

The Sudan Consortium

African and International Civil Society Action for Sudan

Human Rights Update - June 2015

Eight cluster bombs fall on Umdorein County

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.

After four years of conflict in Southern Kordofan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN), civilians continue to be heavily affected by aerial bombardment and ground fighting carried out by the Sudanese government. Since the beginning of the war, civilians have been displaced on a massive scale, injured, killed, detained or abducted in SK and BN. Moreover, the government of Sudan continues to deny independent humanitarian access increasing the suffering and the vulnerability of civilians leaving in the Two Areas.

In June 2015, with the beginning of the rainy season, the number of attacks carried out by the Sudanese government in SK decreased significantly, with fewer than half as many incidents reported in June 2015 as compared to May 2015, and nearly a quarter of the number reported in June 2014. However, even despite the significant decrease in bombings, sadly June 2015 saw the same number of casualties as June 2014.

In total, 22 verified incidents were reported by monitors in the counties of Southern Kordofan that they cover (Heiban, Umdorein, Al Buram (Tobo), Habila, Aldilling

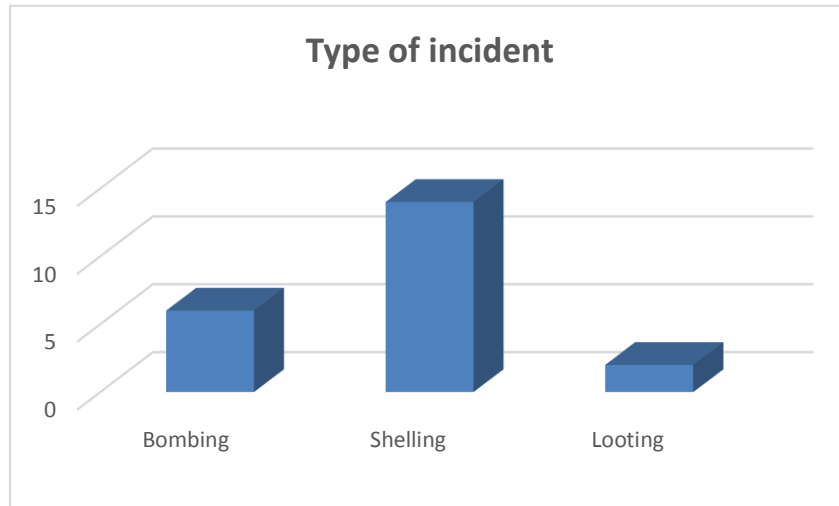


*Cluster bomb dropped in Umdorein
June 2015*

and Delami). The attacks caused six deaths,¹ including three children, and injured two civilians.² In Blue Nile, one verified incident was reported.

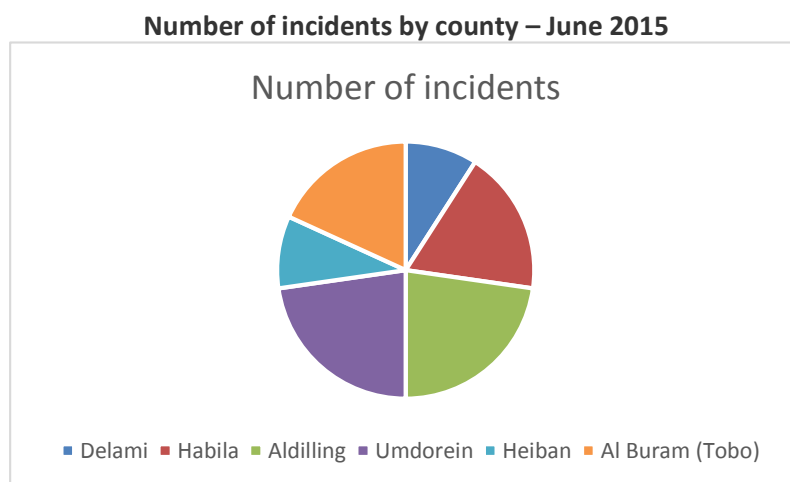
Situation in Southern Kordofan

There were 14 shelling incidents, six incidents of aerial bombardment (dropping at least 27 bombs), and two incidents of looting. The attacks also caused destruction to civilian infrastructure and property: one hut, one church, one shop, one clinic and 19 rooms in civilian homes were destroyed; 236 cows and 31 goats were looted; and four goats, two cows and two chickens were killed.



The use of cluster bombs was again reported on 21 and 26 June when eight cluster bombs fell on Umserdiba village in Umdorein County. 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).

