



Report on the security and humanitarian situation in the states of West and Central Darfur, June 17

Executive summary:

Introduction:

The state of West Darfur is located in the far west of Sudan, and it is one of the five states that make up the Darfur region. The area of the state is 79,460 square kilometers and the population is about one million. It includes eight localities (Kulbus locality, Habila locality, El Geneina locality, Beida locality, Sirba Locality, Kerenak Locality, Jabal Moon Locality, Fur Baranga Locality).

West Darfur is one of the states that have been affected by the war since its outbreak in 2003. It also witnessed bloody events after the December 2018 revolution, known as Crindig 1 and Crindig 2, which claimed the lives of hundreds of civilians and thousands of displaced people in refugees camps.

After the outbreak of war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, the of West Darfur was not spared. The city of El Geneina, the capital of the state, continued to live in a catastrophic humanitarian situation and semi-genocide operations carried out by the Rapid Support Forces and Arab militias supported by the Rapid Support Forces, while the army did not intervene decisively to protect civilians who were subjected to systematic killing until it came to the assassination of the governor of the state in a completely inhumane scene.

As for the state of Central Darfur, it is one of the five states of the Darfur region, and it consists of nine localities (Zalingi locality, Azum locality, Wadi Saleh locality, Mukjar locality, Um Dukhun locality, West Jebel Marra locality (Nertiti), North Jebel Marra locality (Rukro), locality Bindisi, a locality in the center of Jebel Marra (Qulu), with a total area of about 14,330 square miles, and a population of 2.499 million (2017).

The city of Zalingei, the capital of the state, has witnessed bloody events since the start of the current war, and means of communication are absent since the seventeenth of May 2023.

Report summary:

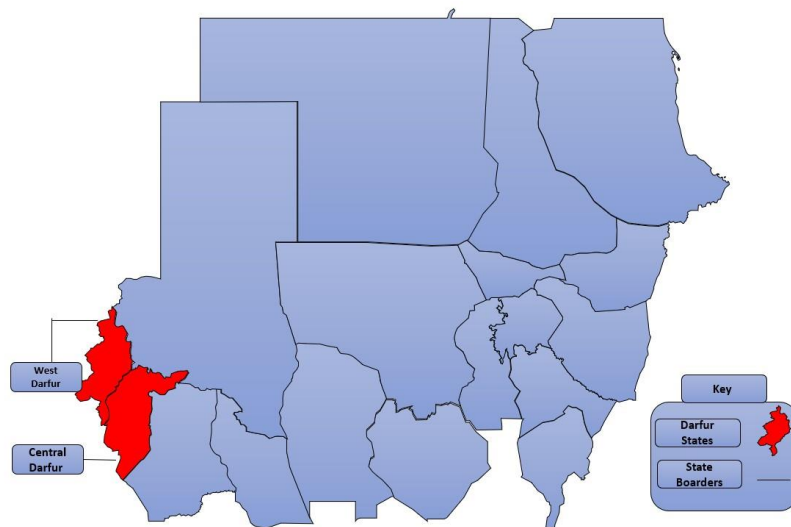
This report summarizes the situation in the states of Central and West Darfur, after being attacked by the Rapid Support Forces and the Arab militias loyal to them, as the two states live in a state of isolation due to the interruption of the communications network for more than a month.

Observers of the Youth Citizens Observers Network, after passing through incredible amount of challenges, were able to provide some information about the two states and the scale of the

humanitarian catastrophe caused by the war, especially in the state of West Darfur, which was subjected to a human tragedy that can be described as the worst in the modern history of Sudan, and its capital, El Geneina, is now being invaded by the Rapid Support Forces and affiliated militias.

The governor, General / Khamis Abdullah Abkar, was assassinated after his arrest by the Rapid Support Forces and the militias loyal to it. Also, the elder brother of the Sultan of the Masalit Sultanate, Tariq Abdul Rahman Bahr al-Din, was killed by the militias loyal to the Rapid Support Forces. It is worth mentioning that Khamis, who belongs to the Masalit tribe, is the head of The Sudanese Alliance Movement, one of the factions that signed the Juba Sudan Peace Agreement, according to which Khamis became governor of the state of West Darfur.

As for the city of Zalingei, the capital of the state of Central Darfur, it has also been subject to total destruction, including all institutions, all banks, the university headquarter, the government secretariat, government and private schools, Zalingei hospital and all government ministries, even ceilings and windows have been uprooted, and all stores and headquarters of national and international organizations and UN agencies have been looted.



Methodology

The information contained in this report was obtained through the network's sources inside the city of El Geneina and the observers who reached the Chadian border and were able to communicate with the network and provide it with information about the current situation, in addition to the network's observers in the state of Central Darfur. The technical team of the Youth Citizens Observers Network always reviews and double check all information and conducts an extensive audit and verification process before including it in the reports. The same methodology of information validation was followed to validate the preliminary information which were the cornerstone for drafting this report.

