



#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. From deadly attacks on civilians and mounting reports of arbitrary detention to the growing threat of famine and disease, Sudan's war continues to exact a devastating human toll. This week's edition examines renewed diplomatic efforts to advance peace, calls for accountability over reported airstrikes on gold miners, and worsening food insecurity driven by conflict and drought. We also explore the deepening crisis facing livestock herders and displaced families, alongside a notable achievement for Sudanese cinema on the international stage.

Top Story of the Week

Sudan's Civilians Caught in a Deadly Wave of Attacks



Civilians continue to be killed and wounded in attacks by both sides in Sudan's war, with markets, civilian vehicles and farmland targeted in recent days across Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile states. In [North Darfur](#), four civilians

were killed on Wednesday when Sudanese army drones bombarded Um Keddada locality for several hours. Sources said a local market had been repeatedly targeted over the past month, while several areas across the locality have come under repeated attacks in recent days.

In another attack in the same state, the [Karnoi Emergency Room](#) reported that two people were killed and eight others wounded when a drone struck vehicles near the market in Furaawiya on Wednesday evening. The area is under army control.

In Nyala, the capital of [South Darfur](#) and a stronghold of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), dozens of civilians were reportedly killed or wounded in an army attack. The Sudanese army said it had targeted RSF positions in the city. Emergency Lawyers said the bombardment hit the livestock market, killing and injuring dozens. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said a drone strike hit the market on Friday morning, killing at least four people, including a child. The Tasis government said in a statement that 30 civilians, mostly women and children, had been killed.

The [Darfur Displacement and Refugee Coordination](#) said several civilians and displaced people were seriously wounded in Mukjar, in Central Darfur, after being shot by RSF personnel, who control the state. In a statement, the coordination said the shootings continued for five consecutive days, targeting farmers as they went out to work their fields.

In [West Kordofan](#), the Kordofan Observatory reported on Saturday that four brothers were killed and several other people wounded, some critically, when a Sudanese army drone struck a civilian vehicle near Ankush. In a statement, the observatory said the vehicle was carrying patients seeking medical care, along with other passengers travelling to buy essential supplies.

Meanwhile, the [Sudanese army](#), allied armed movements and other supporting forces announced that they had taken control of Bir Kilikil in [West Darfur](#) following clashes with the RSF. Military sources told "[Sudan Tribune](#)" that RSF suicide drones had also attacked army defences in eastern Sudan, targeting the Atbara and Setit dam complex in Gedaref State and the Khashm el-Girba Dam in Kassala State.

Political & Security Update

Burhan Tells Trump Sudan Is Ready for Peace as Diplomatic Efforts Intensify



Sudan's army chief and head of the Sovereignty Council, [Abdel Fattah al-Burhan](#), said on Thursday that he had sent a message to US President Donald Trump affirming Sudan's commitment to Washington-led peace efforts. In a post

on X, Burhan said he had reaffirmed his government's readiness to engage in good faith with all parties to achieve a just and lasting peace that safeguards Sudan's sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and the dignity of its people.

[Al-Sudani newspaper](#) published details of the message, which stressed that Sudan considers itself a partner in US peace efforts, not an obstacle to them. The message reportedly outlined a proposal to address disagreements over the terms of a truce, arguing that any ceasefire must protect civilians rather than preserve the RSF's military position. It called for the withdrawal of armed forces from civilian areas, an end to rearmament and effective monitoring as essential conditions for a successful truce. It also stressed the need to cut off external support to the RSF by addressing the sources of weapons, funding and mercenaries, rather than merely managing the consequences of the war.

The message further argued that lasting peace requires a unified state and a single national army, the preservation of state institutions and rejection of the legitimisation of armed control, paving the way for a democratic civilian transition determined by the Sudanese people. It also called for relations with Washington to extend beyond the war to a strategic partnership encompassing regional security, the Red Sea, investment, reconstruction and mutual economic interests.

