



#ساندوا السودان
#StandWithSudan

Sudan Media Forum Weekly Briefing

Issue [29] | March 23 , 2026

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

Hello ,

Welcome to your weekly briefing. This week the war in Sudan is witnessing a dangerous escalation, with intensified drone strikes targeting civilian infrastructure, alongside territorial advances and rising regional tensions extending into Chad. Politically, positions remain divided between rejecting a ceasefire and calls for a humanitarian truce, amid diplomatic efforts to revive the political process. Humanitarian conditions continue to deteriorate, with attacks on hospitals, mass displacement, and UN warnings that millions could lose access to essential services. Economically and culturally, challenges surrounding gold and smuggling persist, while efforts are underway to preserve Sudan's heritage through digital initiatives.

Top Story of the Week

Drone Strikes Hit Hospitals and Markets as RSF Advances and Cross-Border Tensions with Chad Intensify



Fighting in Sudan continues to escalate, with warring parties exchanging drone attacks across several states. The strikes have targeted hospitals, markets, and civilian infrastructure, leaving dozens of civilians dead or injured.

On Friday, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) launched [morning and evening drone attacks](#) on the city of Al-Dabba in Northern State. The first strike targeted the city's power station and a university college using multiple strategic drones, cutting off electricity and injuring at least three people.

A second attack followed hours later, according to local sources, resulting in additional casualties and sparking widespread fear among residents amid repeated strikes within the same day.

Meanwhile, RSF forces have made territorial gains, seizing the city of Bara—the second-largest city in North Kordofan—after intense fighting, as well as the border town of Karnoi in North Darfur. The latter represents one of the last strongholds of the joint force of armed movements allied with the Sudanese army.

Since the outbreak of war between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the RSF in April 2023, control of Bara—located approximately 45 kilometers from El-Obeid, the capital of North Kordofan—has shifted repeatedly between the two sides.

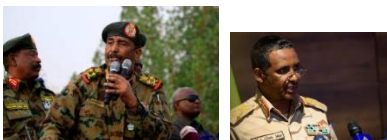
Local sources told [Sudan Tribune](#) that RSF forces attacked Bara at dawn on Monday using dozens of combat vehicles, drones, and artillery, forcing the army and allied joint forces to withdraw westward toward the town of Al-Dankoj.

On the same day, the Joint Force of armed movements announced that it had repelled a new RSF attack on the border town of Tina in North Darfur, part of a broader offensive aimed at capturing the last remaining positions of the army and its allies in Darfur.

The violence has also spilled [across the border into Chad](#), raising security tensions. Chad's president ordered the complete closure of the shared border after a drone strike hit a gathering of mourners in the village of Mabrouka, in Chad's Tina district, adjacent to the Sudanese locality of Tina, on Wednesday. The attack left multiple civilians dead and injured. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reported that 17 wounded individuals died after arriving at a temporary hospital in Chad's Tina on Monday, among a total of 123 injured, including 66 in critical condition.

Political & Security Update

Al-Burhan Rejects Ceasefire as Hemedti Signals Openness to Humanitarian Truce



In an Eid al-Fitr speech by, Sudanese army chief and Chairman of the Sovereignty Council, General [Abdel Fattah al-Burhan](#), renewed his rejection of any ceasefire or truce with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), conditioning any

halt in fighting on the group’s withdrawal and regrouping under a comprehensive, time-bound peace plan that would ultimately lead to a permanent settlement and ensure no armed entities remain outside official state structures.

At the same time, RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan [Dagalo \(Hemedti\)](#), expressed in a separate Eid address his willingness to accept a “serious and credible” humanitarian truce that would allow the unimpeded delivery of aid to civilians, with the aim of alleviating the suffering caused by the war.

Al-Burhan said he is awaiting a response from mediators and parties seeking to end the war regarding the implementation of peace initiatives proposed by the Sudanese government, which he described as “meeting” the Sudanese people’s demands to dismantle and eliminate any future role for the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which he accused of committing war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity.

He pledged to citizens to move forward “together to rid the country of the RSF ‘terrorist militia’ and its affiliates,” adding: “We will unite to build the state, complete its institutions, and lay down sound and disciplined foundations to restore normal civilian life and establish the principle of peaceful transfer of power.”

[Sudanese Civil Alliance Engages Quint Mechanism in Addis Ababa to Advance Political Process and Conflict Resolution](#)

The Alliance of Sudanese [Revolutionary civilian Forces](#) for National Issues said it held discussions with the Quint Mechanism at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa on arrangements for the political process and pathways to resolving the conflict.