The security situation in the states of West and Central Darfur:

West Darfur State - El Geneina

The situation in the city of El Geneina can be described as the worst humanitarian disaster in modern history, according to a local observer who left the city to the Chadian border, where massacres of ethnic cleansing took place, carried out by Arab militias supported by the Rapid Support Forces, and this disaster was crowned with the

assassination of the governor of the state, Khamis Abdullah Abkar, and representation his body after being arrested by the Rapid Support Forces.

The city has been completely cut off from the world for a month due to the blackout of communication networks, and all service facilities have stopped working due to its physical destruction causing great suffering to the citizens, as some patients and injured have died from the lack of treatment and the destruction of hospitals and health centers.

Killing in El Geneina are carried out systematically, as journalists, professors, activists, human rights defenders, doctors and health personnel are targets for arrest and assassination on the basis of ethnicity. Those of the citizens who survived the massacres fled to the Chadian border, and one of the survivors in the Chadian Adre region informed us that the militias affiliated with the Rapid Support killed most of the men on the way to the Chadian border, and that the fleeing Sudanese are fighting many battles before reaching the safe areas and few of them reach, RSF and affiliated militia are direct targeting of those who belong to the Masalit tribe.

The road that connects the city of El Geneina with the state of Chad, observers reported that it was full of corpses along the road, more than a thousand dead people who tried to get out to Chad to escape from the war, and the observers described that the attack that occurred by the Rapid Support Forces And the Arab militias on the 12th and 13th of June in the Al-Madras Al-Thawra and Al-Jusark neighborhoods was a genocide, since all the houses were targeted and all injured and sick people who couldn't leave were assassinated on the spot.

We have not been able to reach accurate numbers about the number of casualties since the beginning of the attack on the city of El Geneina, and estimates indicate numbers of up to a few thousand dead inside the city and on the way while fleeing to the Chadian border.

At the present time, the city of El Geneina is being violated by the Rapid Support Forces and its armed militias, completely destroyed and lacking the most basic necessities of life, and the army has not intervened to protect civilians.

Central Darfur State:

Since the outbreak of the conflict in Sudan between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces on April 15, 2023, the state of Central Darfur has been living in a state of security chaos as a result of renewed clashes between the two parties of the conflict inside the city of Zalingei.

On April 15, the Rapid Support Forces attacked the headquarters of the SAF Headquarters in the city of Zalingei, which led to a confrontation between the two parties, that resulted in casualties from both sides, in addition to civilian casualties.

After this attack, another attack took place on the army headquarters in the city of Garsala, located in the south of the state in the Wadi Saleh locality, according to which the entire city fell into the hands of the Rapid Support Forces led by the commander Bengos, these confrontations

were accompanied by a huge wave of chaos by the Rapid Support Forces and the Arab militias loyal to them, by completely destroying the city of Zalingei, where they completely looted the Zalingei market and the headquarters of all local and international organizations and government institutions, including the Government Secretariat, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Urban Planning, the Ministry of Agriculture, The Center for Peace Studies, Khaled bin Al-Walid School, Al-Ard School, Azum School, Al-Namothajiyah School for Boys, Fatima Karel School and other schools were also looted, and fuel for the city's power station was looted, the water and sanitation project was destroyed, and the roofs of buildings were uprooted.

Zalingei locality and the Ministry of Education were also burned, and all government cars were stolen. Except for the cars of the Ministry of Health, which are protected by the youth of Al-Wadi neighborhood and Al-Thawra neighborhood, the main headquarters of Zalingei University were also completely destroyed, even the doors and windows were uprooted. The looting also affected citizens' homes at gunpoint in each of the stadium neighborhood, west of Al-Zalat, and the eastern neighborhood, the western neighborhood adjacent to the General Command, some of whose houses have been converted into headquarters for the Rapid Support Forces. It is reported that some of the looting and vandalism operations involved citizens.

The armed confrontations inside the city resulted in casualties as a result of indiscriminate shelling, stray ammunition, and attacks on homes, where the number of dead people who have been counted so far has reached 21, and dozens of wounded and injured. Also, the Rapid Support Forces arrested a number of civilians and released them later after they spent weeks in detention, among them Manager of the Bank of Khartoum.

Civilians face constant harassment with restrictions and difficulties in movement inside and outside the city by the checkpoints and gates set up by the Rapid Support Forces and the armed militias loyal to them. Some travelers who arrived in Nyala from Zalingei reported that there are more than 50 checkpoints (gates), 46 of which are for rapid support, there are only 4 checkpoints belonging to the army. At these checkpoints, travelers are grounded, their luggage is searched, and they are asked to pay sums of money in exchange for allowing them to pass. Also, travelers reported civilians' targeting on an ethnic basis by the Sudanese Armed Forces at some of its checkpoint.

