COI QUERY

Country of Origin	**SUDAN**
Main subject	**Armed groups, Security situation, Internal displacement situation**
Question(s)	**Armed groups, including structure, relationship with other actors, areas of presence and operation, and activities; security incidents, including perpetrators, targets, number of casualties and geographical distribution of events** **See Table of Contents**
Date of completion	13 October 2020
Query Code	**Q24-2020**
Contributing EU+ COI units (if applicable)	N/A

Disclaimer

This response to a COI query has been elaborated according to the EASO COI Report Methodology and EASO Writing and Referencing Guide.

The information provided in this response has been researched, evaluated and processed with utmost care within a limited time frame. All sources used are referenced. A quality review has been performed in line with the above mentioned methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive neither conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. If a certain event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

The information in the response does not necessarily reflect the opinion of EASO and makes no political statement whatsoever.

The target audience is caseworkers, COI researchers, policy makers, and decision making authorities. The answer was finalised on 13 October 2020. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this answer.

Table of Contents

COI QUERY 1
1 Overview 3
2 Armed groups 4
2.1 Government forces 4
2.2 Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) 6
2.3 Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW) 6
2.4 Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi (SLA/MM) 8
2.5 Sudan Liberation Army/Transitional Council (SLA/TC) 8
2.6 Justice and Quality Movement (JEM) 9
2.7 Sudanese Revolutionary Awakening Council (SRAC) 9
2.8 Sudan People's Liberation Army/North (SPLA/N) 9
2.9 Tribal groups and tribal militias 10
2.10 Instances of alliances 11
2.11 Weaponry 12
3 Overview of major political developments during the reference period 13
4 Overview of the security situation across Darfur 14
4.1 North Darfur 16
4.2 East Darfur 17
4.3 South Darfur 17
4.4 West Darfur 19
4.5 Central Darfur 20
4.6 South Kordofan 22
4.7 Blue Nile 23
SOURCES USED 25
SOURCES CONSULTED 31

1 Overview

The conflict in Sudan intensified after president Omar al-Bashir was deposed on 11 April 2019. The new administration faces a legacy that 'encompasses several regions devastated by conflict, huge displaced populations and an array of rebel movements, some scattered outside Sudan's borders'.[1]

Government forces and its allied militias have reportedly committed serious human rights violations in Darfur.[2] According to a SAS report, Darfur rebels and former rebels in Libya 'have been involved in many lucrative and dangerous armed activities. These activities include proxy fighting; cross-border smuggling; and sales of stolen vehicles, fuel, and sometimes weapons. Some have become road bandits, notably targeting drug convoys, while others have acted as escorts for these convoys. Both Darfur rebels and civilians alike have taken up gold mining across the Sahara'.[3] Government security forces, including the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudan Police Force, as well as armed nomads and militia groups, reportedly engage in conflict-related sexual violence, including rape and attempted rape.[4]

Information on all armed groups could not be included due to time constraints; only those most reported by sources within the reference period.

Small Arms Survey (SAS) provided the following on Sudanese groups operating in Libya:

Table 1: Presence of Sudan's armed groups in Libya[5]

Group	Ethnicity	Areas of presence (2014-2020)	Alliances	Strength
Sudanese Liberation Army/ Mini Minnawi (SLA/MM)	Beri (Zaghawa)	Southern Libya, Jufra, Benghazi, oil crescent, Sirte, and Tripoli	Tubu, Haftar	1,000 men and 200–300 vehicles
Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)	Beri	Kufra, Sebha, Gatrun, Waw el-Kebir, and Kouri Bougoudi gold mine	Shifting between Haftar and Benghazi Defence Brigade; Chadian Union of Resistance Forces (UFR) and Tubu forces	100–200 fighters, 40 vehicles, with the group's core in South Sudan and largely dispersed
Gathering of the Sudan Liberation Forces (GSLF)	Beri	Southern Libya (including Chadian-Libyan border), Jufra, oil crescent, Sirte, and Tripoli	Haftar and Qaddafists. Joint operations with SLA-MM	500 men and 150–200 vehicles
Sudan Liberation Army/Transitional Council (SLA/TC)	Fur	Zella and oil crescent	Haftar and SLA/MM	50 vehicles

[1] ICG, Safeguarding Sudan's Revolution, 21 October 2019, url, p. 22

[2] Amnesty International, Sudan: Fresh evidence of government-sponsored crimes in Darfur shows drawdown of peacekeepers premature and reckless, 11 June 2019, url

[3] SAS, Diaspora in Despair: Darfurian Mobility at a Time of International Disengagement, June 2020, url, p. 12

[4] UN, Security Council, Conflict-related sexual violence, 3 June 2020, url, para. 52

[5] Sources include the UN Security Council, and interviews with Darfur rebels, refugees in Darfur, Sudanese officials, and Chadian rebels (SAS, Diaspora in Despair: Darfurian Mobility at a Time of International Disengagement, June 2020, url, pp. 24-25).

Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW) and 'autonomous elements'	Fur, with a 'few' Zaghawa	Oil crescent, Sarir oil field, and Waw el-Kebir	Haftar and GSLF	100–150 men and 50 vehicles, and moving back and forth between Darfur and Libya

2 Armed groups

2.1 Government forces

Internal security is the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defense, and the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) which, after the establishment of the transitional government on 11 April 2019, was renamed as General Intelligence Service (GIS). Police agencies under the Ministry of Interior include the security police, Special Forces Police, traffic police and the combat-trained Central Reserve police.[6] The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) consists of the Ground Force, Navy, and the Air Force.[7] It also includes two paramilitary groups: the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Reserve Department (formerly known as the Popular Defense Forces, PDF).[8] Estimates of the size of the SAF vary among sources, ranging from 100 000 to over 200 000, including 1 500 in the Navy, 3 000 in the Air Force, 30 000 RSF and 20 000 PDF.[9] The mandate of the GIS was 'narrowed to protecting national security, limiting its duties to gathering and analysing information and submitting information and analysis to concerned authorities'.[10] While during the Bashir regime authorities did not maintain effective control of the security forces, under the transitional government, control of security forces has 'greatly improved'.[11]

The RSF is made up of Janjaweed [also spelled out as Janjawid] nomadic Arab[12] and skilled desert fighters, and reportedly has an increasing influence in the Sudanese government.[13] According to the US CIA Factbook, the RSF is made up of the 'remnants of the Janjaweed militia that participated in suppressing the Darfur rebellion'.[14] The RSF is headed by General Muhammad Hamdan Dagalo, 'the most powerful man in the security forces'. The RSF control Kartoum and other regions such as Darfur.[15] The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) indicated that although the RSF are part of the security forces, 'it has demonstrated a different pattern of violence than the Sudanese police and military. More than half of the events in which the RSF have been involved since the protest wave began are instances of violence against civilians. This is compared to 25% of events involving the military … and fewer than 10% of events involving the police'.[16]

A report by Small Arms Survey (SAS) indicated that, in addition, the government relies on local militias for counter-insurgency operations in or around the Blue Nile. Recruited combatants originate from Blue Nile and other parts of Sudan and South Sudan, and it is estimated that 17 000 men are involved in such operations. According to SAS, with the use of militias, the government seeks to 'sow discord and increase local violence between pro-[government] tribes and the SPLM/A-N [Sudan

[6] US, USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019, 11 March 2020, url, p. 2
[7] US, CIA, The World Factbook, Sudan, 4 August 2020, url
[8] US, CIA, The World Factbook, Sudan, 4 August 2020, url
[9] US, CIA, The World Factbook, Sudan, 4 August 2020, url
[10] US, USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019, 11 March 2020, url, p. 2
[11] US, USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019, 11 March 2020, url, p. 2
[12] HIIK, Conflict Barometer 2019, March 2020, url, p. 90; Fidh, Will There Be Justice For Darfur? Persisting impunity in the face of political change, December 2019, url, p. 4
[13] SAS, Diaspora in Despair: Darfurian Mobility at a Time of International Disengagement, June 2020, url, p. 29
[14] US, CIA, The World Factbook, Sudan, 4 August 2020, url
[15] ICG, Safeguarding Sudan's Revolution, 21 October 2019, url, pp. 12-13
[16] ACLED, The Rapid Support Forces and the Escalation of Violence in Sudan, 3 July 2019, url

People's Liberation Movement/Army-North[17]] in southern Blue Nile and neighbouring Maban county in Upper Nile, South Sudan […] as a way of distracting the SPLM/A-N from its fight with the government'.[18] The HIIK report indicated that the conflict between the SPLM/A-N and the government 'de-escalated to a non-violent crisis' in 2019.[19] Paramilitary groups and government-controlled militias regularly raid IDP camps, commit robbery, injuring or killings IDPs, and use sexual violence as a form of warfare.[20]

The PDF was created in 1989 and has drawn most of its forces from the non-indigenous Fellata and Hausa communities, as well as from indigenous groups such as the Berta. In the Blue Nile, the government's use of the PDF has decreased over the years, using instead the Maban Heroes and Kobaji militias, as well as other militias from other parts of Sudan.[21] The Kobaji militia was established in 2010 and has fought alongside the SAF against the SPLA/N (Sudan People's Liberation Army/North[22]), most notably in the Kurmuk area. The Kobaji reportedly supports the government in exchange of small arms to defend themselves against Arab and Fellata pastoralists in Gessain and Roseires. It has a force of 500 men but can be increased to 1 500 for specific clashes.[23] The Maban Heroes militia was created in 2009 and is made up of Mabanese, Nuer and Fellata. It is based in Blue Nile and comprises a force of 200 men that can be increased to 1 500 during 'fighting seasons'.[24]

The UN Security Council Panel of Experts for Sudan indicated that, according to media reports, the Rapid Support Forces is allegedly operating in Libya, siding with the Libyan National Army. The same Panel indicated, however, that there is 'no credible evidence' of the presence of the Rapid Support Forces in that country, and noted that 'many Arabs from Darfur and Chad who fight in Libya as individual mercenaries for the Libyan National Army and other groups, including in Jufrah, hail from the same tribes as the majority of Rapid Support Forces personnel'.[25]

The SAF and its various components have been accused of committing human rights violations including torture, extrajudicial killings, rape, and excessive use of force. In several cases no action was taken against those responsible for the abuses.[26] Some of the events documented by the UN Security Council Panel include:

- Four women survived an attempt to rape by members of the Rapid Support Forces in Kutum, North Darfur, in November 2019.
- A rape at gunpoint of a 25 year-old IDP woman by a soldier of the SAF in Nertiti who was eventually detained.

