



IMPLICATIONS OF THE WAR IN SUDAN

Political, economic, social and human rights situations

September 2023

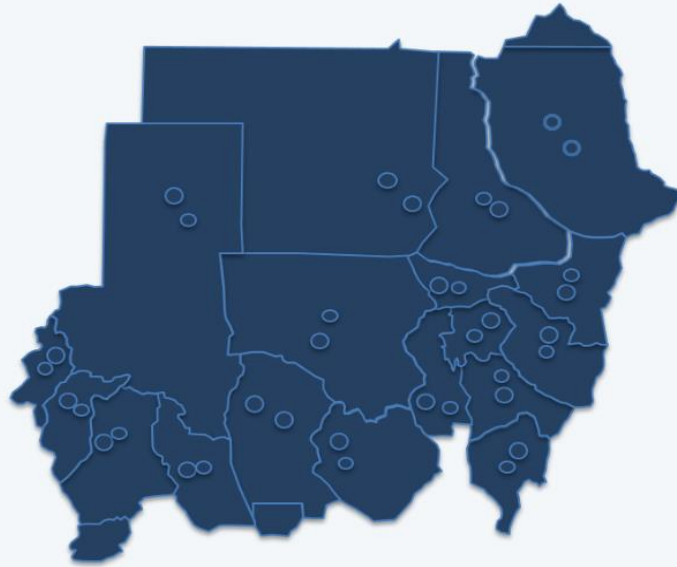


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Introduction

The Youth Citizens Observers Network (YCON) is a local network consisting of grassroots youth organizations spread across all localities of Sudan. It works to support the democratic transition in Sudan. It harnesses its efforts to amplify the voices of young people and increase their influence in various political processes within Sudan, in line with the agenda of the December Revolution. Following the outbreak of the current war, we, in the YCON, decided to monitor various violations that occurred during the war and the effects, in addition to documenting migration and displacement movements, human rights conditions, and contributing to various efforts aimed at ending the war. The network has monitors deployed in all Sudanese states, who work in the field to monitor and report, sending their initial reports to serve as the basis for the network's various reports and activities. This report represents a summary of the reports from observers in all states during the past month of September, summarizing the most significant developments and reflecting the political, economic, and social consequences of the war, the conditions of the displaced, and the status of human rights and civilian protection.

War in Sudan and the Political Situation

For the sixth consecutive month, the cycle of conflict and clashes continued in Khartoum state, where battles escalated during September over the general command of the Sudanese Army Forces (SAF). The battles continued with intensity in areas involving armored units and engineers. Violent clashes were also witnessed in the states of North Kordofan and South Darfur. In the city of Al-Obied, battles persisted for two days, resulting in casualties among civilians. Additionally, confrontations occurred in the area of Wad Ashana, which is part of the Umm Ruwaba locality in North Kordofan, and in Nyala city in South Darfur, which witnessed exchanges of fire between the SAF and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The ongoing war and the increasing intensity of the conflict have

had significant political repercussions within Sudan and among external actors interested in Sudanese affairs and seeking to find a solution to end the war.

Since the beginning of the war in Sudan between SAF and RSF, political activists have been subjected to restrictions, and activities have been halted (**as we mentioned in a previous report, women from the Sudan Mothers' Movement in Blue Nile were arrested, and political activists have continued to be detained by the conflicting parties in Sudan, Click [Here](#) to view this report**).

In addition, a state of emergency has been imposed, and activities have been banned in several states. These measures have led to the suspension of political activities by well-known political forces, and most political activists have chosen to move abroad and engage through social media. Initiatives seeking political solutions from outside Sudan have also become active, and their platforms have multiplied due to the diaspora experienced by Sudanese civil forces abroad.

The state of restriction and the consequences of the war have closed the horizon for a political solution and weakened the role of political actors, despite several initiatives addressing the problem of the war and proposing solutions that lead to a comprehensive political process. The current initiatives are important but fragmented, and they need to unite under a single platform to amplify their voice, calling for an end to the war and engagement in a political process.