As of May 17 until the date of issuance of this report, the state has been living in a state of isolation due to the interruption of communications services in the region.

Medical status in the two states

West Darfur state

The health and medical sector in West Darfur state has completely collapsed after hospitals and health facilities were destroyed. Doctors and health personnel has been targeted and

assassinated. Al-Jeneina Hospital was bombed and the rest of the public and private clinics were looted and burned, with a complete lack of medicines and medical care for the wounded.

Information also indicate the death of all dialysis patients in the city as a result of the destruction that affected the dialysis center. This situation made aiding the wounded, sick and injured can only be done inside homes and on public roads.

As a result of this situation, most of the seriously injured and those with chronic diseases may die from the loss of medicines and health care.

Central Darfur State:

The situation in Central Darfur is not much better than West Darfur.

The health sector in Zalingei is facing the risk of total collapse as a result of 90% of hospitals and health centers being out of service after the renewal of armed clashes inside the city with the attack and looting of health facilities by motorbikes gangs loyalist to the Rapid Support Forces and indiscriminate shelling by The SAF, Zalingei Hospital was bombed more than 4 times, as a result of which an attendant of one of the patients died and others were injured.

Also, the doctors and staff were attacked, and their property was looted at gunpoint by militias loyal to the Rapid Support Forces. Medical centers were also robbed, and there was nothing left of them, whether central Al-Hamidiya and Al-Wahida neighborhood center, which are now operating with a limited operational capacity, in addition to using the Al-Wadi neighborhood mosque and Al-Thawra neighborhood as first aid medical centers. As for critical cases, they are transferred to Zalingei Hospital, which returned to service with a limited capacity after a hiatus of more than two weeks. Also, the medical staff faces difficulty, obstacles and harassment in doing their work, some of the specialists were forced to leave the city. The dialysis center is still operating, but it is in danger of stopping due to the scarcity of fuel in the city. Patients and injured people are now at risk of dying as a result of the drug stock running out.

Social conditions and human rights violations:

West Darfur state:

All the reports received from West Darfur indicate the existence of grave violations of human rights. Since the attack that began on April 24, killings, torture and arrests have continued to take place on the basis of ethnicity and are widespread, as is the case in the Masalit neighborhoods. There are also systematic arrests and killings of doctors, professors, media professionals and activists, and human rights activists, these violations are committed by the Rapid Support Forces and their armed militias. The movement of people, goods and humanitarian aid is also prevented, with the destruction of infrastructure, health facilities, governmental and private.

One of the biggest incidents of human rights violations was the arrest of the governor of West Darfur, Khamis Abdullah Abkar, by the Rapid Support Forces, then killing him two hours later and publishing his picture in a manner that violates human norms. Also, the elder brother of the Masalit Sultanate, Tariq Abdul Rahman Bahr al-Din, was killed.

Central Darfur State:

Observers reported that human rights violations are still continuing, especially on the road linking central and southern Darfur, in terms of looting and kidnapping, as well as threats and killings in most of the localities of the state, and inside the city.

The commander of the Rapid Support Forces in the state refused the engineers to address the problem of the communications network, the repairs were initially allowed by the army command, and the initial maintenance was done even though the commander of RSF refused it, and after the technical repair team went to supply the station with fuel, the team was shot by the armed militia affiliated with the Rapid Support Forces, which forced them to flee the site and return to meet the commander of the Rapid Support Forces, who said explicitly that he did not want the return of the network, so they had nothing but to surrender and return to their homes.

The Locality of Zalengi witnessed a wave of internal displacement between neighborhoods and external displacements to the other localities of the state. There is also a large gap in food, the lack of cash, and the lack and scarcity of foodstuffs.

Recommendations:

1. In view of the difficulty of access to the state of West Darfur and the scale of the humanitarian catastrophe that occurred in it, we recommend that the United Nations and its Security Council take decisive measures that lead to the exit of the Rapid Support Forces and the militias from the city of El Geneina.
2. Sending an international team to investigate the major violations that took place in the city of El Geneina and prepare a comprehensive report on them, paving the way for taking measures to guarantee the rights of the victims and hold the perpetrators accountable.
3. The international community must put pressure on the parties to the conflict to enter into a direct negotiation process that coincides with a comprehensive cease-fire. In case of non-response, impose harsh sanctions on both parties and take exceptional measures to stop the war and protect civilians.
4. The humanitarian situation is extremely difficult in the two states, and requires an urgent intervention call for humanitarian organizations to provide food and humanitarian aid.

