



#ساندوا السودان
#StandWithSudan

Sudan Media Forum Weekly Briefing

Issue [34] | 8 June 2026

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

Hello ,

Welcome to your weekly briefing. This week, as drone warfare intensifies and civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction continue to mount across Sudan, renewed political efforts have emerged in search of a pathway out of the country's prolonged crisis. This week's bulletin highlights the worsening humanitarian situation, from cholera outbreaks and mass displacement to growing food insecurity and the increasingly precarious conditions facing Sudanese refugees across the region. It also examines warnings over threats to the upcoming agricultural season, while shedding light on stories of resilience, memory, and the enduring human cost of war.

Top Story of the Week

Drone War Escalates Across Sudan, Leaving Dozens of Civilians Dead



The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have recently intensified their drone attacks across multiple fronts, including the capital, Khartoum, while the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have continued military offensives in several areas, resulting in dozens of civilian casualties. Meanwhile, fierce fighting continues in the Blue Nile region between the Sudanese army and an alliance of the RSF and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), with both sides competing for territorial control. The clashes have forced thousands of civilians to flee their homes.

On Saturday, one person was killed and several others injured in an RSF drone strike targeting a fuel station [in El Obeid](#), the capital of North Kordofan State.

At least 13 civilians were killed and others wounded over Friday and Saturday in drone attacks that struck [Abu Zabad Market](#) and several areas in Hamrat Al Sheikh locality in North Kordofan. Hamrat Al Sheikh has long been exposed to repeated aerial attacks due to its strategic location linking the Kordofan states, Northern State, and the Darfur region. Previous strikes on the area have killed dozens of civilians, destroyed water sources, and forced large numbers of residents to flee. The latest attack came less than 24 hours after similar drone strikes targeted villages and civilian vehicles in the same area, killing at least two people and injuring five others in an ongoing escalation of attacks affecting civilians and civilian infrastructure.

In South Darfur, at least nine civilians were killed in a drone strike on the [town of Kubum](#) on Thursday. The attack came just four days after an earlier drone strike on the town on Monday morning, which killed 20 civilians, including two children and two women, and injured five others.

On June 1, the Emergency Lawyers group reported that drones had targeted two civilian vehicles carrying traders in the [Um Badir area](#) of North Kordofan on May 28. The attack completely destroyed both vehicles and killed all 18 passengers, most of them young men, including two children under the age of 17.

In West Kordofan, local sources reported that drone shelling in the Kadam area killed at least eight civilians and injured many others. In Central Darfur State, ten people, including three children, were reportedly killed in a drone attack on the town of Um Dukhn last week.

The United Nations has expressed deep concern over reports that dozens of civilians were killed during the Eid al-Adha holiday amid escalating violence across parts of Kordofan and Darfur. Last month, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, stated that drone strikes had killed at least 880 civilians between January and April this year, accounting for more than 80 percent of all conflict-related civilian deaths recorded during that period.

Political & Security Update

Political Efforts Gain Momentum as Sudanese Actors Seek Path to End the War



Sudan's political landscape has witnessed renewed efforts in recent weeks aimed at finding solutions to the country's crisis and ending the ongoing war. During the first week of June, Sudanese political and civil forces meeting in Addis Ababa reached a set of common understandings regarding the contours of the next political phase, calling for the launch of an inclusive political process to end the conflict and address the root causes of Sudan's crisis.

In a [joint statement](#), the participating groups—meeting at the invitation of the Quint Mechanism, comprising the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the League of Arab States, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)—stressed that ending the armed conflict is an urgent priority. They underscored the need to address the humanitarian consequences of the war, including widespread destruction, displacement, and deteriorating living conditions, while also expanding public freedoms and revitalizing civic engagement.

The participants further called for the development of a new social contract based on the principles of equal citizenship, social justice, and respect for human rights. They emphasized the importance of balanced development and tackling marginalization and poverty, particularly in rural and underdeveloped regions. The statement also highlighted the need to ensure accountability for war crimes and human rights violations, advocating for transitional justice mechanisms capable of addressing the social and psychological impacts left by the conflict.

In the final week of May, [a coalition of political and civil actors](#)—including parties affiliated with the Somoud Alliance, the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid Mohamed Nour, and other civilian groups—endorsed the “Sudanese Declaration of Principles” and agreed on a roadmap aimed at ending the war. According to the declaration's final communiqué, the signatories seek to advance “a profound political process that addresses the root causes of Sudan's recurring wars,” paving the way toward a comprehensive peace agreement, a transitional constitution, and a unified national military and security framework in which all militias and armed forces would be integrated into a single national institution.

