artillery attacks have intensified across Sudan, killing dozens of civilians and hitting markets, schools, and hospitals as fighting spreads across multiple regions. Political tensions remain high, with Sudan’s army vowing to defeat rival forces while international actors push for a humanitarian truce. Meanwhile, new reports highlight atrocities, village destruction, and growing calls to halt arms flows fueling the conflict. As violence expands, Sudan faces a worsening humanitarian and economic crisis affecting millions.

Top Story of the Week

Drone Strikes Escalate Across Sudan, Dozens of Civilians Killed in Attacks on Markets and Towns



Sudan’s Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) exchanged drone attacks on cities, markets, and civilian infrastructure over the past week, as fighting intensified across several regions. The strikes targeted the states of White Nile, South and West Kordofan, and West and South Darfur, leaving dozens of civilians dead or injured. Meanwhile, [the Sudanese army](#) and allied forces announced they had taken control of the areas of Jart East and Blamo Camp near Blue Nile State after fierce battles with the RSF and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N).

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) expressed deep concern over a series of drone airstrikes carried out in recent days across several Sudanese states. The attacks have caused civilian casualties, damaged civilian infrastructure, and triggered a new wave of displacement.

In a statement, [the SPLM-N](#) said the Sudanese army carried out a drone strike that killed at least 17 civilians, including eight women and six children, and injured several others. The attack reportedly targeted Mandari Market in the town of Julud, in Dilling County, South Kordofan.

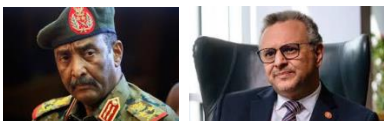
At the same time, the [Sudan Doctors Network](#) reported that seven people, including a child, were killed and 13 others injured in artillery shelling that struck residential neighborhoods in the city of Dilling. In a statement, the network said the deliberate shelling by the RSF and the SPLM-N hit populated areas, killing civilians, including three women, and spreading panic among residents.

The [Civil Administration in South Darfur](#) State, affiliated with the Sudan Founding Alliance (Ta'asis), also said in a press statement that a drone strike carried out by the Sudanese army on the Mawqif Al-Geneina Market in the city of Nyala killed 10 civilians and injured seven others, while causing extensive damage to traders' property. The Sudanese Armed Forces also launched a drone attack on Adikong Market west of El Geneina, located near the Adre border crossing with Chad, on Thursday morning. Another drone strike targeted the weekly Salia Market in West Darfur.

Eyewitnesses told [Radio Dabanga](#) that the attack on the fuel market in Adikong sent thick plumes of smoke and flames into the air. The strike marks the third attack on the market since the beginning of the year and came just one day after the reopening of the Adre crossing. Chadian authorities had previously closed the crossing out of concern that the war in Sudan could spill over into their territory. In West Kordofan, Alaa Nuqd, the official spokesperson for the Sudan Founding Alliance (Ta'asis), said the Sudanese army carried out a drone strike on the town of Abu Zabad on Wednesday evening, killing more than 20 people and injuring 23 others.

Political & Security Update

Burhan Vows to Defeat 'Rebellion' as U.S. Calls for Immediate Humanitarian Truce in Sudan



Sudan's army chief and head of the Sovereignty Council, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, said on Friday that coexistence with what he described as "rebel forces" is impossible, stressing that the Sudanese Armed Forces will continue their campaign until the rebellion is defeated and security and stability are restored in the country.

Al-Burhan reaffirmed the army's position rejecting any presence of the rebels or the parties supporting them. "There will be no coexistence with the rebels. We will neither accept them nor welcome their presence among us," he said. "Any party that carries arms or supports the rebellion under any name will not find us extending a hand to it." He reiterated the armed forces' commitment to continue fighting until achieving what he described as "complete victory" and purging the country of rebellion, adding that the blood of victims would not be in vain and that accountability would come.

Meanwhile, a senior adviser to the U.S. president, Massad Boulos, said the time has come for the warring parties to immediately agree to a humanitarian ceasefire that would allow vital aid to reach civilians, create space for dialogue, and pave the way toward ending suffering and restoring stability in Sudan. In a statement posted on X, Boulos said the Sudanese people have endured severe hardship as a result of the ongoing conflict, including "malicious acts and grave violations committed by both parties to the conflict in Sudan."

