

The Sudan Consortium

African and International Civil Society Action for Sudan

Human Rights Update¹: December 2014 – January 2015

Civilian injuries reach a record high

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 late 2011. **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.

During the months of December 2014 and January 2015, Southern Kordofan (SK) saw a significant increase in the number of bombings and shellings, indicating that the dry season offensive continues to escalate. The number of bombings in December was almost double the number recorded in November, and in January the number increased further. Although the number of attacks was less than the number in the same months a year ago, the number of casualties was higher. The number of deaths more than tripled between November 2014 and January 2015, and in January 2015 alone the number of injuries reached the highest level since the monitoring began.

Not only have the attacks been severe in the number of casualties that they have produced, they have also caused significant property damage, with 49 animals reported killed and dozens of houses destroyed.

December

In Heiban County, there were three bombings in December. All three occurred on 18 December 2014. One bombing, in the village of Chawry, not only burned seven huts, leaving those individuals homeless, but also because the bombs fell close to the local market. The impact of bombs falling near the market needs to be taken in the context of the taken in the context of the



Huts destroyed in Chawry Village,
Heiban County, Southern Kordofan

¹ The current update covers only Southern Kordofan, as logistical problems prevented the Blue Nile team from transmitting their reporting.

pattern of bombing markets (documented most recently in the Sudan Consortium's Human Rights Updates for [October](#) and [November](#)); this near miss further terrorises civilians and impedes economic activity. Another bombing, in the village of Mandi, also destroyed a number of crops.

During December 2014, bombing was particularly heavy in Um Dorein County, where 13 bombing incidents were recorded. One particularly horrific attack in the Elbaro area of Um Dorein County occurred on 16 December 2014 at about 2pm. In this single attack, a child was cut in half by the shrapnel of a parachute bomb while walking home from school, and three children were injured. In addition, 11 livestock animals were killed. In another incident on the same day in the Southern Karkrai area of Um Dorein County, a man was killed and an elderly woman buried alive when a bomb fell just 1½ metres away from the fox hole where they were hiding. A bomb also fell very close to the local school, and 450 pupils had their first exam of the year delayed. The same bombing incident also killed 14 livestock animals.



Bombing victim in Tobo Town, Tobo County.

In Tobo County, bombing was also heavy, with 10 bombing incidents recorded in December 2014. A number of these incidents led to injuries. For example, the bombing of Tobo Town left three men aged 35, 44, and 85 injured. In addition, a bombing incident in Lado Village in Tobo County on 9 December 2014, resulted in one woman being injured and 17 people displaced following the destruction of their huts by the bombing.

January

In January 2015, there was a total of 30 confirmed attacks. Of these, 16 occurred in Heiban County. Seven of the remaining attacks occurred in Um Dorein County.

On 10 January 2015, at around 10am, a bombing attack on the village of Mandi in Heiban County led to the death of a 28 year old woman, and destroyed 15 houses and significant food supplies.

On 14 January 2015, an attack on Umshegein Village in Heiban County left five people, aged between 17 and 63, injured. An attack on another village in Heiban County on the same day left two dead: a 76 year old grandmother and a 10 year old child. On 19 January 2015, a bombing in the village of Nyakima, also in Heiban County, at approximately 5pm, left a 50 year old farmer and a five year old child dead. A further seven people, including four children, were injured in the same incident.



Houses burnt in Farandalla village in Tobo County

A bombing attack early morning on the 19 January 2015, on Farandalla Village in Tobo County, resulted in significant property damage. Not only were three huts destroyed, leaving four families and a total of 30 people homeless, but 19 livestock animals were killed, including 15 hens, 2 donkeys and 2 goats.