[17] The Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) provides the following explanation on the terminology on the SPLM: '[SPLM/A-N] refers to northern Sudanese soldiers who fought with the SPLM during the civil war and who reconstituted themselves as the SPLM-N after South Sudan's independence in 2011. SPLM-N is generally used for the political and humanitarian wing of the SPLM/A-N, whereas SPLA-N specifically refers to the military wing of the movement. However, in practice the political and the military wings are not completely separate at the leadership level and there is some overlap between the two. As such, SPLM/A-N is used to designate both the military and political wings of the movement. (HPG, Talking to the other side: Humanitarian negotiations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, Sudan, July 2013, url, p. 2). See also secton 1.8
[18] SAS, Spilling Over: Conflict Dynamics in and around Sudan's Blue Nile State, 2015–19, March 2020, url, p. 29
[19] HIIK, Conflict Barometer 2019, March 2020, url, p. 93
[20] HIIK, Conflict Barometer 2019, March 2020, url, p. 90
[21] SAS, Spilling Over: Conflict Dynamics in and around Sudan's Blue Nile State, 2015–19, March 2020, url, p. 29
[22] See footnote 17
[23] SAS, Spilling Over: Conflict Dynamics in and around Sudan's Blue Nile State, 2015–19, March 2020, url, p. 30
[24] SAS, Spilling Over: Conflict Dynamics in and around Sudan's Blue Nile State, 2015–19, March 2020, url, p. 30
[25] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 72
[26] US, USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019, 11 March 2020, url, p. 3; UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, paras. 120-125

- The unlawful detention in July 2019 of four men in Ed Daein (East Darfur) by the Rapid Support Forces, who subjected them to 'cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment', and leading to the death of one of the detainees.[27]

The RSF has ties with Libyan militias, including pro-Haftar militias, and engage in the 'sale' of migrants who transit through Sudan into Libya.[28]

2.2 Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF)

The SRF comprises of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) [also called JEM/Gibril[29]], the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi (SLA/MM), the Sudan Liberation Army/Transitional Council (SLA/TC)[30], the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW), and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/North (SPLM/N).[31] A report by the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIK) indicated that most combatants come from African tribes, including Fur, Zaghawa, and Massalit, who constitute the majority of the population of Darfur.[32] Sources indicated that a peace deal between the SRF and the government took place on 3 October 2020.[33] The SPLM/N led by El-Hilu and the SLM/AW did not take part in the talks.[34]

2.3 Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW)

The SLA/AW is the only rebel group that has maintained a significant presence inside Darfur[35], with its activities concentrated in the Jebel Marra area[36], 'a mountain range spanning over the three states of Central, North, and South Darfur'.[37] It draws support from the Fur tribe, particularly in IDP camps in Darfur.[38] The SLA/AW has been increasingly fragmented and losing territorial control due to infighting and internal divisions on the engagement of negotiations with the government.[39] Abdul Wahid Nur's control of the SLA/AW as well as support among IDPs of the group have reportedly 'significantly eroded' in 2019 due to questioning of his 'leadership style and strategy'.[40] The Darfurian Internally Displaced Person and Refugee Camps Administration, a new group of IDPs created in March 2019 by leaders of IDPs who were aligned with the SLA/AW, suspended Abdul Wahid on 1 May 2019 and appointed Ahmed Ibrahim Yusuf 'Kazinski' as 'transitional chairman'.[41] Abdul Wahid has since tried to reassert his position with the help of IDPs in Kalma and Hamadiya.[42]

In Jebel Marra, the SLA/AW has strengthened its military capability with the discovery in early 2019

[27] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, paras. 120-125
[28] SAS, Diaspora in Despair: Darfurian Mobility at a Time of International Disengagement, June 2020, url, p. 29
[29] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 30 May 2019, url, para. 6
[30] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 12; HIIK, Conflict Barometer 2019, March 2020, url, p. 90
[31] HIIK, Conflict Barometer 2019, March 2020, url, p. 90
[32] HIIK, Conflict Barometer 2019, March 2020, url, p. 90
[33] Al Jazeera, Sudan's government, rebel groups sign landmark deal, 3 October 2020, url; France 24, Sudan govt, rebel groups sign landmark peace deal, 3 October 2020, url
[34] BBC, Sudan key players set to sign final peace deal 3 October, 1 October 2020, Factiva
[35] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 155; Reuters, Factbox: Sudan's rebel groups, 1 September 2020, url
[36] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 155; HIIK, Conflict Barometer 2019, March 2020, url, p. 90
[37] HIIK, Conflict Barometer 2019, March 2020, url, p. 90
[38] Reuters, Factbox: Sudan's rebel groups, 1 September 2020, url
[39] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 30 May 2019, url, para. 14
[40] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, paras. 57-58
[41] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, paras. 58-59
[42] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 60

of a gold field in Torroye. Revenue from mining operations has facilitated the acquisition of weapons and ammunitions from local militias. The SLA/AW also increased recruitment among former fighters and IDPs and set up a training camp in Torontonga led by Brigadier General Abdul Jabar.[43]

The UN Security Council Panel of Experts for Sudan indicated that 'leadership struggles within SLA/AW have resulted in fierce competition for the control of camps for internally displaced persons, causing an upsurge in tensions and violence in major camps such as Kalma (South Darfur) and Hamadiya (Central Darfur)'. The clashes between rival factions of the SLA/AW led by Mubarak Waldook and Saleh Borso continued in 2019, with attacks on local villages that support the rival faction, and engaging in killings, rapes and, in the Jabel Marra, the displacement of 'thousands' of civilians.[44]

The SLA/AW and the Gathering of the Sudan Liberation Forces (also known as Sudan Liberation Forces Alliance, SLFA) signed a pact on 30 June 2019. These groups accused the Transitional Military Council of 'hijacking the revolution' and the SLA/AW rejected the agreement with the TLC as it considered it to be 'an elite pact at the expense of protesters and marginalized areas of the Sudan'. The government and the SLA, however, established unilateral ceasefires that brought to an end large military operations in Jebel Marra, although occasional skirmishes occurred in 2019 in several areas, including the Golo area.[45]

The SLA/AW is reportedly present in Jebel Marra, Awehda and Mershing, in South Darfur.[46] It is also present in Libya with a force of 90 armed vehicles and is sided with the Libyan National Army. The Libyan wing is led by SLA/AW Chief of Staff Yusif Ahmed Yusif, also known as Karjakola, and is reportedly involved in smuggling of cars to North Darfur and Chad. Ahmed Yusif's wing in Libya works closely with the Gathering of the Sudan Liberation Forces (GSLF), 'with which SLA/AW has signed a series of cooperation agreements'. In South Sudan, the SLA/AW runs a 'detention and extorsion system targeting part of the Darfurian diaspora'.[47]

The UN Security Council Panel indicated that in clashes with government forces and infighting within the group, the SLA/AW 'committed various violations and abuses against civilians, such as killing and maiming, including of women and children, which also resulted in new displacements and loss of livelihood'. In May 2019, for example, 'clashes between various SLA/AW factions (between commanders Salah Borso and Mubarak Waldook, as well as between SLA/AW and the splinter group SLA/Peace and Development)' displaced about 1 500 people to Golo and surrounding villages, and burned villages, looted civilian property, and engaged in sexual violence and rape of women and children in the course of the displacement.[48]

In Darfur, the SLA/AW financed itself through the collection of taxes that they imposed in the territories of the Jebel Marra under their control, including IDP camps. Even though the SLA/AW lost control of several territories and markets in 2016, resorting to rustling cattle from Arabs to finance itself, the discovery of gold fields in the Torroye mines in 2019, SLA/AW commanders such as Adbulrazig Turti and Zunoon Abdelshafi were deployed to the area to 'supervise' mining operations and taxing miners with 25 % of revenues.[49] In South Sudan, the SLA/AW obtains financing through the commercialisation of produce, cattle and goats provided by the Dinka elites in exchange for the SLA/AW's security and protection against the Nuer.[50]

The SLA/AW has been engaging in the Jebel Marra in the abduction for ransom of civilians and staff

[43] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, summary, para. 61
[44] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, paras. 44-45
[45] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, paras. 12-13, 45
[46] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 49
[47] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, paras. 69, 88
[48] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 126
[49] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, paras. 156-157
[50] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, paras. 161-162

of international NGOs, robbery of commercial trucks, and looting of local medical and humanitarian organisations' properties.[51]

2.4 Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi (SLA/MM)

Since losing its foothold in the Darfur region in 2014, the SLA/MM is active in Libya[52] and South Sudan.[53] In Libya it is considered the largest Darfurian armed group in the country.[54] It supports the Libyan National Army[55] and has reportedly between 250 and 300 armed pick-up trucks and more than 1 000 fighters, distributed in three locations: Ra's Lanuf's oil installations vicinities, the Hun military airport in the Jufrah region where it assists Libyan National Army in control operations, and farms in the Zillah area in the Jufrah region.[56] The SLA/MM, the second Darfuri group that signed the deal in Juba, was 'associated more with fighting the "Janjaweed" militias accused of atrocities in Darfur than political opposition to the government in Khartoum'.[57]

After a visit to the Libyan National Army in Benghazi, Libya, in July and August 2019, by the SLA/MM, SLA/AW, GSLF, and SLA/TC, the Libyan National Army provided the SLA/MM with 60 unarmed pick-up trucks as part of a deal 'to secure the group's support for the Army'.[58] In 2016 and 2018, the Libyan National Army provided the SLA/MM with armoured personnel carriers, including Spartan, Puma, and Cougar types.[59] SLA/MM fighters reportedly earn between 1 500 and 2 000 Libyan dinars [between 923 and 1 231 euros] per month, although payment is not regular.[60]

The SLA/MM has reportedly 'good working relationships' with the United Arab Emirates.[61]

2.5 Sudan Liberation Army/Transitional Council (SLA/TC)

The SLA/TC is a splinter group of the SLA/AW and has most of its forces in Libya where it supports the Libyan National Army.[62] The group was established in 2015 and is led by El-Hadi Idris.[63] Sudan Tribune reported that the SLA/TC pact made an alliance with the Sudan Liberation Forces Alliance (SLFA) to 'foster coordination and collaboration between the two groups', in an effort to reunite splinter groups of the SLA.[64] On 27 April 2020, the same source reported that 34 military commanders and political leaders from Jebel Marra joined the SLA/TC.[65] Additional information could not be found among the sources consulted within the time constraints of this query.

