

The Sudan Consortium

African and International Civil Society Action for Sudan

Human Rights Update - May 2015:

Over 7,000 civilians displaced and 347 homes destroyed in 65 attacks¹

The Sudan Consortium works with a trusted group of local Sudanese partners who have been working on the ground in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile since the current conflict began in 2011. Unless otherwise cited, information in this report, including all photos, were gathered by these monitors. **All the attacks referred to in this report were launched against areas where there was no military presence and which were clearly identifiable as civilian in character.** We believe that this information provides strong evidence that civilians are being directly and deliberately targeted by the Sudanese armed forces in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

The government of Sudan's (GoS) military offensive against opposition forces of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) in Southern Kordofan intensified significantly during May 2015, as the government attempted to gain ground ahead the coming rainy season. This follows the same pattern seen in previous years, our monitors recorded 65 attacks in SPLM-N controlled areas in May. The number of attack represented a 14% increase over last month and a 25% increase over May 2014. Of particular concern in this month has been a significant increase in ground attacks, which often cause significant displacement. In total from January to May 2015, 200 verified incidents were registered, killing 39 civilians and injuring 148 persons.

During the month of May, there were 56 verified bombing and shelling incidents, seven verified ground attacks and two verified incidents of looting – all against civilians. The attacks led by the Sudanese

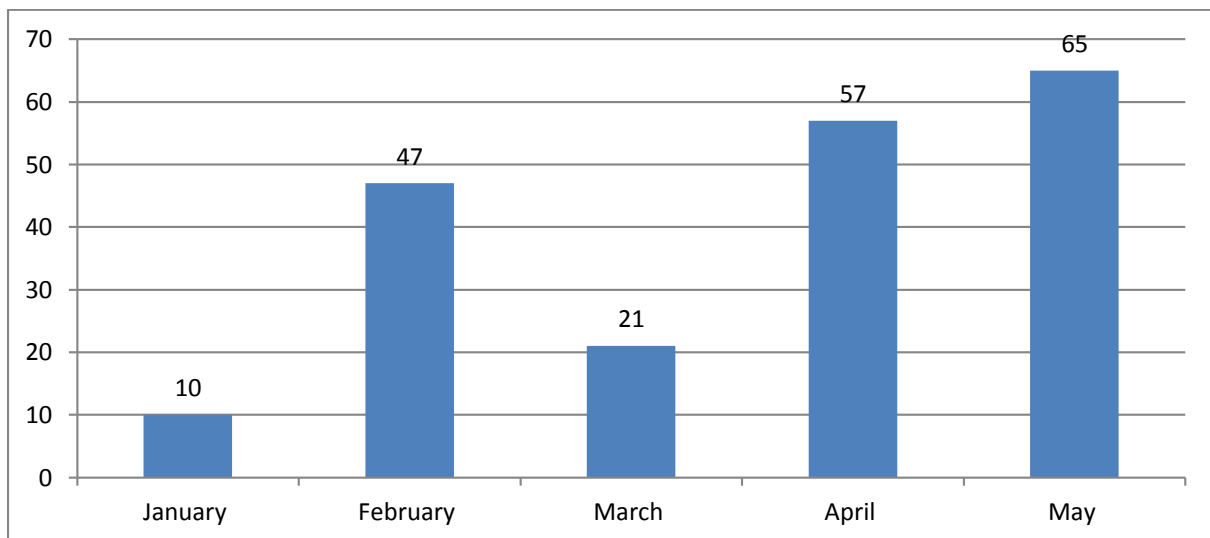


**Civilian injured by aerial bombardment
Heiban County - 30 May 2015**

¹ The attacks reported here cover only rebel (SPLM-N) held areas in Delami, Dilling, Heiban, Lagawa, Reif Al Sharqi, Um Dorein and Tobo (Al Buram) counties, Southern Kordofan.

Armed Forces (SAF) caused nine deaths,² including one child, and 19 civilians were injured.³ The attacks also caused significant destruction to civilian infrastructure and property, with about 347 civilian homes burned and at least 56 livestock killed. Of particular concern has been the increase in ground attacks. In the month of May, there were seven ground attacks recorded, claiming five lives and leaving eight injured, 45 homes and two entire villages burned and 7,000 displaced. These included particularly serious attacks on 1 May, Kululu village (Sofaiya Payam – and on 5 May in Damam village in Tobo (Al Buram) County and on 10 May in Hadara village in Delami County which displaced more than 7,000 civilians and led to the capture of eight civilians by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the militia formed from the notorious *janjaweed*.⁴ These civilians are now believed to be detained in government controlled areas. Ten civilians, including five children, are still missing.⁵

Number of attacks against civilian and civilian objects in Southern Kordofan in 2015



Number of incidents by county – May 2015



² Of the nine deaths, six were men, two were women and one was a child.

³ Of the 19 persons injured, 13 were men, three were women and three were children.

