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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 Sudan is witnessing a dangerous escalation in air and artillery strikes, with direct attacks on civilians, healthcare facilities, and markets, leaving dozens dead. At the same time, the humanitarian crisis is deepening, marked by mass displacement, worsening food insecurity, and rising levels of sexual violence and rights abuses. Politically, tensions are increasing as Khartoum rejects the Berlin conference, while the UN warns of landmine risks and environmental deterioration in the capital. Economically and culturally, reports expose conflict-linked gold networks and losses in key sectors, alongside powerful human stories reflecting Sudanese resilience.

Top Story of the Week

Relentless Shelling and Drone Strikes Kill Dozens Across Sudan, Hospitals and Markets Hit



Artillery bombardments and drone strikes have continued across multiple areas of Sudan, targeting hospitals, health centers, and markets in the states of North Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and White Nile. The intensified attacks have left dozens of civilians dead, amid a exchange of accusations between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and their respective allies.

A local emergency response room in the city of Kutum, North Darfur, reported that a drone strike targeting a civilian gathering during a social occasion on Wednesday—allegedly carried out by the Sudanese army—killed 58 civilians, including 17 children, and injured several others, some critically.

In South Kordofan, at least four people were killed on Saturday and others wounded following artillery shelling by an alliance of the RSF and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N), led by Abdelaziz al-Hilu, targeting a market in the city of Dilling.

The alliance has recently intensified its [attacks on Dilling](#)—the second-largest city in South Kordofan—using drones and heavy artillery, resulting in significant civilian casualties and the destruction of schools, hospitals, markets, and factories. The coalition has also launched intermittent ground offensives aimed at seizing control of the densely populated city. Local sources told Sudan Tribune that “four people were killed and 13 others injured in artillery shelling carried out by the RSF–SPLM alliance on Dilling market.” The attack reportedly destroyed four shops completely and partially damaged seven others.

Meanwhile, the SPLM-N accused the Sudanese army of carrying out a drone strike on Tuesday targeting the Bileila area in Kurmuk locality, Blue Nile state. The strike [hit the Bileila market](#) and its surroundings, killing more than seven civilians and injuring several others, according to the group. The aerial bombardment also led to the burning of the market and nearby homes.

Last week, Sudan’s Ministry of Health announced that 10 medical and administrative staff were killed and 22 civilians injured in a drone strike targeting [Al-Jabalain Hospital](#) in White Nile state. In a statement, the ministry said: “A drone operated by the Rapid Support Forces targeted Al-Jabalain Hospital, killing ten members of the medical and administrative staff while performing their humanitarian duties.” . The RSF denied responsibility for the hospital strike, describing the accusations as unfounded.

Political & Security Update

Sudan Rejects Berlin Aid Conference Over Exclusion, Warns of Sovereignty Breach



Sudan has formally notified the [German government](#) of its objection to the Berlin conference scheduled for April 15, which aims to mobilize humanitarian support. According to a statement from Sudan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the country’s ambassador to Berlin, Ilham Ibrahim, on Friday delivered an official memorandum to the German Foreign Office conveying Khartoum’s rejection of holding the conference without the participation, consent, and full consultation of the Sudanese government in all arrangements.

European countries have announced plans to convene the humanitarian pledging conference on April 15. The Berlin meeting would mark the third such event, following earlier conferences in Paris and London. Around 40 individuals representing political coalitions and parties have reportedly been invited to take part.

The Sudanese ambassador informed the Director for Sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel at the German Foreign Office, Gesa Bräutigam, that “any effort to deliberate or make decisions regarding Sudan without involving its government constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter, and represents an infringement of state sovereignty and established diplomatic norms.”

She warned that what she described as a “tutelary approach” reflected in the Berlin conference could prompt Sudan to reconsider its engagement with the countries organizing and sponsoring the event, in line with the principle of reciprocity.

The ambassador also reiterated Sudan’s rejection of excluding its government from the conference under what she called the pretext of equating the sovereign state and its legitimate institutions with what she described as an “armed militia.”

The so-called Quad mechanism—comprising the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt—is expected to participate in the conference. Meanwhile, several political groups have announced a boycott of the Berlin conference, citing what they described as an imbalance in representation among Sudanese stakeholders, as well as the exclusion of the government alongside the invitation of organizations and entities linked to a parallel administration in areas controlled by the Rapid Support Forces in Darfur and Kordofan.