---

[51] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 15 October 2019, url, para. 9
[52] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 30 May 2019, url, para. 13; SAS, Diaspora in Despair: Darfurian Mobility at a Time of International Disengagement, June 2020, url, p. 21
[53] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 30 May 2019, url, para. 13
[54] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, 14 January 2020, url, para. 65; SAS, Diaspora in Despair: Darfurian Mobility at a Time of International Disengagement, June 2020, url, p. 21
[55] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, 14 January 2020, url, para. 65
[56] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 65
[57] Reuters, Factbox: Sudan's rebel groups, 1 September 2020, url
[58] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 82
[59] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 83
[60] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 171
[61] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 29
[62] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 67
[63] AA, Mosaic of armed groups in Sudan, 27 December 2019, url
[64] Sudan Tribune, Darfur armed groups agree to move towards reunification ahead of peace talks, 26 October 2019, url
[65] Sudan Tribune, Darfur's Jebel Marra holdout rebels join SLM-Transitional Council, 28 April 2020, url

2.6 Justice and Quality Movement (JEM)

The JEM is led in Sudan by Jibril Ibrahim and is made up mostly of non-Arab rebels[66]. The JEM's ranks have dwindled in the Darfur region[67] since 2014[68], although it is active in Blue Nile, South Kordofan[69], Libya and South Sudan.[70] The JEM has a small presence in Qatrum, Libya, where it is led by Abdel Karim Cholloy. In Libya, the JEM is aligned with the Tubu.[71] In Libya, JEM has between 100 and 200 combatants, and works for the Libyan National Army.[72]

The JEM has reportedly 'good contacts' with the government of Qatar.[73] In Chad, the SLA/MM cooperates with the Union des forces de la résistance.[74]

The JEM has about 100 combatants near Kata, South Sudan. It also keeps a low profile in the state of Lol.[75] In South Sudan, the JEM provides security and operational support to the governor of the state of Lol in exchange of limited financial assistance and uniforms, ammunition and supplies. They also engage, as civilians, in farming and goods transportation.[76]

2.7 Sudanese Revolutionary Awakening Council (SRAC)

The SRAC is a splinter group of the JEM.[77] Musa Hilal Abdalla Alnsiem's supporters, mostly Mahamid Arabs, fled to Libya after he was arrested. They continued to operate under the SRAC banner, although they have failed to establish their own structures. In Libya, most of SRAC militants were under JEM, although 'many have recently sided with the Libyan National Army in Jufrah'.[78]

The SRAC has about 200 combatants in South Sudan's Bolo Medina, and keeps a low profile in the state of Lol.[79]

2.8 Sudan People's Liberation Army/North (SPLA/N)[80]

The SPLA/N operates in the states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan, commonly known as the 'Two Areas'[81], as is the SPLM/N[82].[83] After internal infighting, the group split in two factions in 2017: the

[66] Reuters, Factbox: Sudan's rebel groups, 1 September 2020, url
[67] Reuters, Factbox: Sudan's rebel groups, 1 September 2020, url
[68] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 30 May 2019, url, para. 13
[69] HIIK, Conflict Barometer 2019, March 2020, url, p. 90
[70] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 30 May 2019, url, para. 13
[71] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 70
[72] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 30 May 2019, url, para. 13
[73] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 30
[74] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 30 May 2019, url, para. 13
[75] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 89
[76] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 168
[77] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 168
[78] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 71
[79] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 89
[80] See footnote 17 for terminology.
[81] SAS, Spilling Over: Conflict Dynamics in and around Sudan's Blue Nile State, 2015–19, March 2020, url, pp. 34-38
[82] See footnote 17.
[83] HIIK, Conflict Barometer 2019, March 2020, url, p. 90

SPLM-N al-Hilu led by Abdelaziz al-Hilu and SPLM/N Agar led by Ahmed al-Umda[84], or Malik Agar.[85] The Agar faction is made up of combatants who supported the south in the war before South Sudan seceded. It is present in South Kordofan and Blue Nile and split into the Agar faction and Yasir Arman faction. Both signed a peace deal in Juba.[86] The al-Hilu faction consists of most fighters that made up the SPLM/N and its objective is the instauration of secularism in Sudan.[87]

Al-Hilu's faction appointed non-Ingessana personnel and took control of the SPLM/A-N's military, civil administration and political sectors. The Agar faction appointed people form the Ingessana tribe into its structures, and many of its troops are reserves, with recruitment campaigns taking place at refugee camps on a regular basis.[88] SAS indicated that 'most civilians, their leaders, an SPLA-N members chose sides based on their ethnicity', and that many at refugee camps have been forced to relocate to another refugee camp due to ethnically targeted violence.[89]

SAS indicated that the al-Hilu faction possesses armoured vehicles and heavy weapons including tanks and long-range artillery, and that clashes among the two factions have left 'several hundred' civilians dead, although the exact number is unclear.[90]

2.9 Tribal groups and tribal militias

A fact-finding mission report by the UK Home Office to Sudan indicated that 'non-Arab Darfuris comprise approximately 70% of the Darfur population; the largest groups are the Fur, Zaghawa, Maaslit and Berti.[91] A UN Security Council report by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the UN on Darfur provided the following 'intercommunal conflicts' in the region:

- North Darfur: disputes between Northern Rezeigat herders and returnee farmers, mostly Tunjur and Fur, over access to farmlands in Kutum, Shangil Tobaya, Tawilla, Kabkabiya, and Saraf Umra.
- South Darfur: disputes over lands and competition for natural resources in Graida between Masalit and Fallata. Similar tensions occur between the Salamat and the Fallata in Buram.
- East Darfur: conflict over lands between the Southern Rezeigat and the Ma'aliyya in Abu Karinka and Adilla.
- Central Darfur: animal theft by the SLA/AW against the Northern Rezeigat exacerbated tensions between the Northern Rezeigat and the Fur after the former accused the Fur of supporting the SLA/AW.
- West Darfur: the native administration and the UNAMID have facilitated mediation efforts to resolve disputes between herders and farmers.[92]

Incidents between nomadic and agrarian communities accounted for most deadly clashes among tribal groups. IDPs who tried to return to their lands identified to the UN Security Council Panel the Arab nomads as the perpetrators of harassment, threats, assaults, and killings, as well as the sexual

[84] SAS, Spilling Over: Conflict Dynamics in and around Sudan's Blue Nile State, 2015–19, March 2020, url, pp. 34-38; AFP, Soudan: les rebelles signataires de l'accord de paix avec Khartoum, 30 August 2020, Factiva
[85] HIIK, Conflict Barometer 2019, March 2020, url, p. 94
[86] Reuters, Factbox: Sudan's rebel groups, 1 September 2020, url
[87] Reuters, Factbox: Sudan's rebel groups, 1 September 2020, url; AFP, Soudan: les rebelles signataires de l'accord de paix avec Khartoum, 30 August 2020, Factiva
[88] SAS, Spilling Over: Conflict Dynamics in and around Sudan's Blue Nile State, 2015–19, March 2020, url, pp. 34-38
[89] SAS, Spilling Over: Conflict Dynamics in and around Sudan's Blue Nile State, 2015–19, March 2020, url, pp. 39-40
[90] SAS, Spilling Over: Conflict Dynamics in and around Sudan's Blue Nile State, 2015–19, March 2020, url, p. 40
[91] UK, Home Office, Report of a fact-finding mission to Khartoum, Sudan, November 2018, url, p. 9
[92] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 30 May 2019, url, para. 19

assault and rape of women and girls. The Rapid Support Forces reportedly supported perpetrators in the commission of these crimes.[93] The UN Security Council Panel provided the following examples of inter-communal violence:

- On 31 October 2019, a man and his teenage daughter were killed on their farm by armed shepherds from the Rapid Support Forces stationed in Tawilah. The Public Prosecutor issued a warrant for the arrest of the perpetrators and the removal of the Rapid Support Forces and militias from the area but the government reportedly has not responded the requests to investigate these attacks.
- On 28 September 2020, 'armed pastoralists' burned and looted four villages in Almukhar, Central Darfur, displacing 3 000 people, killing a 32-year-old woman, and injuring 8, including girls.[94]

Arab militias in Darfur obtaining financing through kidnappings for ransom, human trafficking, the smuggling of weapons and drugs, and cattle rustling. Musa Hilal's supporters provide with weapons and ammunition to the SLA/AW in Jebel Marra.[95]

Armed nomads and militia groups are accused of sexual violence in Jebel Marra, including Golo, Kas, Nertiti, Kabkabiyah and other parts of Darfur.[96]

The HIIK report provided the following instances of inter-communal clashes that took place in 2019: Awlad Zaid and Misseriya, Western Darfur; Beni Hussein and Beni Halba, Western Darfur; Beni Amer and Nuba, el Gedaref and Port Sudan, Red Sea; Beni Amer and Handandawa; Maaliya and Masalit, West Darfur; Ngok Dinka and Nuer, Abyei, between Sudan and South Sudan; and Ngok Dinka and Misseiya, Sudan and South Sudan.[97]

2.10 Instances of alliances

In preparation for peace negotiations, Sudanese armed groups have reorganised into the following:

- The Sudanese Revolutionary Front, under the leadership of Al-Hadi Idriss: SLA/MM, JEM, SLA/TC, and the Malik Agar faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/North (SPLM/N).
- Kush Alliance: the Abdelaziz Al-Hilu faction of the SPLM/N, the Beja Congress of Zeinab Kabbashi, and the Sudan Liberation Forces Alliance of Tahir Hajar.
- The SLA/AW remained outside of any negotiation framework.[98]

The SPLM/N signed a peace agreement with the transitional government on 24 January 2020 that covers governance, regional autonomy, wealth-sharing and security for the Two Areas. The SLA/MM, JEM, and SLA/TC also signed a 'framework agreement' with the government on 28 December 2019.[99]

General Mohamed Hamdan Dagolo, known as "Hemetti", head of the Transitional Military Council committee in charge of the peace process, has tried to get Darfurian armed groups on his side by presenting the narrative of a 'Darfurian common interest' for Arabs and non-Arabs united against the '"jellaba" elites who have dominated Sudan since independence' and end the conflict. Some

[93] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, paras. 127-129
[94] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, paras. 129-130
[95] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, paras. 159-160
[96] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 15 October 2019, url, para. 19
[97] HIIK, Conflict Barometer 2019, March 2020, url, pp. 90, 94
[98] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 15 October 2019, url, para. 35
[99] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, url, paras. 6-7

rebel leaders and leaders of the Fur community have sided with General Hemetti.[100]

Organisations that signed the Doha Document and participated in the government of al-Bashir are excluded from the current political transition. These movements include the JEM/Dabajo and LJM.[101] On 16 December 2019, the JEM/Dabajo signed a 'memorandum of understanding' with the SLA/MM to 'coordinate activities during the peace process'.[102]

In January 2019, a joint force consisting of the SLA/MM, GSLF, and SLA/TC travelled from Jufrah, Libya, to the Kouri Bougoudi gold field at the border between Chad and Libya to 'gather information' on incidents related to the targeting of Darfurian Zaghawa miners.[103]

According to the UN Security Council Panel, 'Libya remains the main source of financing for the Darfurian armed groups', including the SLA/MM, SLA/AW, JEM, SLA/TC, and the GSLF.[104] The Libyan National Army has provided Darfurian groups that support the Army with weapons such as 14.5 mm and 12.7 mm machine guns and anti-aircraft guns.[105]

2.11 Weaponry

The SAF's armament include weapons from China, Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. Sudan produces small arms[106], ammunition[107], and armoured vehicles based on older Chinese and Russian models.[108] The Darfur region in Sudan is under a UN arms embargo since July 2004.[109]

SAS indicated that Sudan's military had in 2017 about 464 170 firearms, of which the PDF have 126 000.[110] The same source indicated that, based on an estimate based on the size of its law enforcement body, police forces in Sudan have about 110 000 firearms, including 102 500 by the National Police Service and 7 500 by the General Intelligence Service (GIS), then the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS).[111] SAS further indicated that in 2017 2 768 000 firearms were in possession of civilians in Sudan, representing a rate of civilian possession of firearms per 100 000 inhabitants of 6.6, with 6 724 weapons registered and 2 761 276 unregistered.[112] More recent information could not be found among the sources consulted within the time constraints of this query.

