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#StandWithSudan

## Sudan Media Forum Weekly Briefing

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

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Hello ,

Welcome to your weekly briefing. This week's bulletin highlights the escalating conflict in Sudan, marked by intensified drone attacks, military mobilization, and growing fears of wider violence. It examines the deepening humanitarian crisis, including rising famine risks, mass displacement, and severe shortages of aid and funding. The issue also sheds light on the struggles of Sudanese refugees and detainees abroad, alongside stories of fraud targeting vulnerable displaced communities. In addition, it covers the worsening economic situation and celebrates the resilience of Sudanese journalists documenting the crisis.

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### Top Story of the Week

#### Military Build-Up and Drone Strikes Raise Fears of Escalation in El Obeid



Large military deployments by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), coupled with escalating drone attacks and artillery shelling, have heightened tensions in [El Obeid](#), the capital of North Kordofan State. At the same time, the Sudanese Armed Forces are carrying out military mobilization efforts inside the city amid growing indications of a possible expansion of military operations.

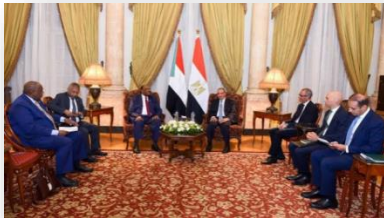
On Saturday, the Sudanese army launched intensive drone strikes targeting RSF positions and movements across several areas of North Kordofan, in what military sources described as an effort to weaken the group's offensive capabilities and prevent a potential ground assault on El Obeid.

Meanwhile, United Nations Secretary-General [António Guterres](#) and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk warned of the risk of a new wave of violence affecting El Obeid. In a statement issued on Friday, the Sudan Doctors Network said that the deliberate shelling of the city's power station and fuel depots had forced medical facilities out of service and disrupted water supply stations. Separately, [authorities in White Nile](#) State announced on Sunday that one civilian was killed and 14 others injured in a drone attack carried out by the RSF targeting a fuel station in the city of Kosti.

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## Political & Security Update

### Cairo Hosts High-Level Talks as Sudan Crisis and Regional Tensions Intensify



Amid escalating military confrontations across Sudan, the Egyptian [capital, Cairo](#), is hosting a series of diplomatic meetings attended by Massad Boulos, Senior Adviser to the U.S. President on Arab and African Affairs, aimed at addressing regional developments and advancing efforts to resolve the Sudanese crisis.

On Saturday, Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty held talks with his Sudanese counterpart, Mohieddin Salem, as part of ongoing consultation and coordination between the two countries. The discussions were followed by bilateral talks with Boulos, ahead of a planned quadrilateral meeting involving the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Türkiye, alongside the U.S. presidential adviser, to discuss regional developments and the latest developments in Sudan.

During his meeting with the Sudanese foreign minister, Abdelatty reaffirmed Egypt's unwavering support for Sudan's unity and territorial integrity. He also stressed Egypt's rejection of any attempts to establish parallel entities

within Sudan and underscored the importance of securing a humanitarian truce as a pathway toward a sustainable ceasefire and the resumption of the political process.

### Mass Arrest Campaigns Sweep Blue Nile and North Kordofan



Sudanese [security authorities](#) have carried out large-scale arrest campaigns affecting hundreds of people in Blue Nile and North Kordofan states. On Saturday, the so-called Security Cell in the Blue Nile Region, southeastern Sudan, launched a wide-ranging operation in the city of Damazin, arresting 120 individuals. The Security Cell, which is composed of the Sudanese Armed Forces, the General Intelligence Service, and the police, is vested with powers of arrest, search, and investigation aimed at identifying sleeper cells and individuals allegedly collaborating with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). In a statement, the Security Cell said that its security operations resulted in the detention of 120 “suspicious individuals, unfamiliar faces, and persons violating the law,” adding that legal measures had been taken against them.

Meanwhile, the [Emergency Lawyers](#) group reported on Saturday that the Sudanese army had arrested 280 individuals and confiscated vehicles transporting goods to North Kordofan in western Sudan, amid a worsening humanitarian and economic situation caused by trade restrictions in the state. Authorities in Khartoum and Northern states currently prohibit the transport of goods and commercial supplies to areas under RSF control, with penalties for violations including imprisonment and confiscation of property.

### Reports Allege Deadly Strikes on Sudanese Miners Near Egyptian Border



Reliable media sources confirmed that [hundreds of people were killed](#) and others injured last week in attacks allegedly carried out by Egyptian military drones and heavy weapons targeting traditional mining sites at the Al-Ansari gold mine near the Sudan-Egypt border. The incidents have drawn condemnation from Sudanese political groups, which have called for an independent investigation and greater protection for artisanal miners.

