



YOUTH CITIZENS OBSERVERS NETWORK

PRELIMINARY REPORT – OBSERVATION OF THE CEASE FIRE EXTENSION IN SUDAN

MAY 30 -JUNE 3, 2023

Executive Summary:

Committed to its role in observing and reporting on the violation of the cease fire, the Youth Citizens Observers Network renewed the process of monitoring the ceasefire between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, which came as an extension of the first ceasefire that took place during the last week of May 2023. This preliminary statement in addition to the one that proceeded will be a part of inclusive report that will also tackle the findings and recommendations from an opinion poll conducted by the network in all the Sudanese states in mid-May, about the effects of the war on people's lives, their aspirations, and their vision of how to stop it.

Despite the withdrawal of the Sudanese Armed Forces from the negotiations in Jeddah and the mediation announcement of the suspension of the negotiations, the decision of the Youth Citizens Observers Network was to continue the process of monitoring on the field and documenting the violations that occur from both sides against civilians and public facilities, and thus providing accurate information about the reality in the absence of any kind of documentation of the effects of war and the repeated violations by both conflicting parts.

Report Summary:

The second truce signed between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces witnessed many violations through intensive armed clashes especially in the cities affected by the continuous by the clashes since the start of the war, in addition to cities that entered the war cycle during the past weeks, such as El Fasher and Zalenji.

The violations that occurred during the ceasefire were represented in the aerial bombardment, the use of heavy weapons, and the deadly attacks on the civilians, resulting in an increase by dozens of civilians' casualties from fires from both conflicting parties in the states of Khartoum, North Kordofan and North Darfur in the locality of Kutum.

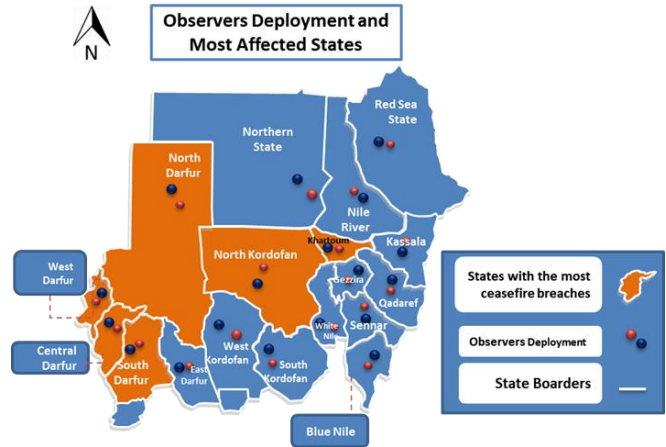
Even though humanitarian convoys were not attacked neither their movement impeded, humiliating incidents took place for citizens from both sides, represented in illegal searches and

confiscating personal belongings as well as the question about identity on racial and tribal basis in some areas.

In general, the violations during the second ceasefire period were more severe in comparison to what took place during the first ceasefire, especially in terms of the number of civilian casualties.

Methodology :

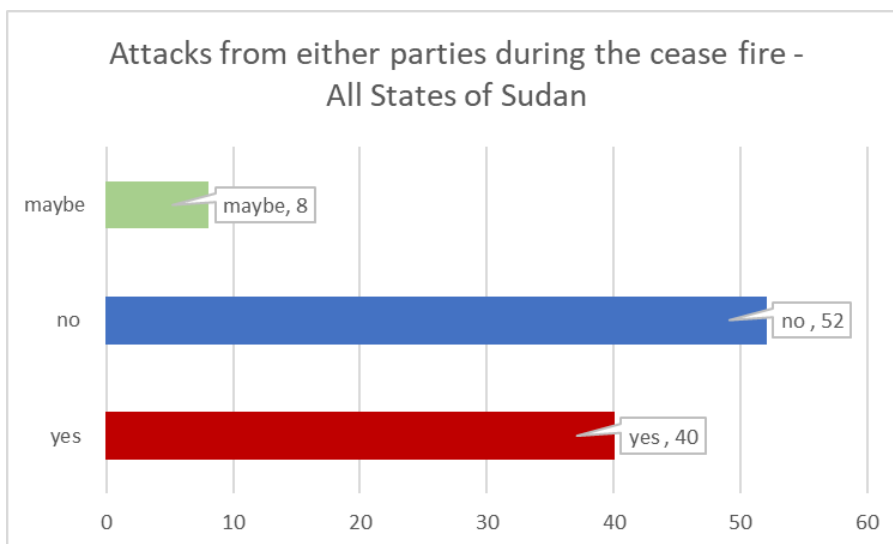
- The Youth Citizens Observers Network consists of observers, coordinators, and administrative staff in every state of Sudan, who were trained on conducting field observation.
- The report used field observation and personal interviews as its method to track and document the violations that took place during the extension of the ceasefire by both sides of the conflict in Sudan.
- The technical team verified all the data from the field observation forms and then analyzed the results.