The UN Security Council Panel of Experts on the Sudan pointed to the 'large-scale presence of weapons' in refugee camps, as exhibited during armed clashes between two rival factions of IDPs on 13 April and 1 June 2019 when 16 and 5 people were killed, respectively. Weapons used in the clashes included a 14.5 mm machine gun and a rocket-propelled grenade.[113] The same source indicated that the 'prevalence' or arms in Darfur is an 'ongoing issue' that dates to the large-scale distribution of weapons by the Sudanese government to local militias. Small arms, in particular, are used by militias and local gangs to commit crimes such as sexual and gender-based assault, 'and attacks on staff of international non-governmental organizations and UNAMID property'. A

[100] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, paras. 62-63
[101] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 21
[102] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 21
[103] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 77
[104] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 155
[105] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 84
[106] SAS defines 'small arms' as those including revolvers, pistols, rifles, carabines, sub-machine guns, assault rifles, and light machine guns (SAS, SAS, Weapons Compass: Mapping Illicit Small Arms Flows in Africa, January 2019, url, p. 23).
[107] SAS, Weapons Compass: Mapping Illicit Small Arms Flows in Africa, January 2019, url, p. 27; US, CIA, The World Factbook, Sudan, 4 August 2020, url
[108] US, CIA, The World Factbook, Sudan, 4 August 2020, url
[109] SAS, Weapons Compass: Mapping Illicit Small Arms Flows in Africa, January 2019, url, p. 46
[110] SAS, Military Firearms Holdings, 2017, 18 June 2018, url
[111] SAS, Law enforcement Firearms Holdings, 2017, 18 June 2018, url
[112] SAS, Civilian Firearms Holdings, 2017, 18 June 2018, url
[113] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 44

campaign for weapons collections initiated in August 2017 has been stopped.[114]

3 Overview of major political developments during the reference period

On 11 April 2019, Omar al-Bashir – the long-standing president of Sudan – was overthrown by the country's military, after pressure from months-long nationwide demonstrations.[115] Al-Bashir was arrested, and a Transitional Military Council (TMC) was initially established to lead the country for a transitional period of two years.[116]

Not content with the prospect of a military leadership, protesters continued to gather in the weeks that followed, demanding a civilian administration.[117] On 3 June 2019, security forces opened fire on protesters outside military headquarters, and, while the authorities claimed 61 deaths, including three members of the military, the civilian side claimed that at least 128 people were killed.[118]

On 17 July 2019, the TMC and the leaders of the protest groups – united under the umbrella organisation 'Forces for Freedom and Change' (FFC) – signed a power-sharing agreement, and on 17 August 2019 a Constitutional Declaration was signed.[119] According to it, Sudan will be ruled for 39 months by a Sovereignty Council comprising 11 members, 'of whom five are civilians selected by the [FFC], and five are selected by the [TMC]'[120], while the last member is jointly selected by the others.[121]

On 21 August 2019, economist Abdalla Hamdok was sworn in as Sudan's Prime Minister, after being nominated by the Sovereignty Council.[122] The new Hamdok government embarked on a series of peace talks with various armed groups, which began with the Juba Declaration for Confidence-building Procedures and the Preparation for Negotiation on 11 September 2019[123], and culminated more recently in the signing of a peace agreement on 31 August 2020 – also in Juba, the capital of neighbouring South Sudan – with the majority of the armed groups in Sudan; the two main exceptions were, at the time, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army faction of Abdel Wahid al-Nur (SLM/A AW), and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North faction of Abdel Aziz al-Hilu (SPLM-N al-Hilu).[124] On 4 September 2020, Prime Minister Hamdok and al-Hilu signed a separate

[114] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 145
[115] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 30 May 2019, url, para. 9
[116] Al Jazeera, Sudan military seizes power from Omar al-Bashir: Full statement, 11 April 2019, url; HRW, Sudan: With al-Bashir Ouster, End Authoritarianism, 11 April 2019, url; DW, Sudan's military ousts President Omar al-Bashir following protests, 11 April 2019, url
[117] Africa News, Sudanese begin protest demanding for civilian administration, 25 April 2019, url
[118] Al Jazeera, Sudan's ruling generals, protest leaders sign power-sharing deal, 27 July 2019, url; BBC, Sudan military and civilians sign deal to end deadly turmoil, 17 July 2019, url; Guardian (The), Sudanese protesters demand justice following mass killings, 13 July 2019, url
[119] US, USDOS, The United States Welcomes Sudan's Adoption of the Constitutional Declaration, 17 August 2019, url; DW, Sudan: Military, protest leaders sign historic transition deal, 17 August 2019, url
[120] UN, FAO, Draft Constitutional Charter for the 2019 Transitional Period, n. d., url
[121] UN, FAO, Draft Constitutional Charter for the 2019 Transitional Period, n. d., url
[122] Al Jazeera, Sudan forms 11-member sovereign council, headed by al-Burhan, 20 August 2019, url; Al Jazeera, Abdalla Hamdok: Who is Sudan's new prime minister?, 21 August 2019, url
[123] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 15 October 2019, url, para. 6
[124] BBC, How Sudan's rebel deal offers lifeline for peace, 9 September 2019, url; France, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Sudan - Peace agreement between the Sudanese authorities and part of the rebel alliance, 31 August 2020, url; Al Jazeera, Sudan signs peace deal with rebel groups from Darfur, 31 August 2020, url; Sudan Tribune, Sudan, armed groups sign landmark peace agreement, 31 August 2020, url

peace deal in Ethiopia.[125]

4 Overview of the security situation across Darfur

Referring to the Darfur region, a joint African Union-United Nations (AU-UN) report of 30 May 2019 stated that the impact of the military coup of April 2019

> 'has been moderate, despite a peak in violence in several camps for internally displaced persons [..] In general, the security situation remained relatively stable [..] Overall, Darfur has evolved into a post-conflict setting characterized by fragile public institutions, facing challenges owing to criminality, a protracted humanitarian crisis and lack of development.'[126]

In a report of 26 July 2019, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan stated about the Darfur region that, during the reference period September 2018-June 2019, 'active clashes between government forces and armed groups were relatively infrequent and were localized in remote mountain areas'.[127]

A joint AU-UN report dated 15 October 2019 highlighted the fact that, since May 2019:

> 'Intermittent armed clashes between the Government forces and the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA AW) continued in the Jebel Marra, with the movement targeting the Sudan Armed Forces positions around Golo. SLA AW abducted local civilians and staff of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for ransom [..] Meanwhile, in the Daya area, east of Golo, the infighting between the two SLA AW factions of commanders Salih Borsa and Mubarak Aldouk continued.'[128]

The final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan of 14 January 2020, referring to the period March-December 2019, highlighted

> 'an increase in localized security incidents, including inter-communal skirmishes; militia attacks on civilians; tensions in major camps for [IDPs]; clashes in Jebel Marra between the security forces, allied militias and SLA AW, as well as within SLA AW itself; and several attacks on [UNAMID] and humanitarian agencies.'[129]

A joint AU-UN paper of 12 March 2020 reported a 'sharp increase in attacks against farmers by pastoralists'[130] during the harvest season at the end of 2019, when '102 land-related incidents, predominantly of crop destruction, resulted in 23 fatalities, compared with 60 incidents and 5 fatalities during the same period in 2018.'[131]

In a report dated 30 July 2020, the Independent Expert wrote that 'Darfur continues to experience a multitude of human rights and humanitarian crises, despite the seeming reduction of the frequency

---

[125] Ahram Online, Sudan signs peace with holdout rebel group, 4 September 2020, url; Radio Dabanga, Sudan peace talks: Hamdok, El Hilu agree on roadmap, 5 September 2020, url

[126] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 30 May 2019, url, para. 5

[127] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: report of the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, 26 July 2019, url, para. 77

[128] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 15 October 2019, url, para. 9

[129] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, p. 2

[130] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, url, para. 12

[131] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, url, para. 12

and intensity of violence.'[132] The Independent Expert quoted sources indicating that, between March-May 2020, more civilians were killed in inter-communal conflicts than in armed clashes between government forces and armed movements.'[133]

The Independent Expert also highlighted the 'continued prevalence of sexual violence in Darfur. The majority of the victims are women and children who are internally displaced persons [..] Alleged perpetrators include governmental forces; fighters and splinter groups of the [SLM AW]; armed militia; and individuals.'[134] According to the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 'the patterns of incidents are indicative that rape is increasingly used in the fight between nomads and farmers over access to land in several areas in Darfur.'[135]

In July 2020, a series of violent events took place in Darfur, among the more serious being the attacks of 24 July in South Darfur and 25 July in West Darfur, that together saw at least 80 civilians killed by armed men.[136] In response, Prime Minister Hamdok announced on 26 July 2020 the deployment of a 'joint security force [...] in the five states of the Darfur region to protect citizens during the farming season.'[137]

The figures below referring to violent events and civilian casualties are drawn from the database and curated files published by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED). According to its Codebook, data gathered 'are derived from a wide range of local, regional and national sources';[138] each violent incident is coded with the time and place, type of violent incident, the parties involved and the number of fatalities.[139] in any case, the figures should be used as guiding estimates, as ACLED specifies that the data collected is likely to 'underestimate the volume of events. Fatality data particularly is vulnerable to bias and inaccurate reporting, and ACLED states to use the most conservative estimate available.'[140]

Overall, in 2019, ACLED recorded 255 violent events across Darfur, of which: 183 were incidents of violence against civilians, 67 were battles and 5 were recorded as explosions/remote violence.[141] Of all violent events, ACLED recorded 188 as incidents in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence, and these resulted in 173 civilian deaths.[142] Also in 2019, there were 208 grave human rights violations against children recorded, comprising acts such as killing and maiming, rape and sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and recruitment or use and denial of humanitarian access, according to the report of the UN Secretary-General dated 9 June 2020.[143]

Between 1 January-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded 146 violent events across Darfur, of which: 101 were incidents of violence against civilians, 44 were battles and 1 was recorded as explosions/remote violence. There were 103 events in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence, according to ACLED, which resulted in 126 civilian deaths.[144]