According to reports, Egyptian forces have continued to advance into areas along Sudan’s eastern border, occupying additional territory after displacing Sudanese artisanal miners from mining zones. The reported advance followed a

series of airstrikes that local sources attributed to the Egyptian military, amid what critics described as silence from the Sudanese government.

Miners in the North Valley area [told Madamik](#) that Egyptian forces had deployed additional ground troops, armored vehicles, and combat equipment, extending their presence in the area and forcing more miners to leave. They also reported that hundreds of miners have remained missing since last Tuesday following intensive air raids on Jabal Eiqad, Jabal Al-Ahmar, Al-Ansari, and several other mining sites.

The miners further stated that thousands of young people have been stranded in the affected areas and accused the authorities of abandoning them despite collecting daily fees and levies from mining activities.

## **UNHCR: Sudan Remains the World's Largest Displacement Crisis Amid Severe Funding Shortfall**



The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative in Sudan, Mary-Hélène Verney, has said that Sudan continues to represent the world's largest displacement crisis, while the agency faces a funding gap of 72 percent.

In an interview with [Sudan Tribune](#) in Khartoum, Verney stated that, three years into the conflict, approximately 9 million Sudanese remain displaced within the country. She noted that the figure is constantly changing due to ongoing population movements. She added that at least 4.5 million Sudanese are currently living as refugees in neighboring and other countries. At the same time, around 4.5 million people have returned to states recaptured by the Sudanese army, including approximately 1.8 million who have returned to Khartoum. Of those returnees, about 80 percent are internally displaced persons, while roughly 20 percent have returned from abroad.

Verney noted that active fighting and new displacement continue in several areas, particularly in Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Darfur. She highlighted the situation in the town of Tawila in Darfur, where an estimated 700,000 displaced people are currently sheltering, underscoring the immense humanitarian challenges that persist despite returns in some parts of the country.

## **Families Seek Answers Over Detention of Sudanese Nationals in Chad**

Dozens of [Sudanese families](#) are living in uncertainty and distress over the fate of relatives detained by Chadian authorities since May, amid a continued lack of information regarding their whereabouts, the reasons for their detention, or any formal charges against them.

A family member of one of the detainees told Sudan Tribune that her son was arrested by Chadian authorities in May without any explanation being provided to the family. She said they have not been informed of the reasons for his detention, nor have they been allowed any communication with him. According to the family, more than 40

Sudanese young men have been detained by Chadian authorities in recent weeks, with all arrests reportedly taking place under similar circumstances.

The Sudanese Group for the Defense of Rights and Freedoms, along with the Darfur Bar Association, has called on Chadian authorities to disclose the reasons behind the detention of six Sudanese nationals who have been held since May and to allow them to communicate with their families. The organizations expressed concern over the continued absence of information regarding the detainees' conditions and legal status.

### **Outcry Over UK Visa Denial for Sudanese Journalist Nominated for International Award**



Widespread criticism has followed [the United Kingdom's](#) decision to deny a visa to Sudanese journalist Mohammed Amin, preventing him from attending the award ceremony for the “Journalist of the Year” prize, for which he was nominated by the One World Media Foundation. Speaking to Radio Dabanga, Amin said he believes the visa refusal was discriminatory in nature, describing the decision as both provocative and shocking. He noted that the rejection letter indicated that UK authorities suspected he might seek asylum upon arrival, and that this concern formed the basis for denying his visa application. Amin argued that the decision reflects a lack of commitment by the British government to freedom of expression, press freedom, and the right of journalists to move freely. He described the refusal as a serious act of discrimination.

He further stated that the decision could be interpreted as a sign of indifference toward the ongoing war in Sudan and the crimes and human rights violations being committed during the conflict, adding that it demonstrates what he characterized as a double standard in the UK's approach to such issues.

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♥ **Humanitarian Focus**

**UN Agencies Warn of Rising Famine Risk as Hunger Deepens Across Sudan**



A joint report by the Food and Agriculture Organization ([FAO](#)) and the [World Food Programme](#) (WFP) has warned of a worsening food security crisis in Sudan between June and November 2026, identifying 14 areas at risk of famine. The report stated that the hardest-hit regions are located in North Darfur, South Darfur, and South Kordofan states. It projected that severe levels of food insecurity would persist in 13 additional areas through the harvest season, which extends until January 2027.

According to the assessment, approximately 19.5 million people—equivalent to 41 percent of Sudan’s population—were experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity as of May 2026. Among them, around 5 million people were classified in the Emergency phase (IPC Phase 4). The two UN agencies also projected a sharp increase in the number of people facing catastrophic levels of hunger (IPC Phase 5), with figures expected to rise to nearly 200,000 people across 15 areas between June and September 2026, compared to approximately 135,000 people during the period from February to May of the same year.