Results:

This report includes four pillars to facilitate classification breaches and prevent recurrence of results, according to the terms of the first ceasefire agreement and its 5 days extension.

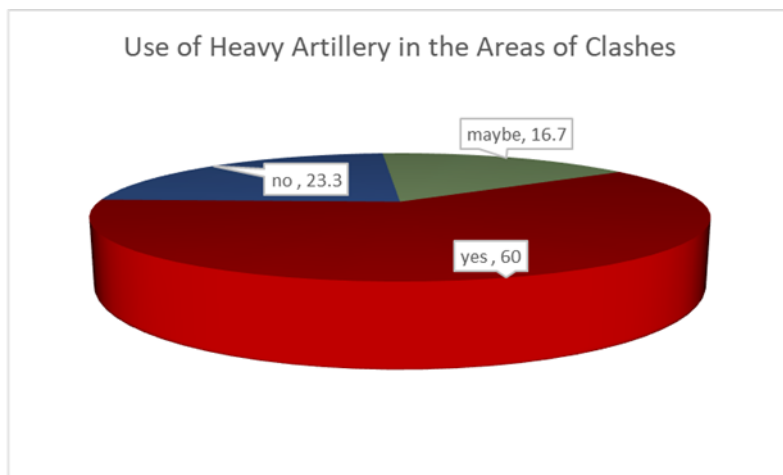
1. Ceasefire and adherence to the old military spots and the prohibition of armaments:



The extension of the ceasefire aimed to stop the fighting so that people could access their daily needs. However, the observation results showed that several areas experienced hostilities. Observers reported that 40% of the areas had hostile incidents, while 52% reported that they did not, and 8% answered that they might have.

The incidents included the Ambada area in Omdurman city, where anti-aircraft gunfire was heard from 8 am to 5 pm on the first day of the truce extension, in addition to Airstrike and heavy arms shelling that resulted in several civilian casualties. Al-Azhari and Mayo areas also had casualties, as well as Bahri city, Halfaya area, Shambat, Kobar, Hillat Koko, and Street One in the eastern Nile area, due to the clashes between the two sides.

The violations continued and Planes strikes on the next day, June 1, and shells landed in Mayo area, south of Khartoum. The Rapid Support Forces also kept shooting in the areas east of the Nile, the 13th area, from 10 am to 5 pm. Moreover, Mayo and Salama areas saw movements of the Rapid Support Forces, as well as shelling that killed more than 20 people. Also, a number of stray arms shell fell in Omdurman in the Umbada region (Part Five), which left a number of injuries and the death of a child. And the two parties continued to exchange various bombing, including heavy ones in the Karari military area and Bahri Halfaya, which resulted in the destruction of a number of homes and the injury of many defenseless citizens.



Observers also reported the use of heavy weapons in the areas observed, where 60% reported the use of heavy artillery, while 23.3% said they did not and 17.7% were not sure whether this have happened.

In the state of North Darfur, observers reported on May 30 that clashes took place between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces since 7:30 in the morning near the Abu Shouk camp for the displaced, shells were fired between the two forces and extended into the camp blocks 18 and 19.

In the city of El Fasher, observers reported that gunfire had occurred by the Sudanese Armed Forces under the pretext of raiding a house supposedly affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces during the deployment of the Peace Operation Forces.

On June 1, observers reported that clashes took place between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces in the city of Kutum, North Darfur, and shells fell on citizens' homes. Observers reported complete devastation of the city, leaving a large number of wounded, the displacement of citizens from the Kasab camp, and the fall of more than 25 dead, a cut-off of communication networks in the city, that took place after an attempt by forces from the Rapid Support to raid the Agricultural Bank, while the

Sudanese Armed Forces confronted them with heavy fire, in addition, observers reported heavy gunfire shooting in the southern side of the city

In the state of South Darfur - Nyala, on June 2, the voices of heavy artillery from both sides were heard in residential neighborhoods.