U.S. Designates Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood as Global Terrorist Entity



The United States [Department of State](#) announced the designation of the Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) entity, and said it intends to also classify the group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO).

In a statement, the State Department said the Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood—described as comprising the Islamic Movement and its armed wing, the Al-Baraa bin Malik Battalion—has employed unrestricted violence against civilians in an effort to undermine initiatives aimed at resolving the conflict in Sudan and to advance its violent ideology.

According to the statement, the group has contributed more than 20,000 fighters to the ongoing war. It added that many of these fighters receive training and other forms of support from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of Iran.

The U.S. statement also accused fighters from the Al-Baraa bin Malik Battalion of carrying out mass executions of civilians in areas under their control. It said the group has repeatedly executed civilians summarily based on race, ethnicity, or suspected affiliation with opposition groups.

The Sudanese government, for its part, stated that its position is to condemn all forms of terrorism and violent extremism without exception or selectivity. It called for responding to what it described as strong demands to designate the "rebel Rapid Support Forces militia" as a terrorist organization, citing its alleged involvement in war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and acts of terrorism.

The U.S. decision was welcomed by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen's Southern Transitional Council, as well as by several Sudanese political and civil forces, which expressed support for Washington's classification of the Islamic Movement in Sudan as a terrorist group.

RSF Drone Attacks on White Nile Kill Civilians, Strike School and Hospital



The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) carried out [drone attacks](#) for four consecutive days on White Nile State, targeting several civilian areas, according to local sources. Sources reported that the death toll from a drone strike on Shukairi village in Um Ruwaba locality has risen to 17 people, while 16 others were injured. The attack was reportedly carried out using four suicide drones that struck a school, a hospital, and a health center.

The [Sudan Doctors Network](#) said in a statement that RSF drones also targeted several civilian facilities in Kosti, the capital of White Nile State, last week. Among the sites hit was the Al-Qoz student dormitory, which houses a large number of students, leaving seven students injured, some of them critically.

Local sources said two drones struck Shukairi Secondary School, while a third targeted the village hospital, and a fourth hit the health center. At least eight students from the secondary school were killed, along with a medical staff member and several teachers. A number of other students and residents were injured, some seriously. The attack caused widespread panic among residents and inflicted significant damage on the school, hospital, and health center. Drone strikes also targeted the Umm Dabakir Thermal Power Station, causing power outages across several cities in White Nile State and North Kordofan.

Human Rights Watch Urges New Sudan Atrocities Prevention Alliance to Cut Arms Flows



Human Rights Watch said the newly formed [international alliance](#) aimed at preventing atrocities and promoting justice in Sudan faces an urgent test in protecting civilians. The organization called on the alliance to make its first priority the effective effort to cut off arms supplies to the warring parties, while mobilizing political support at the United Nations Security Council to establish a new mission mandated to protect civilians on the ground.

On February 26, 2026, five Western countries—United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, and Norway—announced the creation of the “International Alliance to Prevent Atrocities and Advance Justice in Sudan,” aimed at preventing atrocities and strengthening accountability in the country. Human Rights Watch noted that in recent months both the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces have extensively used drones, particularly in the Kordofan region, in attacks reportedly targeting aid convoys, damaging civilian infrastructure, and killing or injuring civilians.

The organization said the first step the new alliance should take is to halt arms supplies and flows, so that civilians are not forced to pay the price of the conflict. It also stressed the need for the alliance to advance accountability

efforts by making justice a central pillar in political negotiations. The group urged expanding the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court to cover all of Sudan, not only Darfur, and called for encouraging prosecutions based on the principle of universal jurisdiction.

Yale Report Says RSF Deliberately Destroyed Dozens of Farming Communities Near El Fasher



The Yale School of Public Health’s Humanitarian Research Lab announced with high confidence that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) deliberately [destroyed at least 41 rural farming communities](#) north and west of El Fasher in Sudan between March 31 and June 12, 2024. In a report, the lab found that 28 communities (68%) show no visible signs of life, while five communities (12%) show low levels of activity, and eight communities (20%) display near-normal levels of activity.

