



The Sudan Consortium

*African and International Civil Society Action
for Sudan*



National Human Rights Monitors Organisation

Human Rights Update: December 2016, January and February 2017 ***SAF and PDF breach the ceasefire: attacks on civilians persist despite the lifting of sanctions on Sudan.***

The Sudan Consortium has been working with a group of trusted local Sudanese partners who have been monitoring human rights violations committed against the civilian population in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile since the current conflict began in 2011.

The information provides strong evidence that civilians are being directly and deliberately targeted by the Sudanese government in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile as all the attacks referred to in this report were launched against areas that were clearly identifiable as civilian in character.

The period from December 2016 to the end of February 2017 was under ceasefire and all incidents that are reported here constituted a breach of the ceasefire. A four month unilateral ceasefire was first declared by Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir, on 17 June 2016, and extended in October to the end of 2016. Following the partial lifting of sanctions on Sudan by the USA, Sudan extended the ceasefire by another six months.

SOUTHERN KORDOFAN STATE

There was no aerial bombardment during the period and the communities enjoyed moving, working and socialising without fear of getting injured or killed from falling bombs. However, there is widespread food insecurity, particularly in Delami, Heiban and Western Jebels counties, due to a persistent drought, coupled with the fact that during earlier fighting last year SAF captured some of the most agriculturally productive areas of Southern Kordofan, such as parts of Alazrag Payam in Heiban County and Mardis village in Delami County. The drought seems to be part of a region-wide phenomenon that has covered both the Horn of Africa and East Africa. In terms of seasons, the period November to March is supposed to be a harvesting season but production has been minimal due to the drought and earlier violence and its consequences.

Only one incident of looting was recorded in Southern Kordofan during the month of December 2016.

In January 2017, there were two shelling attacks from SAF, generating 19 shells but no casualties. There were also four looting incidents where 102 animals (60 sheep and 42 cows) were stolen by the Popular Defence Forces (PDF), a SAF-allied militia.

In February, there were three looting incursions into SPLA-N targeting Kadugli County and military clash between SAF and SPLA-N forces. In the looting incidents, armed militias likely to be Sudan government sponsored looted livestock consisting of 1,213 cows and 19 goats.

December 2016

Delami County

- **On 12 December 2016, at 3.32pm**, SAF looted 64 goats belonging to civilians in Deri village, Aberi Payam, but no casualties were reported. Animals like goats and cows serve as a direct cushion against livelihood shocks since they can be sold to cater for urgent needs or respond to emergencies. In Southern Kordofan where there are no banks, animals are used by their owners as a repository of monetary value which they can convert in times of need therefore their looting by SAF and allied militias seriously undermines people's livelihoods.

January 2017

Alabasiya County

- **On 1 January 2017, at 1.00pm**, SAF fired seven shells on Tassi village, Turu Elmachach Payam, an area of Alabasiya County controlled by the SPLA/M-N, but there were no casualties. Alabasiya County is located in Eastern Jebels and has four payams. It is partially controlled by SAF and SPLA/M-N. It is a distant and heavily militarised area which is not easily accessible. SPLA-N forces there are isolated from the main body of SPLA-N forces and the area has many SAF garrisons.
- **On 2 January 2017, at 10.00am**, 12 shells, from the direction SAF forces, were fired on an area of Alabasiya County controlled by the SPLA/M-N but there were no casualties.

Delami County

- **On 5 January 2017, at 4.00pm**, the PDF looted 42 sheep from Hadara village, Umhitan Payam, but there were no casualties. The sheep belonged to a civilian in the SPLA/M-N controlled area of Hadara village.
- **On 14 January 2017, at 3.00pm**, the PDF again looted nine goats and 20 cows of a civilian in Hadara village, Umhitan Payam, but there were no casualties.
- **On 18 January 2017, at 3.30pm**, the PDF again looted 18 sheep from Hajajalab village, Umhitan Payam, but casualties were reported.

Heiban County

- **On 14 January 2017, at 1.15am**, 22 cows were looted from Algemazai village, Alazrag Payam, by the PDF and were driven to the SAF-controlled area of Umbrembita village. The cows were owned by four different civilian households. No casualties were reported.

February 2017

Kadugli County

- **On 2 February 2017, at 3.00pm**, three cows were looted from Altuma village, Krongo Abdalla Payam, and driven to the SAF-controlled area. The owner of the cows testified that they were looted by "Sudanese militias". There were no casualties.
- **On 10 February 2017**, "an armed group", using light weapons coming from the SAF-controlled area, looted 1,200 cows from Alhigerat village, west of Kadugli Town. Seven herders were killed during the raid. SAF has accused the SPLA-N of having carried out this raid but the latter denied the allegation and formed a committee headed by Brigadier General Kuku Idris to investigate

