Sudan Media Forum Weekly Briefing

Issue [43] | 23 November 2026

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

Hello,

Welcome to your weekly briefing. This week, The war in Sudan continues to spread, with civilians bearing the brunt of the escalating violence, particularly in the Blue Nile region, where more than 51,000 people have been displaced and fears are growing that fighting could reach residential areas. Drone attacks, arrests and threats are adding to the dangers facing civilians and undermining their rights. Elsewhere, hunger, rising prices and declining agricultural production are deepening, while displaced people continue to face the health and environmental consequences of the war. Against this backdrop, calls for an end to the fighting are growing, alongside renewed efforts to find a political way out of the crisis.

Top Story of the Week

Drone Strikes Hit Khartoum as Fighting Threatens Sudan's Blue Nile Region





Khartoum came under drone attacks early on Sunday, with strikes targeting Khartoum International Airport, Jebel Awlia and parts of Omdurman, leaving four people dead and 10 others injured. Sources said drones struck

residential areas in both Omdurman and Khartoum, causing the casualties. Air defences reportedly intercepted and shot down several drones.

Denise Brown, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, revealed that a UN compound in a residential neighbourhood of Khartoum sustained damage in a drone attack while several staff members were inside. She stressed that the compound was located in a residential area.

Meanwhile, the Emergency Lawyers group warned on Saturday of the potential consequences of military operations moving closer to Damazin, the capital of Blue Nile State. The group said it had documented more than 130 drone attacks targeting various areas of the city during October and November.

In a statement, the group said the mobilisation of Rapid Support Forces (RSF) troops and their allies, along with their advance towards Damazin following the capture of several areas in the region, had raised serious concerns that fighting could spread into densely populated residential neighbourhoods, putting civilians and displaced people at risk of grave violations.

Separately, videos circulated on 20 November appeared to document the field execution of captured Sudanese Armed Forces soldiers in Blue Nile State by RSF fighters.

Political & Security Update

Diplomatic Push to End Sudan's War Gains Momentum





International and domestic efforts to resolve Sudan's crisis and bring the war to an end are gathering pace. Switzerland is set to host a meeting on Wednesday, 25 November, bringing together a broad spectrum of Sudanese political and civil forces. Organised by the Swiss-based organisation Promediation, the meeting is part of wider international and regional efforts to strengthen dialogue on the ongoing crisis, explore ways to end the conflict and restore a civilian-led political process in Sudan.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio stressed on Friday the importance of securing a humanitarian truce in Sudan, establishing lasting peace and paving the way for a civilian government. His remarks came during a phone call with UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, according to a statement from the US State Department. The two officials discussed the need to end the war in Sudan.

In Khartoum, the preparatory committee for the Sudanese dialogue and British diplomats agreed to explore ways in which the international community could help bring Sudanese parties together for talks inside the country. The committee's official spokesperson, Osman Mirghani, said a meeting was held on Tuesday with the political adviser

to the British Embassy, during which participants discussed mobilising international and regional efforts to bring Sudanese parties to the negotiating table. The committee is seeking to organise an inclusive "Sudanese-Sudanese dialogue", with all deliberations taking place inside Sudan, in an effort to reach a comprehensive solution to the crisis. Mirghani said the initiative aims to address the root causes of the crisis rather than simply manage the status quo.

Sudan Court Sentences Hemedti and 13 RSF Leaders to Death in Absentia





A terrorism and state crimes court in Port Sudan on Wednesday sentenced Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, and 13 other senior RSF leaders to death by hanging in absentia. The court also recommended revoking their Sudanese citizenship and confiscating their assets.

The case concerns the destruction and looting of property belonging to the National Medical Supplies Fund during the war that erupted in Sudan in mid-April 2023. The court imposed fines of 100 million Sudanese pounds on each defendant, with a one-year prison term in the event of non-payment. It also ordered the defendants to pay $396.2 million in compensation to the National Medical Supplies Fund for losses and damage to its warehouses, buildings and other property across several states. The court further ordered the Central Bank of Sudan to freeze the defendants' bank accounts and instructed the Registrar General of Lands to identify properties registered in their names ahead of confiscation. It also directed that Interpol be contacted to track down and seize 120 vehicles belonging to the National Medical Supplies Fund, according to the ruling.

