



Sudan Media Forum Weekly Briefing

Issue [37] | 12 October 2026

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

Hello ,

Welcome to your weekly briefing. As drone strikes intensify and civilian casualties mount, the human cost of Sudan's war continues to rise, with hunger and displacement spreading. This week's newsletter examines battlefield developments and international efforts to end the conflict, alongside the dangers posed by landmines and the devastating consequences of the ongoing war. Meanwhile, the Sudanese pound continues to lose value despite rising gold revenues. We also highlight the deepening humanitarian crisis, threats against independent journalists, and the struggles of children and war-wounded people in their search for safety and medical care.

Top Story of the Week

Drone Strikes Kill Civilians as Sudan's Army Advances in Darfur and Kordofan



As the Sudanese army reports battlefield gains in Kordofan and Darfur, including the recapture of areas previously held by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the paramilitary group has intensified drone attacks in Blue Nile state in the southeast and North Kordofan. Meanwhile, deadly drone strikes attributed to the army have killed and wounded civilians in West Kordofan.

Thirty civilians were reportedly killed on Friday morning when RSF drones struck the Abu Shindi area in Wad Al-Mahi locality, Blue Nile state. Residents said most of the victims were women and children who had fled [Qeissan locality](#) in search of safety.

Earlier, four women were killed in RSF drone strikes on civilian sites in Ed Damazin, the state capital. The attacks hit a mosque and a technical college, among other locations, and also targeted the home of the state's finance minister.

In [North Kordofan](#), an RSF drone attack on El Obeid on Friday morning injured six civilians, damaged residential buildings and destroyed six vehicles. The strike came a week after a separate drone attack on a shelter for internally displaced people in the city killed five civilians.

[West Kordofan](#) has also been hit by drone attacks attributed to the Sudanese army. The Kordofan Observatory reported on Saturday that four members of the same family, including two children, were killed in a drone strike on the town of Ghubeish. The observatory also reported that 12 people were killed and eight others injured in a similar army drone attack on An Nahud last Thursday.

In a statement, the observatory said the strike [on Ghubeish](#) hit a residential neighbourhood in a populated town where there was no visible military presence and no active fighting. The town is also home to thousands of people displaced by conflict in the Kordofan and Darfur regions.

Meanwhile, the Joint Force allied with the Sudanese army announced last week that it had taken control of the strategic area of Bir Sleiba in West Darfur. Located about 30 kilometres north of El Geneina, the state capital, Bir Sleiba is a strategically important position at the intersection of desert routes linking western and northern Darfur. The army and its allied forces have reported significant advances across Kordofan, recapturing several areas and towns previously under RSF control.

US Pushes for Nationwide Arms Embargo as Burhan Rules Out Talks with RSF



Massad Boulos, US President Donald Trump's senior adviser for African affairs, has revealed that he met Sudanese army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan in Egypt's coastal city of El Alamein last week.

[Boulos reiterated](#) Washington's firm support for the Sudanese people and its commitment to preserving Sudan's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said the United States would continue working with regional and international partners and allies to advance a political solution to the crisis, promote inclusive dialogue among Sudanese political forces, help end the war and ease the humanitarian suffering of the Sudanese people.

Boulos also reaffirmed Washington's support for expanding the arms embargo to cover all of Sudan rather than limiting it to Darfur. Following close consultations with its Quad partners, regional allies and members of the UN Security Council, the United States decided to support a technical extension of the council's arms embargo on Darfur until 11 December. The extension, Boulos said, would provide additional time for ongoing diplomatic efforts, including initiatives recently launched by some of Washington's closest allies, to secure a negotiated settlement, a humanitarian truce and a lasting ceasefire.

Following his meeting with Boulos on Tuesday, [Burhan reiterated](#) that there were no negotiations with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), vowing that the armed forces would continue fighting until the rebellion was defeated. Burhan stressed that decisions on war, peace and negotiations could not be made unilaterally. He said the Security and Defence Council was the body responsible for making such decisions, ruling out the possibility of any individual deciding the matter alone.

Sudan-US relations have been strained in recent weeks, particularly after Burhan was reportedly denied a US visa to attend the UN General Assembly. Tensions have also been fuelled by statements from US officials. Thomas "[Tommy](#)" [Pigott](#), a US State Department spokesperson, said the conduct of both warring parties had rendered them unfit to govern. Neither side, he said, represented constitutional governance, accusing both of relying exclusively on military force to maintain power.

Over 200 Sudanese Miners Reportedly Killed in Egyptian Airstrikes Near Border



More than 200 Sudanese miners have reportedly been killed and hundreds injured, some seriously, in renewed [Egyptian airstrikes](#) on mining sites near the Sudan-Egypt border on Saturday. Hundreds of others fled the targeted areas into the mountains amid dire humanitarian conditions, raising fears that the death toll could climb further.

A similar attack struck the same area in June, when Egyptian drones, fighter jets and heavy artillery reportedly targeted traditional Sudanese mining sites, leaving several people dead and wounded.

