



#ساندوا السودان
#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. The week witnessed a sharp escalation in Sudan's drone war, with attacks killing dozens of civilians and expanding to target residential areas, markets, and critical infrastructure. At the same time, international efforts to secure a ceasefire gained momentum, while new legal and political moves increased pressure on parties accused of wartime abuses. The humanitarian crisis continued to deepen, with rising poverty, growing risks facing children and women, and worsening displacement and health emergencies. Amid the turmoil, Sudanese artists in Kampala offered a powerful reminder of resilience through culture and memory.

Top Story of the Week

Deadly Drone Strikes Spread Across Sudan



The drone war continued to intensify across several regions of Sudan, leaving dozens of civilians dead and injured in a marked escalation of hostilities. At least [23 people were killed](#) and 19 others wounded in a series of drone strikes carried out by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in El Obeid, North Kordofan State. The attacks, which began on Wednesday and continued until Thursday morning, targeted residential neighborhoods, homes, civilians attending funeral processions, and a truck carrying food supplies, according to the Emergency Lawyers group. RSF drones continued their attacks on El Obeid on Sunday for the fifth consecutive day, focusing primarily on fuel supplies. The strikes also extended to the town of [Tendelti](#) in White Nile State, located along the main route to El Obeid, where a fuel station was targeted. The escalation coincided with the International Committee of the [Red Cross](#) announcing the death of one of its staff members in El Obeid.

Meanwhile, the localities of Sodari and Hamrat Al Sheikh in [North Kordofan](#) came under a sustained series of drone attacks reportedly conducted by the Sudanese Armed Forces, according to a statement by the Emergency Lawyers group. The attacks targeted civilians and resulted in the deaths of 38 people over a ten-day period since the beginning of June.

On Friday, RSF forces launched a drone strike on a market in the Kurnoi area of North Darfur State, killing seven civilians and injuring ten others. The attack was part of a broader campaign targeting the area and surrounding communities.

The Sudanese Armed Forces announced on Tuesday that their air defenses had intercepted RSF drones targeting several locations in Omdurman and Khartoum North, including an apparent attempt to strike a military base north of Omdurman, amid reports of powerful explosions.

The [Emergency Lawyers](#) group also reported that both the Sudanese Armed Forces and the RSF targeted two key bridges that provide vital access to essential goods and services for local communities. On 7 June 2026, the RSF reportedly destroyed the Kigga Bridge on the Dilling–Kadugli road in South Kordofan State. Two days later, on 9 June, the Sudanese military allegedly struck the Ardamata Bridge east of El Geneina in West Darfur State using drones. The group described the incidents as part of a recurring pattern of attacks on civilian infrastructure and critical transport routes. The destruction of the Ardamata Bridge in West Darfur drew condemnation from the United States, the United Nations, and several international and local organizations.

International Push for Ceasefire and Civilian-Led Political Process



An [international coalition](#) comprising the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, IGAD, the League of Arab States and the United Kingdom, the United States, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, reaffirmed its shared and steadfast commitment to the Sudanese people, as well as to a peaceful, democratic, and stable future for Sudan, while upholding the country's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity.

In a joint statement issued last week following the conclusion of the Quintet consultations with Sudanese political actors in Addis Ababa, the governments and organizations expressed deep concern over the devastating humanitarian consequences of the ongoing conflict. They noted that millions of Sudanese continue to face displacement, acute food insecurity, and limited access to essential services, while attacks against civilians and critical infrastructure persist. The statement stressed that the protection of civilians must remain at the center of all efforts and underscored the urgent need for a humanitarian truce leading to a permanent ceasefire.

The coalition welcomed the outcomes of the Berlin Conference, including the “Berlin Principles on Sudan,” endorsed by 22 states and organizations, and the “Joint Appeal to End the War and Advance a Sudanese-Owned Political Process,” issued by Sudanese civilian actors and facilitated by the Quintet mechanism comprising the African Union, IGAD, the League of Arab States, the European Union, and the United Nations.

According to the statement, both documents represent an important step toward strengthening international coordination and reinforcing support for a civilian-led pathway aimed at achieving a sustainable and peaceful political settlement in Sudan.

Sudan Urges UN Action Over Thousands Held in RSF Detention Facilities



The [Sudanese government](#) has called on the United Nations to intervene to secure the release of more than 20,000 detainees allegedly being held by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in detention facilities across South and North Darfur states.

