



Briefing Notes Summary

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

Sudan – January to June 2025

30 June 2025

13 January 2025

US State Department: genocide accusation against RSF militia

According to a press release issued by the US State Department on 07.01.25, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia has committed genocide in Sudan. US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken stated that the RSF militia and allied militias had carried out attacks on civilians and that men, boys and babies had been murdered and girls and women had been raped. The RSF militia had targeted civilians on the basis of their ethnicity. Blinken accused the RSF leader Mohammad Hamdan Daglo, known as Hemedti, of having ordered mass rapes of civilians by his soldiers. He said the US was now imposing sanctions against Daglo and seven companies in the UAE that are said to be close to the RSF militia.¹

27 January 2025

70 killed in drone attack on a hospital in El-Fasher

On 24.01.25, more than 70 people were reportedly killed and 19 others injured in a drone attack carried out on a hospital in El-Fasher (North Darfur). This is according to media reports published on 26.01.25. The hospital was reportedly fully occupied at the time of the attack. The victims were patients and those accompanying them, including children. The attack is said to have been carried out by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on the hospital's emergency department after they had issued an ultimatum to the Sudanese army to leave the city. The army, however, had reportedly confirmed that it would resist an attack by the RSF.

The Saudi teaching hospital in El-Fasher is reported to be the only functioning hospital in the regional capital. The hospital reportedly offered services in the fields of gynaecology, paediatrics and internal medicine and operated a centre for nutritional stabilisation. El-Fasher has been under siege by the RSF since May 2024. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged the parties to the conflict to end attacks on healthcare in Sudan and to grant people unrestricted access to the damaged facilities.²

03 February 2025

Over 50 killed in attack in Omdurman

On 01.02.25, over 54 people are reported to have been killed and 158 others injured in an attack carried out by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on the Sabrein market in Omdurman, Khartoum. However, the number of casualties could potentially be higher. This is according to media reports published on 01.02.25 and 02.02.25. The casualties reportedly included many women and children. According to the organisation "Doctors Without Borders", the

mortuary at Al Nao hospital has been filled with dead people and there are large numbers of people with serious injuries. The RSF militia is said to have used explosive devices and grenades to carry out the attack. The RSF itself denies having carried out the attack.³

24 February 2025

RSF announces parallel government

According to reports published on 23.02.25, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and their allied militias have signed a founding charter for the establishment of a parallel government in Nairobi, Kenya. According to the reports, the charter is intended to pave the way for a "government of peace and unity" in the areas under their control. The charter reportedly calls for a "secular and democratic state" envisioned by the RSF. It further states that a "new national army" is to be founded. It says that the civil war is to be ended and unhindered access to humanitarian aid is to be guaranteed. However, the establishment of a parallel government is viewed with scepticism by the United Nations.⁴

10 March 2025

UNICEF: children under the age of five are victims of sexualised violence

According to a recent UNICEF report, adolescents and children are also repeatedly becoming victims of sexualised violence in the civil war in Sudan, which has been raging for two years. This is according to media reports published on 04.03.25. They stated that last year, 221 cases of child rape were reported. 147 children, or 66 percent of the victims, had been girls. 16 survivors were reportedly under five years old, four of them one year old. It was not explicitly stated whether the perpetrators were soldiers of the Sudanese army, or fighters of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) or Arab militias.⁵

24 March 2025

Recapture of the presidential palace in Khartoum by the SAF

According to recent media reports, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) recaptured the presidential palace in Khartoum, among other gains, from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on 21.03.25. The RSF militia had captured the palace and the city of Khartoum shortly after the outbreak of war in April 2023. This represents a significant success for the army in the fight against the RSF, which only in February announced the establishment of a parallel government (cf. BN of 24.02.25). The SAF had already achieved other major successes in recent months with the capture of Wad Madani in Gezira state and El Obeid in North Kordofan. The RSF militia is reported to have announced that the battle for the presidential palace was not yet over and that they would continue to fight to recapture the areas now under SAF control.⁶

Multiple deaths in RSF attack in al-Malha

According to recent reports, the RSF militia killed 45 civilians in an attack on the town of al-Malha (North Darfur) on 20.03.25. The RSF, however, announced that they had killed over 380 people. Furthermore, the militia claimed to have captured the town, wresting control away from the SAF. The SAF confirmed that fighting had taken place, but not that they had lost control of al-Malha.⁷

31 March 2025

Sudanese army announces recapture of Khartoum

According to recent reports, the Sudanese army (SAF) announced the recapture of the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on 26.03.25. According to observers, it is doubtful that this strategic victory means an imminent end to the civil war, as the RSF is now retreating into Darfur, which it still largely controls.

Observers fear that the retreat into Darfur could result in a new wave of violence against the non-Arab population (cf. BN of 13.01.25).⁸

Situation of Christians

According to reports published on 24.03.25, at least 19 people of Christian faith are said to have been detained by the SAF intelligence service. This is apparently not the first incident of this kind: in January 2025, at least seven Christians, and in October 2024, twenty-six Christians who had reportedly fled from areas under control of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) are said to have been detained by the intelligence service of the Sudanese army. According to reports, the 26 detainees were tortured in order to force confessions. It is not only the Sudanese army that is said to have targeted the Christian minority: the RSF militia is said to be forcing people of the Christian faith who are in the areas under its control to convert to Islam in order to receive aid. In addition, they are reportedly threatened with imprisonment by the militia in the event of a failed escape attempt.⁹

14 April 2025

International Court of Justice examines case brought by Sudan against UAE

According to recent reports, on 10.04.25 the first public hearing was held of the case against the UAE brought by Sudan to the International Court of Justice on 04.03.25. Sudan is accusing the Emirates of being “complicit in [...] genocide”, and submits that the genocide committed against the Masalit (cf. BN of 13.01.25) had only been possible because the UAE had supported the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), not only by supplying arms, but also by recruiting mercenaries who are fighting for the RSF. The UAE are however said to reject this allegation and to have referred to it as a “cynical and baseless PR stunt”.¹⁰

