



## Youth Citizen Observers Network

### Cease Fire Observation Preliminary Statement

May 29, 2023

#### **Introduction:**

The Youth Citizen Observers Network, through its observers deployed in all states of Sudan and its various localities, has established a mechanism to monitor the truce signed between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces in the city of Jeddah on May 20, 2023. The Network has played this role in commitment to its goal to support the civil democratic transition in Sudan and strengthening the role of national civil society in influencing Sudanese actors, especially during the current crisis, for which the network supports efforts to reach a solution through peaceful mechanisms.

The monitoring process took place in all states, including those states that had not witnessed any clashes or military manifestations since the beginning of the war. We would like to point out here that the percentages included in this report are taken from the daily monitoring process in all states, which shows through the report that there is a percentage of breaches and violations that occurred during the cease-fire. However, the low percentage is due to the large number of states that are devoid of clashes compared to those in which war broke out.

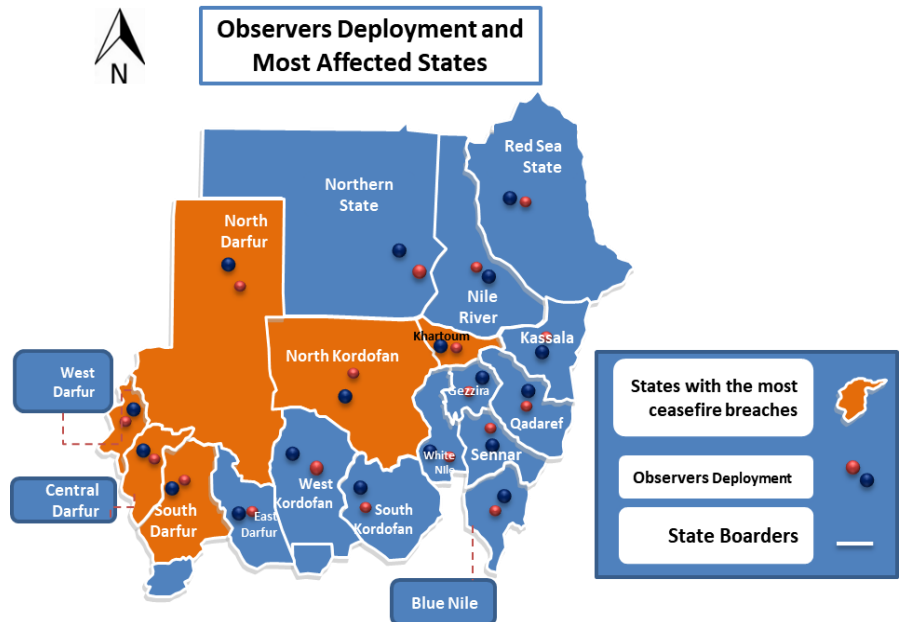
#### **Report summary:**

The seven days specified for the ceasefire witnessed numerous violations by both sides, which were observed by the observers of the Youth Citizen Observers Network. The violations included non-compliance with the ceasefire, the use of heavy weapons and airstrikes, as well as violations of human rights and the provisions of the Jeddah Declaration of Humanitarian Principles, during which civilians were arrested and assaulted and their movement restricted, and the continuation of inspections and occupation of health facilities and civilian homes. Observers in the city of Al-Obeid, the capital of North Kordofan, noticed an increase in the phenomenon of shooting at night by the drunken Sudanese Armed Forces, and they also monitored their assault on some civilians with threats and looting, in addition to inspections and the imposition of tolls on travel roads controlled by the Rapid Support Forces.

The violations were concentrated in the states that witnessed military clashes before the ceasefire (Khartoum, West Darfur, Central Darfur, South Darfur and North Kordofan states), in addition to the city of El Fasher in North Darfur state. Clashes increased between the two parties during the ceasefire, in the city of El Fasher and the states of West and Central Darfur, and those states witnessed a trend of arming citizens, as well as in the state of Khartoum by the army and other unknown parties in the Eid Babiker area.