Recommendations:

- There is a necessary to unify the political platforms currently working on finding solutions for Sudan's current situation.
- Document violations against political activists and disseminate them widely.
- Develop a unified political media discourse against the war.

The economic implication of the war

The war has significantly impacted the economic situation in Sudan, particularly in areas that have seen a large influx of displaced people. Additionally, areas with

ongoing military clashes have been heavily affected, especially in September, following a significant depreciation of the Sudanese Pound against the US Dollar. This led to worsening economic conditions and a sharp increase in commodity prices in all states.

In the North State, a number of employees have been laid off, and the non-payment of salaries remains the biggest pressure on all government and private sectors. Salaries for one month have been paid from the revenues of government institutions. The Ministry of Finance also disbursed a month's salary for the remaining institutions. There is a shortage of essential goods, and gasoline prices have risen, with the price of one gallon reaching 30,000 Sudanese Pounds, which equals (50\$). There are also expired goods coming from neighbouring countries by some traders, causing frustration and annoyance among the population. Rental prices continue to rise, and some humanitarian aid is being sold in the markets.

As for the River Nile State, the increase in prices and the scarcity of income sources, especially for the displaced, have led to a shortage of cash. All these challenges have had a significant impact on the economy since the outbreak of the war.

In Khartoum State, the scarcity of goods continues, and banks and most service institutions are completely shut down. Employees are facing challenges in receiving their salaries up to this moment. Access to aid is difficult due to the absence of safe passages.

In the Gadarief State, the increase in the price of the dollar is also one of the current crises, resulting in a rise in the prices of all goods. With the appearance of bird pests in the border area of Fashqa and with no interventions for control to date, the sorghum harvest is at risk of failing.

In Kassala State, prices have risen, intermittent bank operations and salaries have not been disbursed to employees. Instead, a food basket containing essential commodities has been distributed. The El Laffa border crossing has been opened

for trade between Sudan and Ethiopia, which Al-Burhan authorized, leading to increased cross-border trade activity.

In the White Nile State, prices are rising, and small local businesses and taxpayers are facing difficulties.

In the Blue Nile Region, there has been an improvement in bank activity, but salaries have not been paid to date. Trade activity is affected, with disruptions in the supply line to South Sudan due to armed conflict in the Kormak locality. The agricultural season has also been affected by insecurity and high unemployment.

In the Jazeera State, there is an increase in fuel prices, and long queues for gasoline are common.

In the Sennar and North Darfur States, high prices, non-payment of salaries, a shortage of liquidity, and high unemployment create a challenging economic situation.

In South Darfur, several markets have been closed (El Geneina Market, Malja Market, Jebel Market, and Livestock Market). The popular market is partially operational, and there is an increase in fuel prices as fuel imports from Libya are ongoing.

Regarding East Darfur State, there are difficulties in finding employment, with a scarcity of goods that are brought in from White Nile State through North and South Kordofan. They are also imported from South Sudan and Libya.

As for West Darfur State, salaries have been disbursed to all those belonging to the military institution (officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers), as well as those working in the Department of Zakat. There is a sharp increase in consumer goods and other materials, with the price of a barrel of water ranging from 1500 to 1800 Sudanese pounds in areas without pipelines.

In Central Darfur State, there is a lack of cash and significant economic pressure, as well as a shortage of essential goods, causing great suffering for citizens. Approximately 80% of markets in the state have been looted, with only a few small markets operating in the IDP camps.

In West Kordofan State, 90% of banks are out of service, salaries have not been paid, resulting in a decline in commercial activity. All banks are entirely out of service in the Fula area.