Mirghani Malik, a miner in the North Wadi area, told Sudan Tribune that warplanes had carried out more than five airstrikes on miners' sites at the Al-Oqaidat mine in Sudan's River Nile state, causing an undetermined number of casualties.

At least 20 injured people were taken for treatment, he said, adding that the attacks had forced thousands of miners to flee into the surrounding mountains. Those who escaped were facing extremely difficult conditions, including a lack of drinking water.

Sudanese authorities have not commented on the reported attacks. Miners, meanwhile, have circulated videos and photographs showing victims at the scene. Experts and activists who examined maps have confirmed that the Al-Oqaidat mine lies within Sudanese territory. Sudan's traditional mining sector employs more than two million people, a figure that has risen sharply since the war broke out in April 2023. Millions work in remote parts of the country under harsh conditions, producing more than 80% of Sudan's total gold output.

[UN Human Rights Council Extends Sudan Fact-Finding Mission for Another Year](#)

The [UN Human Rights Council](#) last week adopted a resolution by majority vote extending the mandate of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan for another year. The resolution was approved by 28 countries, opposed by 10, while nine abstained. Adopted during the Council's 63rd session in 2026, the resolution, submitted by a broad group of countries under the title "Responding to the Human Rights and Humanitarian Crisis Caused by the Ongoing Armed Conflict in Sudan", calls for an immediate and unconditional cessation of hostilities and the launch of an inclusive, civilian-led political transition.

The resolution also calls for the full and transparent implementation of the Jeddah Declaration for the Protection of Civilians, unimpeded humanitarian access across borders and conflict lines, and an extension of the opening of the Adré border crossing. It further reaffirms Sudan's sovereignty,

independence and territorial integrity, and categorically rejects the establishment of parallel governing authorities or entities in areas controlled by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Landmine Blast Kills Four Displaced South Sudanese in West Kordofan



Four displaced South Sudanese nationals were killed on Tuesday when a [landmine exploded](#) in the town of Babanusa in Sudan's West Kordofan state. The incident brings the number of people killed by landmines in the town to around 35. More than 20 others, including children and adults, have suffered amputations, while around 70 cattle have also been killed in mine explosions.

The four victims had arrived in Babanusa hoping to settle there after hearing that humanitarian aid had become available. They went to the army division's headquarters to collect beds but were killed instantly when a landmine exploded, according to a statement.

Huwaida Abdelrahman Saleh, executive director of the Muzna Charitable Organisation, warned that Babanusa had become a "ticking time bomb" because of the vast quantities of landmines and explosive remnants of war scattered throughout homes and residential neighbourhoods, particularly around the army division's headquarters. She said the scale of contamination was impossible to determine given the sheer volume of unexploded ordnance and its presence across different parts of the town. Residents returning to Babanusa face serious risks, she added, as many lack furniture and basic household necessities, prompting some to enter dangerous areas in search of items they can salvage.

Civil Society Forum Urges Sudan to Cooperate with Chemical Weapons Investigations



A [civil society forum](#) held on the sidelines of the 89th session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, which opened on Monday, called on Sudan to cooperate fully with all states parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and with regional and international fact-finding mechanisms. The forum also urged Sudan to allow the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to

deploy technical teams to the country and ensure that any investigation is comprehensive, transparent, independent and timely.

In a statement issued at the close of its meetings in Dakar on Saturday, the forum called on Sudan, as a member of the OPCW Executive Council, to engage constructively with the organisation. It specifically urged Sudan to declare any chemical weapons production facilities, disclose the locations of relevant munitions, and allow the OPCW to verify and destroy them in accordance with its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Famine Risk Spreads to South Darfur as Drought Deepens Food Insecurity



The [Famine Early Warning Systems Network](#) (FEWS NET) said on Saturday that famine risk had spread to parts of South Darfur amid worsening malnutrition and drought. It also forecast that hunger would persist in many areas of Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile until January 2027. Drought has damaged crops across large parts of Sudan, raising fears that hunger will spread further. Shrinking pastures are also forcing more livestock owners to sell off their animals as fodder prices soar.

In its food security outlook for September 2026 to January 2027, FEWS NET said famine risk — classified as Phase 5 of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) — had spread to parts of South Darfur, including eastern Jebel Marra, where large numbers of displaced people are concentrated. The network said food consumption indicators, crude death rates and mortality rates among children under five pointed to emergency levels of food insecurity in the areas assessed.

Eastern Jebel Marra and Tawila, which already host more than 700,000 displaced people, are receiving further waves of displacement from rural areas around El Fasher and elsewhere in North Darfur as drought-related crop losses worsen. The report warned that some populations face catastrophic levels of food insecurity in Umm Baru, Kernoi, Tina, Dilling and Kadugli, as well as El Obeid and surrounding areas in North Kordofan.

