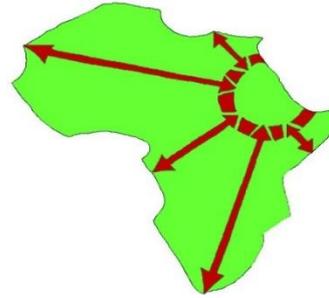




National Human Rights Monitors Organisation



The Sudan Consortium

*African and International Civil Society Action
for Sudan*

Human Rights Update: March 2016

New offensive produces near record number of incidents

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 2011.¹

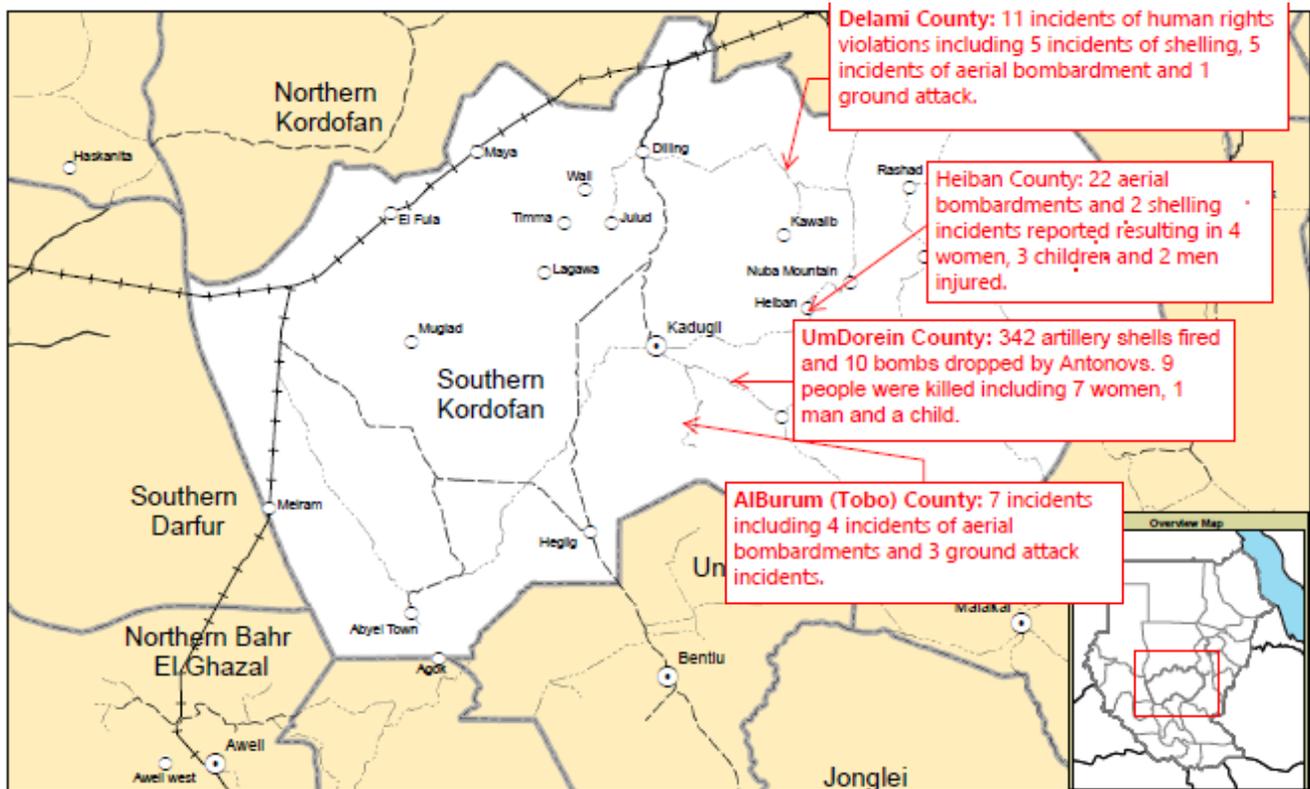
We believe that this information provides strong evidence that civilians are being directly and deliberately targeted by the Sudanese government in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile as all the attacks referred to in this report were launched against areas that were clearly identifiable as civilian in character.

Since the current crisis broke out in 2011, human rights abuses in Southern Kordofan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN) states have continued. In March 2016, incidents of attacks of civilians increased dramatically. More than twice as many attacks were monitored as a new government of Sudan offensive took new territory and the number of attacks on civilians increased to the second highest since we started monitoring. During the month, the Sudanese government captured Alazrag village (in Alazrag Payam) and Mardis village (in Delami County) from the SPLA-N. They also captured Agab village (in Heiban County) and Karkarai village (in Umdorien County), but these were retaken by the SPLA-N. The level of tension and insecurity continues to increase and people are being forced to flee their homes and take shelter in caves and other places. This report documents those human right abuses committed against the civilian population of SK during the month of March 2016.

This report documents attacks on civilians committed during March 2016. During this time, Southern Kordofan has suffered from persistent ground fighting and aerial bombings, with the government of Sudan (GoS) targeting Delami, Tobo (Al Buram), Heiban, Umdorein and Kadugli counties. People living in these areas have been forced to flee their homes to seek refuge in the surrounding hills and caves, which has led to an increased need for water, food and health care, especially in the ongoing dry season.