Meanwhile, the past few days have seen renewed diplomatic activity by the Quintet mechanism on Sudan's peace process. The group met a broad range of anti-war forces in Addis Ababa, including the coalition known as "Sumoud". UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said the consultations were part of the Quintet's ongoing engagement with a broad spectrum of Sudanese civilian and political actors.

Blue Nile Initiative Warns of Mass Arbitrary Arrests and Torture



The [Blue Nile Civil Society Initiative](#) has condemned what it described as arbitrary arrests targeting large numbers of innocent civilians on the basis of their tribal or geographical affiliations, or family ties to people suspected of links to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) or the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), led by Abdelaziz al-Hilu.

Ali Hajjo, the initiative's secretary-general, told Radio Dabanga that the security cell in Blue Nile Region had carried out mass arbitrary arrests across all localities in the state. He said families had no information about the whereabouts of their detained relatives and cited reports that detainees had been subjected to torture. According to Hajjo, large numbers of people had been arrested without interrogation or formal charges. He said detention periods ranged from one month to two years. On behalf of the initiative, Hajjo called on national human rights and judicial bodies, as well as regional and international humanitarian organisations, to visit Blue Nile and help protect civilians from arbitrary detention and ongoing harassment.

The initiative also called for an immediate ceasefire, warning that the situation in Blue Nile had become extremely dangerous for civilians, both in terms of security and humanitarian conditions. It said the humanitarian crisis had deteriorated sharply and reached catastrophic levels.

US Congressman Introduces Bill Linking Sudan Partnership to Civilian Protection

[US Congressman Jim Baird](#), a Republican representing Indiana's 4th Congressional District, has introduced the Sudan IMPACT Act in Congress, proposing an agricultural and mining partnership between the United States and Sudan, conditional on improvements in civilian protection.

The Sudan Investment in Minerals Partnership, Agriculture, Commerce and Trade (IMPACT) Act would provide US agricultural and mining equipment, technology and expertise in exchange for Sudan's natural resources. The proposed partnership would depend on the US Secretary of State determining that Sudan has made significant progress in protecting civilians, achieving political stability and managing its natural resources responsibly.

"Sudan's civil war is destroying lives and undermining futures," Baird said. "Economic opportunities can play an important role in helping the Sudanese people build a more peaceful and prosperous country, but protecting civilians must remain the top priority." He added that Sudan's mineral resources could help expand the range of materials used in technologies that Americans rely on every day.

Sudanese Groups Condemn Reported Egyptian Airstrikes on Gold Miners, Demand Accountability



Reported [Egyptian airstrikes on traditional gold-mining](#) sites in northern Sudan, which left dozens of civilian miners dead and injured, have drawn widespread condemnation from Sudanese civil society and human rights organisations, as well as on social media. The Sudanese Women's Network called in a statement for immediate measures to ensure civilians' safety. It urged Sudanese authorities to break their silence, issue a clear official position and take all necessary diplomatic and legal steps to protect the country's sovereignty and civilian lives.

The Preparatory Committee of the Sudanese Doctors' Union condemned what it described as an attack by the Egyptian military on Sudanese miners in the North Wadi area. The committee said the site lies in Abu Hamad locality in Sudan's Northern State, 23 kilometres from the Sudan-Egypt border. It criticised the Sudanese government's silence and called for a strong response. The committee also condemned a shooting in Khartoum that

killed two of three Egyptian nationals targeted, stressing that they were innocent people with no involvement in the bombing incident.

The Sudanese Women's Union called for urgent international action over the targeting of Sudanese miners on Sudanese territory by the Egyptian authorities. It urged organisations that had condemned the killings to escalate the issue internationally. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the union stressed the need for action on two fronts: defending Sudan's sovereignty, territory and citizens as a matter of public interest, and pursuing the rights of the victims' families, the dead and the injured.

The Emergency Lawyers group also strongly condemned what it described as Egyptian military airstrikes targeting civilian miners inside Sudan on 10 October, saying the attacks killed 72 civilian miners.