Researchers also observed abnormal vegetation growth within villages and a sharp decline in agricultural activity, suggesting the cessation of human presence, halted grazing, and the absence of animal movement. The lab said these findings are consistent with reports indicating the possible deliberate creation of famine-like conditions in El Fasher. Satellite fire data analysis also revealed a significant increase in fire indicators in the area compared to previous years, with fire activity rising by 330 percent in 2024. The report said the surge coincided with military attacks and the destruction of agricultural villages, alongside the disappearance of human activity. The report further highlighted a sharp decline in farming activity, noting that land-use analysis showed a significant drop in agricultural operations around the villages. The findings indicate that 80 percent of the villages experienced a major reduction in agricultural activity.

UN Rights Chief ‘Shocked’ by Rising Drone Attacks Killing Civilians in Sudan



The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, [Volker Türk](#), said he is shocked by the devastating impact of the growing number of drone attacks on civilians, amid reports that more than 200 civilians have been killed by drones in Kordofan and White Nile since March 4 alone.

Türk said on Thursday that it is deeply alarming that, despite repeated warnings and appeals, parties to the conflict in Sudan continue to use increasingly destructive drones to launch explosive weapons with wide-area effects in densely populated areas.

The UN rights chief also expressed concern over the recent expansion of the conflict into White Nile State, which has been subjected to intensive drone attacks by the Rapid Support Forces since March 4. “Soon it will be three full years since the outbreak of this senseless conflict in Sudan, which has devastated the lives and livelihoods of millions,” Türk said. “Yet the violence—now fueled by these new technologies of war—continues to expand. It is time for it to end.”

♥ Humanitarian Focus

WFP Warns Sudan Faces ‘Catastrophic’ Humanitarian Crisis Amid Major Funding Shortfall



The [World Food Programme](#) (WFP) has warned that Sudan could face a “catastrophic” humanitarian situation within the next two months due to a major funding gap threatening the continuity of relief operations as needs continue to rise amid the ongoing conflict. WFP’s Emergency Director, Ross Smith, said in press remarks on Wednesday that the shortage of financial resources represents the biggest obstacle to the humanitarian response. He explained that the program urgently needs an additional \$600 million to cover basic needs over the next six months. Smith added that the resources currently available are sufficient only for the current month and the following one. He also noted that the operating environment in Darfur and Kordofan states is “not safe at all,” pointing out that several WFP staff members have been killed or injured while carrying out their duties, further complicating efforts to reach people in conflict-affected areas.

The WFP stressed that its top priority is delivering life-saving assistance to areas facing famine or those on the brink of it. International organizations estimate that around 24.6 million people in Sudan—nearly half of the population—are experiencing acute food insecurity, while 27 areas are facing the risk of famine, amid a sharp rise in child malnutrition rates in the hardest-hit regions.

Urgent Appeal as Displaced Families Arrive in Al-Tina, Darfur Amid Dire Humanitarian Conditions



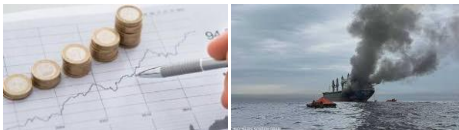
The Emergency Rooms Council in Al-Tina locality in Darfur has issued an urgent appeal to save civilians fleeing the horrors of war, warning that the situation in the locality has become catastrophic and requires immediate humanitarian intervention. In a statement released on Tuesday, the council said that more than 760 displaced families have recently arrived in the locality, where the environment lacks even the most basic necessities of life.

The statement added that the displaced are living in the open under the scorching sun, without shelter, clean water, food supplies, or health services. According to the council, around 80 of the displaced are pregnant and breastfeeding women who urgently require medical and nutritional care.

The council said the most urgent humanitarian needs include shelter and clothing materials, such as tents, plastic sheeting, and blankets to protect people from the intense daytime heat and cold nights. It also called for complete food baskets containing essential life-saving commodities, as well as a mobile medical clinic, nutritional supplements for children, and emergency medicines for diseases such as malaria and gastrointestinal infections. The council further stressed .

Economic Snapshot

Sudanese Experts Warn Parallel Forex Market May Surge Amid Middle East Conflict and Economic Strain



Economic and banking experts have warned of a [potential surge](#) in demand for foreign currencies in Sudan's parallel market due to the ongoing U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, which is expected to drive higher foreign exchange demand and rising exchange rates. Sudan relies heavily on imports to cover essential needs, including petroleum, gas, wheat, medicines, and other strategic goods.

