

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE - June 2015

South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, Sudan
Produced by the South Kordofan and Blue Nile Coordination Unit¹

Overview

The 6th of June marked the fourth anniversary of the beginning of the conflict in the Two Areas, that has led to hundreds of thousands of displaced persons and over a million war-affected people. The civilian population continues to be affected by targeted and indiscriminate aerial bombardment and heavy shelling, albeit slightly reduced during this reporting period. In June 2015, shelling and aerial bombardment in the Two Areas caused the death of four people and seven were injured, while at least 200 additional households were displaced.

As reported by the Food Security Monitoring Unit (FSMU), an independent monitoring body, the effect of the shelling will lead to reduced farming activities hence lower food production in the coming months.² The FSMU quarterly report confirms over 75% of households in South Kordofan experienced severe food insecurity between January and March 2015 and 82.7% experienced some form of insecurity. They note the significant deterioration since December 2014, and the inevitable decline as the hunger season approaches (June-September). Food insecurity is highest in Thobo and Heiban counties (85% of the population affected).

Meanwhile the early cultivation that started in May 2015 following very good early planting rains is now affected by an interim dry period in both areas. Villagers report seedlings have died, which will have a very negative effect on the harvest in the upcoming months, and next years' food security. CU monitors reported appalling living conditions for the Koma Ganza people in the southern flank of the Yabus river in Blue Nile, isolated from the rest of the payam and living on wild roots and leaves. At least 17 people have reportedly already died from malnutrition and around 70 people are suffering severe hunger levels and are in need of immediate food aid.

While the fighting between SPLA-N and government forces is decreasing with the beginning of the rainy season, more attacks against civilians by military forces are being reported in both areas. Cattle raiding by SAF and allied militia (RSF/PDF) against the population in the Western and Eastern Jebels and in Thobo (Boram) county in South Kordofan, is an alarming development. About 200 cows were stolen during the reporting period, and one man was killed and two were injured (one was a young boy), creating fear among the population and leaving an impact on the population's already precarious food security, as people will have to reduce farming and rearing of animals. Meanwhile, an SPLA-N attack on gold mines around Talodi and Angarto led to the death of an unconfirmed number of miners (up to 20). According to the SPLM-N, the victims were members of the local militia.

In the Blue Nile Ingessana Mountains, the forced relocation of civilians by government forces as a result of ground attacks between SAF and SPLA-N continue, with at least 24,500 people affected according to OCHA, or more people according to local sources. Numbers cannot be verified as the government has not allowed assessments and continues to prohibit humanitarian access to those areas. After their villages were burned down, people were moved to camps around the capital Damazin and in Rosaires locality. The government has not provided shelter despite the rains and the displaced have limited access to food, sanitation and potable water. An immediate assessment should be carried out in coordination with humanitarian

¹ The SKBN CU works with local civil society organisations and international humanitarian actors to share credible information on humanitarian needs in the two conflict-affected states. In this update, the main sources of information are civilians involved in local humanitarian monitoring and protection activities, local civil administration representatives, and the reporting of other civil society organizations.

² FSMU (2015) Food Insecurity in the Central Region of South Kordofan State: Quarterly Survey Results from March 2015. Published June 2015. The FSMU is an independent INGO monitoring food security levels in South Kordofan and Blue Nile SPLM-N held areas, through trained local monitors. The FSMU report is available upon request.

agencies (including UN and local NGOs and INGOs), in order to help the people in need, and understand why this is happening. There appears no humanitarian or protection justification for the forced relocation of civilians from their home villages to distant and unprepared camps. HAC estimates that there are 165,000 vulnerable people (including IDPs, returnees and war-affected people) in Blue Nile that are in need of food assistance.³

UNHCR reports the number of refugees leaving the violent conflict in South Sudan moving north into Sudan has reached more than 187,000 placing an additional burden on already stretched local resources.⁴ Of these nearly 30,000 are in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Humanitarian agencies in Sudan have little or no access to the arriving refugees, and so have been unable to provide assistance to these new arrivals. Meanwhile insecurity in Maban refugee camps (Upper Nile state, South Sudan) and lack of adequate food resulted in 400 households choosing to move to Ethiopia during the reporting period, while tension in the camps remains high.