28,000 Displaced in Blue Nile as Fighting Intensifies and Territory Changes Hands



The International Organization for Migration ([IOM](#)) [has reported](#) that an estimated 28,020 individuals (5,609 households) were displaced from areas in Sudan's Blue Nile state between January 11 and April 2, 2026. Meanwhile, the Sudanese Armed Forces announced that they had taken control of the Sheetio area in the region. The figure of 28,020 displaced marks an 18 percent increase over the past ten days, compared to 23,735 displaced persons recorded on March 25, 2026.

In a report, the organization said those displaced fled from the areas of Bau (13,130 displaced), Kurmuk (10,310 displaced), and Geisan (4,580 displaced). The IOM added that the displaced have moved to six different locations within Blue Nile state: Bau (9,940 displaced), Damazin (12,895 displaced), Roseries (3,290 displaced), Geisan (1,405 displaced), Tadamon (200 displaced), and Wad Al-Mahi (290 displaced). The vast majority of the newly displaced—87 percent—have sought refuge in informal settlements, while others have been hosted in schools and public buildings 9 percent, or by host families 5 percent.

Fighting in Blue Nile has intensified in recent weeks, with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N), led by Abdelaziz al-Hilu, seizing control of Kurmuk and other areas.

[Human Rights Watch: Sudanese Forces Accused of Arbitrary Detention, Torture of Civilians](#)



[Human Rights Watch](#) said on Thursday that security and military forces affiliated with the Sudanese Armed Forces have arbitrarily detained civilians, subjected them to torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and denied them their right to a fair trial in areas under their control.

In a report reviewed by Radio Dabanga, the organization said security and army forces detained civilians on allegations of collaborating with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), particularly in areas recently retaken by the army. In many cases, detentions were reportedly based solely on individuals' ethnic identity, their actual or perceived political affiliation, or their humanitarian work. The group warned that unlawful deprivation of liberty, ill-treatment, and torture against civilians may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

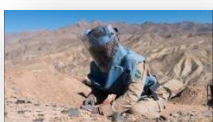
Mohamed Osman, Sudan researcher at Human Rights Watch, said: "Sudanese Armed Forces and allied groups have carried out a campaign of intimidation and retaliation against individuals they accuse of collaboration, based on their identity, humanitarian work, or political activity, or simply for having lived under RSF control. Accounts from former detainees, their relatives, and lawyers paint a grim picture of arbitrary abuses fueled by a climate of impunity."

The organization said it had received reports of at least two deaths as a result of torture and ill-treatment in detention. Authorities are presumed responsible for deaths in custody, obliging them to conduct prompt, impartial, and effective investigations.

Rights groups have also documented the detention of hundreds of women accused of cooperating with the RSF based on their ethnicity or place of residence, with at least 25 reportedly sentenced to death.

A police officer integrated into a security cell in Omdurman, part of the Greater Khartoum area, said that in April 2025 he witnessed colleagues abusing a woman accused of collaborating with the RSF. “We went in three vehicles to her home. Two armed men from the Al-Baraa bin Malik Brigade stormed the house and quickly dragged her out half-naked, beating and slapping her before throwing her into the back of one of our pickup trucks,” he said.

UN Warns of Extensive Landmine Fields Around Khartoum as Rainfall Increases Civilian Risk



[United Nations](#) has confirmed that Sudan’s capital, Khartoum, is surrounded by seven minefields in different areas, warning that seasonal rainfall is further exposing explosive devices and increasing risks to civilians. The UN said that more than 10% of munitions used in the war have not detonated, creating a widespread contamination hazard across populated areas.

UN data indicates that between August and the end of March, around 55 people were killed or injured in landmine explosions, including eight who died in September during a funeral procession in the Kadero area, north of Khartoum. According to the International Observatory on Conflict and Environment, every 57 square kilometers of Khartoum contains an estimated 100,000 tons of war debris, while total debris across the state is estimated at around 38 million tons spread over approximately 22,000 square kilometers. This rubble includes toxic materials such as asbestos and explosive remnants.

International and Sudanese organizations have warned of rising environmental and health risks in Khartoum as the rainy season begins, with reports indicating the presence of extensive minefields laid during the conflict, parts of which have been exposed and displaced by flooding.

“Feminist Justice” Campaign Launched to Confront Abuses and Restore Accountability for Sudanese Women



Amid a war that has devastated Sudan and deepened the fragility of justice institutions, violations against women and girls continue to escalate in an environment marked by widening protection gaps and the near absence of accountability.