---

[132] UN HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 54
[133] UN HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 56
[134] UN HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 58
[135] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 113
[136] BBC, Sudan to send more troops to Darfur after deadly attacks, 27 July 2020, url; Al Jazeera, Attackers kill at least 20 in Sudan's Darfur, says tribal chief, 25 July 2020, url
[137] BBC, Sudan to send more troops to Darfur after deadly attacks, 27 July 2020, url; Al Jazeera, Attackers kill at least 20 in Sudan's Darfur, says tribal chief, 25 July 2020, url
[138] ACLED, Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) Codebook, n.d., url, p. 3
[139] ACLED, Methodology overview, 10 April 2019, url
[140] ACCORD, Sudan, fourth quarter 2019: Update on incidents according to the ACLED, 23 June 2020, url, p. 3
[141] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[142] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[143] UN, Security Council, Children and armed conflict Report of the Secretary-General, 9 June 2020, url, para. 31
[144] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url

4.1 North Darfur

Security Incidents

In 2019, ACLED recorded 93 violent events in North Darfur, of which 85 were incidents of violence against civilians, 7 were battles and 1 was recorded as explosions/remote violence. With regards to locations, the violent events were recorded in Dar El Salam (33), Tawilla (22), Kebkabiya (17), Kutum (14), Saraf Omra (2), Kornoi (2), and in Mellit, El Fasher and Kalimendo (1 each).[145]

According to the joint AU-UN report of 12 March 2020, the areas in North Darfur most affected by the 'sharp increase in attacks against farmers by pastoralists'[146] during the harvest season at the end of 2019 'included Saraf Omra, Kabkabiyah, Tawilah and Shangil Tobaya [..], where Northern Rizeigat pastoralists have been attacking Fur and Tunjur internally displaced persons, returnees and farmers.'[147]

In July 2020, OCHA reported an increase in tensions 'in Kutum locality [..] following a recent escalation in violence reported in the area.' [148]

Between 1 January-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded 37 violent events, of which 29 were incidents of violence against civilians, and 8 were battles. The violent events were recorded in Kebkabiya (7), in Saraf Omra, Tawilla and Dar El Salam (6 each), Kutum (5), in El Fasher, El Sireaf and Kalimendo (2 each), and in El Taweisha (1).[149]

Indicative events include:

- On 29 March 2020, 'armed Arab nomads attacked Regel Mekhit village in Tawilla [..] and set houses on fire, displacing 40 families'[150], according to sources quoted by the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan in its report.[151]
- On 9 June 2020, gunmen attacked people gathered at a water well, killing a soldier and kidnapping three women, according to reports by Radio Dabanga.[152]
- On 13 July 2020, 'over 100 unidentified armed men'[153] attacked the Fata Borno camp for IDPs, leaving 'at least 9 people dead and 16 injured.'[154]

Civilian fatalities

In 2019, ACLED recorded 48 civilian deaths, due to 86 events in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence. Of the 86 incidents, ACLED recorded the attackers as: pastoralists (34 incidents), members of Unidentified Armed Groups or Militias (28 incidents), members of the RSF (18 incidents), members of the Military Forces of Sudan (4 incidents), members of the RSF together with pastoralists (1 incident), and members of the National Intelligence and Security Services (1

[145] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[146] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, url, para. 12
[147] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, url, para. 12
[148] UNOCHA, Sudan: Security Incidents in Kutum, North Darfur - Flash Update No. 1, 15 July 2020, url, p. 1
[149] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[150] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 56
[151] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 56
[152] Radio Dabanga, Soldier killed, three women abducted in North Darfur , 12 June 2020, url
[153] UNOCHA, Sudan: Security Incidents in Kutum, North Darfur - Flash Update No. 1, 15 July 2020, url, p. 1
[154] UNOCHA, Sudan: Security Incidents in Kutum, North Darfur - Flash Update No. 1, 15 July 2020, url, p. 1

incident).[155]

Between 1 January 2020-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded 15 civilian deaths due to 29 events in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence.[156] Of the 29 events, ACLED recorded the attackers as: pastoralists (10 incidents), members of a Darfur Communal Militia (9 incidents), members of Unidentified Armed Groups, (8 incidents), members of the RSF (1 incident), and members of the Military Intelligence Service (1 incident).[157]

4.2 East Darfur

Security Incidents

In 2019, ACLED recorded 6 violent events in East Darfur, of which 4 were incidents of violence against civilians, and 2 were battles. With regards to location, the violent events took place in Ed Daein (4), Sheiria (1) and Assalaya (1).[158]

Between 1 January-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded 5 violent events, of which 2 were incidents of violence against civilians, and 3 were battles. The violent events took place in Abu Jabra and Ed Daein (2 each), and in Abu Karinka (1).[159]

Some of the indicative violent events include:

- On 18 February 2020, armed persons attacked a police station in Heglig, Ed Daein, according to media source Darfur 24. One policeman was killed and another was injured.[160]
- On 21 March 2020 a group of herders attacked returning IDPs in Esheraya village in East Darfur, Abu Jabra, according to Radio Dabanga. A woman was killed, while 'a 6-month-old baby was wounded, and the village was torched.'[161]
- On 10 July 2020, a civilian and a policeman were killed, and four members of the RSF were injured, by gunmen in the town of Ashireyah, Abu Jabra, according to Darfur 24.[162]

Civilian fatalities

In 2019, ACLED recorded 3 civilian deaths due to 4 incidents in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence. Of the 4 incidents, ACLED reported the attackers as: members of the RSF (3 incidents), and members of an Unidentified Armed Group (1 incident).[163]

Between 1 January 2020-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded 1 civilian death due to 2 events in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence. Of the 2 incidents, ACLED reported the attackers as: members of the RSF (1 incident), and members of a Sudanese Unidentified Communal Militia (1 incident).[164]

4.3 South Darfur

Security Incidents

In 2019, ACLED recorded 45 violent events in South Darfur, of which 33 were incidents of violence against civilians, 10 were battles and 2 were recorded as explosions/remote violence. With regards

[155] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[156] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[157] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[158] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[159] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[160] Darfur 24, A policeman was killed and one injured in an attack on a police station in East Darfur, 19 February 2019, url
[161] Radio Dabanga, Woman killed, baby injured in attack against returnees in East Darfur, 23 March 2020, url
[162] Darfur 24, Two people killed in an armed attack in East Darfur, 11 July 2020, url
[163] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[164] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url

to locations, the violent events were recorded in Sharg Jabel Marra (12), in Bielel, Gereida and Kass (6), in Tullus (5), El Radoom (4), Nyala (3), Buram (2), and in Marshang (1).[165]

The Panel of Experts on the Sudan highlighted in a report of 14 January 2020:

> 'Leadership struggles within SLA AW have resulted in fierce competition for the control of camps for internally displaced persons, causing an upsurge in tensions and violence in major camps [..] In particular, Kalma [..] has been destabilized by repeated clashes between two rival factions of internally displaced persons. [...] 16 people were killed in the fighting on 13 April [2019] and 5 people were killed on 1 June [2019].'[166]

The 12 March 2020 joint AU-UN report stated that among the areas in South Darfur most affected by a 'sharp increase in attacks against farmers by pastoralists'[167] during the harvest season at the end of 2019 were Kass and Mershing.[168]

Between 1 January-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded 31 violent events, of which 19 were incidents of violence against civilians and 12 were battles. The violent events were recorded in Gereida (5), Kass (5), in El Salam, Nyala and Bielel (3 each), in El Radoom, Shattai and Marshang (2 each), and in Tullus, Rahad El Berdi, Buram, Sunta, Dimsu and Katayla (1 each).[169]

Some of the indicative incidents include:

- Between 28-29 September 2019, disputes between miners and members of the army resulted in two civilian deaths 'in Kidineer (Kidingir), in the East Jebel Marra locality'; according to the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, this is due to the fact that 'the discovery of gold in new places has triggered localized tensions, as rebels, security forces and militias compete for control.'[170]
- Between 5-6 May 2020 'fighting erupted between the Fallata and Rezeigat tribes in Murraya village, Tulus locality, South Darfur and extended to neighbouring villages [..] leaving 60 civilians dead and at least 150 injured', according to a report by the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan. [171]
- On 21 May 2020, 'armed militias [..] killed four civilians and injured seven others' in Gereida, according to the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies.[172]
- The Independent Expert additionally quoted sources reporting that on 10 June 2020, 'unidentified persons believed to be internally displaced persons from Kalma camp in South Darfur fired shots at a vehicle driving through the camp', killing two men on board, and injuring another. [173]
- On 24 July 2020, 'at least 20 people, including children, who were visiting their farms'[174], were killed by gunmen in an attack that 'took place in Aboudos, some 90 kilometres [..] south of

[165] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[166] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, para. 44
[167] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, url, para. 12
[168] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, url, para. 12
[169] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[170] UN, Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, url, p. 12
[171] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 56
[172] ACJPS, Darfur: Sudanese authorities must urgently put in place measures to protect civilians from arbitrary attacks by armed militias, 15 June 2020, url
[173] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 57
[174] Al Jazeera, Attackers kill at least 20 in Sudan's Darfur, says tribal chief, 25 July 2020, url

Nyala'; an expert source cited by France 24 highlighted the problem faced by returning IDPs of finding their properties settled by nomads.[175]

- Between 31 July-1 August 2020, '[m]ore than 10 villages near Kass, South Darfur have reported attacks by Arab militia groups', according to the Darfur Women Action Group (DWAG). 176
- On 1-2 August 2020, unidentified armed men 'attacked several villages in Kass locality and clashed with Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Boronga village', killing an 'unknown number' of people, according to International Crisis Group.[177]

Civilian fatalities

In 2019, ACLED recorded 30 civilian deaths due to 34 events in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence. Of the 34 events, ACLED recorded the attackers as: members of Unidentified Armed Groups or Militia (11 incidents), pastoralists (9 incidents), members of the RSF (8 incidents), members of the Military Forces of Sudan (3 incidents), members of a Darfur Communal Militia (2 incidents), and members of the National Intelligence and Security Services (1 incident).[178]

Between 1 January-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded 59 civilian deaths due to 19 events in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence.[179] The figure is likely to be significantly higher, considering the 60 civilian deaths reported by the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan. [180]

Of the 19 events, ACLED recorded the attackers as: members of Unidentified Armed Groups (7 incidents), pastoralists (6 incidents), members of Darfuri Communal Militias, (4 incidents), members of an Al-Falata Ethnic Militia, and (1 incident), and members of the Military Forces of Sudan (1 incident).[181]

4.4 West Darfur

Security Incidents

In 2019, ACLED recorded 34 violent events in West Darfur, of which: 21 were incidents of violence against civilians, 12 were battles and 1 was recorded as explosions/remote violence. With regards to location, the events were recorded in El Geneina (19), Kreinik (7), Jebel Moon (6), and Sirba (2).[182]

Between 1 January-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded 32 violent events in West Darfur, of which: 22 were incidents of violence against civilians, and 10 were recorded as explosions/remote violence. The violent events were recorded in El Geneina (15), Kreinik (5), Habila (4), Beida (3), Sirba and Jebel Moon (2 each), and in Kulbus (1).[183]

Some of the indicative violent events include:

- On 29 December 2019, escalating disputes between Arab Mahameed herders and tribesmen of the Masalit ethnic group resulted in attacks on two IDP camps and on a number of neighbouring villages in El Geneina. [184] On 31 December 2019, a media source reported that the attackers

[175] France 24, Dozens killed in Darfur as Sudan prepares to send troops to troubled region, 27 July 2020, url; Al Jazeera, Attackers kill at least 20 in Sudan's Darfur, says tribal chief, 25 July 2020, url
[176] DWAG, Escalated violence leads to more protests and attacks, 7 August, 2020, url
[177] ICG, Tracking Conflict Worldwide, August 2020, url
[178] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[179] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[180] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 56
[181] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[182] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[183] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[184] Radio Dabanga, 70+ dead or injured in bloody West Darfur tribal violence, 31 December 2019, url; IOM, DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Ag Geneina, West Darfur Update 10, 23 June 2020, url , p. 1

were 'janjaweed militiamen carrying firearms [..] riding in vehicles belonging to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia and some private vehicles, others on horses, camels, and motorcycles.'[185] A UN report stated that '89 civilians were killed, [and] 140 injured'[186] in the attacks, while displacing almost 49 000 people by January 2020.[187]

- On 19 July 2020, 'at least 3 people were killed and others injured'[188] in a tribal conflict in El Geneina, according to media source Sudan Tribune.[189]
- On 20 July 2020, armed men attacked El Ghaba camp in El Geneina, and 'left 4 000 people affected, dozens of houses burned, and several people displaced'[190], according to UN OCHA.[191]
- UN OCHA also reported that on 25 July 2020, armed men launched an attack on the Masalit community in the town of Masterei, which lead to 61 deaths and 88 people injured.[192]

Civilian fatalities

In 2019 ACLED recorded 48 civilian deaths due to 22 incidents in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence.[193] However, the number of deaths is likely to be significantly higher, considering that, just for the 29 December 2019 attacks on IDP camps in El Geneina alone, there were 89 civilian deaths reported by UN OCHA.[194] Out of the 22 incidents in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence, ACLED reported the attackers as: members of a Maaliya Ethnic Militia (7 incidents), members of Darfur Communal Militia (5 incidents), members of the Rapid Support Forces RSF (4 incidents), members of Unidentified Armed Groups or Militias (4 incidents), members of a Masalit Ethnic Militia (1 incident), and members of the Police Forces of Sudan (1 incident).[195]

For the period 1 January-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded 26 civilian deaths due to 22 events in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence. Out of the 22 incidents, ACLED reported the attackers as: members of Unidentified Armed Groups or Militias (12 incidents), Sudanese pastoralists (5 incidents), members of the RSF (2 incidents), members of a Darfur Communal Militia (2 incidents), members of a Sudanese Masalit Ethnic Militia, (1 incident).[196]

4.5 Central Darfur

Security Incidents

In 2019, ACLED recorded 77 violent events in Central Darfur, of which 40 were incidents of violence against civilians, 36 were battles and 1 was recorded as explosions/remote violence. The violent events were recorded in Rokoro (51), Nertiti (9), Zalingei (6), Wadi Salih (6), Mukjar (6), and in Umm Dukhun (3).[197]

A 15 October 2019 joint AU-UN report highlighted that the beginning of the farming season saw

[185] Radio Dabanga, 70+ dead or injured in bloody West Darfur tribal violence, 31 December 2019, url
[186] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 55
[187] IOM, DTM Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Ag Geneina, West Darfur Update 10, 23 June 2020, url , p. 1
[188] Sudan Tribune, Three killed in West Darfur tribal clashes, 19 July 2020 url
[189] Sudan Tribune, Three killed in West Darfur tribal clashes, 19 July 2020 url
[190] UNOCHA, Sudan: Escalation of Violence in Darfur - Flash Update No. 3, 28 July 2020, url
[191] UNOCHA, Sudan: Escalation of Violence in Darfur - Flash Update No. 3, 28 July 2020, url
[192] UNOCHA, Sudan: Escalation of Violence in Darfur - Flash Update No. 3, 28 July 2020, url
[193] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[194] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 55
[195] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[196] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[197] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url

'increased incidents of land occupation and tensions between farmers and pastoralists.'[198] According to the report, between January-September 2019 there were reported '71 attacks and 27 fatalities, compared with 70 incidents with 21 fatalities during the entire year in 2018'.[199]

A subsequent joint AU-UN report of 12 March 2020 again highlighted the 'increased numbers of attacks against farmers by pastoralists'[200] during the 2019 harvest season, with areas most affected including 'the Nertiti-Thur area in Central Darfur, where the Nawaiba branch of Northern Rizeigat pastoralists continued to harass internally displaced Fur, preventing their access to farmlands.'[201]

For the period 1 January-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded 41 violent events, of which: 29 were incidents of violence against civilians, 11 were battles and 1 was recorded as incident of explosions/remote violence. With regards to location, the violent events were recorded in Nertiti (24), Rokoro (7), Zalinge (6), Wadi Salih (2), and in Mukjar and Umm Dukhun (1 each).[202]

Indicative incidents include:

- On 9 June 2019, 13 people were killed in an inter-tribal conflict in Dulayq village, Wadi Salih locality.[203]
- On 26 March 2020 'an armed group – primarily from the Masalit tribe based in the Silik mountain area in Central Darfur – killed two Arabs [..] which triggered retaliatory attacks from a group of Arab nomads on 29 and 30 March'[204], and lead to three villages being burnt in Azoum, according to the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan.[205]
- On 11 May 2020, a person was reportedly shot and killed 'in west Nerteti near the UNAMID site'[206] by militiamen, while in a separate incident, 'militiamen wearing military uniforms robbed a group of civilians travelling from Jebel Marra to Nerteti'[207], according to Radio Dabanga. [208]
- On 25 May 2020, tribal fighting reportedly took place in an area to the south of Um Dukhun, that resulted in 14 fatalities, according to Radio Dabanga.[209]
- On 11 June 2020, fighting between two rival factions of the SLA-AW armed group 'broke out in in Wegi village, 10 km north-east of UNAMID's Golo temporary operating base.'[210] According to

[198] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 15 October 2019, url, para. 10
[199] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 15 October 2019, url, para. 10
[200] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, url, para. 12
[201] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, url, para. 12
[202] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[203] UN, Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 15 October 2019, url, para. 12
[204] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 55
[205] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 55
[206] Radio Dabanga, Protest in Central Darfur as violence continues, 12 May 2020, url
[207] Radio Dabanga, Protest in Central Darfur as violence continues, 12 May 2020, url
[208] Radio Dabanga, Protest in Central Darfur as violence continues, 12 May 2020, url
[209] Radio Dabanga, 14 killed in Central Darfur tribal fighting, 25 May 2020, url
[210] UN, UNAMID, UNAMID deplores recent clashes between SLA-Abdul Wahid AL-Nur's factions and calls for a stop to the fighting, 24 June 2020, url

sources cited by UNAMID, 'thousands of people have been displaced from Wegi, Ila, Fara, Katiro and Daya villages. Both sides reportedly suffered an unknown number of casualties.'[211]

- Between 28 June-7 July 2020, a sit-in protest was held in Nertiti against 'the rampant insecurity in the locality'[212], and demanding – among others – 'the protection of farmers from attacks by militant herders and other gunmen, [..] the arrest of perpetrators of attacks, [and the] disarmament of the bandits in the area.'[213]

Civilian fatalities

In 2019, according to ACLED figures, there were 44 civilian deaths that occurred due to 41 events in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence. Of the 41 events, ACLED recorded the attackers as: pastoralists (9 incidents), members of the RSF (9 incidents), members of Unidentified Armed Groups (8 incidents), members of the SLM/A-Nur armed group (either main group or splinter factions – 7 incidents), members of the Military Forces of Sudan (3 incidents), members of Darfur Communal Militias (3 incidents), members of the Military Intelligence Service (1 incident), and members of the National Intelligence and Security Services (1 incident).[214]

Between 1 January-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded 25 civilian deaths due to 30 events in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence. Out of the 30 events, ACLED recorded the attackers as: members of an Unidentified Armed Group (14 incidents), pastoralists (5 incidents), members of Darfuri Communal Militias (4 incidents), members of the Border Guards (2 incidents), members of the RSF (2 incidents), members of the Military Forces of Sudan (1 incident), and members of the SLM/A-Nur faction (1 incident).[215]

4.6 South Kordofan

Security Incidents

In 2019 ACLED recorded 37 violent events in South Kordofan, of which: 23 were incidents of violence against civilians, 13 were battles and 1 was recorded as explosions/remote violence. With regards to locations, the violent events were recorded in Dilling (21), in Talodi (6), in Al Abbasiya (6), and in Rashad (4).[216]

Between 1 January-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded 38 violent events in South Kordofan, of which: 28 were incidents of violence against civilians, and 10 were battles. The violent events were recorded in Kadugli (15), Rashad (13), Dilling (4), Habila (3), and in Al Abassiya, Talodi and Abu Jubaiha (1 each).[217]

Indicative incidents include:

- On 18 September 2019, cattle keepers wearing Popular Defence Forces[218] uniforms reportedly killed two civilians near Garada, Al Abbasiya.[219]

---

[211] UN, UNAMID deplores recent clashes between SLA-Abdul Wahid AL-Nur's factions and calls for a stop to the fighting, 24 June 2020, url
[212] Radio Dabanga, Govt delegation, Central Darfur protestors reach agreement, 7 July 2020, url
[213] Radio Dabanga, Govt delegation, Central Darfur protestors reach agreement, 7 July 2020, url; Radio Dabanga, Thousands of demonstrators on third day of Central Darfur sit-in, 1 July 2020, url; Al Jazeera, Sudan: Growing protests against insecurity in central Darfur, 7 July 2020 url
[214] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[215] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[216] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[217] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[218] In June 2020, the militia group "Popular Defence Forces" was dissolved by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF). Radio Dabanga, General: 'Sudan's Popular Defence Forces are no more', 21 June 2020, url; Radio Dabanga, Sudan Armed Forces: 'Popular Defence Forces dissolved, not absorbed', 9 June 2020, url; Sudan Tribune, Sudanese army reiterates "irreversible dissolution" of paramilitary forces, url

- On 8 May 2020, two separate incidents Abu Kershola resulted in two civilian deaths, when armed men in Popular Defence Forces uniforms attacked a residential property and a nomads' camp in the Sefaifeer area.[220]
- On 12-13 May 2020 clashes 'between different armed groups affiliated to Nuba Angolo and Arab Hawazma tribes'[221] took place in the city of Kadugli, resulting in the deaths 'of more than 60 people, including 15 soldiers from the Rapid Support Forces.'[222] According to the Independent Expert, the Sudan Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces intervened in the conflict, 'each aligning itself with one of the tribal groups across ethnicity lines.' [223]
- On 5 June 2020, three farmers were tortured and killed at a farm in Kadugli by members of the RSF, according to NGO Hudo Centre.[224]
- On 6 June 2020, a 'tribal clash took place in El Fagara, Lagawa [..] between the Nuba and Misseriya tribes; several people were allegedly killed or injured'[225], according to report of the Independent Expert.[226]
- On 21 July 2020, renewed fighting in Kadugli between unnamed tribal groups lead to 'dozens [..] killed and many others injured', according to Radio Dabanga.[227]