South Kordofan

A. Protection, Insecurity and Displacement

A number of critical incidents from aerial bombardment, long range shelling and looting have been reported by monitors in Western Kadugli, Thobo (former Buram county), Umdorain and Dalami counties in June 2015.

Aerial bombardment was significantly reduced in June 2015 in South Kordofan, with 33 bombs recorded, and one man of 43 years killed (he was injured in the incident and died a few hours later in the hospital).⁵ Two people were injured (one man and one child) as a result of an Antonov attack on Mandi village (Heiban county) that damaged or destroyed 11 houses, a local clinic, one shop and 60 sacks of sorghum on 28 June 2015.

Shelling from SAF locations into civilian locations continues to be intense with 237 shells launched on Dalami, Habila, Dilling, Thobo and Um Dorein counties, killing four people (one woman and three children) and injuring one man, and displacing at least 200 Households. The four people killed were all from Tess village (Thobo county) where shelling at 9 pm on 5 June landed on peoples' homes. At least ninety-five (95) shells were fired into Dalami county on 1 and 2 June, into the villages close to the frontline, but with no reported destruction. Eleven (11) shells were fired into Silara payam (Dilling county) on 11 June, destroying three cultivated farms and displacing 150 households to the caves nearby. According to CU monitors on the ground, the attack caused fear among the population and significant loss of assets and food. As a result of the shelling of Umserdiba on 20 June, one church was destroyed. On 17 and 20 June, Shongole village in Dilling was shelled leading to the temporary displacement of 50 households to the caves. The FSMU analysis indicates that for a majority of households in SPLM controlled areas of SK, the biggest constraint to food production is the continuous threat and impact of shelling and bombing, which results in reduced farming activities and hence, lower food production in the coming months.⁶

Cattle raiding by government affiliated militias has intensified in the last month. On 1 June, in Kufa village (Miri payam) in Western Kadugli, 30 cattle were allegedly looted by a group of 10 armed raiders coming from Um-Adara. Two youth, age 13 and 21 years were shot and injured. On 13 June, 50 cattle were looted by militias in the same village and a 13 years old boy was reportedly kidnapped. On 18 June, in Umheitan payam (Dalami county), one man was killed as armed raiders tried to loot his cattle. According to witnesses, on 20 June, during a ground attack by SAF on Kacha village (Thobo county), 125 cows were stolen. During a

³ OCHA, *Humanitarian Sudan Issue 24 | 8 – 14 June 2015*

⁴ OCHA Sudan [Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin 29 June to 5 July, 2015](#)

⁵ The numbers are based on information gathered through the CU Monitors and the National Human Rights Monitoring Organisation (NHRMO), and triangulated. Their reports are available at <http://www.sudanconsortium.org>

⁶ FSMU (2015) *Food Insecurity in the Central Region of South Kordofan State: Quarterly Survey Results from March 2015*. Published June 2015.

previous attack in Thobo, on 6 June, 25 cows were taken by SAF soldiers.⁷ The increased cattle raiding by SAF and allied militia (RSF/PDF) is a worrying development in the area. As the FSMU report clarifies, Thobo A has already experienced significant reductions in livestock when compared to Thobo B.⁸ The increasing stress on household food security is aggravated since livestock sales remain the most important source of income in the absence of farming activities.

Livestock raiding by soldiers and militias remains more prevalent in the Western Jebels and in the far north eastern areas of Rashad and Abbasiya. On 21 June in a raid on Atou village in Habila county, 21 cows were stolen. The cattle were recovered thanks to the prompt intervention of the local population, but at the expense of one death and one injury. On the same day, Arab nomads and PDF reportedly raided the village of Kajmar stealing 47 cows. These cattle were not recovered, and the boy looking after the cows was badly beaten and tied to a tree. The boy told the rescuers and CU monitors, that militias threatened to kill him if he tried to call for help. The targeting of farms and livelihoods by SAF and allied militias, mainly PDF and Arab nomads in the Western Jebels, is sustaining fear among the population and will have an impact on the population's already precarious food security status, as a typical response is to feel forced to reduce farming and rearing of animals. The terrorisation of civilians remains a singularly important tactic in the war, with more than 82% of households surveyed by CU monitors as having experienced insecurity including fly over terror, bombardment, shelling and theft in that order.⁹