On Friday, Sudan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Al-Harith Idriss, sent a letter to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the President of the UN Security Council, Leonor Zalabata Torres, detailing conditions at Dagrís Prison in Nyala. He requested that the letter be circulated among member states and treated as an official Security Council document. According to the letter, the RSF is currently holding approximately 19,800 detainees and prisoners at Dagrís Prison, including 5,434 civilians from various professions and 690 women.

The Sudanese envoy stated that those detained include 3,795 members of the Sudanese Armed Forces, 4,270 police officers, and 544 personnel from the General Intelligence Service. The detainee population also reportedly includes 73 medical workers and around 5,000 civilians transferred from El Fasher in North Darfur State.

US Congress Considers Bill to Designate RSF as a Terrorist Organization



The United States [House of Representatives](#) is considering legislation on Sudan that includes a recommendation for the U.S. administration to assess whether the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) should be designated as a terrorist organization. The bill, currently under review by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, proposes sanctions against RSF officials and members of their families. It would also require the U.S. administration to identify individuals and entities linked to genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, or the obstruction of humanitarian assistance in Sudan.

In addition, the proposed legislation calls on the administration to develop and present a clear strategy for addressing the ongoing crisis in Sudan, including measures to support accountability, civilian protection, humanitarian access, and efforts toward a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Five Killed, Eight Villages Burned in RSF Attack in North Darfur



Several villages in [Ambro locality](#), North Darfur State, came under a violent attack on Sunday, in an assault attributed to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The latest attack on communities in the far northwestern part of North Darfur follows a series of retaliatory assaults carried out by the RSF during 2024 against areas predominantly inhabited by the Zaghawa ethnic group. Those earlier attacks reportedly resulted in the complete destruction of around 16 villages and forced residents to flee across the border into Chad.

In a statement, North Darfur Popular Resistance spokesperson Abu Bakr Al-Imam said that RSF forces launched a surprise offensive on Sunday morning targeting the Orshi area and villages surrounding the Orshi Reservoir in Ambro locality. According to the statement, the attacking force deployed military vehicles, including four-wheel-drive trucks, alongside large numbers of fighters mounted on horses and camels. The assault reportedly targeted unarmed civilians and their property.

Al-Imam said the attack resulted in the burning and looting of eight villages around the Orshi Reservoir and the killing of five civilians. Armed groups also stormed the Orshi market, looted its contents, and subsequently set it ablaze, causing its complete destruction. The attackers were further accused of carrying out widespread looting of homes, stealing large numbers of livestock and other essential belongings before transporting the seized property out of the area.

[Kenya Hears First Foreign Lawsuit Against RSF Over Sudan War Atrocities](#)

Kenyan courts last week became the venue for the first lawsuit filed [outside Sudan](#) against the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on behalf of victims of alleged atrocities committed during the Sudan conflict. Kenya's Director of Public Prosecutions is considering a request submitted by 12 victims currently residing in Kenya seeking authorization to bring charges against 10 RSF members, some of whom are believed to be living in the country.

According to the complaint, the victims were detained in inhumane conditions and subjected to severe abuses, including beatings, burnings, suffocation, electric shocks, sexual assault, and rape. Some detainees also allege they were forced to transport bodies from detention centers. The complaint, filed by the Switzerland-based legal organization Global Legal Action, details allegations of torture and conflict-related sexual violence committed by RSF members at various locations in and around Khartoum between April 2023 and March 2025, during the period when large parts of the capital were under paramilitary control.

Antonia Mulvey, Executive Director of Global Legal Action, said Kenya should consider prosecuting the alleged perpetrators under the country's International Crimes Act of 2008. "This is an opportunity for Kenya to lead the fight against impunity," Mulvey said. "The authorities can now demonstrate the strength of the country's investigative, prosecutorial, and judicial institutions in addressing the most serious international crimes." She added that victims are unlikely to obtain justice in Sudan because the country's justice system is currently "unavailable and ineffective." Mulvey further noted that the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court is limited to Darfur and does not extend to crimes allegedly committed in or around Khartoum.

[SIHA Reports Widespread Detention and Disappearance of Women in Darfur](#)



The Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa ([SIHA](#)) [has warned](#) that women and girls continue to face arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and abduction across Sudan amid the ongoing conflict.

In a statement, the organization said its documentation since April 2023 indicates that detention facilities in RSF-controlled areas of Darfur have been operating outside any formal legal framework. Detainees are reportedly held without judicial oversight, due process guarantees, or access to legal representation, while detention conditions are described as harsh and heavily militarized. According to SIHA, the release of detainees has increasingly become dependent on the discretion of RSF commanders or the payment of ransoms reaching three million Sudanese pounds (approximately USD 800).

