



YOUTH CITIZENS OBSERVERS NETWORK
REPORT – OBSERVATION OF THE CEASE FIRE
JUNE 18 -JUNE 21, 2023

Introduction:

Committed to its role monitoring throughout the last two months of war in Sudan, the Youth Citizens Observers Network (YCON) continued by observing the situation nationwide during the most recent ceasefire. This latest ceasefire between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces was brokered by joint Saudi-American mediation in Jeddah, went into effect the morning of Sunday, June 18, and lasted for a period of 72 hours.

The YCON monitored the commitment of the two parties to the terms of the ceasefire. It also monitored the distribution of humanitarian aid to those in need. The YCON gathers information through field observers deployed in various states, especially those areas recently subjected to military operations or sought out by people fleeing areas of clashes.

This report represents a summary of the most important violations monitored by the Youth Citizens Observers Network during the ceasefire period.

Executive Summary:

The ceasefire signed between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which entered into force on Sunday, June 18, for a period of 72 hours, witnessed more commitment from both parties than its predecessors. However, some areas witnessed violent incidents.

In Khartoum, citizens were endangered by shootings and looting by members of the RSF. This happened in separate areas of Omdurman, Bahri, and East Nile. The city of Al-Obeid in North Kordofan state also witnessed shooting in multiple incidents. At least one citizen was robbed of his phone and money by an armed member of the RSF.

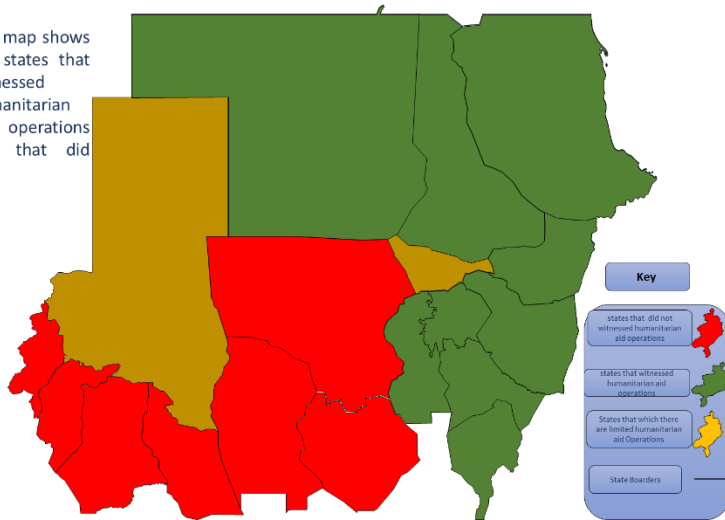
More violations occurred in the city of Nyala, South Darfur state. There, civilians witnessed direct clashes between the warring parties and civilian casualties resulted. The critical humanitarian situation also continued in the states of West and Central Darfur, where military operations continued throughout the ceasefire.

In terms of humanitarian aid reaching civilians, the ceasefire was not fully successful. This was especially the case in areas that witnessed a high number of clashes, such as Khartoum state, Darfur and Kordofan states.

The Network, therefore, recommends additional measures to ensure the delivery of aid, care for the war's casualties, and stop the war.

Methodology:

The map shows the states that witnessed humanitarian aid operations and that did not



The information in this report was collected by the Youth Citizens Observer Network (YCON) field observers deployed in the states, then verified and edited by the technical team. The Network has observers deployed in all states in the field; these observers carry out firsthand monitoring and provide the Network with the materials of the reports that it publishes. The technical team then validates the information received and analyzes and compiles the observations before publishing in periodic reports.

Results:

This report includes three pillars to easily classify elements of the ceasefire agreement and to present the breaches in each pillar. The Network hopes that, by observing, reporting, and publicly sharing these findings, it can contribute to the prevention of these incidents recurring. To that end, the report concludes with recommendations, particularly for the ceasefire negotiators.

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

By and large, this three-day ceasefire contributed to a significant decline in direct clashes between the warring parties. On those grounds, this latest ceasefire was the most successful ceasefire when compared to its predecessors. But some violations occurred, some of which are highlighted in this report.

Khartoum State witnessed a cessation of shooting and the cessation of troop movements outside pre-existing areas of control, according to observers. Despite this, some areas witnessed shootings at civilians, as reported in Sharq al-Nil, Umbada, and Khartoum North.

In North Kordofan, there were also no clashes between the SAF and RSF during the three ceasefire days. Observers noted, however, movement of the RSF to establish a new focal point south of the city of Al-Abyad, closer to the city center. The RSF was also observed establishing a checkpoint inside the city of Al-Rahad as well as a focal point on the road between the cities of Al-Rahad and Umm Rawaba. Observers reported that this was done in agreement with the civil administration and intended to secure the Al-Rahad market and the road to the city of Umm Rawaba, which previously witnessed looting incidents by gunmen.

In the five states of Darfur, the observers reported the following:

On the ceasefire's second day, the observer in South Darfur reported shooting and military operations. And on the ceasefire's third day, clashes took place between the SAF and RSF. These clashes occurred on three fronts:

- From Jebel Marra Street to the Nyala Secondary School
- From Al Daein Street to near the railway track
- From Cinema Street to Nyala

In these clashes, the SAF fired missiles, and in return, the RSF fired back. Civilian injuries and deaths occurred in these clashes, including a woman from Al-Jeer neighborhood, a young man from Al-Wadi neighborhood, and others. Many residents of Al-Jeer and Al-Wadi neighborhoods left their homes. In West Darfur, the road linking Al-Geneina to the Chadian city of Idri witnessed separate incidents of shooting by Arab militias supported by the RSF and indiscriminate killing of civilians. In Central Darfur, several civilians were killed during clashes between the warring parties.