Civilian fatalities

In 2019, ACLED recorded 12 civilian deaths due to 24 events in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence. Out of the 24 incidents, ACLED recorded the attackers as: members of the Popular Defence Forces (7 incidents), members of the RSF (7 incidents), members of the Military Forces of Sudan (6 incidents), members of Unidentified Armed Groups (2 incidents), and members of the Military Intelligence Service (2 incidents).[228]

Between 1 January-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded 45 civilian deaths due to 28 events in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence. Out of the 28 incidents, ACLED recorded the attackers as: members of Unidentified Armed Groups (13 incidents), members of the RSF (7 incidents), members of the Popular Defence Forces (5 incidents), members of Unidentified Ethnic Militias (2 incidents), and members of the Military Forces of Sudan (1s incidents). [229]

4.7 Blue Nile

Security Incidents

In 2019 ACLED recorded 5 violent events in Blue Nile, of which: 4 were incidents of violence against civilians and 1 was recorded as a battle. With regards to location, the events took place in: El Damazine (2), Geissan (2), and in El Kurmuk (1). [230]

---

[219] Radio Dabanga, Militiamen kill two farmers in Sudan's Nuba Mountains, 6 October 2019, url; HUDO Centre, Killing of two civilians by PDF in Nuba mountains, Sudan, 3 October 2019, url
[220] Sudan Consortium, Two people murdered by PDF in Abu-Kershola, Sudan, 11 May 2020, url
[221] Inter-Agency Assessment mission, Assessment Report: Kadugli, South Kordofan State, 19 May 2020, url
[222] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 62
[223] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 62
[224] HUDO Centre, Murder of three farmers by RSF in Kadogli, Sudan, 8 June 2020, url
[225] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 62
[226] UN, HRC, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, url, para. 62
[227] Radio Dabanga, Dozens killed in tribal clashes in South Kordofan capital, 22 July 2020, url
[228] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[229] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[230] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url

For the period 1 January-31 August 2020, ACLED recorded two violent events in Blue Nile, both incidents of violence against civilians. The events took place in: Geissan (1) and El Damazine (1).[231]

Indicative incidents include:

- On 9 April 2020 members of the RSF arrested a trader from his shop at El Damazin market, and detained him for two days, due to the trader's posts on social media that were critical of the RSF.[232] The trader was again arrested on 27 April 2020 and '[d]uring the process of interrogation, he was beaten/ assaulted'[233] by RSF members, according to NGO Hudo Centre.[234]
- On 11 May 2020, two herdsmen were kidnapped and killed by armed men near Geissan.[235]

Civilian fatalities

In 2019, ACLED recorded no civilian deaths during the 4 incidents in which civilians were the direct or only target of violence. Out of those 4 incidents, ACLED recorded the attackers as: members of the Military Forces of Sudan (2 incidents), members of the Police Forces (1 incident), and members of the National Intelligence and Security Services (1 incident).[236]

For the period 1 January-31 August 2020, the 2 incidents of violence against civilians recorded by ACLED resulted in two civilian deaths.[237] Of the 2 incidents, ACLED recorded the attackers as: members of the RSF (1 incident), and members of an Unidentified Armed Group (1 incident).[238]

For a Map of the conflict in Blue Nile State 2015 - 2019, please see: Small Arms Survey (SAS), Spilling Over: Conflict Dynamics in and around Sudan's Blue Nile State, 2015–19, March 2020, url.

[231] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[232] HUDO Centre, Arrest of Mr. Edriss Elbur by RSF in Damazin, Sudan, 15 April 2020, url
[233] HUDO Centre, Repeated arrest of Mr. Edriss Elbur by RSF in Damazin, Sudan, 6 May 2020, url
[234] HUDO Centre, Repeated arrest of Mr. Edriss Elbur by RSF in Damazin, Sudan, 6 May 2020, url
[235] HUDO Centre, Two herdsmen killed in Blue Nile, 7 June 2020, url
[236] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[237] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url
[238] ACLED, Data Export Tool, n.d., url

SOURCES USED

AA (Anadolu Agency), Mosaic of armed groups in Sudan, 27 December 2019, https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/mosaic-of-armed-groups-in-sudan/1685877, accessed 2 October 2020

ACCORD (Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation), Sudan, fourth quarter 2019: Update on incidents according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), 23 June 2020, https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2032079/2019q4Sudan_en.pdf, accessed 14 September 2020

ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project), DATA EXPORT TOOL, https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/, accessed 17 September 2020

ACLED, The Rapid Support Forces and the Escalation of Violence in Sudan, 3 July 2019, https://acleddata.com/2019/07/02/the-rapid-support-forces-and-the-escalation-of-violence-in-sudan/, accessed 13 October 2020

Africa News, Sudanese begin protest demanding for civilian administration, 25 April 2019, https://www.africanews.com/2019/04/25/sudanese-begin-protest-demanding-for-civilian-administration//, accessed 3 September 2020

ACJPS (African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies), Darfur: Sudanese authorities must urgently put in place measures to protect civilians from arbitrary attacks by armed militias, 15 June 2020, https://www.acjps.org/darfur-sudanese-authorities-must-urgently-put-in-place-measures-to-protect-civilians-from-arbitrary-attacks-by-armed-militias/, accessed 3 September 2020

AFP (Agence France-Presse), Soudan: les rebelles signataires de l'accord de paix avec Khartoum, 30 August 2020, Factiva, accessed 2 October 2020

Ahram Online, Sudan signs peace with holdout rebel group, 4 September 2020, http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/10/379324/World/Africa/Sudan-signs-peace-with-holdout-rebel-group.aspx, accessed 10 September 2020

Al Jazeera, Abdalla Hamdok: Who is Sudan's new prime minister?, 21 August 2019, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/08/abdalla-hamdok-sudan-prime-minister-190821104935717.html, accessed 10 September 2020

Al Jazeera, Attackers kill at least 20 in Sudan's Darfur, says tribal chief, 25 July 2020, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/07/attackers-kill-20-sudan-darfur-tribal-chief-200725123025349.html, accessed 14 September 2020

Al Jazeera, Sudan forms 11-member sovereign council, headed by al-Burhan, 20 August 2019, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/08/sudan-forms-11-member-sovereign-council-headed-al-burhan-190820204821614.html, accessed 14 September 2020

Al Jazeera, Sudan military seizes power from Omar al-Bashir: Full statement, 11 April 2020, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/04/sudan-military-seizes-power-omar-al-bashir-full-

statement-190411150844806.html, accessed 17 September 2020

Al Jazeera, Sudan's government, rebel groups sign landmark deal, 3 October 2020, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/10/3/sudans-government-rebels-set-to-sign-landmak-deal, accessed 13 October 2020

Al Jazeera, Sudan signs peace deal with rebel groups from Darfur, 31 August 2020, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/08/sudan-signs-peace-deal-rebel-groups-darfur-200831091517458.html, accessed 11 September 2020

Al Jazeera, Sudan: Growing protests against insecurity in central Darfur, 7 July 2020, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/07/sudan-growing-protests-insecurity-central-darfur-200707101621505.html, accessed 11 September 2020

Al Jazeera, Sudan's ruling generals, protest leaders sign power-sharing deal, 17 July 2019, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/07/sudan-generals-protesters-sign-landmark-political-accord-190717062504892.html, accessed 17 September 2020

Amnesty International, Sudan: Fresh evidence of government-sponsored crimes in Darfur shows drawdown of peacekeepers premature and reckless, 11 June 2019, https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/06/sudan-fresh-evidence-of-government-sponsored-crimes-in-darfur-shows-drawdown-of-peacekeepers-premature-and-reckless/, accessed 12 October 2020

BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), How Sudan's rebel deal offers lifeline for peace, 9 September 2020, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-54071959, accessed 10 September 2020

BBC, Sudan key players set to sign final peace deal 3 October, 1 October 2020, Factiva, accessed 2 October 2020

BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), Sudan military and civilians sign deal to end deadly turmoil, 17 July 2019, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-49013899, accessed 16 September 2020

BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), Sudan to send more troops to Darfur after deadly attacks, 27 July 2020, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53549310, accessed 14 September 2020

Darfur 24, A policeman was killed and one injured in an attack on a police station in East Darfur, 19 February 2020, https://www.darfur24.com/en/2020/02/19/a-policeman-was-killed-and-one-injured-in-an-attack-on-a-police-station-in-east-darfur/, accessed 15 September 2020

Darfur 24, Two people killed in an armed attack in East Darfur, 11 July 2020, https://www.darfur24.com/en/2020/07/11/two-people-killed-in-an-armed-attack-in-east-darfur/, accessed 15 September 2020

Darfur Women Action Group, Escalated violence leads to more protests and attacks, 7 August 2020, http://www.darfurwomenaction.org/escalated-violence-leads-to-more-protests-and-attacks/, accessed 14 September 2020

DW (Deutsche Welle), Sudan: Military, protest leaders sign historic transition deal, 17 August 2019, https://www.dw.com/en/sudan-military-protest-leaders-sign-historic-transition-deal/a-50063112, accessed 16 September 2020

DW (Deutsche Welle), Sudan's military ousts President Omar al-Bashir following protests, 11 April 2019, https://www.dw.com/en/sudans-military-ousts-president-omar-al-bashir-following-protests/a-48282243, accessed 16 September 2020

Fidh (International Federation for Human Rights), Will There Be Justice For Darfur? Persisting impunity in the face of political change, December 2019, https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/sudan_darfur._pdf.pdf, accessed 12 October 2020

France, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Sudan - Peace agreement between the Sudanese authorities and part of the rebel alliance, 31 August 2020, https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/sudan/news/article/sudan-peace-agreement-between-the-sudanese-authorities-and-part-of-the-rebel?xtor=RSS-1, accessed 15 September 2020

France 24, Dozens killed in Darfur as Sudan prepares to send troops to troubled region, 27 July 200, https://www.france24.com/en/20200727-dozens-killed-in-darfur-as-sudan-prepares-to-send-troops-to-troubled-region, 16 September 2020

France 24, Sudan govt, rebel groups sign landmark peace deal, 3 October 2020, https://www.france24.com/en/20201003-sudan-govt-rebel-groups-sign-landmark-peace-deal, accessed 13 October 2020

Guardian (The), Sudanese protesters demand justice following mass killings, 13 July 2019, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/13/sudanese-protesters-demand-justice-after-mass-killings, accessed 7 September 2020

HIIK (Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research), Conflict Barometer 2019, March 2020, https://hiik.de/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ConflictBarometer_2019_4.pdf, accessed 2 September 2020