Finally, on 25 June the SPLA-N attacked an area of artesian gold mining between Talodi and Angarto, controlled by the government. According to the State Governor, at least 20 miners were killed in the attack alongside SAF soldiers.¹⁰ Witnesses reported that SPLA-N soldiers were involved in looting after the attack, a trend that has been increasingly witnessed by local people. According to local sources, however, the miners were members of local militias from Talodi area. Sources close to the SPLM-N believe that the attack came in retaliation to the killing of 11 SPLA-N soldiers, including a prominent Commander, by RSF and PDF between Gimazia and Umma Bartabo in the Eastern Jebels, on 15 June. The bodies of the SPLA-N soldiers were mutilated and pictures distributed (CU did not have access to the photos). The CU is trying to collect more accurate information on the attack, that has meanwhile received international condemnation.¹¹

B. Food Security

As communities enter their 5th year of war, objective, reliable and detailed food security monitoring by the FSMU reveals that for those households who have remained in South Kordofan over these four years, coping mechanisms are increasingly depleted and the quality of food consumption has been significantly compromised. Any further shock that breaks the tenuous line with sources of food and income can result in malnutrition - such as the recent displacement in Komo Ganza (Blue Nile) has demonstrated. The FSMU March Quarterly Report produced in June 2015 indicates that nearly 80% of households are experiencing severe food insecurity measured through the household hunger scale and negative coping strategies. The household hunger scale is based on series of questions such as going whole days without food, skipping of meals, reduction in quantity and quality of food, particularly among children. The situation is of serious concern, given food insecurity rates were already 65% in December 2014, just after the harvest when food security should be its best. It should be noted that that in South Kordofan before the outbreak of conflict in June 2011, only 3% of households had poor food consumption, according to World Food Programme.¹²

The FSMU reports that it is likely that current levels of food insecurity in the central region of South Kordofan are, in part, a result of drastic declines in agricultural production in the region since the pre-war

⁷ Due to access constraints, the CU Humanitarian monitoring team / FSMU has divided Thobo County into two parts, A & B.

⁸ Less than 50% of households in Thobo A still own any livestock. While in Thobo B, more than 77% of households own livestock (regional average is 64%) from FSMU (June 2015)

⁹ FSMU (2015) Ibid

¹⁰ Radio Tamazuj, [S Kordofan governor accuses SPLA-N of killing 20 in attack on gold mine](#), 27 June

¹¹ Sudan Tribune, [US condemns SPLM-N attack on civilians in South Kordofan](#), 5 July

¹² WFP (2009) Rural South Kordofan Food Security Assessment, March 2009

period. In 2014/15, the production of staple cereal crops was 40 percent of quantities reported for the pre-war period. Livestock sales appear to be the remaining source of income for conflict-affected households, with nearly 70% of household relying on sales for income. The increasing livestock raiding by militias and SAF targets this critical coping resource of civilians. While all areas have seen raiding, Thobo B has seen a significantly higher number of cattle raiding incidents. These may be a result of the relatively high levels of cattle ownership in this area which also reports the highest rate of food insecurity (nearly 90% of the population affected) among the central region of SK.

Food insecurity levels are also high in the county of Heiban (84.6 percent), while relatively lower in Dalami (57.5 percent). Dalami, considered the cereal basket of South Kordofan prior to the war, showed relatively higher food production in 2014/15, in spite of its high number of IDPs. Displaced households make up over 40% of the population, according to the most recent FSMU report, with much of the displacement being due to its proximity to the front line of SAF – SPLA-N conflict, and regular shelling and aerial bombardment into civilian villages.

The increasing desperation of the civilians in South Kordofan is also seen in the large number of displaced and refugees. Those who have chosen to stay in their home areas are resorting to more desperate means. FSMU reports in March 2015 that nearly 40% of the population begging¹³ to acquire food (See Table 1). Compared to WFP pre-war assessment in March 2009, only 1.3% of the population resorted to this insufficient and unsustainable strategy (Table 1). The FSMU report has additional pre and post war comparisons based on retrospective questioning of respondent households.