Observers also reported that the Rapid Support Forces are arming some young men with ethnic subordinates in the Tadamon neighborhood in South Darfur.

In the states of West and Central Darfur, the fierce attacks by the Rapid Support Forces and armed militias continued with all kinds of weapons, killing and displacing citizens, while the total failure of communication networks continued for over two weeks, which caused isolation of the two states.

Observers reported the occurrence of crimes committed by the Rapid Support Forces and the Third Front Mix in the Misteri area in West Darfur, which has been described as the worst in the country since the war broke out on April 15, resulting in large number of civilians casualties, including children, with a complete absence of communications, and the displacement of a number of citizens to the neighboring state of Chad, while the city of El Geneina is still facing clashes and the lack of communication networks.

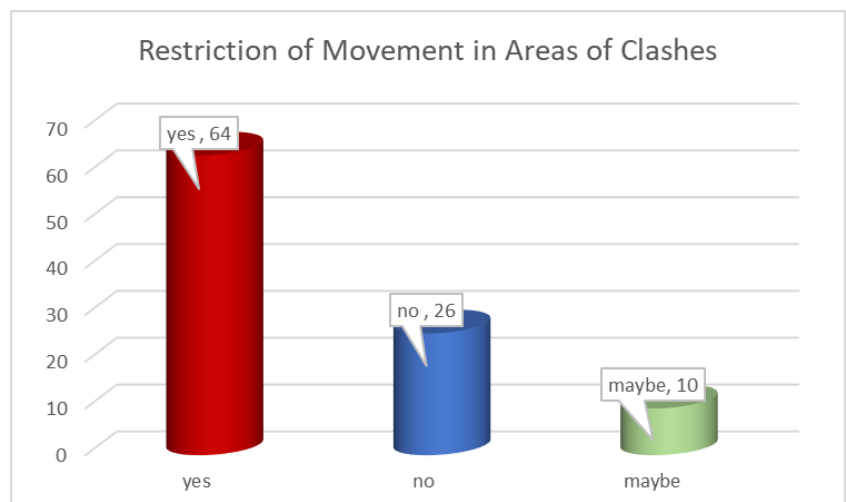
Central Darfur state is experiencing a catastrophic humanitarian situation and lack of communications after it was attacked during the previous truce.

In the state of North Kordofan, on June 2, observers reported that violent clashes took place between the two parties southeast of the city of El-Obeid, using all kinds of heavy weapons, resulting in dozens of civilian casualties. 27 people were killed and more than 60 houses were burned in the village Oum Humeira in the locality of Rahad by the Rapid Support Forces.

The states of the River Nile, Gedaref, White Nile, Gezira, East Darfur, Blue Nile, Kassala, and Sennar did not witness any military incidents.

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

Restricting the movement of civilians occurred in 64% of the areas witnessing clashes, while 26% of the observers reported that there was no restriction of movement, and 10% were not certain of any restriction of movement in the states that witnessed the incidents.



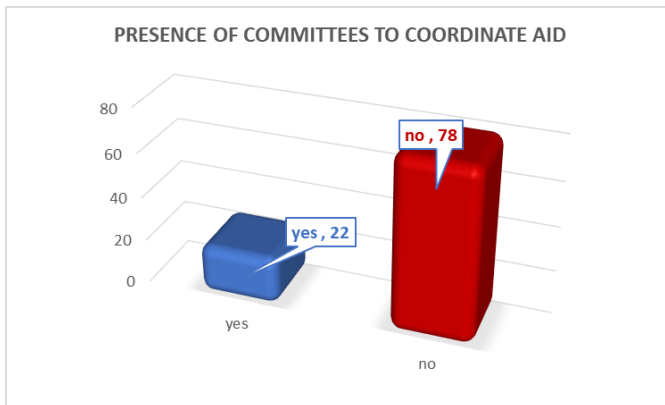
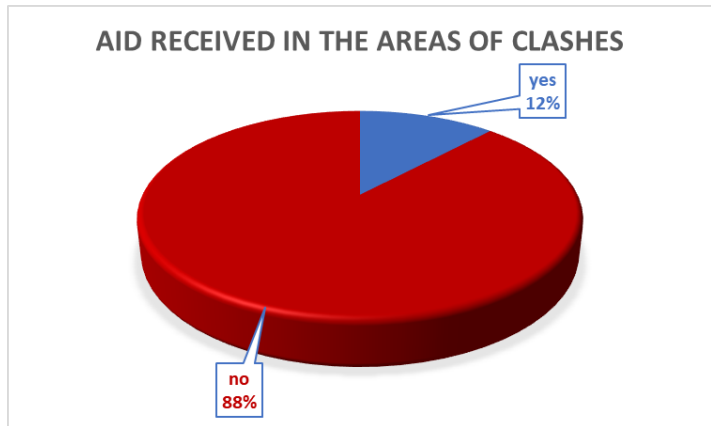
Restriction of movement took place in the states that witnessed clashes between the army and the Rapid Support Forces, in addition to the national and internal roads that witnessed Inspections of travelers and passers-by, these incidents happened also in the Eastern Diem region, Al-Amart, Omdurman, Al-Haj Yusef and Bahri, and places controlled by the Rapid Support Forces.