Experts explained that this trend will place additional pressure on the country's foreign currency reserves needed for imports. Dr. Haitham Fathi, a researcher and economic analyst, called on the Central Bank of Sudan to adopt policies ensuring exchange rate flexibility, to prevent the emergence of a parallel foreign currency market at this critical time. He added that the Sudanese economy currently needs a sufficient supply of foreign currency to meet its obligations and imports, rather than a fixed pricing mechanism, warning that high demand for foreign currency is creating a large parallel market.

A trader in the parallel market told Madamek that the market is experiencing confusion and uncertainty, with most traders buying foreign currencies at very low sale rates due to the regional consequences of the U.S.-Israeli conflict

on Iran. Exchange rates vary widely between traders and states, with the dollar trading at 3,700 SDG for sale and 3,660 SDG for purchase in the parallel market, while commercial banks quote 3,350 SDG for purchase and 3,375 SDG for sale.

Banking experts urged the need to stabilize the foreign exchange market and contain the negative effects that have led to unprecedented price increases in goods and commodities, leaving citizens unable to secure basic necessities due to the ongoing economic and political instability and the lack of effective interventions. The Sudanese economy faces major challenges due to the ongoing war, with the national currency deteriorating from 560 SDG before the war to 3,750 SDG today, exacerbating citizens' suffering amid skyrocketing prices. The conflict has destroyed economic infrastructure and worsened the cost-of-living crisis across markets.

Culture & In-Depth

[“Sudan War... Forgotten Violations”](#): Art Exhibition Amplifies Voices of Victims at UN Geneva



[“Sudan War... Forgotten Violations”](#) is an art exhibition by Sudanese visual artist Moataz Ali, held in United Nations Square in Geneva, next to the famous Broken Chair monument—one of the world’s most recognized symbols of solidarity with victims of war and human rights violations.

The exhibition is organized under the auspices of the Humanitarian Rights Association and coincides with sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, where representatives from countries and international organizations meet to discuss global human rights issues.

The exhibition features a collection of artworks that visually document the suffering of civilians in Sudan amid the ongoing war, highlighting the violations, displacement, and humanitarian hardships endured by the population. The works aim to convey the victims’ stories to the international community, reminding the world that the humanitarian tragedy in Sudan must not be forgotten.

Artist Moataz Ali told Heart of Africa News that the exhibition is an artistic attempt to give voice to victims globally, emphasizing that art can be a powerful tool to revive human memory and reveal suffering that may be overlooked in news headlines. He added: “Art may not stop wars, but it can refuse silence and remind the world of the humanity and stories of the victims.”

Located in Broken Chair Square in front of the UN headquarters, the exhibition’s symbolic site hosts numerous international human rights events, giving the displayed works a direct humanitarian message to the global

community about the ongoing situation in Sudan. The exhibition seeks to highlight war-related violations and keep the Sudanese crisis present in international consciousness, particularly during meetings focused on human rights.

Further Reading

Sudan: Sexual Violence and Summary Executions



In 2025, Sudan experienced a sharp escalation in violent conflict, with the number of civilian deaths rising to two and a half times the level recorded the previous year. Around 500 cases of sexual violence were documented, alongside an increase in summary executions, arbitrary detention, and attacks on vital infrastructure.

[Read the full story](#)

Survivors of El Fasher: Suffering Extends from the Hell of War to Displacement Camps



War in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur State, shattered the life of eight-year-old Mishkat, leaving members of her family dead, injured, and displaced. Along with other survivors, she fled more than 1,200 kilometers, enduring horrors and abuses along the way. The battles in El Fasher turned Mishkat's life upside down. She lost her mother and two siblings and embarked on a desperate journey for survival. [Read the full story](#)

Sudan: Livestock Wealth Under Fire

Since the outbreak of war in April 2023 and the escalation of military operations across Darfur and Kordofan, the sector has faced unprecedented shocks affecting production, animal health, supply chains, and exports—placing the future of one of Sudan's most vital productive sectors at serious risk. [Read the full story](#)

How Will the Middle East War Affect Arms Supplies in the Sudanese Conflict ?



With the outbreak of the devastating war in the Middle East between the United States and Israel on one side and Iran on the other, the ongoing war in Sudan—now approaching its third year—has emerged as one of the crises likely to be affected. Both parties to the conflict, the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, may face repercussions, particularly regarding weapons supplies. Iran is a key ally of the Sudanese army and its main source of arms, while the United Arab Emirates is the primary supporter of the Rapid Support Forces. [Read the full story](#)

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