Table 1. Comparative analysis of coping mechanisms pre and post-war

Coping Mechanism	March 2009 (WFP)	March 2015 (FSMU)
'Begging' ¹³	1.3%	39.2%
Sending family/children away to eat elsewhere	9.7%	34.7%
Reduced non-food expenditure	14.8%	43.7- 45.4%
Spending savings to buy food	7.1%	34.0%
Selling productive assets (last milk producing cow, tools/ plows)	13.9 and 1.7%, respectively	28.7 and 27.8% respectively

Source: Pre-war WFP South Kordofan Food Security Assessment (March 2009) vs War-time FSMU March 2015 (published June 2015)

The result is that quality of food consumption is alarming - nearly 30% of households eat cereals less than 5 times a week. This statistic should be monitored as a clear indicator of decline in food security.

C. Health

Serious watery diarrhoea cases have been reported in Thobo county and malaria incidence is alarmingly high in Heiban county. An increasing number of TB cases have also been reported, with 15 cases treated at the hospital. Skin infections and cough remain common diseases in the region, as well as a slow increase in the incidence of STDs, including HIV/AIDS. The 2014 epidemiological reports from the SPLM-N Secretariat of Health show the following diseases in order of prevalence: malaria, pneumonia, watery diarrhoea, urinary tract infections, STDs, intestinal parasites, skin diseases, eye infections, trauma (3362 cases of burn and other wounds), malnutrition and anaemia. The reporting on the health situation is challenging with the low skills levels of volunteer health workers possibly leading to substantial misdiagnosis. EPI remains a

¹³ This category also includes asking friends, neighbors for food or other items

critical area that requires intervention, with the majority of children unvaccinated against measles, polio and other preventable child diseases.

D. Animal Health

In the Western Jebel, CU monitors continue to report a weakened health situation for animals, that are dying for unknown diseases.

E. Water and Sanitation

CU monitors reported that four villages in Western Kadugli areas controlled by the SPLM-N, namely Suguli, Koia, Lofa and Api, close to the frontline, have no access to safe drinking water.

F. Education

FSMU reported that 43% of households in March 2015 reported to have withdrawn children from school due to decreased income.

12 coaching centers (including two in the Western Jebels) have been organized by the SPLM-N Secretariat of Education in partnership with local humanitarian organisations in South Kordofan. 1,656 candidates (650 females) will be intensively prepared for the primary school exams soon. 131 candidates arrived on foot from Yida refugees camp in South Sudan. Lack of school feeding, NFIs and shelter remains an issue. Out of 239 primary schools, only 10 receive appropriate support and 100 receiving limited chalk and teacher guides.

Schools in South Kordofan continue to lack of scholastic materials, qualified teachers and school feeding. Teachers are not paid and depend on the community contribution, and that reduces the availability of prepared teachers to work on in the area. Existing build up schools are not attended, as the majority are situated in open areas at higher risk of aerial bombardment.

Blue Nile

A. Protection, Insecurity and Displacement

The security situation in the SPLM-N controlled areas in Blue Nile was relatively calm in the reporting period. Four bombs were dropped on 16 June on Mayak (Wadaka payam) and Abengaro (Yabus payam) in Kurmuk county, without physical damage to civilians. Five huts were burnt, displacing at least 30 people and causing losses of food stocks and assets. On the same day, two bombs were dropped on Khor Tombak, in Maban county (South Sudan), injuring four people that were admitted into Bunj hospital.

This is in contrast to high levels of insecurity for civilians in the northern part of the state where fighting is concentrated, as reported by local and international organisations (the CU monitors have no access to government areas). SPLA-N attacks in Geissan locality and fighting with government forces on 1 June, led to the displacement of about 1,000 civilians of the Hausa tribe from 'village 9' to Damazin and Genis, as reported by SUDO.¹⁴ SPLA-N were seen looting the local market, which was repeated one week later when they returned to the village. During the second week of June, as a result of SPLA-N attacks against government forces in the area of Wad Abuk (Bau county) an estimated 8,600 people fled according to the SPLM-N, while another source (SUDO) reported that the number of displaced was about 19,000. The NGO also reported that the fighting led to 2,000 civilians fleeing their homes from nearby Silak on 15 June, for fear of facing a similar attack (not verified by the CU).¹⁵ The government, apparently in response to SPLA-N

¹⁴ SUDO (UK) Situation Updates – June 2015. The Sudanese NGO - focusing on human rights abuses and protection of civilians - also verified through its monitors that during the month of June throughout Darfur, Blue Nile, and South Kordofan, 47 specific cases of human rights abuses were committed; 18 of which were committed by Government forces, 20 by pro-Government forces, 6 by armed opposition groups, and 3 were committed by unknown bandit groups.