Against this backdrop, the [“Feminist Justice” campaign](#) has emerged as a civil and feminist initiative aimed at reframing justice for women as a humanitarian and human rights priority. The campaign seeks to unify efforts among feminist, rights-based, and civil society groups inside Sudan and abroad.

Launched on Monday, the initiative presents itself as an open platform for collective action, combining documentation, advocacy, awareness-building, and pressure on policymakers. It aims to shift the discourse on justice from condemnation to action, and from fragmentation to coordination, promoting a vision of justice grounded in partnership, accountability, and fairness, while restoring the voices of women and their role in social transformation.

The campaign originated from the “No to Oppression of Women” initiative before expanding to include a broad coalition of women’s, community, professional, political, and rights groups within Sudan and in the diaspora. It reflects a growing need for organized collective action to place women’s issues at the center of the public agenda.

[Dozens Killed in Suspected Drone Strike on Wedding Gathering in North Darfur](#)



Local Sudanese and human rights sources said [dozens of civilians were killed](#) and others injured in a drone strike that targeted a civilian gathering in the city of Kutum, North Darfur, western Sudan. According to local medical sources and eyewitnesses, the attack took place on the evening of Wednesday, April 8, in the Al-Salama residential neighborhood during a wedding gathering, resulting in a high number of casualties, including women and children.

A local emergency room in Kutum reported that the drone strike—allegedly carried out by the Sudanese army—killed 58 civilians, including 17 children, and left a number of others injured, some in critical condition.

Sources said some bodies were severely burned, with others reduced to charred remains or scattered body parts. More than 10 people are still reported missing. Around 50 others sustained injuries of varying severity, amid significant difficulties in evacuating the wounded due to continued drone presence and strikes late into the night.

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) condemned the attack, stating that an army drone of the “Bayraktar” type had struck Kutum, describing the incident as a “full-fledged war crime.”

Kutum lies approximately 120 kilometers northwest of El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur state, and has been under RSF control since the early months of the conflict that erupted on April 15, 2023.

[Report Warns of Systematic Attacks on Aid in Sudan, Possible War Crimes](#)



The [Emergency Lawyers Group](#) has revealed in a recent report a dangerous escalation in the targeting of humanitarian aid convoys in Sudan since the outbreak of conflict in April 2023 through February 2026. The group documented more than 15 direct attacks on convoys, in addition to dozens of incidents involving the looting and destruction of warehouses and logistical facilities.

The group said these violations are not isolated incidents, but rather reflect a recurring and systematic pattern that undermines the rules of international humanitarian law and significantly limits the effectiveness of the humanitarian response in the country.

The attacks have resulted in the killing of at least 10 humanitarian workers and the injury of more than 11 others. At least 20 aid trucks have been destroyed or burned, while some convoys were completely looted. The report also identified a qualitative shift in the nature of the attacks, documenting the use of drones during 2025 and 2026—an indication of escalating methods used to target humanitarian operations.

The group documented attacks on or looting of more than 50 warehouses belonging to the World Food Programme (WFP), in addition to the seizure or destruction of 87 humanitarian offices. Facilities belonging to other international organizations were also targeted, resulting in the loss of large quantities of vital food and medical supplies.

According to the report, humanitarian operations are being targeted through multiple avenues, including direct attacks on convoys, looting of supplies, targeting of personnel, the imposition of security and administrative restrictions, the criminalization of humanitarian work, questioning the neutrality of aid convoys, and the politicization of assistance to serve the agendas of parties to the conflict.

The Emergency Lawyers Group stressed that these practices constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes, particularly in cases involving the deliberate targeting of aid or the use of starvation as a method of warfare.

♥ Humanitarian Focus

[NRC Survey: Sudanese Families Skip Meals as Hunger Deepens and Livelihoods Collapse](#)



The Norwegian Refugee Council ([NRC](#)) said that findings from a recent study conducted in Sudan and neighboring countries show that most families are reducing the number of daily meals due to worsening food insecurity, amid a near-total collapse in income sources. The council conducted a survey in March covering 472 households in Sudan, 644 Sudanese refugee households in Chad, and 177 households in South Sudan, focusing on food security, livelihoods, protection risks, and access to basic services.