## Methodology :

The Youth Citizens Observers Network engaged 75 observers, coordinators, and members of its administrative body, in all states of Sudan, they carried out direct field monitoring operations. The methodology of this report relied on direct field monitoring to observe violations of the ceasefire that was scheduled for the third week of May, and to record observations through a comprehensive electronic form for all the terms of the Ceasefire Agreement and the Jeddah Declaration of Humanitarian Principles signed on May 11, 2023. The technical team verified the data contained in the



observation form through careful review and validating the finding through direct follow up contacts with observers in the field, then the technical team conducted the analysis and released the results.

## Results:

This report includes four pillars to facilitate classification breaches and prevent recurrence of results, according to the terms of the ceasefire agreement.

### 1. Ceasefire and adherence to the old military spots and the prohibition of armaments:

One of the main provisions of the truce is the cease-fire so that people can move around to secure the necessities of daily life, as well as the maintenance of some vital facilities that have stopped serving, such as water and electricity stations and health facilities, according to the observation results:

The first hours of the truce witnessed violations in some cities, such as the city of Al-Abyad, which witnessed The Rapid Support Forces moved to besiege the city, then heavy artillery fire came from the command of the Fifth Infantry Division. The clashes continued until the next morning.

In addition, the bombing of residential areas by the Rapid Support Forces, and three shells fell in Al-Safa neighborhood inside the city.

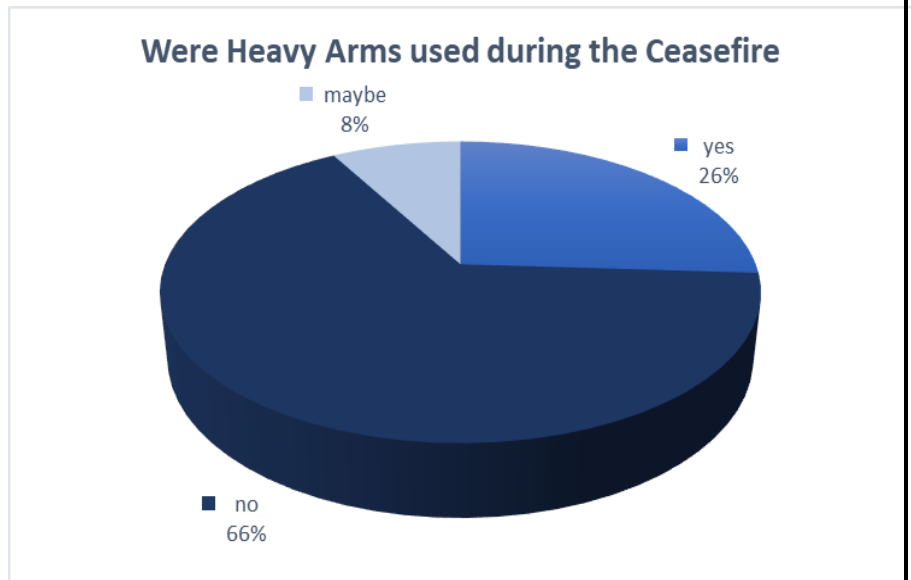
The state of Khartoum also witnessed gunfire and clashes between the two parties, which can be summarized in the following points:

- a. Attack on currency printing house
- b. Attack on the Engineers Brigade
- c. Air attack and shooting down a warplane in Umbada locality (Al-Islah).

The observers also reported that violations occurred in North Darfur on the second day of the ceasefire, where gunfire was heard in the eastern neighborhoods and the al-Omda neighborhood by the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese army. Shooting continued inside the city until the third and fourth day of the ceasefire. Before ceasefire being implemented, the two states were

attacked. It happened by the Rapid Support Forces and its armed militias. Due to the disruption of communication networks, the technical team was unable to monitor violations in these two states. We lost contact with the observers until the moment this report was issued.