The Quint Mechanism—comprising the African Union, IGAD, the United Nations, the League of Arab States, and the European Union—is seeking to contain Sudan’s crisis and bridge divisions among political actors, paving the way for a process to determine the country’s future governance.

Nour El-Din Salah El-Din, a member of the alliance’s political committee, told Sudan Tribune that the coalition presented its vision for designing an inclusive Sudanese dialogue process. He explained that the alliance, established in Khartoum on February 18, emphasized during the meeting that dialogue among civilian forces and engagement with the military leadership could proceed in parallel, with each track reinforcing the other and helping create a conducive environment to end the war and build a state based on institutions. The meeting comes days after the alliance announced its intention to engage in dialogue with the army, following talks with its commander and Chairman of the Sovereignty Council, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

[Deadly Strike on El Daein Hospital: Dozens Killed as WHO Confirms Attack and Sudan’s Warring Parties Trade Blame](#)



The World Health [Organization \(WHO\)](#) announced it has verified an attack on El Daein Hospital, the capital of East Darfur State, which left at least 64 people dead, including 13 children, two nurses, a doctor, and a number of patients.

Later, the hospital's medical director, Dr. Ali Mahmoud, told [Sudan Tribune](#) that the total number of victims exceeded 150. He said the death toll included 64 people—among them 13 children and seven women, three of whom were pregnant—as well as 44 men, including eight elderly individuals. He added that 89 people were injured, including eight medical staff, 11 children, 15 women, and 55 men.

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) accused the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) of carrying out the attack, prompting widespread local and international condemnation. The Sudanese army, however, denied any involvement in a statement.

In its statement, the WHO said the attack also injured 89 people, including eight healthcare workers, and caused significant damage to the hospital's pediatric, maternity, and emergency departments. The organization added that the total number of casualties resulting from attacks on healthcare facilities during the Sudan war has reached 2,000 deaths. Over nearly three years of conflict, the WHO has documented 2,036 deaths in 213 attacks on healthcare facilities, in addition to more than 720 injuries.

[Emergency Lawyers Demand RSF Reveal Whereabouts of Detained Women Activists and Journalists in Darfur Amid Fears of Torture](#)



The [Emergency Lawyers group](#) has called on the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) to disclose the locations of women activists detained in Nyala, South Darfur, amid growing concerns over their safety and potential exposure to torture. On March 5, RSF forces arrested a number of female activists and media workers following their participation in a workshop on women's rights and issues of peace and security in Nyala, a city the group has designated as the seat of a parallel government formed by the Ta'sees coalition.

In a statement, the group demanded that the RSF “immediately reveal the whereabouts of the forcibly disappeared activists, release them unconditionally, and allow their families and lawyers to communicate with them without restrictions.” The statement also called for an end to the targeting of activists and human rights defenders.

The group identified those still in detention as Mawahib Ibrahim, Izdihar Abdel-Moneim Hamid, Ishraqa Abdelrahman, Dr. Manahil Mustafa Al-Senousi, and Zahra Mohamed Al-Hassan, noting that they were arrested from their homes. According to the statement, the detainees have been transferred to unknown locations, with all communication cut off and their families and legal representatives denied access or information regarding their whereabouts.

RSF Accused of Killing Civilians and Burning Commercial Convoy in Kordofan Amid Escalating Violations



The [Sudan Doctors Network](#) said on Wednesday that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) killed 12 civilians, including women, and injured three others in the Shreim Meima area, north of Bara in North Kordofan State, allegedly on suspicion of affiliation with the army.

On Tuesday, RSF forces also [set fire to a commercial convoy](#) of large trucks loaded with agricultural crops near the city of Al-Nuhud in West Kordofan, as it was heading toward El-Obeid in North Kordofan. Members of the RSF documented the incident in a video showing the moment the trucks were set ablaze while carrying large quantities of agricultural produce, including sorghum and peanuts.

Sudanese Court Sentences Prominent Defense Lawyer to Life in Prison on RSF Collaboration Charges

A criminal court in Wad Madani, the capital of Al Jazirah State in central Sudan, has sentenced [lawyer Ahmed Al-Mustafa](#)—known for defending detainees—to life imprisonment on charges of collaborating with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The ruling was issued on March 11 following brief trial sessions that came after his arrest from his home in December, according to sources close to him.

A close associate said that Ahmed Al-Mustafa did not leave his home after the RSF took control of Wad Madani in December 2023, and remained there even after the army regained control of the city. During the war, he was actively involved in voluntary initiatives to provide food and drinking water to stranded civilians.

After the army detained thousands of activists and civilians in Wad Madani on accusations of collaborating with the RSF, Al-Mustafa voluntarily took on their legal defense in court, successfully securing acquittals for several detainees. However, he was suddenly arrested in December and put on trial on the same charges.