UN Envoy Urges Burhan to Support Political Consultations on Sudan's Transition



The United Nations Secretary-General's [Special Envoy for Sudan](#), Pekka Haavisto, on Sunday urged Sudanese army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan to support the consultations being facilitated by the Quint Mechanism on arrangements for a future political process, following recent understandings reached by Sudanese political and civil actors during meetings in Addis Ababa.

Speaking after a meeting with al-Burhan, the UN envoy said he had requested the military leader's support for the progress achieved through the consultations organized by the Quint Mechanism, which brought together Sudanese stakeholders to discuss the most effective ways to launch an inclusive national dialogue.

"I asked General al-Burhan to support the developments that emerged from the consultations organized by the Quint Mechanism, which brought partners together to explore the best avenues for initiating a comprehensive dialogue," Haavisto said. The envoy noted that he had briefed al-Burhan on the efforts undertaken by the Quint Mechanism, stressing that any future political process must remain Sudanese-owned and Sudanese-led.

Although the exploratory consultations succeeded in narrowing differences among several political blocs, disagreements remain over the participation of the Islamic Movement and its political affiliates, as well as the "Ta'sis" coalition led by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

On May 26, al-Burhan announced plans to launch a political dialogue inside Sudan aimed at reaching consensus on completing the country's civilian democratic transition. However, no concrete measures have since been taken to create the political conditions necessary for such a process to move forward.

[UN Security Council Warns Sudan War Is Sliding into a Protracted War of Attrition](#)

The United Nations [Security Council](#) has warned that the conflict in Sudan is increasingly resembling a prolonged "war of attrition," fueled by the continued flow of weapons and external support to the warring parties and the growing entrenchment of what it described as a de facto division of territory between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

In its latest periodic report, the Council noted that the conflict, now in its fourth year, continues to escalate across multiple fronts, particularly in the Darfur and Kordofan regions. The report highlighted the expanding use of drones and advanced weaponry, warning that these developments increase the risk of the war's repercussions spilling over into neighboring countries. The report added that the ongoing fighting has further weakened state institutions and undermined already fragile governance structures, while regional and international mediation efforts have so far failed to achieve meaningful progress toward a ceasefire or a political settlement.

It also pointed to persistent divisions among Security Council members, which continue to hinder the adoption of unified positions on key issues related to the conflict, including civilian protection and accountability mechanisms for violations of international humanitarian law. The Council further warned of a worsening humanitarian crisis, noting that 19.5 million people across Sudan are facing acute food insecurity, including 135,000 people experiencing catastrophic levels of hunger.

Sudanese Refugees Face Rising Hostility and Forced Returns Across the Region



Sudanese refugees across neighboring countries are facing mounting security crackdowns and growing anti-refugee sentiment, exposing them to physical and verbal abuse as well as increasing calls for their deportation to a country they fled because of a war that continues to pose grave risks to their safety. Some host countries have already begun deporting Sudanese refugees. In Egypt, hundreds of Sudanese nationals have reportedly been returned despite holding refugee documentation issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In Libya, [Sudanese refugees have become targets](#) of anti-foreigner campaigns amid growing public opposition from segments of the population calling for the expulsion of migrants and refugees. Thousands of Sudanese in the country face increasingly precarious conditions that make it difficult to live in safety.

During the first week of June, demonstrations were held in several Libyan cities demanding the closure of UNHCR offices and an end to asylum procedures. At the same time, social media platforms were flooded with anti-foreigner rhetoric and calls for the removal of migrants, including those legally employed in the country. Sudanese refugees in Libya have also reported direct violence in public spaces, prompting many to remain indoors in several cities out of fear, even when attempting to meet basic daily needs.

In Uganda, leaders of the Sudanese refugee community in the Kiryandongo refugee settlement reported that security authorities had arrested 11 individuals suspected of belonging to groups planning attacks against Sudanese refugees inside the camp. Othman Adam, Secretary of the Sudanese Refugee Leadership Office in Kiryandongo, warned refugees through a series of voice messages of what he described as multiple plots targeting Sudanese refugees. He urged young people to remain vigilant and take precautions to protect themselves and their families.

Meanwhile, in Egypt, hundreds of Sudanese refugees continue to face police crackdowns, mass arrests, arbitrary detention, forced deportations, and the withdrawal of protection status, despite many holding UNHCR refugee cards and valid Egyptian residency permits. Refugees are reportedly being held in poor detention conditions, which have contributed to the deaths of several Sudanese detainees while in custody.