### **[Blue Nile Faces Deepening Humanitarian Crisis as Rainy Season Sets In](#)**



Civil society activists have warned of a further deterioration in humanitarian conditions in Sudan’s [Blue Nile Region](#) as the rainy season begins. The region has witnessed intermittent but intense clashes in recent months between the Sudanese Armed Forces, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and their ally, the SPLM-North. The conflict has led to a dramatic worsening of humanitarian conditions, with the number of displaced people exceeding 200,000 across multiple areas.

Speaking to Sudan Tribune, Ali Hajo, a member of the Blue Nile Civil Society Initiative, said that humanitarian and security conditions in the region have reached catastrophic levels due to the growing number of displaced and stranded civilians, coupled with severe shortages of food, medicine, drinking water, and shelter, particularly with the onset of the rainy season. He called on the regional and international communities to intensify efforts to protect civilians, ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and establish safe corridors for affected populations.

Hajo also expressed deep concern over reported violations and abuses against civilians, including arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and targeting based on identity or appearance. He urged all parties to respect citizens' rights and uphold the rule of law.

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## Economic Snapshot

### Sudanese Pound Plunges to Record Low as War Fuels Foreign Currency Crisis



Sudan's national currency has fallen to record lows, with the U.S. dollar trading at around 5,000 Sudanese pounds on Saturday, up sharply from 4,700 pounds just days earlier in an unprecedented slide. At the same time, the government raised the indicative customs exchange rate from 3,395 pounds to 3,517 pounds per dollar within a single week.

The continued depreciation of the Sudanese pound is raising serious economic and commercial concerns due to its direct impact on the cost of essential goods, as the prolonged conflict and declining exports continue to strain the economy. One currency trader said demand for foreign exchange has surged, with some transactions exceeding the 5,000-pound mark per dollar. He warned that the pound could weaken further if demand for hard currencies remains elevated. In a move aimed at easing pressure on foreign currency reserves and generating resources to support the national economy, the Central Bank of Sudan last Tuesday required fuel-importing companies to deposit 200 kilograms of gold as a condition for importing petroleum products.

Sudan has faced growing fuel import costs since the outbreak of the war, which forced the shutdown of the Khartoum Refinery. Before the conflict, the refinery supplied approximately 70 percent of the country's fuel needs. Its closure has significantly increased demand for foreign currency to finance fuel imports, adding further pressure on the exchange rate.

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## Culture & In-Depth

### Sudanese Media Network Ayin Wins International Press Freedom Award



Sudanese independent [media network Ayin](#) has won the One World Media Press Freedom Award, while the film *Khartoum*—which the network co-produced alongside partners including NetVox Films and Sudan Film Factory—also received an award at the prestigious international competition. The film was co-directed by four Sudanese filmmakers and British director and writer Phil Cox.

The One World Media Awards are among the most prominent media honors in the United Kingdom and internationally. Presented annually, the awards recognize outstanding journalism and documentary filmmaking focused on the Global South and developing communities, with particular emphasis on underreported stories. The awards ceremony took place in London on 17 June.

Ayin's management and editorial team said the recognition represents international acknowledgment of the network's commitment to independent journalism and serves as an incentive to continue delivering professional reporting in pursuit of truth and amplifying the voices of communities affected by crises. The network dedicated the award to its reporters and correspondents inside and outside Sudan, who continue to carry out their work under extremely challenging conditions.

Founded in 2013, Ayin has established itself as an independent Sudanese journalism platform focused on professional reporting and coverage of issues often overlooked by mainstream media, particularly those affecting marginalized communities and conflict-affected regions. Since the outbreak of war in Sudan in April 2023, documenting the conflict, human rights violations, and humanitarian stories has become a central focus of the network's work, alongside continued reporting on the war's impact on civilians and Sudanese society.

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### Further Reading

["Networks of Deception": Humanitarian Aid Under the Siege of Disinformation](#)



A WhatsApp message plunged Mrs. Hadiya into significant financial and psychological distress. The sender claimed to be a Sudanese representative of an initiative providing assistance to Sudanese refugees in Egypt. He told her that, in order to receive the aid, she needed to transfer EGP 350 in her own name and the same amount in the name of her children, bringing the total to EGP 700. She complied with the request and sent the money. [Read the full story](#)

### **A Legacy of Pain: Generations of Sudanese Trapped in Cycles of Displacement**



Holding a faded, yellowed refugee card from the Asosa camp in western Ethiopia, the Sudanese man in his seventies said: "I received this card around 1988, when I was a refugee in Ethiopia. At the time, I did not know whether I would ever return to my country or spend the rest of my life there." [Read the full story](#)

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