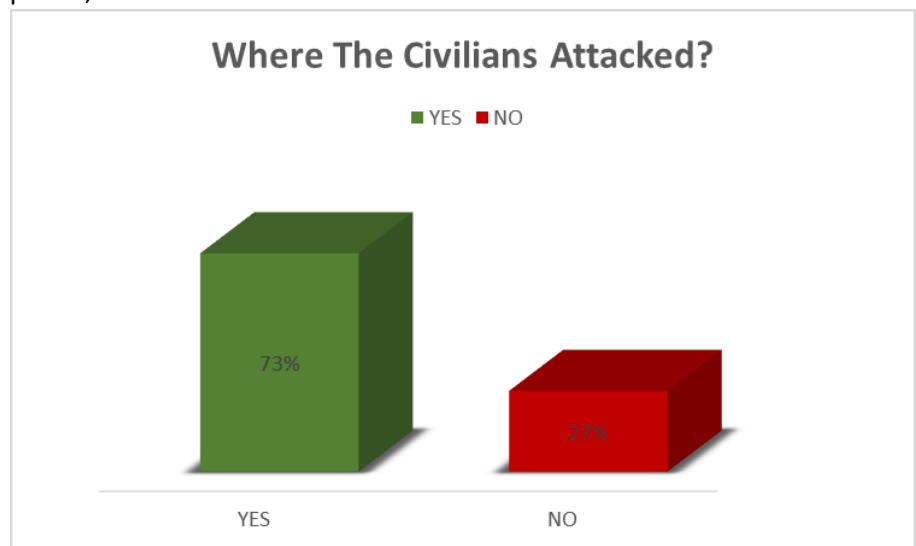
With regard to the use of heavy weapons during the Ceasefire, 26% of the respondents reported witnessing the use of heavy weapon during the ceasefire. The breaches took place in the states of Khartoum, North Kordofan and North Darfur. While 65.7% reported that no heavy arms were used, 8.3% of the observers were not sure whether the weapons used were heavy or not. In general, the ceasefire was violated in several states by using heavy weapons within civilian areas.



**2. Facilitating the movement of civilians, preventing them from being attacked, and stopping violations against them.**

27% of the observers reported attacks on civilians and restrictions on their movement in the areas of clashes, while 73% of them answered that this did not happen. Please note that this percentage included the responses of the observers from states that have not witnessed clashes since the beginning of the war on April 15, 2023.

On the first day of the truce, it was noticed that civilians were subjected to prolonged detention under the pretext of verifying their affiliation with the army or the Rapid Support Forces. These violations occurred on both sides in El Fasher and Khartoum, especially in Kadro and Omdurman by the Rapid Support Forces, where citizens were removed from cars and searched.



In North Kordofan, the Rapid Support Forces imposed tolls on all vehicles on the travel roads they control at the entrances to the city of El-Obeid. It also monitored 45 RSF checkpoints and 3 army checkpoints on the road linking the state of Central Darfur to South Darfur, and imposed fees at each checkpoint (an amount of 10 thousand pounds) for each car.

In the same context, young volunteers at the Al-Abyad Teaching Hospital were threatened by members of the army while they were returning in the evening from the hospital, on the third day of the truce.

In the cities of El Fasher and Khartoum, the violations were committed in the last days by both sides, in the forms of causing injuries to civilians and the looting of property by the Rapid Support Forces in the eastern neighborhoods of the city of El Fasher.

In Khartoum, the violations against civilians continued, including the arrest of the official spokesman for the Association of Professionals by the Armed Forces Intelligence.

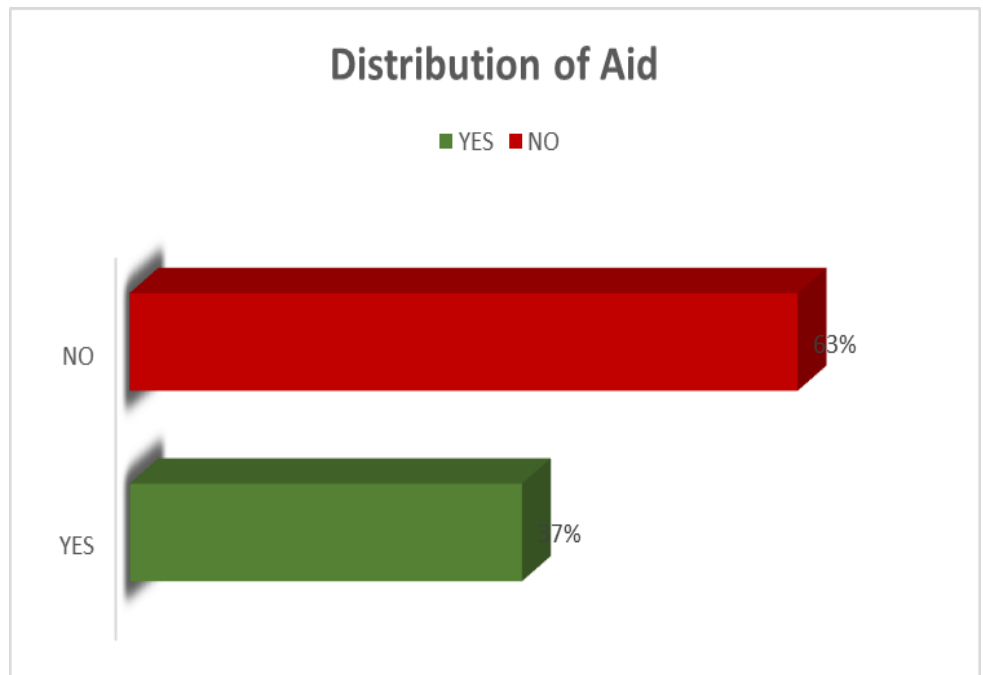
### 3. Protecting humanitarian convoys and facilitating their movement:

63% of the observers reported that humanitarian aid did not arrive in the areas in which they are located, while 37% of the observers who are located the states of White Nile, Gezira, Gedaref and River Nile reported that aid is being distributed. Those are the states that witnessed large displacements from Khartoum.

Nevertheless, some observers reported

that there were obstacles in the distribution operations in some states from government agencies, such as reducing the quantities allocated.

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### 4. Commitment to respecting human rights and protecting facilities:

Regarding the commitment to respecting human rights as it was stated in the Jeddah Declaration, 25% answered that there is a violation of human rights and the concentration in health facilities and civilian homes, especially from the Rapid Support Forces, while 75% did not observe any violation, and most of these are from states that did not witness clashes.

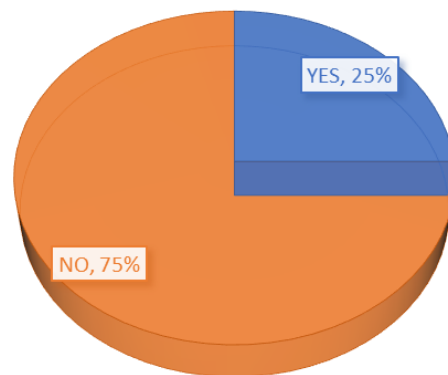
According to the observers, there are still public facilities such as the Omdurman Teaching Hospital and the Omdurman Maternity Hospital (Al-Dayat) occupied by forces affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces, as well as Al-Fasher Hospital as it was reported on Saturday May, 26.

As for Wad Medani Rehabilitation Hospital, there are forces affiliated with the army, in principle this hospital is under the control of the SAF but now it is only receiving

injured people from the SAF. This case is also witnessed in Al-Abrar Hospital in South Darfur and East Nile Hospital.

The occupation of electricity supply facilities in a number of stations continues, such as the One Street station in East Nile, and the disruption of maintenance work in Southern Darfur. The occupation of civilian homes continued in the Umbada area of Omdurman and the Cinema neighborhood in South Darfur.

## OCCUPATION OF MEDICAL FACILITIES



### Recommendations:

1. The humanitarian situation in all of Sudan is witnessing a terrible deterioration and is rapidly descending into the abyss. Therefore, efforts should be concentrated on stopping the shooting and engaging in a negotiation process that leads to a peaceful solution to the current crisis.
2. The health sector in some states has reached a stage of collapse, and international organizations must take action to rectify it. In this regard, the international community must put pressure on the parties of the conflict to protect humanitarian convoys and facilitate their movement, as well as forcing them to evacuate the institutions that have been occupied or those used by snipers.
3. The Network have observed widespread calls for arming and the proliferation of weapons in the hands of civilians illegally, which foreshadows a catastrophic civil war as a result of the alignment around the two sides of the conflict, and measures must be taken to prevent this.
4. The need to follow up on the distribution of humanitarian aids after handing them over to the official authorities and supervising them through donor organizations or through credible committees within the local community, such as resistance committees and grassroots youth organizations.
5. Taking into consideration of the field observation of the ceasefire, we recommend the need to seek the assistance of local observers if the truce is renewed, while providing them with international protection.