Fighting in Blue Nile Displaces Nearly 60,000 People, IOM Says



The International Organization for Migration ([IOM](#)) [has reported](#) that an estimated 59,742 people, representing 11,956 households, were displaced from locations across Sudan's Blue Nile State between January 11 and May 21, 2026, as fighting continues between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and their respective allies.

In its latest report issued last week, the organization said the total number of displaced people in Blue Nile State represents a 21 percent increase compared with its previous report published on May 4, 2026.

According to the IOM, the vast majority of newly displaced individuals—approximately 72 percent—sought refuge in informal gathering sites, while 21 percent were accommodated by host families and another 7 percent were sheltered in schools and other public buildings. Women and girls accounted for approximately 53 percent of the internally displaced population, compared with 47 percent men and boys. The report further noted that children under the age of 18 constituted half of the displaced population, underscoring the disproportionate impact of the conflict on vulnerable groups.

The continued clashes in Blue Nile have contributed to worsening humanitarian conditions and renewed waves of displacement, adding pressure to already strained communities and humanitarian response efforts across the region.

Sudanese Journalists Reject New Digital Media Registration Measures



The [Sudanese Journalists Syndicate](#) has criticized a new registration form issued by the Ministry of Information for electronic news websites and digital media platforms in 2026, describing it as a monitoring tool designed to collect sensitive information about journalists and media institutions under the guise of administrative regulation. The syndicate

rejected the new registration procedures announced by the ministry, arguing that they constitute a clear violation of press freedom and freedom of expression and impose additional restrictions on media work in Sudan.

In April, the Ministry of Information introduced new measures requiring electronic news websites, digital media platforms, and online newspapers to regularize their legal status, a move the ministry said was intended to regulate the digital media sector. At the end of May, the ministry extended the deadline for registration and completion of legal licensing requirements until June 15.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Sudanese Journalists Syndicate said the registration form demands an unprecedented range of information, including financial, technical, personal, and security-related data.

The syndicate argued that the scope of the requested information goes far beyond what is normally required for administrative registration procedures and raises serious concerns regarding privacy, media independence, and the protection of journalists and media organizations operating in the country.

♥ Humanitarian Focus

Cholera Spreads to West Kordofan Village, Leaving 12 Dead



The Emergency Response Room in the village of Jawal, located approximately 27 kilometers from the city of Al-Nuhud in Sudan's West Kordofan State, has announced that a [cholera outbreak has spread](#) to the village from the Foga administrative area, where the first cases of the disease were reported in May. According to the Emergency Response Room, 12 deaths have been recorded in the village between Thursday and Saturday, June 6, 2026, as the outbreak continues to worsen. The group said the village is facing a severe shortage of intravenous fluids urgently needed to treat cholera patients. It added that those infected are suffering from acute vomiting and dehydration, placing their lives at significant risk.

The Emergency Response Room appealed to Dr. Mohamed Noreen, the Minister of Health under the Civil Administration in West Kordofan, to urgently intervene by dispatching a medical team and essential medical supplies, including intravenous fluids, to save the lives of affected residents. The group also called on the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which control the area, to open access routes and allow the delivery of medicines and all necessary medical

assistance to the village. The appeal comes amid growing concerns over the spread of cholera in conflict-affected areas, where restrictions on movement and shortages of medical supplies continue to hamper emergency response efforts.

Civilians Face Dire Conditions as Conflict Escalates in Sudan's Blue Nile



The Blue Nile Civil Society Initiative has warned of a worsening humanitarian crisis in the localities of Kurmuk, Bao, and Geisan as military confrontations continue across the region. Speaking to "[Sudan Tribune](#)", initiative member Ali Hajo said that more than 150,000 people have been displaced from the southern parts of Blue Nile State to other areas due to the ongoing fighting in their communities. He noted that thousands of displaced people from Geisan locality and neighboring villages who have fled toward the Ethiopian border are facing extremely harsh humanitarian conditions.

According to Hajo, displaced families are living in the open without adequate shelter, while women and children are enduring particularly difficult circumstances amid the absence of humanitarian assistance and severe shortages of food, clean water, and healthcare services. He called on all parties to the conflict to respect human rights and international humanitarian law, ensure the protection of civilians, and facilitate the establishment of safe humanitarian corridors to allow relief assistance to reach those in need without obstruction.