A friend from Wad Madani told *Ayin* that “Ahmed Al-Mustafa was arbitrarily detained because of his defense of detainees. He was also in a dispute with a local resident who wielded influence through a son serving as an officer in the security cell forces. Despite the lack of any evidence against him, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.”

Sudan’s Committee to Dissolve June 30 Regime Resumes Activity, Targets Former Islamic Movement Leaders and Assets

The [Committee for the Dissolution](#) of the June 30, 1989 Regime and Recovery of Public Funds—the body tasked with dismantling the Islamic Movement-led government—announced the resumption of its activities, four years after being dissolved following the October 25, 2021 coup that toppled the revolutionary government.

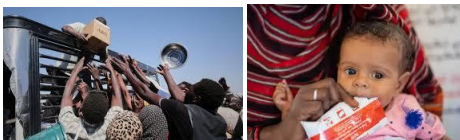
In a statement, the committee said it has returned to pursuing leaders of the disbanded National Congress/Islamic Movement inside Sudan and abroad, tracing their financial and organizational networks, and recovering stolen public funds.

The committee was originally established after the fall of former President Omar Al-Bashir's regime following the December 2018 revolution, with the goal of dismantling the empowerment structures created by the former regime within state institutions and recovering related public assets.

The committee's revival came during a recent meeting, in which it resolved to continue tracking the assets, leaders, fronts, and institutions of the disbanded organization, returning funds to the public treasury wherever found, cutting off its financial resources, and ensuring accountability for those responsible for violations and crimes. It also noted that its previous dissolution lacked legitimacy, following the U.S. State Department's designation of Sudan's Muslim Brotherhood and Islamic groups as terrorist organizations. The committee confirmed that it possesses lists of Islamic Movement leaders across states and localities, as well as detailed information on companies, institutions, and organizations affiliated with the movement that serve as fronts or arms of the group, and said it will disclose them to the public upon resuming its operations.

♥ Humanitarian Focus

UN Warns of Humanitarian Crisis in Sudan as Funding Shortfall Threatens Millions of Lives by July 2026



The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs ([OCHA](#)) has warned that 20,593,368 Sudanese could lose access to life-saving health, nutrition, sanitation, and protection services by July 2026 due to a monthly funding shortfall of at least USD 13,623,230.

The warning comes after the United States announced in early 2025 the closure of the “Legacy-BHA” program, run by USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. OCHA cautioned that the full implementation of this closure would result in an annual funding gap of USD 163,478,760.

The shortfall is expected to affect at least 1,716,114 people each month and over 20 million people annually, depriving them of previously accessible services across four critical sectors: health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and protection during the coming months.

Fire Ravages Tineila Camp in North Darfur, Killing Child and Destroying 903 Homes



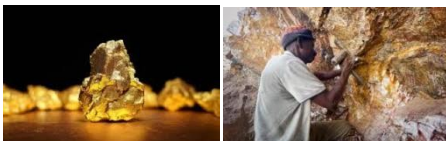
The Jebel Marra and [Tawila Emergency Coordination Council](#) reported the death of a child and the injury of another person in a fire that broke out at Al-Omda Camp in Tawila town, Tawila locality, North Darfur State, on Saturday, destroying 903 homes. According to the council's report, the fire erupted on the second day of Eid al-Fitr, around 12:30 p.m., and rapidly spread throughout the densely populated camp, causing widespread destruction of shelters and significant loss of life and property.

The report indicated that 903 homes were destroyed, affecting an estimated 900 to 1,100 families, based on the assumption of one shelter per family, with some shared accommodations. The total number of affected individuals was estimated between 4,500 and 6,000, assuming an average household size of five to six members.

The council confirmed that one child, approximately five years old, died from severe burns, while another person sustained injuries and is currently receiving medical care. The fire also completely destroyed household belongings, including food supplies, cooking utensils, furniture, and personal possessions, leaving the affected families exposed and without shelter.

Economic Snapshot

Middle East Conflict Spurs Global Gold Surge: Sudan Faces Opportunities and Risks Amid Rising Prices and Smuggling Concerns



The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has raised concerns over its direct [impact on gold](#), one of Sudan's key sources of foreign currency, while some view it as an economic opportunity if the country can regulate the sector and curb smuggling.

Motassem Mohamed Saleh, Secretary-General of Sudan's Gold Exporters Association, said the rapid developments and rising military tensions in the Middle East could directly influence the global gold market, as gold is widely regarded as a safe-haven asset during times of crisis. This often leads to increased demand and higher prices on international markets. Saleh noted that Sudan could benefit from these changes, emphasizing that global demand

represents a significant economic opportunity if mining and export activities are organized to maximize revenue for the national economy.