The organization stated that ethnic identity and suspected affiliation with the Sudanese Armed Forces remain the primary grounds for systematic detention, enforced disappearance, and abduction of women throughout Darfur. In El Fasher alone, SIHA reported that around 250 women are currently being held in Shalla Prison following RSF control of the area in October 2025.

The group further documented an incident on 12 April 2026 in Kutum, North Darfur, where RSF soldiers allegedly detained 12 women after a drone attack in the area. While seven were later released, the fate of the remaining five remains unknown. SIHA also reported cases of young girls being abducted in Nyala and surrounding areas. Since 22 February 2026, the organization said it has received verified testimonies describing a coordinated wave of arrests targeting approximately 150 women and girls, including civil society activists, journalists, and community leaders in Nyala, Kass, and Zalingei.

According to the organization, more than 600 women and girls remain detained in Al-Kouri Prison in Nyala, including girls as young as 14 years old. In Zalingei, credible reports indicate that RSF forces arrested 15 women working as tea and vegetable vendors in the local market on 11 May 2026. SIHA stressed that the majority of women subjected to detention, enforced disappearance, and abduction are targeted on the basis of their ethnicity, gender, and participation in public life.

[MSF Investigation Uncovers Sexual Exploitation of Sudanese Refugees in Chad](#)



The humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has uncovered a pattern of [sexual exploitation](#) and abuse involving some local and international staff working in eastern Chad along the Sudanese border, including cases involving underage girls and allegations of food, employment, or assistance being exchanged for sex with refugee women.

According to the Associated Press, an internal MSF investigation launched in late 2024 and completed in July 2026 identified 59 potential cases of misconduct. The organization said 18 employees were dismissed and permanently barred from future employment with MSF as a result of the findings. MSF stated that the investigation was initiated following reports by the Associated Press in which women accused aid workers of sexually exploiting them in displacement sites in Chad, where hundreds of thousands of people have fled the ongoing war in Sudan, now entering its fourth year.

An Associated Press investigation published in 2024 documented testimonies from women who said individuals entrusted with their protection—including humanitarian workers and local security personnel—offered money, access to aid, or employment opportunities in exchange for sexual favors. However, MSF said its own findings indicate that the scale of abuse was broader than previously reported. The 59 allegations ranged from sexual harassment and exploitation to sexual abuse. In some cases, investigators were unable to verify claims or identify the alleged perpetrators. The report further noted that several recurring patterns of exploitation suggested the possible existence of organized sexual trafficking networks operating within refugee settings.

♥ Humanitarian Focus

War Places 71% of Sudan's Children at Risk, Child Welfare Council Warns



Sudan's [National Council for Child Welfare](#) has warned that the ongoing conflict has pushed the majority of the country's children into highly vulnerable conditions, with an estimated 71% facing various forms of risk as the war and its humanitarian and social consequences continue to deepen.

Speaking to the Sudan News Agency (SUNA), the Council's Secretary-General, Abdul Qader Abdullah Abuho, said children are increasingly exposed to a range of threats, including child labour, recruitment into armed conflict, loss of parental care, and prolonged disruption to education. He described educational loss as one of the most serious

challenges facing children, warning that its long-term consequences extend beyond individual lives to affect families and society as a whole.

According to the council's data, child labour accounts for approximately 14% of identified protection risks, while child recruitment represents 10%, and the loss of parental care 2%. However, school dropout and interrupted education remain the most significant threat to children's stability and future prospects.

Sudan's Poverty Rate Soars to 73% as War Devastates Livelihoods



Sudan's [Minister of Human Resources](#), Mutasim Ahmed Salih, announced that the country's poverty rate has risen to 73%, leaving nearly 24 million people living below the extreme poverty line of three dollars per person per day. The minister described the sharp increase in poverty levels both inside and outside the country as a shocking indicator of the scale of economic deterioration caused by the conflict that has been ongoing since April 2023. His remarks come amid growing concerns over the war's long-term socioeconomic impact. In a report released in April, the United Nations Development Programme projected that extreme poverty could affect 60 percent of Sudan's population by 2030—equivalent to around 36 million people—if the conflict continues without a political resolution. Since the outbreak of war in mid-April 2023, livelihoods across both rural and urban areas have been severely disrupted. Millions of Sudanese have lost their jobs, businesses, and sources of income, forcing many households to rely on remittances from relatives abroad and humanitarian assistance to survive.

Economic Snapshot

Fuel Shortages Grip Sudan as Currency Crisis Deepens



Khartoum and several other Sudanese states are experiencing a [worsening fuel shortage](#), with long queues forming at petrol stations and many outlets remaining closed for days after failing to receive their allocated supplies. Drivers of both public and private vehicles reported waiting for hours at fuel stations from early morning without obtaining fuel, forcing some to turn to the black market, where the price of a gallon has reportedly exceeded 50,000 Sudanese pounds.