The incident has sparked widespread anger and condemnation on social media, with many Sudanese criticising the government's silence over an attack they say took place inside Sudanese territory. Activists launched a campaign under the **hashtag# (Rights_of_ the_Gold_Miners)**, demanding accountability for those responsible for bombing traditional mining sites. Several resistance committees, the Radical Change Alliance, the Sudanese Communist Party, the Forces of the Declaration of Principles, the Sudanese Journalists' Syndicate and other groups also condemned the strikes.

The [Sudanese government](#) has announced the formation of a committee to investigate the incident. Egyptian authorities have also acknowledged the operation. Egyptian military spokesperson Ahmed Atman said the armed forces were continuing the third phase of a campaign against illegal gold mining in the Eastern Desert. In a statement, Atman said the campaign was continuing after warning leaflets had been dropped over what the statement called "criminal elements". According to the statement, the operation aims to assert Egypt's full sovereignty within its borders and protect its national wealth and resources.

RSF Holds More Than 6,500 Detainees in West Darfur, Including Women and Children



[Sudan Doctors Network](#) said on Thursday that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) are holding more than 6,500 military personnel and civilians at several detention sites in El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur State. The detainees include 709 women and around 500 children under the age of 18. According to the statement, the detention sites include the former headquarters of the African Union–United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), the headquarters of the 15th Infantry Division and Ardamata Prison. Most of the women covered by the figures were reportedly captured in El Fasher after the RSF seized control of the city in October 2025, before being transferred to El Geneina.

Shortly after taking control of El Fasher, the RSF arrested thousands of civilians, including women and children. Some of those detained were transferred to Nyala, the capital of South Darfur State. The statement expressed concern over reports of food shortages and deteriorating health conditions inside detention facilities. Available information also points to a rise in daily deaths compared with the same period last year, it said. The statement called for urgent action to establish the causes of the deaths and ensure that detainees receive adequate food and necessary medical care.

♥ Humanitarian Focus

UN Warns of Rising Famine Risk as Conflict and Drought Deepen Sudan's Hunger Crisis



The [United Nations and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#) (IPC) have warned of a growing risk of famine in several conflict-affected areas of Sudan, as fighting, displacement and drought drive worsening hunger across Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan.

New data point to increasingly alarming levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition in several areas. The IPC stressed the urgent need for unimpeded humanitarian access to conflict-affected parts of Kordofan and additional funding to scale up aid and avert catastrophic consequences and further loss of life. The IPC said conditions remained alarming in most areas identified as being at risk of famine in May, while new evidence pointed to worsening acute malnutrition in additional localities. It also raised concerns over the rapid depletion of food stocks amid severe El Niño-related drought across large parts of Darfur and Kordofan, compounded by ongoing fighting in Kordofan.

In South Darfur, nutrition screenings and surveys have revealed a deterioration in conditions, particularly among internally displaced people. The IPC reported that the proportion of children receiving nutrition services who were admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition had doubled in Nyala and quadrupled in the Kass area. Acute food insecurity also remains severe in North Darfur, where delayed rainfall has had a devastating impact on agriculture.

The IPC reported that more than 300,000 people had been displaced across Greater Kordofan since October last year. Heavy fighting in North Kordofan has forced many farming communities to flee towards El Obeid, while prospects for resuming livelihoods remain limited unless security conditions and humanitarian access improve.

Dengue Cases Reach 927 in Tawila as Health Services Deteriorate



The General [Coordination for Displaced Persons and Refugees](#) in Darfur reported on Friday 927 cases of dengue fever in Tawila, North Darfur State, between September and 16 October, warning of worsening health conditions amid medicine shortages and the closure of some health centres.

Adam Rijal, the coordination's official spokesperson, said the health crisis coincides with the spread of malaria, diarrhoeal diseases and malnutrition, particularly among children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. The situation is being compounded by deteriorating living conditions driven by displacement, drought, hunger and food insecurity, he added.