Wave of Arrests and Torture Allegations Deepen Rights Concerns in Sudan





A sweeping arrest campaign by security forces affiliated with the army-led government has targeted activists and civilians in Blue Nile and North Kordofan states, amid reports that a man in his seventies died in custody in the city of El Obeid. Multiple sources reported the death of Ali Abdelrahman Al-Kajam, a man in his seventies, in El Obeid,

North Kordofan, under unclear circumstances following his arrest by an armed security force from a livestock quarantine facility in the city. His body was later found at the morgue.

Speaking to Radio Dabanga, lawyer and human rights defender Osman Saleh said Al-Kajam was a tribal leader and livestock trader who had been in good health and suffered from no known illnesses before his arrest. Lawyers also confirmed the arrest of Mahmoud Jarrad, a lawyer in Al-Rahad, North Kordofan, by security forces affiliated with the army-led government about a week ago. No reason was given for his arrest, and his place of detention remains unknown.

In Blue Nile State, the Blue Nile Civil Society Initiative reported that the Intelligence Service arrested three volunteers from the Shari'a Al-Hawadith initiative in Damazin last Monday. According to the information available, the volunteers had been collecting donations from benefactors to help patients and provide for their needs. Surplus donations were also used to renovate hospital toilets and improve sanitary conditions.

The initiative expressed concern that the families of those detained had not been allowed to visit them, raising serious questions about their whereabouts and conditions of detention. It said the growing number of arbitrary arrests in Blue Nile, alongside reports of enforced disappearances, torture and the ill-treatment of detainees and prisoners, represented a deeply alarming development and pointed to a worrying deterioration in human rights and the rule of law.

Three Civilians Killed in Reported RSF Attacks in West Kordofan





A human rights monitor on Saturday accused the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of killing three civilians in the Abu Qalb area of West Kordofan State, while activists reported ethnically motivated killings targeting civilians in the town by the same forces.

In a statement, the Kordofan Monitor said civilian Salah Bakhit was shot dead at close range by RSF gunmen in Abu Qalb after being accused of supporting the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). The account was based on information received by the monitor from survivors. The statement added that other gunmen killed two more civilians in a village near Abu Qalb before looting their cattle. The two incidents occurred amid deteriorating security and humanitarian conditions in the area, which was subjected to intense aerial bombardment by Sudanese army aircraft over the past week. The strikes reportedly killed at least 17 people and displaced around 3,000 others.

Blue Nile Authorities Face Condemnation Over Threats to Trap Civilians in Conflict Zones

Resistance committees in Sennar State have condemned threats by the commissioner of Bau locality in Blue Nile State to prevent traders from leaving the town, citing the need to protect their property. The commissioner also threatened to revoke their business licences and issued similar warnings to vehicle owners transporting civilians out of the area.

The measures come amid escalating security tensions and growing fears that military confrontations could reach the region. In a statement, the committees said regional authorities had threatened to impose punitive measures on anyone who defied the restrictions. The Emergency Lawyers group said on Saturday that the commissioner's remarks amounted to coercing civilians into remaining in high-risk areas, putting their lives in danger and potentially exposing them to the use of human shields.

Blue Nile Displacement Surges as More Than 51,000 Flee Their Homes





More than 51,000 people have been newly displaced across Blue Nile State, with families arriving in different parts of the region, according to the Blue Nile Civil Society Initiative. Another 15,000 people have fled the cities of Damazin and Roseires to other Sudanese states in search of safety, amid mounting security fears and panic among residents.

Meanwhile, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that 980 people were displaced last week from Ahmed Sidek village in Bau locality and the Bok area in Al Tadamun locality, both in Blue Nile State.