⁴ Seven civilians captured by RSF during ground attacks in Dilling County on 3 and 7 May 2015 and one civilian was captured by the RSF during a ground attack in Delami County on 17 May.

⁵ Of the 10 civilians missing, two are men, three are women and five are children.

In May 2015, Umdorein County was again the most targeted county by SAF with 37 verified incidents, followed by Delami County with seven verified incidents, Tobo (Al Buram) and Habila counties with seven verified incidents, Heiban County with four verified incidents and finally Dilling County with three verified incidents.



Cluster bomb in Kauda, Heiban County
10 May 2015



Cluster bomb in Kauda, Heiban County
May 2015

Most of these attacks were carried out by Antonovs, with a few using fighter jets. The use of cluster bombs was again reported on 27 May when four cluster bombs fell on Kauda, the administrative headquarters of SPLM-N controlled Southern Kordofan, in Heiban County, killing a two year old child. As noted in previous reports, there is growing international consensus that the use of cluster munitions is unacceptable, as evidenced by the adoption in 2008 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (to which Sudan is not a party).⁶



Hut destroyed - Umserndiba area
18 May 2015

Umdorein County, 37 verified incidents were reported: 21 shelling attacks, 15 bombing attacks and one ground attack; with an unconfirmed number of casualties. The village most targeted by the SAF in the area was again Umserdiba, which was attacked a total of 17 times in May. Despite this barrage, the village incurred relatively little damage: only one person was killed and one was injured, one hut was destroyed and six livestock were killed. According a civilian witness of the shelling incidents: “Shells continue in most of the times attacking our areas and on Monday they killed one goat.”

In Delami County, seven verified incidents were reported: six aerial bombings/shelling targeting civilian areas⁷ and one ground attack in Hadara village. In total, three people were killed, including a 39 year old father of seven and a 70 year old father of 13. Two people were injured. It is important to highlight the situation of the civilians living in Hadara Village, Umhaithan payam. One ground attack undertaken by the RSF occurred on 10 May. In total, 300 civilian homes were burnt, 50 grain stores were burned, 19 shops were looted and an estimated 6,718 people were displaced. The villagers need urgent help to survive for the next coming months

⁶ See further discussion of this issue in Sudan Consortium, “Human Rights Update: February – March 2015,” April 2015.

⁷ Deri, Sabat, Kuluvina, Mardis, Kubola villages.

but with the rainy season approaching, humanitarian access prohibited, the outlook for them is exceptionally bleak.



Hut destroyed by shells –Hadara Village
10 May 2015

In Tobo (Al Buram) County, there were a total of seven verified incidents reported: five aerial bombings and two ground attacks. The villages targeted were Tenessa, Asolo, Tobo, Damam, Kululu, and Demadongo. Four persons were killed and another two were injured. Kululu village (Sofaiya Payam) suffered a ground attack on 1 May and 692 people were displaced as a consequence. As well, in Damam Village (Sofaiya Payam) the entire village was destroyed after a ground attack on 5 May.

In Habila County, seven incidents were verified: three shelling incidents, two ground attacks and two lootings. Four civilians were injured during a ground attack in Dadu village on 3 May, 45 houses were burned and four civilians were detained by

the RSF during the offensive. Another three civilians were detained by RSF on 7 May.

In Heiban County, four verified incidents were recorded in Kauda. All the incidents reported were aerial bombings by SAF. A two year old child was killed, and four people were injured. The use of cluster bombs was also reported in this county on 27 May. According to the data collected, 2 MiGs bombed Kauda village with four cluster bombs. Thankfully, none of the bombs detonated correctly and so there were no casualties or property damage.



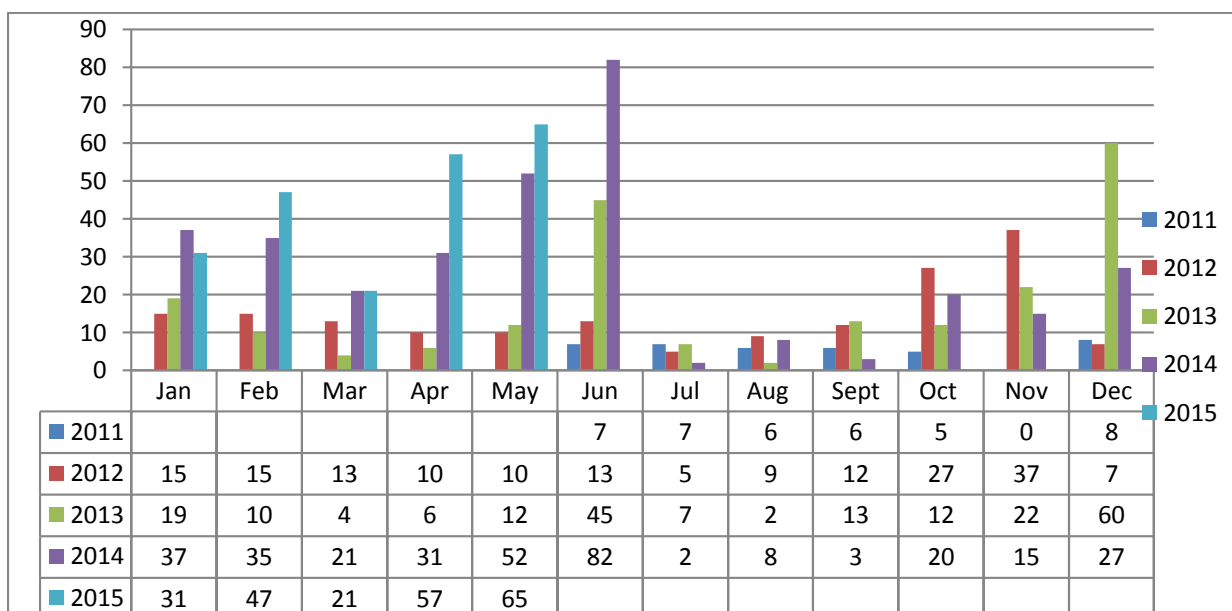
Civilian injured – Tobo (Al Buram) County
20 May 2015