Economic Snapshot

Drought and War Deepen Sudan's Livestock Crisis and Food Insecurity



Livestock herders across large parts of [Sudan's Darfur region](#) are facing worsening conditions as poor rainfall, deteriorating grazing land and water shortages take their toll. The impact has extended from declining agricultural production to livestock deaths and the spread of disease among herds. Some herders have been forced to sell part of their livestock to feed their families or buy fodder to save the animals that remain.

Concerns are growing that the crisis will worsen in the coming months as grazing areas shrink and herds arrive earlier than usual in areas that typically receive them later in the year. These areas are also struggling with shortages of water and pasture. Herders and livestock specialists warn that if current conditions persist, widespread livestock losses could further undermine the livelihoods of communities that depend on animals for their survival.

In a statement marking [World Food Day 2026](#), the European Union’s ambassador to Sudan, Wolfram Vetter, said the country’s hunger crisis required political action. Vetter said Sudan was at the centre of one of the world’s most severe food crises this year, facing widespread hunger and food insecurity.

The ongoing war between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has devastated the country’s food systems, he said. Millions of people have been displaced from their homes and farms, agricultural production and trade have been disrupted, and food prices have surged amid currency collapse and the breakdown of supply chains.

The Russia–Ukraine war and disruptions to regional maritime trade in the Red Sea have also caused delays and sharp reductions in agricultural imports, driving up the prices of fuel, food and essential fertilisers. These successive economic shocks have made farming increasingly expensive for Sudanese farmers, posing a long-term threat to the country’s food security.

Culture & In-Depth

Sudanese Documentary Project Wins Four Awards at Durban FilmMart



The Sudanese feature-length documentary project “[Where Do I Belong?](#)” has won four awards at Durban FilmMart in South Africa, marking another achievement for Sudanese cinema as it seeks greater international recognition amid the war and its impact on cultural life and artistic production.

The film is a co-production between Indep Vision and Sudan Film Factory, directed by Ibrahim Sinoubi and produced by Talal Afifi. According to an announcement by Indep Vision, the project received the New Voices Award from the US-based Sundance Institute, the East Africa Documentary Film Fund Award, an award from the Munich Documentary Film Festival in Germany, and an opportunity to participate in activities organised by the Norwegian Film Fund for countries of the Global South.

The awards offer an opportunity to strengthen the international presence of Sudanese film projects and improve their access to production and funding platforms at a time when the cultural sector faces major challenges due to the war, including difficulties with production, travel, access to funding and screening venues.

The awards were announced during this year's Durban FilmMart, held under the theme "Shifting Worlds". Indep Vision congratulated director Ibrahim Sinoubi and producer Talal Afifi, expressing its pride in contributing to Sudanese cinema through the project.

By Mansour Al-Suwim

Further Reading

Sudan's Gold Mines: How Deep Pits Are Killing Miners



Muataz Ismail had only just emerged from childhood. But instead of sitting in a classroom, as might be expected of an 18-year-old, he found himself working inside a pit more than 30 metres deep, using rudimentary tools, including chisels and a hammer, to break rocks in search of gold.[Read more](#)

Sudan on the Brink of Hunger: How War and Drought Threaten Livelihoods



In El Obeid, the capital of North Kordofan State, Kawthar Saad says the war has directly affected residents' daily lives, weakening many families' ability to meet their basic needs amid declining economic activity and rising living costs. [Read more](#)

Port Sudan: When Temporary Shelters Face Eviction



At a temporary shelter in Port Sudan, simple bedding and families' belongings are not the only reminders of the devastation left by the war. Inside, possessions belonging to families displaced from conflict zones are piled up, while mothers and children sleep in cramped spaces. All are struggling to hold on to what remains of their sense of safety after a long journey marked by fear and displacement. [Read more](#)

21,000 Displaced People in Kernoï Left Without Camps or Basic Services

Displaced families do not need to be crammed into overcrowded camps to experience the hardships of displacement. In Kernoï locality, North Darfur, around 21,000 displaced people have found themselves sheltering in valleys and under trees after war, hunger and deteriorating living conditions forced them to flee their homes. [Read more](#)

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