The organization also carried out a separate needs assessment of 694 Sudanese households in Egypt, and drew on monitoring data collected by the REACH initiative on Sudanese households in Libya. In its report, the NRC said the findings indicate that “more than 90% of households in South Sudan, 80% in Sudan, 75% in Egypt, and 70% in Chad are reducing or skipping meals.”

The survey highlights a collapse in coping capacity, the organization noted, signaling that food insecurity has extended beyond areas of direct displacement. According to the NRC, 74% of households in Sudan, South Sudan, and Chad have no income at all, while 90% of female-headed households in Chad reported having no source of income. The survey also revealed severe humanitarian consequences, with 65% of households separated from family members and 90% having lost their homes.

Data further showed that 18% of households reported sending children to work in the past month, while only 45% of displaced children have access to regular education, and nearly one in five has no access to schooling at all. The report concluded that families’ ability to live with dignity is rapidly eroding, with only 15% of households in Sudan, 25% in Chad, and 43% in South Sudan saying their current conditions allow them to live with dignity.

[MSF Reports Over 3,000 Survivors of Sexual Violence in Darfur Amid Ongoing Conflict](#)



Médecins Sans Frontières ([MSF](#)) has documented more than 3,396 survivors of sexual violence who sought medical care between January 2024 and November 2025 at facilities it supports in North and South Darfur, Sudan. Women and girls accounted for 97% of the survivors.

In a report released on Tuesday titled “There is Something I Want to Tell You ...Surviving the Sexual Violence Crisis in Darfur,” the organization said most perpetrators were armed actors. In North Darfur, more than 95% of survivors reported being assaulted by armed individuals, while in South Darfur 68% reported the same. The report

also identified other perpetrators in South Darfur, including civilians (24%), intimate partners or family members (15.3%), and criminal groups (2.5%). MSF described harrowing accounts from survivors of sexual violence in Darfur, highlighting the ongoing impact of the conflict. The testimonies underscore the scale of abuses faced by women and girls, including rape, exploitation, and gender-based violence.

The report noted that many assaults involved multiple perpetrators. In South Darfur, 1,395 survivors (59.8%) reported being attacked by more than one assailant during the same incident. A significant proportion of survivors were children.

According to the findings, many survivors lack adequate access to medical and psychological care and face strong social stigma that prevents them from speaking about their experiences or seeking help. In South Darfur, 20% of survivors were under 18, including 41 children under the age of five. In Tawila, North Darfur, 27% of survivors seen in September and October 2025 were under 18.

Economic Snapshot

Report Flags Sudan Conflict Gold Still Entering Global Supply Chains Despite Refinery Destruction



A recent report by the [Center for Environmental and Social Studies](#) said that Sudanese conflict-linked gold continues to appear in global supply chains, particularly in Volkswagen supply chain reports for 2024. The field report stated that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) seized the Sudan Gold Refinery in May 2023 and looted around 2.7 tons of gold before completely destroying it.

The report called on international companies and financial institutions to immediately suspend the trade of Sudanese gold linked to war financing, urging stronger transparency and accountability systems.

Since the outbreak of war in 2023, Sudan has become a conduit for gold entering international markets through complex cross-border smuggling networks. The report highlighted the Volkswagen case as a revealing example of gaps in global supply chain tracking systems, particularly regarding minerals sourced from conflict zones. It noted that the Sudan Gold Refinery continued to appear in the company's 2024 supply chain reports despite having been rendered inoperative after RSF control in May 2023 and the subsequent looting and destruction of its infrastructure.

The Sudan Gold Refinery had been a cornerstone of the country's gold sector, responsible for refining gold, determining its quality, and regulating exports to ensure revenues reached the state treasury. It was assigned an

international identification code (CID002567) and integrated into global supplier tracking systems. However, its listing reportedly remained active even after its full shutdown, raising serious questions about the reliability of corporate verification mechanisms.

Sudan's Leather Sector Suffers Major Waste, Government Sees Export Opportunity



Sudan's [leather sector](#) is facing significant waste and neglect due to poor handling, weak coordination among relevant authorities, lack of optimal utilization, and limited capacity of local tanneries, leading to the loss of more than 50% of available hides.

The country's annual leather production is estimated at around 22 million pieces, while actual exports do not exceed 7 million pieces, including approximately 3 million during the Eid al-Adha season. Only about 20 tanneries operate in the country, most of them traditional and low-capacity.