The displacement comes amid ongoing military operations and an expanding area of clashes across the localities of Bau, Kurmuk, Geissan, Wad Al Mahi and Al Tadamun. In a report, IOM said the displacement from the two locations was driven by the effects of below-average rainfall and wider security concerns. Families decided to move collectively and simultaneously to other locations within Al Tadamun locality.

The Blue Nile Civil Society Initiative said displacement from Bau locality had affected more than 30 villages, with an estimated 15,000 people forced to flee, most of them heading to Damazin and other areas within the region. In Geissan and its surrounding residential areas, more than 20,000 people have also been displaced, heading towards Damazin, Roseires and other locations.

Human Rights Watch Calls on Sudan to Surrender Ahmed Haroun to the ICC



Human Rights Watch has called on Sudanese authorities to hand over former interior minister Ahmed Haroun, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC), to The Hague to face charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in the Darfur region between 2003 and 2004.

In a statement, the organisation said the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) had not disclosed Haroun's whereabouts since announcing his re-arrest on 8 November. However, media reports said he was being held in Khartoum State. "Handing over those wanted by the ICC to the court in The Hague would send a powerful message to those committing crimes today that they, too, could find themselves in the dock," said Liz Evenson, Human Rights Watch's director of international justice. She added that Sudanese authorities should also surrender former president Omar al-Bashir, and locate, arrest and hand over former defence minister Abdel Rahim Mohamed Hussein. The ICC has issued arrest warrants for both men, while Hussein's whereabouts remain unknown.

Water Shortage Threatens Crops and Livelihoods at Sudan's Rahad Agricultural Scheme





Large areas of farmland in the Rahad Agricultural Scheme have been damaged by severe water shortages after supplies to irrigation canals and fields were cut off for a prolonged period, causing extensive damage to crops. The crisis has added to the hardship facing farmers in the area. The drying up of farmland threatens heavy financial losses for producers and poses a direct risk to the success of the current agricultural season and the livelihoods of thousands of families who depend on farming.

Farmers and agricultural stakeholders have called on the relevant authorities and the scheme's management to intervene urgently to restore water supplies and address the causes of the disruption, warning that further delays could worsen the crisis and force more cultivated land out of production.

❤ Humanitarian Focus

Sudan’s Food Crisis Deepens as Inflation Surges and Bread Prices Rise





Sudanese across the country are facing a worsening food crisis and continued increases in the prices of essential goods, as reports point to the failure of the summer agricultural season, declining rainfall and ongoing military operations on several fronts.

The Central Bureau of Statistics announced that Sudan’s annual inflation rate rose to 34.88% in October 2026 compared with the same month last year. Food and beverage prices recorded an annual increase of 57.23%, amid continued rises in the cost of consumer goods and services and mounting pressure on household budgets. The crisis has been compounded by the depreciation of the Sudanese pound, which has fallen to more than 12,000 pounds against the US dollar.

Several bakeries in Khartoum State introduced another increase in bread prices on Tuesday, the second such hike in a month, amid complaints from residents about shortages and rising costs. The Bakers' Union attributed the increases to higher flour prices and rising production costs, warning that the price of a single loaf could reach 1,000 Sudanese pounds within the week.

Khartoum and several other states are also experiencing recurring shortages of fuel and public transport, alongside inadequate bread supplies. Residents told Sudan Tribune that bread shortages and rising prices were continuing, urging the government to intervene to ease the growing cost-of-living burden, particularly in light of repeated increases in bread prices.

The Sudanese Communist Party warned of a deepening food crisis, citing declining rainfall, the failure of the summer agricultural season and continued military operations. It called for famine to be officially declared, an end to the war and the opening of safe humanitarian corridors to deliver aid to affected areas.

Economic Snapshot

Sudan’s Inflation Hits 34.88% as Food Prices Rise by More Than 57%





Sudan's Central Bureau of Statistics has reported that the annual inflation rate rose to 34.88% in October 2026 compared with the same month last year, while food and beverage prices recorded a 57.23% annual increase, as the cost of consumer goods and services continued to climb. In a press statement, the bureau said the overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose to 848,259.39 points in October, up from 798,530.55 points in September — an increase of 49,728.84 points, or 6.23% month on month.