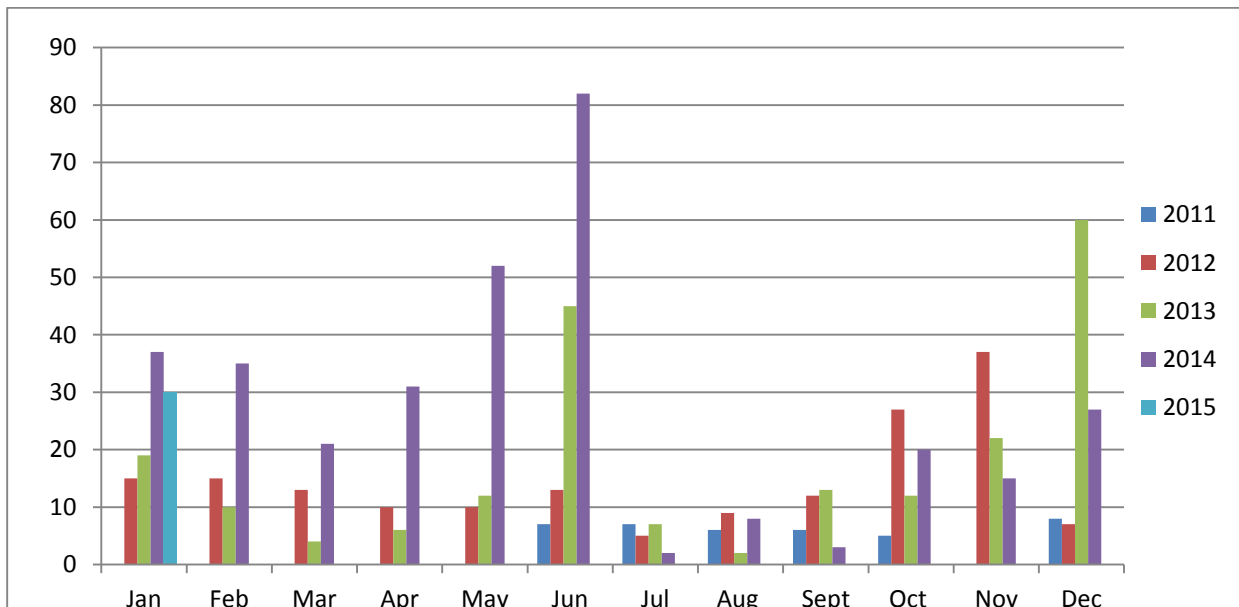
On 23 January 2015, there was an incident of looting in Um Dorein County. In the words of one witness “[w]e were three herders grazing in the village side when the militia group of three persons ambushed us. Myself and another herder ran. They chased us but we managed to escape. However, the third herder remained and they have taken him with all the livestock (40 goats and 3 sheep).”

The month of January 2015 also saw new ground attacks taking place in Tobo County. Our monitors were not able to monitor these attacks in detail because of the insecurity along the front lines.

Conclusion

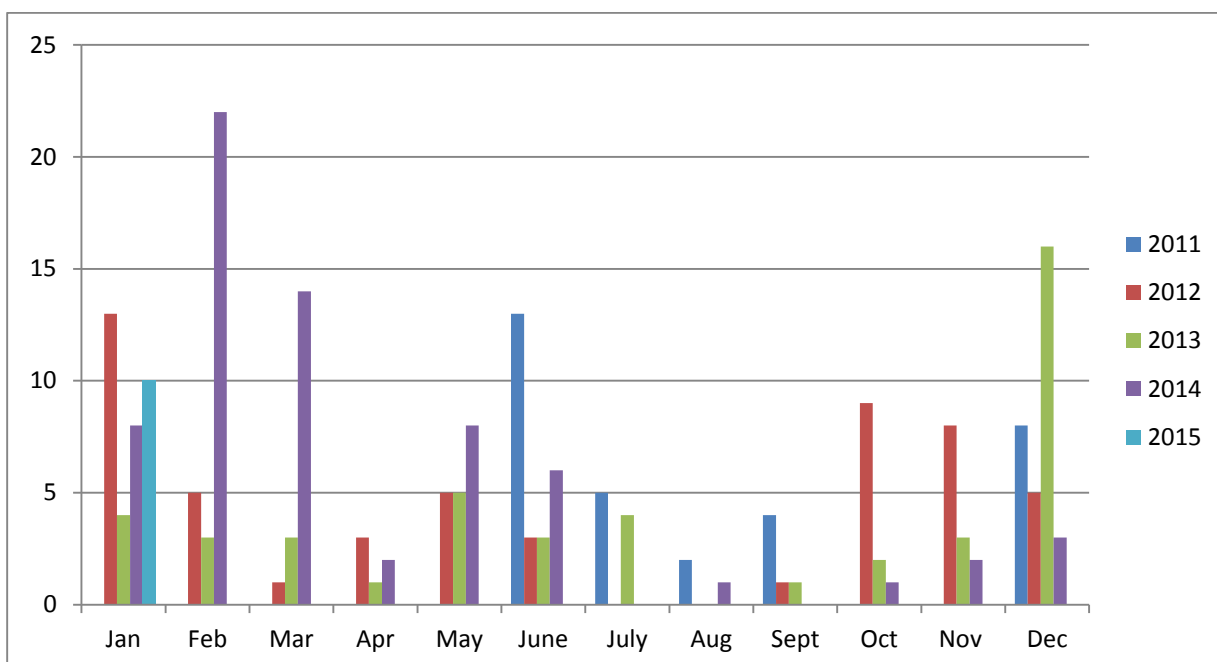
The findings of this recent monitoring demonstrate that another intensive dry season offensive is underway: for the fourth year in a row, the people of Southern Kordofan are suffering from aerial assaults. Urgent action is needed from the international community in order to stop the bombing, ensure humanitarian access and provide the people of Southern Kordofan with some form of protection.