¹⁵ SUDO (UK) Situation Updates – June 2015

initiatives, carried out a series of arrests and detentions on suspected SPLM-N collaborators, as well as widespread attacks on villages in the localities of Bau and Kurmuk, which forcibly displaced an estimated 4,000 civilians. The SPLM-N accused the government of using civilians as 'human shields' and forcibly recruiting pastoral tribes members into SAF and associated militias.¹⁶ The SPLM-N called for an international investigation on human rights violations against civilians.¹⁷

Meanwhile, forced relocation of civilians from the Ingessana Mountains (Bau county) by government agencies to the outskirts of the state capital, Damazin, are ongoing and in large numbers, as already reported by the CU. As of 4 June, the government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) registered 2,825 families (about 16,800 people) who had been moved from Bau locality to Damazin and Roseires localities.¹⁸ Towards the end of the month at least 24,500 were already forcibly displaced by government forces, after a second wave on 24 June of around 1,361 families (some 8,200 people), according to OCHA.¹⁹ The CU reported the arrival of between 150-250 Households to Alashid Afandi IDPs camp in the south-western part of Damazin (former UNMIS compound) from Musfa and Dereng villages on that day. SUDO reported that the villages of Bant, Khor al-Dom and Khor Adar were also emptied and 4,000 persons were relocated.²⁰ An unknown number of people were also displaced on 28 June from Sheteiyo, Kelto, Kernkern, Dokan Ragrek, Daglok, and Abego, in Kurmuk locality to al-Radeef area, north of Damazin. According to SUDO, the majority of those displaced are elderly, children and women from either the Funj or Ragek ethnic groups.

The actual number of affected persons remains difficult to verify as the government does not allow access by humanitarian agencies in the area. The African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) verified that since April three villages were burned in Blue Nile, displacing almost 10,000, who were in turn left for two days without access to food and subsequently settled along the main road to Damazin.²¹ HAC estimates that there are 165,000 vulnerable people (including displaced people, returnees and people affected by conflict) in Blue Nile State that are in need of food assistance.²² An MP summoned the Sudan Minister of Welfare and Social Security over displacement in Bau Locality, claiming that already 35,000 families, or approximately 210,000 people, were forcibly moved.²³ Humanitarian agencies have indicated a very large proportion of the affected people are women and children and are in urgent need of food, emergency household supplies and health services, according to health actors in Damazin town. They have yet to receive any humanitarian assistance.²⁴

Tension in the Maban refugee camps continues to be high, in part due to the insecurity in South Sudan that has led to reduced food distribution and humanitarian assistance. On 24 June, INGOs attempting to carry out a targeted NFI distribution in Doro camp were harassed by refugees who contested the targeting rationale, and items were subsequently looted. Unconfirmed reports said that a similar incident had occurred in Gendrassa camp a few days earlier.

CU monitors reported the movement of refugees from Maban to the Ethiopian camp of Kubri Kamsa due to insecurity and lack of food, with a reported 400 Households moving in June 2015. Moreover, according to OCHA Sudan, between January 2013 and May 2015 an estimated 37,900 Sudanese refugees have returned from South Sudan and Ethiopia to Al Tadamon, Kurmuk, El Roseires and Geissan localities and are in need of humanitarian assistance.²⁵ The CU could not confirm those numbers since its monitors are not present in government controlled areas. UN humanitarian agencies have asked for permission to visit relevant locations to carry out assessments and determine humanitarian needs, to date, without success.

¹⁶ Radio Dabanga, [Sudanese forces used people in Wad Abuk as human shields': SPLM-N](#), 28 June

¹⁷ Sudan Tribune, [SPLM-N calls for international probe on war crimes in Blue Nile](#),

¹⁸ OCHA, [Humanitarian Sudan Issue 24 | 8 – 14 June 2015](#)

¹⁹ OCHA, [Humanitarian Sudan Issue 26 | 22 – 28 June 2015](#)

²⁰ SUDO (UK) Situation Updates – June 2015

²¹ Radio Tamazuj, [Sudanese govt accused of torching villages in Blue Nile](#), 22 June

²² OCHA, [Humanitarian Sudan Issue 24 | 8 – 14 June 2015](#)

²³ OCHA Sudan, [Humanitarian Media Monitoring](#), 29 June

²⁴ OCHA, [Humanitarian Sudan Issue 26 | 22 – 28 June 2015](#)

²⁵ [Humanitarian Bulletin, Sudan, Issue 27 | 29 June – 5 July 2015](#)

B. Food security

The planting rains, which came early and were widespread, have since been significantly interrupted, affected crops planted in Yabus area and Chali Alfil last month, mainly sorghum and simsim. Some seedlings have dried up and/or have been eaten by insects. Maize planted in the areas along the Yabus and Juboraka rivers are better off as crops could be irrigated manually. The anticipated crop production is nonetheless insufficient to provide food for the whole population.