Regarding South Kordofan State, trade and transportation have come to a halt due to the closure of the road between Dalang and Kadugli. Foodstuffs are imported from South Sudan through the Nyama market, a market located on the border between Sudan and South Sudan. Some traders have monopolized certain goods, and with difficulty in delivering some products to the localities, this has led to high prices for goods and foodstuffs. The issue of unpaid salaries for state employees persists, except for the armed forces and regular forces, who receive monthly salaries.

In North Kordofan State, there is periodic looting of some markets in the sub-districts by armed groups and RSF. Additionally, there is an increase in prices, layoffs, and restrictions on daily labor in markets by the military.

Recommendations:

- It is important to work on disbursing employees' salaries so that they can meet their daily needs.
- Pressure should be applied to secure safe passages for delivering humanitarian aid within the state of Khartoum.
- It is essential to identify and support the families hosting displaced persons.
- Support existing cooperative associations in some cities that provide goods to citizens at prices lower than the market.
- Open safe passages to facilitate movement and the transportation of goods between different regions.

Human Rights and Civilian Protection:

The war has significantly impacted human rights in Sudan, with serious violations against civilians occurring in various states, which have been documented. The Sudanese authorities frequently use the state of emergency law to violate human rights and restrict freedoms.

For example, in Kassala State, young people and activists are arrested, and there are delays in their release. Notably, journalist Fayez Hanin was arrested due to a Facebook post but was later released. Additionally, there have been arrests of the Al-Ghad channel correspondent, Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Haj, and several young activists in Omdurman's Al-Umadda neighborhood by the RSF. A statement from the Omdurman Emergency Room and the Sudanese Journalists Network called on the international community to pressure the conflict parties not to harm journalists and humanitarian workers.

The RSF also engage in extrajudicial killings and abductions of civilians. In September, in North Darfur State, the RSF killed Engineer Hamada Ibrahim and arrested Mayor Ahmed Adam Abdel Qader from the Gwamaa area, Um Kaddada, on charges of supporting the Sudanese army and recruiting members of his tribe to fight alongside it.

In South Kordofan, according to a statement by the Sons of the Kwalib tribe, the Sudanese army's intelligence service killed eight young men and arrested eight others. There are also many detainees who have not been released, all on charges of belonging to the People's Movement-North, led by Abdelaziz Al-Hilu.

Child labor has seen a significant increase recently due to school closures and worsening economic conditions for families. Much of this child labor does not comply with children's ages and contradicts Sudan's child protection laws, as well as regional and international agreements on children's rights that Sudan has

ratified. Furthermore, there is undue pressure on citizens that contradicts human rights agreements, restricting the activities and movements of civilians between states and preventing them from engaging in any civil activities.

Public services in several states are suffering from severe shortages and even complete absence in some areas. Electricity has remained cut off over the past two months in the three Kordofan states. Additionally, the drinking water supply has ceased in some states since the start of the conflict. Most displaced people suffer from neglect and the denial of their basic rights to access food, well-equipped shelters, and healthcare, especially considering the spread of diseases like cholera and dengue fever in several Sudanese states.

Citizens in conflict zones are continuously exposed to shelling by the warring parties as clashes occur within residential areas, resulting in civilian casualties. In September, dozens of casualties occurred in North Kordofan (in El Obeid city and the Wad-Ashana area), South Kordofan, and South Darfur (in Al Nahda district and the Kongo area). The ongoing shelling and targeting of civilians have led to widespread displacement in El Obeid City, with dozens of families leaving their homes in the western part of the state and seeking relative safety in the eastern neighborhoods. Several families have also been displaced from Nyala City in South Darfur to East Darfur, a relatively safe state.

The forces of the People's Movement-North, led by Abdelaziz Al-Hilu, are also engaging in continuous shelling of Kadugli city, leading to injuries among civilians, internal displacement, and a complicated humanitarian situation in the state, especially in the Kadugli locality.