The monitors recorded five verified incidents in Umdorein and Dilling counties, four in Al Buram (Tobo) and Habila and two in Delami and Heiban.



In **Umdorein County**, all five verified incidents were reported in Tangal Payam: two shelling attacks³ and three bombing attacks, dropping at least ten bombs. The villages targeted by the attacks were Alnugra and Umserdiba. Moreover, the shelling and the bombing damaged one church and killed two cows. On 21 and 26 June 2015, eight cluster bombs were dropped on Umserdiba village.

In Dilling County, five shelling attacks were reported: two in Farashya and Salara villages and one in Atadala injuring one man and killing four goats. In addition, 68 cows and 31 goats were looted during the reporting period.

¹ Of the six deaths, three were women and three children.

² Of the three persons injured, two were men and one child.

³ The two shelling attacks occurred in Alnugra and all three aerial bombardments occurred in Umserdiba.

In Al Buram (Tobo) County four incidents were reported: two incidents of looting, one shelling and one bombing. The villages targeted were Tobo, Ates and Kacha. In the village of Ates, a bomb killed a woman and three of her children, aged 2, 10 and 12. Her 14 year old son was also injured. Regarding civilian assets, approximately 150 cows were looted, four goats were killed and one church damaged.



*14 year old boy injured in the bombing on Ates
June 2015*

In Habila County, four shelling incidents were reported in Kabila Payam. The villages targeted were Beradi, Kabela and Shugul. One hut was burned and 18 cows were looted. Thankfully, no human casualties were reported in Habila County during the reporting period.

In Delami County, two shelling incidents were reported in Sabat Payam (villages of Kulurina and Lumberi). No casualties were reported.

In Heiban County, two aerial bombing incidents were recorded in Mandi village, gravely injuring one man. The latest information received indicated that the man's condition was critical and it was unclear whether or not he would survive. Moreover, one shop, one clinic, 19 rooms in civilian homes with all belongings inside and 60 sacks of sorghum were destroyed during the bombardment. This damage to civilian assets is particularly concerning in the context of an anticipated poor harvest in the county as a result of the previously noted interruption of agricultural activity by bombing combined with the late arrival of the annual rains.

Situation in Blue Nile

One verified incident was reported in Wadaka Payam during the reporting period. On Tuesday 6 June 2015 at midnight, Gardul was bombed. One house was burned, and two goats and one donkey were killed.

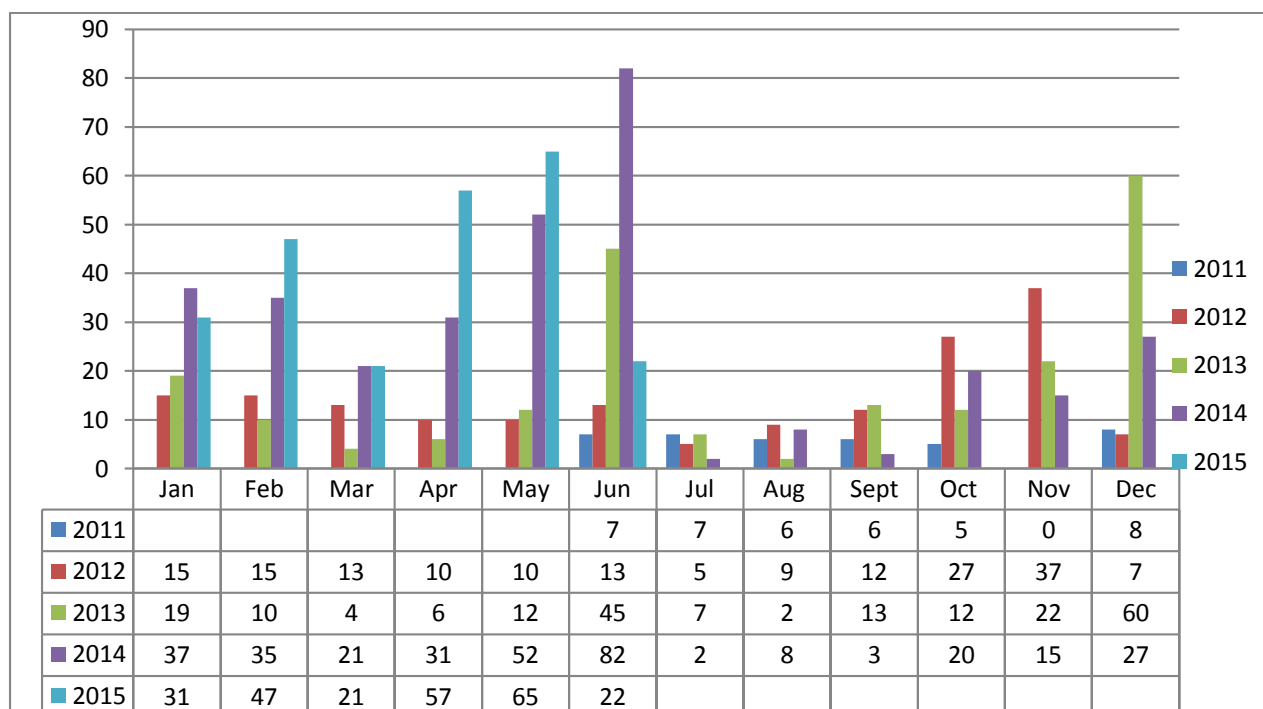
Situation in the refugee camps in Maban (South Sudan)