Vehicle owners accused fuel importers of deliberately creating the shortage in anticipation of further price increases, citing the continued depreciation of the Sudanese pound and speculation in the foreign exchange market.

The crisis comes as the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar approaches 5,000 Sudanese pounds, raising concerns about additional inflationary pressures. Drivers warned that any increase in fuel prices would inevitably lead to higher transportation fares, adding to the burden on citizens already struggling with soaring living costs and the government's inability to ease economic hardships.

In response to the crisis, the Ministry of Energy issued a statement announcing a package of new measures aimed at regulating fuel imports and distribution. The ministry said it would launch international tenders for fuel imports and implement new controls in cooperation with qualified companies from both the public and private sectors.

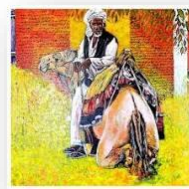
Sudan's fuel import program currently relies on private-sector companies, which previously organized themselves into five consortiums comprising 30 firms to manage import windows. However, economic analysts argued that the arrangement weakened competition and contributed to failures in ensuring stable fuel supplies.

Amid the growing shortages, the Council of Ministers recently announced that the government would re-enter the fuel import market directly in an effort to stabilize supplies, address scarcity, and help contain the rapid depreciation of the national currency.

According to an official statement, responsibility for implementing the decision has been assigned to the Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning, Energy and Petroleum, the Central Bank of Sudan, and the Economic Security Authority. Ali Abdel Rahman, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy, said the latest fuel crisis was triggered by some private-sector importers failing to meet their contractual obligations, including delays in unloading fuel shipments, which led to a sudden shortage across the market.

Culture & In-Depth

'Tales from Kush' Exhibition Brings Sudanese Art and Heritage to Kampala



The exhibition [*Tales from Kush*](#) continues to welcome visitors in Uganda's capital, Kampala, through the end of June, offering a vibrant showcase of Sudanese art, culture, and historical heritage.

Opened on 30 May 2026 at an art gallery in the Bukoto suburb of Kampala, the exhibition features works by five prominent Sudanese visual artists: Jalal Yousif, Ahmed Abu Sharia, Mohamed Ahmed Abdelrasoul, Al-Tayeb Dou Al-Bait, and Nasr El-Din Al-Douma. The event has attracted artists, art enthusiasts, and members of the public from Uganda and several other countries.

The artworks on display reflect the diversity of Sudan's artistic traditions and draw inspiration from the country's rich cultural heritage, spanning from the ancient Kingdom of Kush to contemporary Sudanese realities.

Visitors praised the artistic quality of the exhibition, noting its exploration of Sudanese and African heritage through diverse visual interpretations of identity, memory, people, and place, expressed through a variety of artistic styles and techniques. Artist Nasr El-Din Al-Douma said the exhibition's title was inspired by the ancient Kushite civilization, which symbolizes Sudan's cultural diversity and historical richness. He noted that each participating artist presents a unique perspective rooted in this shared heritage. The exhibition also represents a collaborative initiative bringing together Sudanese artists based in both Kampala and Nairobi.

Art researcher and cultural commentator Al-Nazir Idris described the exhibition as a powerful connection to home despite geographical distance. He said that upon entering the gallery, he felt as though he had crossed a bridge back to Sudan, with the spirit of the country vividly reflected in many of the artworks.

Tales from Kush serves as a platform for cultural and artistic dialogue between Sudan and Uganda, highlighting the contributions of Sudanese artists to the contemporary African art scene while demonstrating the power of art to preserve memory and foster connections between peoples and cultures.

Further Reading

Conditions Worsen for Displaced People in Blue Nile as Rainy Season Begins



Thousands of displaced people in Blue Nile State are entering the rainy season under extremely harsh conditions. Families are living in informal gathering sites, open areas, and makeshift shelters, including temporary tents that are unable to withstand changing weather conditions and are repeatedly damaged during the rainy season. They also continue to face urgent daily needs, including food, medicine, and basic heating supplies. [Read the full story](#)

Meningitis Claims the Lives of Dozens of Children in West Darfur



More than 90 people, the majority of them children, have died from a meningitis outbreak in villages across Sirba locality in West Darfur State, according to local sources. Speaking to Ayin Network, Ishaq said the disease continues to spread across the area, warning that the outbreak remains unchecked amid a complete absence of both official and humanitarian intervention. [Read the full story](#)

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