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



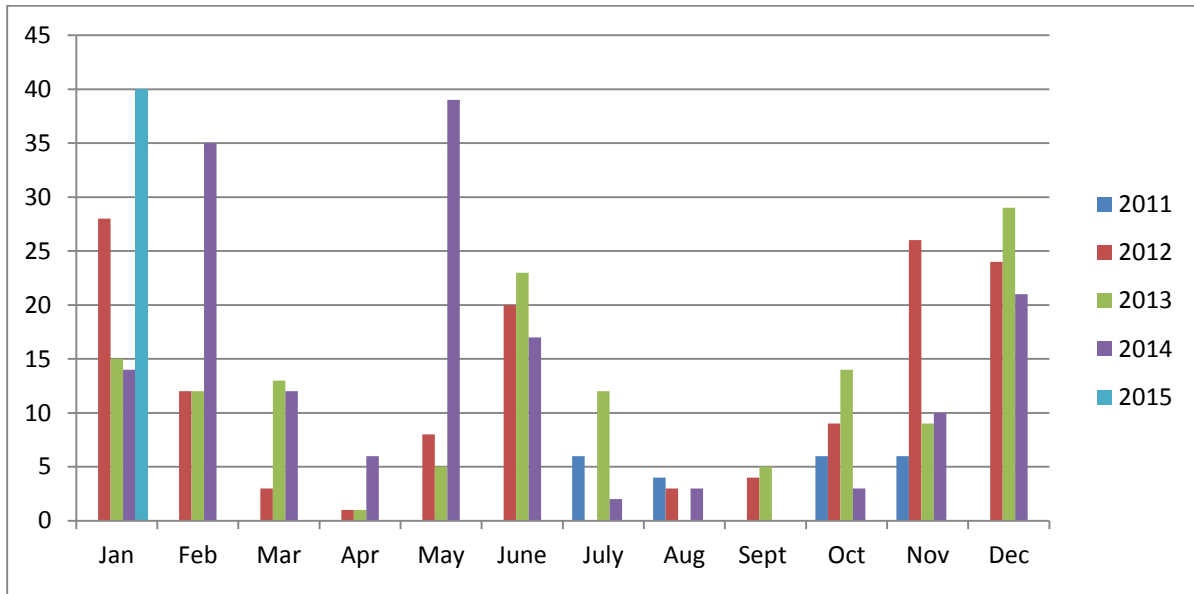
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011						7	7	6	6	5	0	8
2012	15	15	13	10	10	13	5	9	12	27	37	7
2013	19	10	4	6	12	45	7	2	13	12	22	60
2014	37	35	21	31	52	82	2	8	3	20	15	27
2015	30											

**Confirmed number of civilian deaths by bombing and shelling attacks in Southern Kordofan:
June 2011 – January 2015**



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011						13	5	2	4	0	0	8
2012	13	5	1	3	5	3	0	0	1	9	8	5
2013	4	3	2	1	5	3	4	0	1	2	3	16
2014	8	22	14	2	8	6	0	1	0	1	2	3
2015	10											

**Confirmed number of civilians injured by bombing and shelling attacks in Southern Kordofan:
June 2011 – January 2015**



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011							6	4	0	6	6	0
2012	28	12	3	1	8	20	0	3	4	9	26	24
2013	15	12	13	1	5	23	12	0	5	14	9	29
2014	14	35	12	6	39	17	2	3	0	3	10	21
2015	40											