The situation of the Koma Ganza population from the southern edge of Blue Nile state, on the right side of the Yabus river, is particularly alarming, as reported by local Sheiks to local humanitarian workers and CU monitors. Seventeen (17) cases of death due to malnutrition were reported in the last week of June, from Eshkap village (4 elders over 65 years, 3 of which were women, and 3 children under 5 years) and Dogobeli village (5 elders and 5 children between 2-6 years). According to local people, deaths were caused by hunger, but also diarrhoea caused by eating wild roots and leafs of trees, which remains the only food in the area. A local NGO, FYDA, registered 70 more cases of people suffering severe hunger and in need of immediate help. Distribution of food to those remote areas is paramount.

In the three markets available in the SPLM-N held areas, prices of essential commodities (sorghum, oil, onion, sugar, coffee, salt) have reportedly rapidly increased since May 2015, mainly due to unfavourable currency exchange rates caused by lack of Ethiopian Birr. Since May, the exchange rate has moved to about 35% higher between the South Sudan pound and the Birr, which is the main currency for the markets.

More than 2,000 people were noted as being at least temporarily in Yabus payam, as refugees living in Ethiopia and South Sudan are temporarily moving in searching for livelihood opportunities in the gold mines, and supporting cultivation activities. Koma Ganza people were also seen in the area of Yabus looking for casual work in farms, cutting bamboos, timber and dry grass.

C. Health

Shortage of drugs in Wadaka and Chali Alfil payams and Koma Ganza area, is affecting the possibility to treat illness among the population. Subsequently, the population is mostly relying on herbs for treatment.

D. Animal Health - No update reported.

E. Water and Sanitation

Boreholes in the three payams monitored still require maintenance, because most of their water is reportedly contaminated due to deteriorated pipes. Filtering systems to clear the water from the river in the rainy season would help many of the communities in Kurmuk county as they are situated in relatively close proximity to the rivers. This includes the communities of Yabus Balla, Belatoma, Gondolo, Benatoma (Yabus Payam), Mayak, Olmedon, Jebel Hala, Aljamamat, Tunja, Goz Bagar, Marmaton, Tunfona and Khor Alsama (Wadaka Payam).

F. Education

Schools in the SPLM-N areas are closed since last month, to enable the children to help the families in the farming season, and will reopen in November 2015.

Humanitarian Negotiations on the Two Areas

Humanitarian talks on the Two Areas have not resumed since last December 2014, and the AUHIP mediation has not yet called the Parties for a new round. After the April 2015 elections, the NCP

negotiating team will most likely be changed, since the former Chief Negotiator was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. The government has since announced its readiness to resume the negotiations.²⁶

The discussion on the national Dialogue seems to have lost its momentum after the elections. Meanwhile, Amnesty International reported that 171 people are detained by government National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS), while a NISS crackdown on activities of political opposition groups and civil society has intensified.²⁷

Finally, the SPLM-N signed the Geneva Call's Deed of Commitment for the Protection of Children (DCPC) - a tool that allows rebel groups to endorse international treaties set up by the Geneva Call organisation - and became the first African armed non-State actor (ANSA) to commit to child protection.²⁸ According to the report, 'recruitment and use of children in the armed conflicts in Sudan have been widely reported and all armed actors active in Sudan, including the SPLM-N have been accused in the UN Secretary General report to the Security Council of using and recruiting children'.

²⁶ Radio Tamazuj, [Khartoum to change negotiating team at talks with SPLM-North](#), 24 June

²⁷ Sudan Tribune, [Amnesty International calls on Khartoum to release 171 detainees](#), 5 June

²⁸ Geneva Call, [First African signatory to the Deed of Commitment protecting children in armed conflict](#), 30 June