Several deaths following attacks on a refugee camp

According to reports of 13.04.25, more than 100 people are said to have been killed in an RSF attack on the Samsam refugee camp in al-Fashir. The victims are said to include 20 children and nine humanitarian aid workers. The RSF is said to have already launched an offensive on al-Fashir on 10.04.25. Al-Fashir is said to currently be the only city in Darfur still under the control of the Sudanese Army. The Abu Shouk refugee camp is said to have been previously also attacked and at least 15 people killed and a further 25 injured. More than 70,000 people are said to be living in the two refugee camps. The RSF already carried out attacks on both refugee camps in the previous year (cf. BN of 12.08. and 16.12.24).¹¹

05 May 2025

At least 542 civilians killed

According to the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, at least 542 civilians have been killed in Sudan in the past three weeks. This emerges from reports of 01.05.25. The paramilitary militia Rapid Support Forces (RSF) is said amongst other things to have carried out coordinated attacks in al-Fashir, as well as on the Abu Shuk refugee camp. This is said to have involved the killing of at least 40 civilians. It is furthermore said that there have been multiple reports from Khartoum state of extrajudicial executions. A total of at least 24,000 people are said to have been killed since the beginning of the civil war.¹²

RSF flies drone strikes on Port Sudan

According to reports of 04.05.25, the RSF is said to have flown drone strikes on the airport in Port Sudan. According to media reports, the strikes had not caused any casualties. Port Sudan had served since the beginning of the war not only as provisional government headquarters, but also as the headquarters of all facilities of the UN and other international institutions in Sudan.¹³

12 May 2025

At least 33 civilians killed in RSF drone strikes

According to reports of 10.05.25, at least 33 civilians were killed in several drone strikes carried out by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF): On 09.05.25, 14 persons were said to have been killed in a strike on the Abu Shuk displacement camp in al-Fashir; roughly 19 persons were said to have been killed in another strike on a prison in al-Obeid on 10.05.25, and another 45 wounded. The RSF had already carried out deliberate attacks on the displacement camp in recent months (cf. BN of 12.08.24 and 05.05.25). The Sudanese Army is said to have flown strikes on the Darfur cities of Nyala and El-Geneina on 10.05.25, destroying arms depots of the RSF militia.¹⁴

Genocide allegation: ICJ rejects court action against UAE

Sudan's action against the UAE was rejected by the International Court of Justice after the judges voted by 14 to two on 05.05.25 to declare that they had no jurisdiction. Sudan had accused the UAE of being guilty of acts of genocide in West Darfur by supporting the RSF with arms and money. The UAE had refuted the accusations (cf. BN of 14.04.25). The rejection of the action had been formally reasoned: The UAE did ratify the genocide convention, but inserted a reservation excluding the provision which states that the ICJ had jurisdiction for disputes about the interpretation, application and fulfilment of the convention. It had therefore not been possible to rule on the case.¹⁵

26 May 2025

Use of chemical weapons: USA impose sanctions on Sudanese government

According to a press statement of the US state department of 22.05.25, the USA are imposing sanctions on the Sudanese government with effect as of 06.06.25, as the Sudanese Army has been determined to have used chemical weapons in 2024. The use of chemical weapons is banned worldwide under the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Sudanese Army is said to have used chlorine gas in fighting against the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). It was however said to be unknown where and when the military had used the chlorine gas. The Sudanese government is said to have denied this allegation and to have accused the US administration of "complicity" with the RSF.¹⁶

02 June 2025

172 deaths following cholera outbreak

According to media reports of 27. and 30.05.25, 172 persons have died of cholera within a week. Furthermore, more than 2,500 new infections were recorded. The vast majority of the cases were registered in Khartoum and Omdurman, but cases were also reported in the north Kordovan, al-Gezira, White Nile and Nile River regions. Sudanese health minister Haitham Ibrahim estimates that 600 to 700 persons per week have become infected with cholera in the past four weeks. The cholera outbreak poses a further challenge to the Sudanese healthcare system, since roughly 90 percent of hospitals had been reportedly forced to cease operating by the civil war, which has been waging since April 2023.¹⁷

New prime minister dissolves transitional government

On 01.06.25, the new prime minister Kamil Idris, who was nominated by the head of the military Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, dissolved the transitional government. In an address to the Sudanese people, Idris presented the priorities of the new government, which included national security and the "elimination of the rebellion". He called on countries which supported the "militias" to cease doing so. Kamil Idris' appointment as prime minister is said to have triggered criticism among policy-makers, as it could be used to legitimise the power of the military in Sudan.¹⁸

16 June 2025

RSF seizes border region with Libya and Egypt

According to recent media reports, the paramilitary militia Rapid Support Forces (RSF) is said to have taken control of a strategically-important territory in the triangle area with Libya and Egypt on 11.06.25. According to observers,

the seizure of the gold-rich territory by the paramilitary militia could determine the further course of the civil war. The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) are said to have accused Libyan commander Chalifa Haftar of supporting the RSF in its attack on the territory. Haftar is said to have rejected these allegations, but is regarded as an ally of RSF leader Hemedti.

Haftar and his army are said to have been involved in arms and gold smuggling to and from Sudan, or to at least be permitting it to take place. The virtually uninhabited area near to Libya and Egypt is one of the hottest, driest regions in the world. The region is however regarded as a hub for gold mining and for cross-border trade. According to RSF, the region furthermore allegedly has previously untapped crude oil, mineral and natural gas reserves.¹⁹

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