In Dilling County, three verified incidents were registered in Karuk Payam: one aerial bombing, one shelling and one ground attack. Five people were injured including three children, 45 houses were burned on 4 May and a whole village completely burned on 11 May.

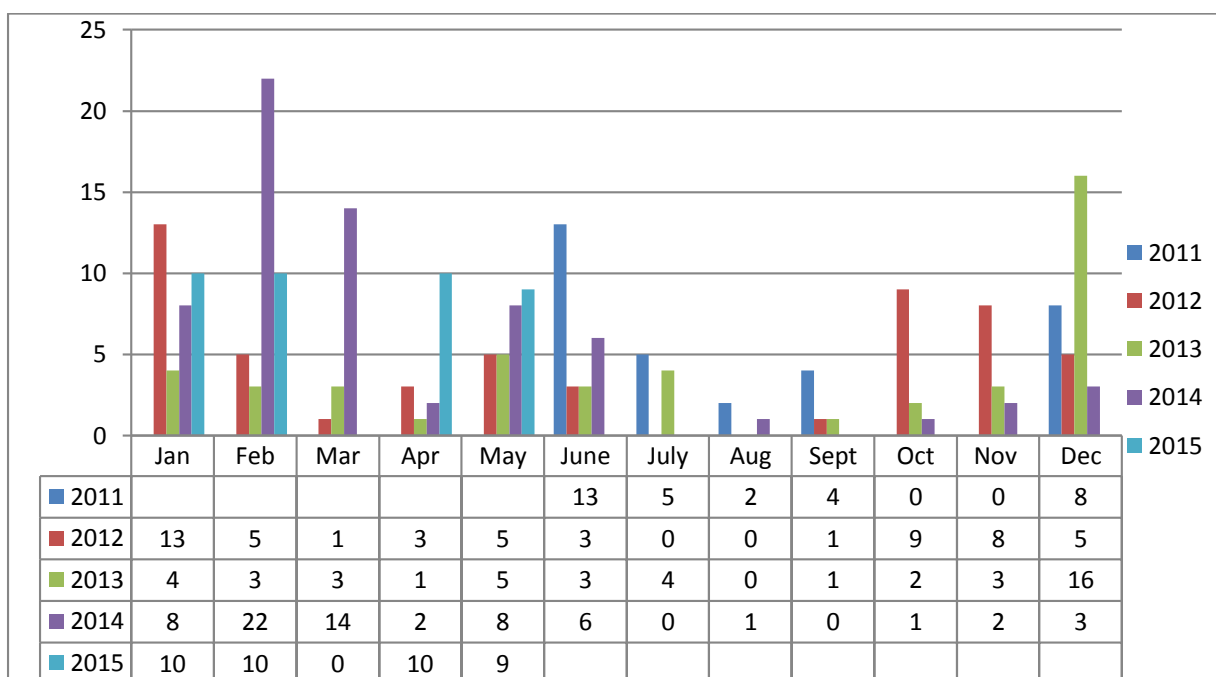
Conclusion

The number of incidents increased about 14% between April and May 2015. The civilians from Southern Kordofan were, once again, suffering from bombing, shelling and grounds attacks. As a consequence, more than 7,000 civilians were displaced and humanitarian access to them is being blocked. Their humanitarian situation is worrying. The international community must take measures to immediately ensure humanitarian support is provided to the IDPs in Southern Kordofan and to protect civilians from attacks.

**Number of bombing and shelling attacks on civilians and civilian objects in Southern Kordofan
June 2011 – March 2015**



**Civilians killed by bombing and shelling attacks in Southern Kordofan:
June 2011 – March 2015**



**Civilians injured by bombing and shelling attacks in Southern Kordofan:
June 2011 – March 2015**