In Khartoum State, battles and aerial bombardments continue, resulting in civilian casualties. In September, the aviation targeted several residential areas, including Al-Qadisiyah in East Nile, Al-Enqaz in South Khartoum, and Nasr Extension, where civilian casualties occurred, including a child in the Al-Enqaz area.

Recommendations:

- Accurate information about the human rights situation should be made available, and coordination among organizations is necessary to share this information and data.
- Protection must be provided for humanitarian volunteers and journalists so they can carry out their roles.
- A comprehensive assessment of the physical damage caused by the war in conflict areas should be conducted.
- The international community and donors should fulfill their ethical responsibility in meeting the needs of the displaced people within Sudan.
- Efforts should be made to strengthen national organizations and initiatives that provide humanitarian services to internally displaced persons within Sudan.

Social Implications and Ramifications:

Social implications in most conflict areas and ongoing clashes (such as Darfur, Kordofan, and Khartoum) share commonalities and can be summarized in several points. These include the emergence of negative phenomena within the displaced persons' shelter centers, such as theft, looting, alcohol and drug abuse, and some repercussions with the host communities due to cultural differences, increased unemployment rates, and the closure of hospitals and health centers as a result of artillery and aerial bombardment. Additionally, there is a severe shortage of services and medicine. Small local initiatives have also emerged to assist the displaced, provide food, and offer free clinics.

In secure state regions like Jazeera, the North, and the East, the consequences are somewhat similar, although each area has its unique characteristics.

In the East, a large number of displaced persons have entered the labor market, leading to an increase in itinerant vendors. Some essential goods have decreased in price in local markets. There are also mobilization and recruitment camps by the army, preparing them for combat. The political community movement is

highly active and more effective than organized political work, with a conference held by the Eastern Council to discuss its situation and participation in power.

In the Northern and Nile River states, state hospitals have clear activity due to an increase in specialized medical staff in all fields. However, there is a shortage of medication and services. There are also plans to open an intensive care unit in the state. The interaction between displaced individuals and host citizens has increased, resulting from cultural differences, prompting the police to secure shelter centers.

Recommendations:

- Support youth initiatives that provide awareness activities aimed at countering violent and hate speech.
- Develop an alternative media discourse that opposes extremist rhetoric, which fuels social polarization regarding positions on the war.

Displacement and the Situation of Displaced Persons

The movement of migration and displacement has continued in all Sudanese states since the outbreak of the war, even in states where armed conflicts are ongoing.

In war-affected states, there is internal migration and displacement between cities and localities within the state as people seek safe places. In safe states, a large number of citizens have been displaced to these areas, exceeding the capacity of the states they have fled to.

Since the war erupted on April 15th in South Kordofan, the number of displaced persons has been increasing daily. Citizens are fleeing areas of periodic conflict due to the ongoing conflict between the army and the People's Movement. This happens in areas with complex and critical humanitarian conditions, particularly during autumn. Many displaced reside in schools and government institutions with limited services provided by the state government and international and national organizations.

In West Kordofan, the number of displaced persons has increased in Kadugli, the administrative center of the Dair tribe, who are fleeing the civil war between the Hamar, Manseria, and Misseriya tribes. Until now, no humanitarian interventions have been provided to them by organizations and responsible authorities.

In North Kordofan, since the RSF penetrated the western neighborhoods of El Obeid, the displacement movement from the western neighborhoods to the eastern neighborhoods has increased. This displacement has intensified after the repeated violations by RSF against civilians and the spread of crime in the absence of an army protecting the citizens. Conditions in the camps are extremely poor and overcrowded, and there is no support provided to the families. There is no healthcare for the elderly with chronic illnesses or people with special needs. The housing centers, which are narrow school buildings compared to the number of arrivals, are not equipped with supplies, and assistance has stopped.

In Khartoum, the migration of citizens from areas of conflict within and outside the state continues. The conflict has extended to some areas that previously enjoyed relative stability, like the Krari locality.