The index for food and beverages climbed to 435,965.32 points in October, compared with 378,212.09 points in September, an increase of 57,753.23 points, or 15.27% over the month. The bureau said price increases affected most goods and services categories, including food and beverages, tobacco, clothing and footwear, household furnishings and equipment, healthcare, transport, communications, and restaurants and hotels.

On an annual basis, the overall CPI rose from 628,917.80 points in October 2025 to 848,259.39 points in October 2026, representing an increase of 34.88%. The food and beverages index climbed from 277,286.56 points to 435,965.32 points over the same period, a rise of 57.23%.

Markets are facing unprecedented increases in consumer prices, driven by the continued depreciation of the Sudanese pound against foreign currencies. Authorities have so far been unable to contain the escalating cost of living, which has intensified pressure on households and contributed to rising poverty and unemployment.

Culture & In-Depth

Sudanese Artist Uses Art to Preserve the Memory of a Nation from Nairobi







Sudanese visual artist Walid Mohamed is preparing to receive the Prince Claus Fund Award this month, as one of 100 artists from around the world. Through his work, he documents and reclaims Sudan's collective memory, drawing on historical photographs and family albums. His art is shaped by his personal experience of war, displacement and the separation of family members.

From his studio in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, Walid uses painting, a range of materials and multimedia to explore the profound changes in Sudanese lives since the outbreak of war, while also revisiting memories of the country before the conflict. His work draws extensively on archives of Sudanese photography, including family albums and old studio portraits. He reinterprets these images through painting, in an act of remembrance where individual memories intersect with the collective trauma left by war, displacement and family separation.

His approach resonates with the concept of "postmemory", developed by Marianne Hirsch in her research on the children of Holocaust survivors. The term describes how later generations relate to traumatic experiences they did not directly live through, but inherit through photographs, stories and silence. These experiences are not recalled as personal memories; instead, they are mediated through imagination, projection and creative expression.

One example is his painting *Spaces of Escape*, which Walid says was inspired by the waves of displacement, forced migration and fragmentation witnessed across Sudan. He used cotton in some works in the series as part of his exploration of new locally sourced materials. The paintings feature broad expanses and empty spaces, with figures whose features are incomplete or partially obscured.

According to Walid, this artistic approach reflects the disruption war has brought to people's lives and social relationships, forcing them to abandon their homes and search for new spaces. Leaving, he says, has become more than an escape from conflict; it is also an attempt to build a different life in the places where displaced people have arrived.

Further Reading

War Deprives Children in Dabba Naira of Education as Displacement Deepens Hardship





Every morning, displaced families in the Dabba Naira area of Tawila locality, North Darfur, set out in search of water. Women, children and men walk long distances to reach water points, known locally as *barams*. But the journey does not guarantee they will return with the water they need. On some days, they arrive to find the water points dry and have no choice but to return and try again the following day. Read the full story

Sudanese Women Targeted by Digital Violence Over Politics, Ethnicity and Gender





Maryam describes one of the most frightening moments she has experienced since the war began. She did not support either side in the conflict. Instead, she publicly rejected the war, called for peace and urged an end to the fighting. But her stance became a pretext for labelling and targeting her on the basis of her ethnic identity, by supporters of both warring parties. Maryam says the harassment included online bullying, hate speech and threats, which in some cases extended to her children. Read the full story

West Kordofan: Escalating War Deepens a Decade-Long Oil Pollution Crisis





For nearly a decade, civil society organisations in the oil-rich areas of West Kordofan State have been sounding the alarm over the environmental and health risks associated with the oil industry. Local communities say industrial chemicals and oil waste, including oil spills, have fuelled an ongoing health crisis. The situation has deteriorated further since the outbreak of war. Read the full story

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