From May 2012 to June 2014, 14 refugees were murdered in the refugee camps in Maban: six people in Yousif Batil, seven persons in Gindirasa and one in Kaya. Most of these refugees are understood to have perished in conflicts with the local population over land, resources and other things. It is worth noting that members of the local population also died in these attacks, although the monitors were not able to verify the numbers.

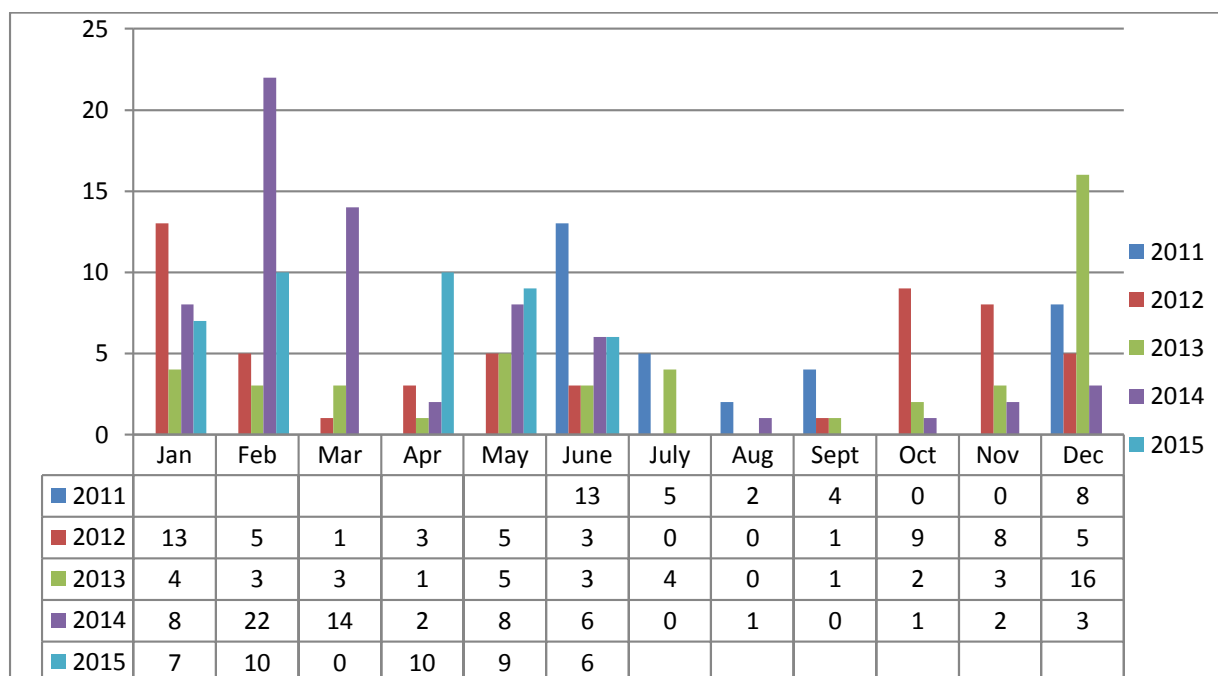
Conclusion

With the beginning of the rainy season, the number of incidents recorded and verified has considerably decreased. Nevertheless, civilians in the Two Areas are still being targeted by the Sudanese government and are living in a critical situation due to the limited humanitarian access. Aerial bombardments and other attacks on civilian assets must be stopped and independent humanitarian access must be allowed. In addition, the government of South Sudan, the UNHCR and international partners must additional measure to ensure the security of refugees from the Two Areas in South Sudan.

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



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



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