Hajo also urged security authorities in the region to halt the arrest and detention of civilians on allegations of “collaboration,” end cases of enforced disappearance, and release all individuals currently being held.

Economic Snapshot

Sudan Risks Losing Up to 40% of Next Harvest Without Urgent Global Support, FAO Warns



The United Nations [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#) has warned that Sudan could lose up to 40% of its next agricultural harvest unless urgent and large-scale international assistance is provided.

In a post on X, FAO Representative in Sudan Hongjie Yang highlighted the extensive damage inflicted on irrigation systems by the ongoing conflict, placing the upcoming agricultural season under severe threat. He noted that the sector is also grappling with below-average rainfall and soaring production costs, with fertilizer prices increasing by 167% and fuel costs rising by 220%.

Yang called for immediate global action to avert a major food crisis, warning that “crop losses could reach 40% or more without rapid and large-scale international support.” He stressed that urgent intervention is essential to prevent widespread food insecurity across the country.

Sudan’s summer agricultural season runs from July to October and relies primarily on rainfall to cultivate staple crops such as sorghum, sesame, groundnuts, sunflower, and vegetables. However, agricultural production declined significantly last year, with total cereal output reaching 5.2 million tonnes—22% lower than the previous season and 19% below the five-year average. Sorghum production fell to 4 million tonnes. The 2025 rainy season was marked by delayed rainfall and periods of drought that affected crop development, despite a relatively better distribution of rainfall compared with some previous seasons. Meanwhile, the conflict has caused extensive damage to major irrigation schemes, including the Gezira, Rahad, and Suki projects.

The crisis has been further compounded by a sharp decline in agricultural financing across northern, central, and eastern Sudan, while banking support has come to a complete halt in Darfur and parts of Kordofan following the destruction of banking infrastructure during the war.

Culture & In-Depth

‘Khartoum... Above the Wounds’ Earns Prestigious Telly Awards Gold



The documentary [“Khartoum... Above the Wounds”](#) has won the Gold Award at the Telly Awards in New York, one of the most prestigious international honors recognizing excellence in television and video production. Produced by Asharq News, the documentary received the award in the category of Political Programs and Content.

The film chronicles the impact of the ongoing war on Sudan's capital, Khartoum, documenting the scale of human suffering, destruction, and damage inflicted on the city and its infrastructure through the experiences and testimonies of residents over two and a half years of conflict.

Through powerful visual storytelling, the documentary explores daily life amid war, drawing on personal accounts and scenes that capture the effects of the conflict on both people and places. The work combines documentary filmmaking with a strong human dimension, moving beyond statistics and conventional political narratives to present a more intimate portrait of life during wartime.

According to the filmmakers, the documentary sought to capture “the voice of Khartoum amid the ruins” by portraying the everyday realities of Sudanese people living through the conflict and the social fragmentation, displacement, and loss it has caused. The producers emphasized the growing importance of documentary filmmaking as a tool for preserving collective memory during times of crisis.

Established in New York in 1979, the Telly Awards are among the world's leading honors recognizing outstanding television, video, and documentary productions across multiple platforms. The awards are judged by an international panel of more than 200 experts and professionals from the media and content production industries.

Further Reading

Sudanese in Libya: Caught Between a Bleeding Homeland and Exile Marked by Fear and Death



Disturbing scenes circulating across social media have shown Sudanese nationals and other foreign migrants in Libyan cities being chased through public squares, streets, residential neighborhoods, and workplaces. The incidents, captured in widely shared videos, depict threats, physical assaults, and verbal abuse accompanied by calls for foreigners to leave the country. [Read the full story](#)

Sit-in Massacre: Rights Advocates Say Military Leaders Must Be Reminded That Justice Will Not Fade Away



On June 3, 2019, forces affiliated with Sudan’s Transitional Military Council raided the site of the civilian sit-in in the early hours of the morning. Security forces opened fire with live ammunition, used water cannons, and beat thousands of demonstrators with batons as they demanded a transition to civilian rule. The violent dispersal of the sit-in resulted in the deaths of hundreds of protesters . [Read the full story](#)

Sexual Violence in Sudan: Harrowing Testimonies and Lasting Consequences for Survivors and Society



“She was subjected to a gang rape at gunpoint by four members of the Rapid Support Forces, who then abandoned her in a dark alley.” This is yet another harrowing account of a young Sudanese woman among the many victims of sexual violence, which has become a defining feature of Sudan’s conflict as it enters its fourth year. [Read the full story](#)

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