HPG (Humanitarian Policy Group), Talking to the other side: Humanitarian negotiations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, Sudan, July 2013, https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/8591.pdf, accessed 3 September 2020

HUDO Centre, Arrest of Mr. Edriss Elbur by RSF In Damazin, Sudan, 15 April 2020, https://hudocentre.org/arrest-of-mr-edriss-elbur-by-rsf-in-damazin-sudan/, accessed 16 September 2020

HUDO Centre, Killing of two civilians by PDF in Nuba mountains, Sudan, 3 October 2019, https://hudocentre.org/killing-of-two-civilians-by-pdf-in-nuba-mountains-sudan/, accessed 8 September 2020

HUDO Centre, Murder of three farmers by RSF in Kadogli, Sudan, 8 June 2020, https://hudocentre.org/murder-of-three-farmers-by-rsf-in-kadogli-sudan, accessed 5 September 2020

HUDO Centre, Repeated arrest of Mr. Edriss Elbur by RSF in Damazin, Sudan, 6 May 2020, https://hudocentre.org/repeated-arrest-of-mr-edriss-elbur-by-rsf-in-damazin-sudan/, accessed 11 September 2020

HUDO Centre, Two herdsmen killed in Blue Nile, 7 June 2020,

https://hudocentre.org/author/bushra/page/3/, accessed 16 September 2020

HUDO Centre, Two people murdered by PDF in Abu-Kershola, Sudan, 11 May 2020, http://sudanconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/UA-Assassination-of-two-persons-in-Abu-Kershola.pdf, accessed 11 September 2020

HRW (Human Rights Watch), Sudan: With al-Bashir Ouster, End Authoritarianism, 11 April 2019, https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/11/sudan-al-bashir-ouster-end-authoritarianism, accessed 7 September 2020

Inter-Agency Assessment Mission, Assessment Report: Kadugli, South Kordofan State, 19 May 2020, https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/assessments/20200519_interagency_assessment_report_for_newly_displaced_population_in_kadugli_19_may_2020-final.pdf, accessed 14 September 2020

ICG (International Crisis Group), Crisiswatch: Tracking Conflict Worldwide, August 2020, https://www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch/database?location%5B%5D=14&date_range=latest&from_month=01&from_year=2020&to_month=01&to_year=2020, accessed 11 September 2020

ICG (International Crisis Group), Safeguarding Sudan's Revolution, 21 October 2019, https://d2071andvip0wj.cloudfront.net/281-safeguarding-sudans-revolution_0.pdf, accessed 12 October 2020

IOM (International Organization for Migration), Sudan, Emergency Event Tracking: Ag Geneina, West Darfur Update 10, 23 June 2020, https://displacement.iom.int/system/tdf/reports/DTM%20Sudan%20EET%20Ag%20Geneina%20West%20Darfur_010.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=9003, accessed 17 September 2020

Radio Dabanga, Soldier killed, three women abducted in North Darfur, 12 June 2020, https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudanese-soldier-killed-three-women-abducted-in-north-darfur, accessed 8 September 2020

Radio Dabanga, 14 killed in Central Darfur tribal fighting, 25 May 2020, https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/14-killed-in-central-darfur-tribal-fighting, accessed 16 September 2020

Radio Dabanga, Dozens killed in tribal clashes in South Kordofan capital, 22 July 2020, https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/dozens-killed-in-tribal-clashes-in-south-kordofan-capital, accessed 17 September 2020

Radio Dabanga, General: 'Sudan's Popular Defence Forces are no more', 21 June 2020, https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/general-sudan-s-popular-defence-forces-are-no-more, accessed 14 September 2020

Radio Dabanga, Govt delegation, Central Darfur protestors reach agreement, 7 July 2020, https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/govt-delegation-central-darfur-protestors-reach-agreement, accessed 10 September 2020

Radio Dabanga, HUDO: Three farmers killed in Sudan's Nuba Mountains, 11 June 2020, https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/hudo-three-farmers-killed-in-sudan-s-nuba-mountains, accessed 16 September 2020

Radio Dabanga, Militiamen kill two farmers in Sudan's Nuba Mountains, 6 October 2019, https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/militiamen-kill-two-farmers-in-sudan-s-nuba-mountains, accessed 10 September 2020

Radio Dabanga, Protest in Central Darfur as violence continues, 12 May 2020, https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/protest-in-central-darfur-as-violence-continues, accessed 11 September 2020

Radio Dabanga, Sudan Armed Forces: 'Popular Defence Forces dissolved, not absorbed', 9 June 2020, https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-armed-forces-popular-defence-forces-dissolved-not-absorbed, accessed 8 September 2020

Radio Dabanga, Sudan peace talks: Hamdok, El Hilu agree on roadmap, 5 September 2020, https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-peace-talks-hamdok-el-hilu-agree-on-roadmap, accessed 17 September 2020

Radio Dabanga, Thousands of demonstrators on third day of Central Darfur sit-in, 1 July 2020, https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/thousands-of-demonstrators-on-third-day-of-central-darfur-sit-in, accessed 16 September 2020

Radio Dabanga, Woman killed, baby injured in attack against returnees in East Darfur, 23 March 2020, https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/woman-killed-baby-injured-in-attack-against-returned-displaced-in-east-darfur, accessed 9 September 2020

Reuters, Factbox: Sudan's rebel groups, 1 September 2020, available at: https://www.thestar.com.my/news/world/2020/09/01/factbox-sudan039s-rebel-groups, accessed 2 October 2020

SAS (Small Arms Survey), Civilian Firearms Holdings, 2017, 18 June 2018, http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/Weapons_and_Markets/Tools/Firearms_holdings/SAS-BP-Civilian-held-firearms-annexe.pdf, accessed 16 September 2020

SAS (Small Arms Survey), Diaspora in Despair: Darfurian Mobility at a Time of International Disengagement, June 2020, http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/fileadmin/docs/reports/HSBA-Report-Darfur-mobility.pdf, accessed 3 September 2020

SAS (Small Arms Survey), Law enforcement Firearms Holdings, 2017, 18 June 2018, http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/Weapons_and_Markets/Tools/Firearms_holdings/SAS-BP-Law-enforcement-firearms-annexe.pdf, accessed 16 September 2020

SAS (Small Arms Survey), Military Firearms Holdings, 2017, 18 June 2018, http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/Weapons_and_Markets/Tools/Firearms_holdings/SAS-BP-Military-owned-firearms-annexe.pdf, accessed 23 September 2020

SAS (Small Arms Survey), Spilling Over: Conflict Dynamics in and around Sudan's Blue Nile State, 2015–19, March 2020, http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/fileadmin/docs/reports/HSBA-Report-Sudan-Blue-Nile.pdf, accessed 3 September 2020

SAS (Small Arms Survey), Weapons Compass: Mapping Illicit Small Arms Flows in Africa, January 2019, http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/U-Reports/SAS-AU-Weapons-Compass.pdf,

accessed 15 September 2020

Sudan Tribune, Darfur armed groups agree to move towards reunification ahead of peace talks, 26 October 2019, https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/darfur-armed-groups-agree-move-towards-reunification-ahead-peace-talks, accessed 2 October 2020

Sudan Tribune, Darfur's Jebel Marra holdout rebels join SLM-Transitional Council, 28 April 2020, https://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article69265, accessed 2 October 2020

Sudan Tribune, Sudan, armed groups sign landmark peace agreement, 31 August 2020, https://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article69764=, accessed 9 September 2020

Sudan Tribune, Sudanese army reiterates "irreversible dissolution" of paramilitary forces, 8 June 2020, https://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article69447, accessed 9 September 2020

Sudan Tribune, Three killed in West Darfur tribal clashes, 19 July 2020, https://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article69607=, accessed 16 September 2020

UK (United Kingdom), Home Office, Report of a fact-finding mission to Khartoum, Sudan, November 2018, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759280/Sudan_-_FFM_report_2018_-_NAD-returns.pdf, accessed 2 September 2020

UN (United Nations), HRC (Human Rights Council), Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: report of the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, 30 July 2020, https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3877490?ln=en, accessed 7 September 2020

UN (United Nations), HRC (Human Rights Council), Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, Situation of human rights in the Sudan: report of the Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan, 26 July 2019, https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3862630?ln=en, accessed 15 September 2020

UN (United Nations), Security Council, Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary-General, 9 June 2020, https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/15-June-2020_Secretary-General_Report_on_CAAC_Eng.pdf, accessed 9 September 2020

UN (United Nations), Security Council, Conflict-related sexual violence, 3 June 2020, https://www.undocs.org/en/S/2020/487, accessed 13 October 2020

UN (United Nations), Security Council, Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan, 14 January 2020, https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2020_36.pdf, accessed 3 September 2020

UN (United Nations), Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 15 October 2019, https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2019_816.pdf, accessed 3 September 2020

UN (United Nations), Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union

Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and a follow-on presence, 12 March 2020, https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2020_202.pdf, accessed 3 September 2020

UN (United Nations), Security Council, Special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic assessment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, 30 May 2019, https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/S_2019_445.pdf, accessed 3 September 2020

UN (United Nations), UNAMID (African Union - United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur), UNAMID deplores recent clashes between Sla-Abdul Wahid Al-Nur's Factions and calls for a stop to the fighting, 24 June 2020, https://unamid.unmissions.org/unamid-deplores-recent-clashes-between-sla-abdul-wahid-al-nur%E2%80%99s-factions-and-calls-stop-fighting, accessed 4 September 2020

UNOCHA (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), Sudan: Escalation of Violence in Darfur - Flash Update No. 3, 28 Jul 2020, https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-escalation-violence-darfur-flash-update-no-3, accessed 13 September 2020

UNOCHA (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), SUDAN: Security Incidents in Kutum, North Darfur - Flash Update No. 1, 15 July 2020, https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2033940/Flash+Update+-+Sudan+-+14+Jul+2020.pdf, accessed 17 September 2020

US (United States), CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), The World Factbook, Sudan, 4 August 2020, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/su.html, accessed 3 September 2020

US (United States), DOS (Department of State), Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019, 11 March 2020, https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/SUDAN-2019-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf, accessed 3 September 2020

US (United States), DOS (Department Of State), The United States Welcomes Sudan's Adoption of the Constitutional Declaration, 17 August 2019, https://eg.usembassy.gov/the-united-states-welcomes-sudans-adoption-of-the-constitutional-declaration , accessed 6 September 2020

SOURCES CONSULTED

Africanews; African Executive (The); Al-bab; AllAfrica; Arab Weekly (The); Asharq Al-Awsat; Associated Press; Asylum Research Centre Foundation; Belgium – CEDOCA; Brookings Institution (The); Canada – Immigration and Refugee Board; Citizen (The); Daily Sabah; Euronews; Foroyaa Online; Human Rights Watch; Janes; Middle East Eye; Middle East Monitor; New Arab (The); New Humanitarian (The); Star (The); United Nations – Reliefweb; VOA News; Xinhua News