Sudan Media Forum Condemns Incitement to Kill Journalist Rasha Awad



The [Sudan Media Forum](#) (SMF) strongly condemns a public call by a person identified as Amira Karrar, who, in an inciting post, called for the killing of journalist Rasha Awad. Awad has consistently spoken out against the war, the killing of Sudanese people, the erosion of national sovereignty, hate speech, racism and the partition of the country.

War advocates and their leaders have not been content with suppressing freedom of opinion, expression and conscience, destroying media institutions, displacing journalists and pursuing them through legal complaints, arrests and detention. They have now gone further by openly inciting the assassination of journalist Rasha Awad.

The targeting of journalists at this critical moment in Sudan's history represents another attempt to silence independent voices, particularly those of women journalists. Rasha Awad has become a leading figure in independent journalism, not only for her courageous and principled writing, but also for her leadership of *Al-Taghyeer*, a newspaper that serves as a platform for public awareness and truthful reporting.

The Sudan Media Forum warns against any threat to Rasha Awad's life and reaffirms its firm opposition to incitement to kill journalists. It calls on all forces committed to freedom of expression, opinion and conscience to speak out against attempts to silence journalists. The Forum also urges Sudan's journalistic and media community to strengthen collective efforts to ensure the safety and protection of journalists.

♥ Humanitarian Focus

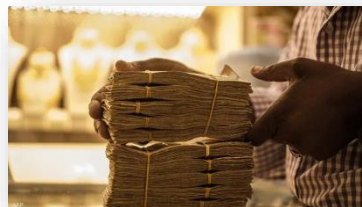
WHO Warns of Severe Health and Humanitarian Gaps for 700,000 Displaced People in Tawila



The [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) says health and humanitarian needs across Darfur far exceed the resources currently available to respond, particularly in Tawila, North Darfur, where more than 700,000 displaced people face severe gaps in healthcare, nutrition, food, water, sanitation and protection services. In a statement on Wednesday, the WHO said the situation in Tawila reflects wider pressures across Darfur, where persistent insecurity, mass displacement, limited access to essential services and recurring disease outbreaks are putting millions of people at risk. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Darfur hosts 65% of Sudan's 8.6 million internally displaced people.

Economic Snapshot

Sudan Pound Plunges Despite Record Gold Export Revenues



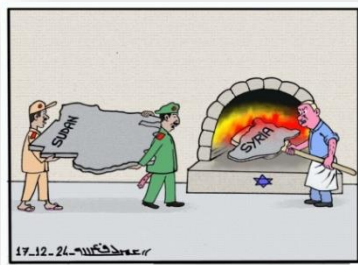
The Sudanese pound has fallen sharply and fluctuated against foreign currencies in recent weeks, driving up the prices of essential goods and services and deepening the cost-of-living crisis. The cost of bread production inputs has risen by between 80% and 200%.

Currency traders said the US dollar was trading at around 8,800 Sudanese pounds, up from 8,300 at the start of the latest surge last week. Earlier this month, the dollar reached approximately 9,004 pounds on the parallel market, compared with 3,500–3,650 pounds in January 2026. This represents an increase of between 147% and 157%, while the pound has lost around 60% of its external value.

The sharp deterioration comes despite the Sudanese Mineral Resources Company reporting record gold production indicators between January and September 2026. Gold export revenues reached \$2.292 billion, exceeding the revenue target by 31%.

However, informed sources said the reported export revenues correspond to the export of around 20 tonnes of gold, compared with declared production of approximately 70 tonnes. This raises questions about the whereabouts of the estimated 50-tonne gap and the extent to which gold revenues are reaching the foreign exchange market, as prices continue to rise and Sudanese consumers' purchasing power erodes.

Culture & In-Depth



By . Omar Dafallah

Further Reading

Sudan's Children: War Leaves Young Lives at Risk of Hunger and Malnutrition

The mother of a child experiencing malnutrition said: "Before the war, my son had enough to eat. But after we were displaced, food became scarce. Sometimes, I can't afford to provide more than one meal a day. When he falls ill, I have no money to buy medicine or take him to hospital." [Read more](#)

'Prices Are on Fire': The Soaring Cost of Survival in Sudan

A resident said his family of five needed around 30,000 Sudanese pounds a day a month ago, but now requires about 80,000 pounds just to survive. In Shendi, in River Nile State, traders shut their shops and launched a general strike to protest the economic deterioration and soaring prices, which they say have put goods beyond the reach of ordinary people. Traders in Atbara also announced a second two-day strike to protest what they described as excessive taxes and steep levies imposed by local authorities. [Read more](#)

Sudan's War-Wounded: Between the Struggle for Treatment and Hope for Prosthetic Limbs

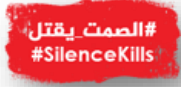
Adam Abdullah, 12, says losing his leg left him feeling as though his life had stopped at the moment of injury. "Before the war, I used to go to school and play football with my friends. Now I need someone to help me get around, and sometimes I prefer to stay at home so other children won't notice my amputated leg," he said. His greatest wish, he added, is to get a prosthetic limb that would allow him to return to school and play football again. [Read more](#)

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Best regards,

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