In East Darfur, the migration movement from Khartoum, West Darfur, Central Darfur, and South Darfur to the state continues. The state has also witnessed an influx of refugees into South Sudan.

In South Darfur, the migration and displacement movement is ongoing, and the situation in Nyala City is worsening with a complete absence of health services and limited mobility within the city.

In North Darfur, the daily migration movement from the state continues, and the displaced people are distributed in housing centers, most of which are Al-Radeef, Al-Ittihad, Al-Amal, Al-Isra, and Al-Rabat. There are around 54 housing centers in El Fasher city, all of which are suffering from food, water, medicine, and tents shortages. The displaced people are wholly dependent on the aid provided by the state's emergency rooms.

In the Northern state, where there are several housing centers, the Emergency Housing and Subsistence Committee held a meeting in the past month at the Humanitarian Aid Commission building in Dongola, chaired by the Head of the Voluntary and Humanitarian Action Commission, Dr Abdelrahman Ali Khairy. The meeting discussed the progress of work and performance at housing centers in the different localities of the state and the problems they face. Dr Khairy stated that a representative from the Ministry of Health in the committee was assigned to conduct regular inspections at housing centers and among those returning from displacement areas. Another committee was also tasked with preparing for a workshop in the coming period aimed at highlighting the significant efforts made in managing the crisis during the past period by the state government, organizations, and community initiatives. Additionally, the World Health Organization, in collaboration with the local emergency room in Halfa, launched a program for free mobile clinics on Saturday, September 16th.

Furthermore, strict supervision was imposed on the Zahraa Housing Center in the "Artadi" area in the Northern State on the instructions of the State Governor. This decision followed public indecent behavior and complaints from the citizens. As a result, the management team at the housing center was changed to include local personnel from the area. Additionally, female supervisors for the women's dormitories were appointed, accompanied by a contingent of police forces.

In the River Nile State, the number of displaced persons has increased to over 45 housing centers. Some centers are designated for blind and kidney patients. Most centers suffer from a lack of water, food, and healthcare services. Women and children are living in extremely difficult conditions.

In Kassala State, large groups of displaced persons arrived in search of safety, with some settling on the eastern bank and others on the western bank in various housing centers. However, the centers lack essential living conditions, and official authorities are absent. There have been no conflicts between the displaced and

the host communities during the period from September 1st until now. Instead, there is harmony between the displaced persons and the hosts.

In the Gedaref State, the displaced persons residing in housing centers continue to suffer from poor conditions, with insufficient support provided by relevant authorities amid a dire health situation in the state.

In the White Nile State, displacement to the state is ongoing, and the number of centers has increased to nearly one hundred in the different administrative units of Kosti City. Humanitarian aid has continued to reach the state from organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in the form of food supplies, medicines, and free clinics. However, despite this assistance, the situation is deteriorating due to power outages and water scarcity since one of the stations was submerged.

In Sennar State, the situation remains critical, and there is a pressing need for food. Volunteers and local charitable individuals continue to face harassment by the government.

In the Blue Nile State, according to the State's Commission, the number of displaced persons in the region has reached 34,000 displaced individuals. However, according to data from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), there are 44,000 displaced persons. There are two types of displacement in the region: internal displacement from Khartoum to the Blue Nile and internal displacement within the Blue Nile State from one locality to another.

In the Jazeera State, the number of displaced persons has been continuously increasing, with their count reaching approximately 400,000 to 500,000 displaced individuals. This is an exceedingly large number, exceeding the state's economic and healthcare capacity and could lead to worsening health conditions. The state continues to receive a large number of displaced persons in various housing centers. The conditions of the displaced persons are dire in all aspects.

Recommendations:

- Immediate intervention and provision of necessary support to the housing centers.
- Appeals to organizations to provide the required support.
- Provision of educational opportunities for displaced persons, especially children.
- Ensuring and protecting the basic rights of displaced families.
- Taking faster action to halt the war.