However, he warned that Sudan's economy is closely linked to Gulf countries through trade, investments, remittances, and a large Sudanese workforce there. Any economic or security disruptions in the region could indirectly affect Sudan's economy. He added that conflicts in the Middle East could also disrupt aviation and shipping, increase insurance costs, and complicate banking transfers—factors that could impact export flows and regional markets.

Economic expert Mohamed Al-Nayer highlighted that gold has increasingly become a global store of value, particularly as major economies such as China and Russia expand their reserves. He explained that rising global demand generally leads to higher prices, potentially benefiting producing countries like Sudan through increased export revenues.

Al-Nayer stressed that Sudan's ability to capitalize on these developments depends on regulating the sector. Currently, about 80% of Sudan's gold production comes from artisanal mining, with only 20% from the formal sector, leaving the door open for smuggling and loss of revenue. He called for urgent reforms in the mining sector.

Smuggling Risks

Al-Nayer noted that tensions in the Gulf are unlikely to directly affect Sudanese gold exports under normal circumstances, as gold is mainly exported by air rather than through seaports. Key destination markets for Sudanese gold include not only Gulf countries but also Turkey, Russia, China, and India.

A former gold sector official warned of dual effects: while higher global prices could theoretically boost export revenues, they could also exacerbate gold smuggling if production areas and exit points are not properly controlled. Technical estimates indicate that 48% to 60% of Sudan's gold production is smuggled through land borders or uncontrolled airports and crossings. A 2025 report by Swissaid revealed the involvement of regional and international networks in exploiting Sudanese gold, noting a 70% increase in informal gold flows from Sudan to the UAE in 2024.

Culture & In-Depth

Sudan's National Museum Artifacts Digitized to Preserve Heritage Amid Ongoing Conflict



In an effort to safeguard Sudan's endangered cultural heritage, nearly 1,000 artifacts from the [Sudan National Museum](#) are being revived through a digital platform that allows the public to explore them online, following damage sustained by the museum since the outbreak of war in 2023.

According to project officials, an initial batch of 500 artifacts is already available digitally, with a second batch scheduled for release next summer. This next phase will cover periods ranging from prehistoric times to the Kingdom of Napata, aiming to preserve the visual memory of one of Sudan's most important heritage institutions.

Before suffering looting and destruction during the war, the National Museum in Khartoum housed around 100,000 artifacts, including the largest known collection of Nubian relics, raising widespread concern over the fate of this unique cultural legacy.

Florian Moreno, project director at the French company Art Graphique & Patrimoine overseeing the technical implementation, said the main goal was "to preserve the memory of a physical museum currently inaccessible and transfer it into the digital space." He added that the team relied on original architectural plans, comprehensive documentation, and a reference 3D model developed in collaboration with the Louvre Museum.

The project, costing approximately €33,000, was funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with Sudan's National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums and the French Embassy in Sudan. The digital version is primarily designed for Sudanese audiences via mobile devices.

The initiative is also viewed as a pilot model for protecting threatened heritage worldwide. The same company previously carried out similar projects for UNESCO in Syria, including documenting the Palmyra Gate and the Citadel of Homs.

Project organizers hope the digital archive will help keep Sudanese heritage alive in the global memory until conditions stabilize and the National Museum can reopen.

Further Reading

Sudan's Children in Ramadan: A Childhood Stolen by War



Amina fled with her three children from their home in Khartoum three years ago, as fighting escalated between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). She now lives in a displacement shelter in Port Sudan, where the holy month has taken on a completely different meaning for her children.. [Read the full story](#)

Blue Nile: Fierce battles, drone strikes, competing control and thousands displaced



Some of the most violent [clashes](#) between the warring parties and their allied forces have been taking place in Blue Nile State since the beginning of last month. Conflict around the southern town of Kurmuk in Blue Nile State, near the Ethiopian border, Blue Nile: Fierce battles, drone strikes, competing control and thousands displaced ..[Read the full story](#)

Sudan's 'lion cubs': The child soldiers going viral on TikTok



Many of the videos reviewed show the children in military uniforms posing with fighters and senior officials from both sides of the conflict—the paramilitary [Rapid Support Forces](#) (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). They are seen celebrating battlefield victories, delivering motivational speeches, and making violent threats. In some footage the children are armed. [Read the full story](#)

Thank you for reading. Your awareness and engagement are crucial. Please consider sharing this newsletter with others who may find it informative.

Feedback is always welcome! Just reply to this email.

Best regards,

[Newsroom Team/Sudan media Forum]



 [Sudan Media Forum](#)

 [facebook](#)

 [X](#)

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please reply to this email with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.