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

The state of Khartoum witnessed some violations against citizens, according to observers. Citizens were assaulted in Ambada Al-Sabil, and RSF attempted to steal a car. Citizens were also attacked in Shambat. Clashes that took place on the ceasefire's first day resulted in the death of three RSF fighters in Kadru - Khartoum North and East Nile.

On the second day of the ceasefire, an observer from Haj Yusef al-Wahda Square 2, al-Wali Street and Jebel Marra Station reported hearing shooting into the sky and the intimidation of citizens. This incident took place at 8 PM.

In North Kordofan, reports indicate that citizens were not subjected to ceasefire violations related to movement of civilians. However, one observer reported that he observed firsthand a traveler bound for Al-Rahad having his phone and money taken by a member of the RSF.

There was also an attack on civilians in North Darfur's Tawila locality during their escape.

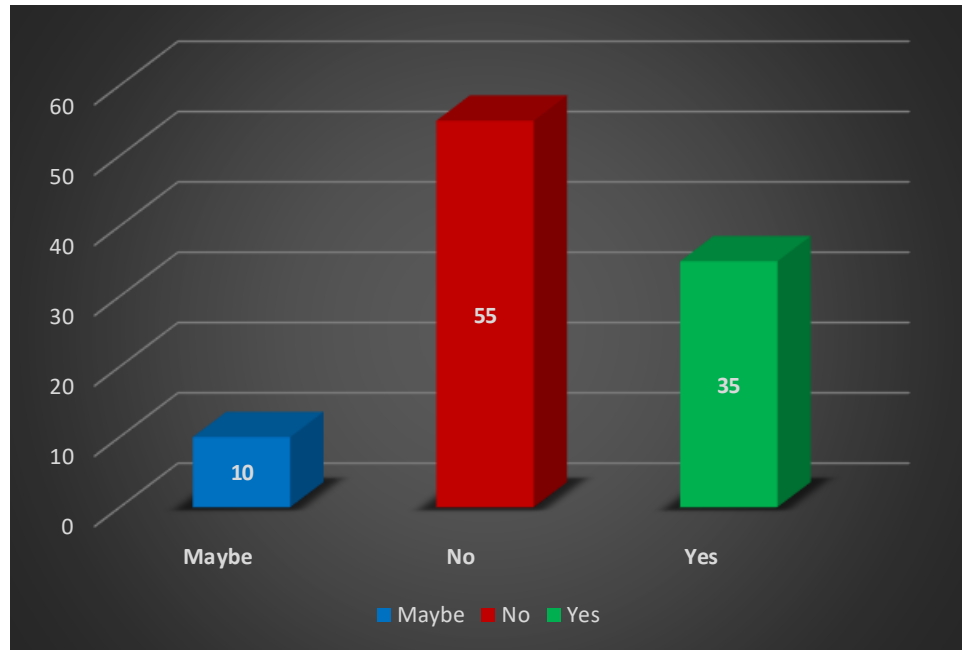
In El Geneina, several attacks on civilians and the prevention of civilians from leaving El Geneina were reported. Some civilians were detained for up to eight hours while additional killing and looting took place on the road linking El Geneina to Chad.

Protecting humanitarian convoys and facilitating their movement:

Observers reported the presence of humanitarian aid operations in the states that did not witness military clashes, such as Gezira, White Nile, River Nile, Northern State, Kassala, Gedaref, Blue Nile, Sennar, and Northern State. Observers also reported the presence of humanitarian aid operations in limited areas of both North Darfur and Khartoum.

In states witnessing more significant military campaigns, observers reported that there were no humanitarian aid operations. That includes West Darfur, South Darfur, Central Darfur, West Kordofan, North Kordofan, South Kordofan, and large areas of Khartoum state.

In the states of Gezira, Sennar, River Nile, Kassala, and some areas of Khartoum, observers reported the arrival of health aid. In White Nile, North Darfur, Gedaref, Kassala, and Al-Jazeera, general relief aid arrived; 35% of observers reported that the aid had reached populations in need. Sadly, a majority (55%) reported that aid was not delivered to populations in need. The remaining 10% were not sure of the rightful distribution of aid.



Meanwhile, reports from East Darfur revealed neither military events nor humanitarian aid.

Observers reported that there was difficulty in the arrival of aid in the states of Gezira, Kassala, Khartoum, and River Nile.

Recommendations

1. The Youth Citizens Observer Network has now observed each of the multiple ceasefires to date. It has become clear that the ceasefires have not fully achieved their humanitarian purpose. One example is that humanitarian aid has not reached many areas during the ceasefire. Therefore, the network recommends the need to implement a more strict protocol to ensure the arrival of aid, the evacuation of the wounded to places in order to receive medical care, and the burial of the dead, especially civilians.
2. With the joint US-Saudi mediation announcing the suspension of talks in Jeddah, the Youth Citizens Observer Network expects the situation to complicate further. This will likely include a deterioration of the dire humanitarian and economic situation in Sudan; the worst may be yet to come. Therefore, the Network recommends that the international community continue to play its role in protecting civilians and putting pressure on the warring parties to find an approach that leads to resolving the crisis in Sudan. The war must be stopped.