Observers reported cases of attacks, beating and humiliation of civilians, as well as citizens were prevented from traveling to the state of Khartoum in both the Nile River and from the localities to Kassala.

3. Protecting humanitarian convoys and facilitating their movement:

According to the observers, there are limited humanitarian aid operations provided by the organizations in the states that received large groups of displaced families and in the state of Khartoum, and that most of that aid was limited to medical equipment.

The observers did not mention that the relief operations were exposed to any obstacles from one of the parties to the conflict in any state, yet they answered that neither of the two parties did not facilitate the arrival of aid within its areas of control.



Observation in the White Nile State reported that the Humanitarian Aid Commission in the state is hindering the process of aid reaching the targeted.

In the state of North Kordofan, the stores of the World Food Program were looted by citizens after they were opened by Rapid Support personnel, and the looting of the

stored materials continued for two days.

4. Commitment to respecting human rights and protecting facilities:

The attack on civilians and the occupation of hospitals and homes were the most prominent violations that continued during the extension of the truce.

The network's observers in North Kordofan monitored the attack of the Rapid Support Forces on the village of Um Hamira of the Rahad locality, killing 27 people and burning more than 60 houses.

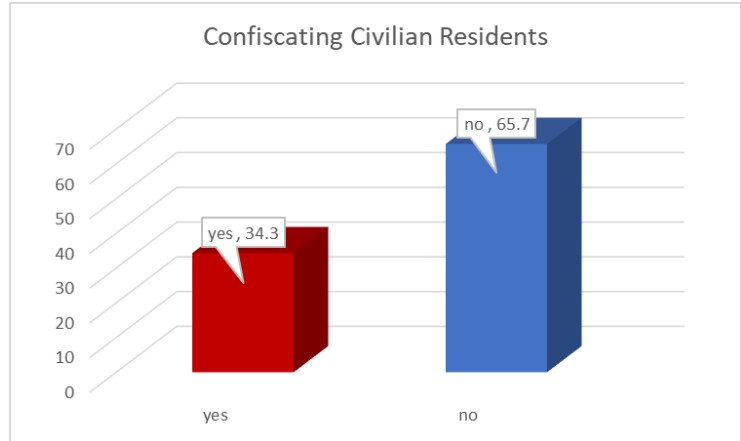
The clashes between the two parties southeast of the city of El-Obeid, resulted in large number of civilian casualties, the exact number of victims and their

identities have not been identified until the date of issuing this preliminary report.

In Khartoum state, dozens of victims fell in the Mayo area as a result of artillery shelling in the area.

Hospitals and households that were occupied by the Rapid Support Forces before the ceasefire were not evacuated.

Travelers on the highways are constantly subjected to searches by both parties in their areas of control, and personal belongings are often taken, and some of them claimed that questions at some checkpoints are carried out on a racial basis.



Recommendations:

1. In light of the scarcity of information, the difficulty of movement, the non-functioning of hospitals and morgues, and the media blackout, there are dozens of victims who have not been documented. There is a urgent necessity for a mechanism that allows to document and identify the casualties as this is considered the main cost incurred by the Sudanese as a result of this war
2. Most of the states directly affected by the clashes and those that receive displaced people suffer from a significant decrease in basic materials for life, and the continuation of this war for more than a month will expose the country to a health disaster and famine, and crime is expected to spread. Therefore, we recommend putting pressure on both sides to enter into a long truce and return to the negotiating table.
3. The health system in most states has collapsed and major interventions are required to save it so as not to cause more civilians to lose their lives.