Speaking at a workshop on preventing waste in sacrificial hides on Thursday, the Minister of Livestock in the de facto authority Ahmed al-Tajani said the state treasury loses millions of dollars annually from a resource that could significantly contribute to the national economy.

He said poor management and waste of hides create major economic losses for the sector, in addition to environmental problems caused by waste accumulation. The minister added that the ministry's strategic plan includes 40 projects under the government's program, aiming to transform the sector from waste into a strategic export industry. The plan also includes establishing markets for leather products, increasing trade volumes, and shifting from exporting raw hides to value-added manufacturing. He further called for coordination with the Ministry of Industry and Trade to rehabilitate meat and livestock processing factories, develop the sector, and establish partnerships with global fashion houses to maximize the value of leather products and support the national economy.

Al-Tajani also pointed to the impact of the regional war in the Middle East, saying it has led to higher meat prices due to increased shipping and insurance costs and difficulties importing from Latin America. He urged better facilitation for exporters to capitalize on the situation and fill supply gaps in regional markets, particularly in meat exports.

Culture & In-Depth

Syrian-French Photographer Wins World Press Photo Award for Sudan War Coverage



From the frontlines of Sudan’s war, Syrian-French [photojournalist Abdelmoneim Eissa](#) has been named among the winners of the World Press Photo Awards 2026 for a powerful visual story documenting the conflict in Sudan.

Eissa, who is based in Damascus, was selected as the regional winner for Africa in the “Stories” category—one of the competition’s most prominent sections, which annually recognizes outstanding work in photojournalism and documentary storytelling while highlighting humanitarian crises around the world. His winning series consists of images taken in Sudan under the title “War in Sudan: A Besieged Nation,” offering a visual account of the human suffering unfolding amid the conflict that erupted in April 2023.

The photographs are considered rare due to the difficulty of access to frontline areas under tight security restrictions. Among the most striking images is a portrait of a displaced woman, identified as Hajja Abdullah, showing severe burn injuries sustained in a displacement camp.

Other images capture scenes from Omdurman, where students are seen sitting for exams at Omdurman Islamic University despite significant war damage to the buildings—an image reflecting resilience amid destruction.

Another photograph shows soldiers moving through a battle-damaged market, while a fourth captures a fighter descending from a building during active clashes, illustrating the intensity and danger of conditions on the ground.

The grand prize winner of the World Press Photo Awards 2026, along with two finalists, is expected to be announced at an official ceremony scheduled for April 23 in Amsterdam.

Further Reading

[On World Health Day: Sudanese Health from Shock to Long-Term Psychological Depletion](#)



On April 7, as the world marks World Health Day under banners of well-being and medical advancement, Sudanese people awaken to a reality stripped of even the most basic conditions for survival. The conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces has evolved into a silent war waged within exhausted bodies and spirits drained by relentless strain. [Read the full story](#)

“Between 250,000 and 280,000 students have been deprived of sitting exams, and education in Sudan should not be treated as part of the conflict”



On March 13, the National Initiative to Support the Sudanese Secondary Certificate Exams—established in February by a group of education advocates, teachers, academics, and civil society actors—submitted a memorandum addressed to the Sudanese public, calling for a delay in holding the 2026 secondary school exams. The initiative urged stakeholders to seek practical solutions to accommodate students who had previously been unable to sit for exams due to the war. It has engaged with the government formed in areas under army control, as well as with the parallel administration formed by the Tasis Alliance in Nyala, in an effort to find workable mechanisms that would allow students in areas under both sides’ control to take the exams. [Read the full interview](#)

From Kordofan: Displaced Sudanese Women Recount Stories of Violence, Hunger, and Loss



Amid Sudan’s ongoing war, displaced women from Kordofan continue to arrive in camps carrying stories of violence, deprivation, and the loss of loved ones. Alya (27) reached a displacement camp ten months ago after fleeing the town of Dubeibat in South Kordofan following a harrowing journey. She says she was beaten and

humiliated at checkpoints, and that all the food she carried to feed her eight children was confiscated. “Every time we passed a checkpoint, it was followed by another, and they kept beating and humiliating us,” she said. “I had flour to mix with water to feed my eight children, but they took it from me. They took everything—even our clothes—and burned them in front of our eyes.” . She added that armed individuals transported some children on donkeys while others were forced to continue on foot toward El Obeid. “They killed my husband and my son,” she said. “My husband was carrying our child on a donkey when they opened fire and killed them both.” [Read the full story](#)

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