During the ongoing military operations, our monitors recorded 81 incidents. In total there were 183 bombs and 641 fired shells, resulting in the deaths of 11 civilians, including a child and 28 civilians were injured as a result of the attacks, including 12 children and three women. When compared to last month there were more than double the number of incidents in March and a significant rise in the number of civilian deaths. In addition, three schools were damaged and all primary schools in two payams were closed due to the insecurity. The record also shows at least five incidents of ground fighting, about ten incidents of shelling, and two incidents of abduction.

¹Some of these partners have now constituted a local organisation, the National Human Rights Monitors Organisation (NHRMO). Unless otherwise cited, information in this report, including all photos, was gathered by these monitors.



Heiban County

Heiban County faced a huge confrontation between the Sudan People’s Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) this month with multiple front lines including at Alazrag Payam in eastern Heiban and Dabi Payam in western Heiban. There were 22 aerial bombardments and two shelling incidents reported, resulting in four women, three children and two men injured.

- **On 4 March at 9.30am**, an Antonov plane dropped four bombs with three of them detonating in Sinar village and the fourth in Umshigen village, both in Kumbur Payam. Fortunately, no civilians or animals were harmed as all of the bombs landed in a forest which was burnt.
- **On 15 March, at 3.45pm**, the SPLA-N shot down a drone in Alazrag Payam, which had been scanning a wide area of the county. The shooting down of the drone was followed by the arrival of both an Antonov and jet fighters **between 22 and 30 March** that bombed civilians in the area.



The drone shot down by SPLA- N with camera – 15 March

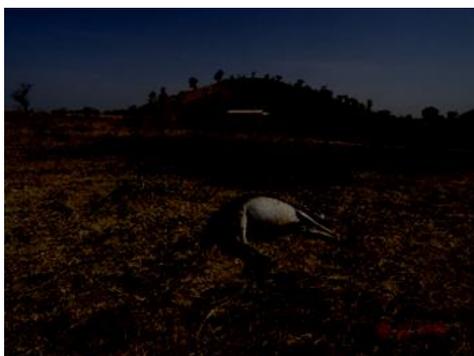
- **On 22 March, at 10.10am**, an Antonov was seen circling over a wide area, terrifying the population. Just 35 minutes later it dropped four bombs on Doubi village, Alazrag Payam. Two of the bombs landed in a forest and did not cause significant damage, whilst the other two landed just north of a church and killed

two donkeys and a goat, belonging to three different families. People use goats not only for meat and milk but also as an investment for sale in case of need, and donkeys are used mainly for transport, therefore the loss of such animals represents a serious economic setback, significantly impacting people's social well-being and livelihoods. **Then at 11.00am**, the same Antonov dropped eight more bombs in the same village. Two bombs destroyed roughly an acre of land where onions, okra, tomatoes, cassava and cabbages were being cultivated. In addition, 30 mango trees and 15 guava trees in the same area were destroyed. Two more bombs fell north of a new building, two bombs struck a Quranic study centre and damaged three rooms, including one classroom and three huts. Another two bombs fell in a school compound, damaging four classrooms and slightly injuring a man whilst two more bombs fell in west Heiban, onto a clinic, but caused no human casualties. **At 12.00pm**, two MiG jet fighters dropped bombs on Nykima village. Witnesses reported four bombs being dropped, one of which exploded in the air while the others did not detonate. Our monitors were only able to identify the location of one of the unexploded ordinances (UXOs) but no casualties were recorded.



Quranic study centre after bombing, 22 March

- **On 23 March, at 7.15am**, an Antonov flew over the county, causing fear and concern for the villagers. **At 12.00pm**, two MiGs dropped two bombs on Nykima village, Alazrag Payam, but they only damaged mango trees and no casualties were reported.
- **On 24 March, at 12.00pm**, two MiG jet fighters again dropped two bombs on Nykima village where they detonated but did not cause casualties or damage. However this bombardment, combined with those of the previous two days, forced the people of Nykima to leave the village.
- **On 25 March, at 1.00am**, an Antonov dropped two bombs on Doubi village. One of them fell 40 metres away from Alazrag Primary School. Thankfully, due to the time of the bombing, none of the children were at or near the school, so there were no casualties. Later that day, **at 12.00pm**, two MiG jet fighters dropped four more bombs in Nykima village which did not cause any casualties or damage. Then **at 1.30pm**, two more bombs were dropped in Heiban Payam in the village of Ougy. They landed north of the Theological Institute of Heiban, but no one was injured and no buildings were damaged.
- **On 26 March, at 5.00pm**, an Antonov dropped four bombs on Alazrag village (within Alazrag Payam). Two huts were damaged by the first two bombs and the shrapnel injured two women, aged 50 and 52. The two other bombs fell in a farm but no damage was reported. Half an hour later, the same plane dropped two bombs that fell in a forest and burned the surrounding trees and grass. No further casualties or damage were reported.



Donkey killed, Doubi village, Alazrag Payam – 22 March



Pig killed in Hager-Bago village – 27 March

- **On 27 March, at 12.00pm**, shelling was recorded in Mandi village, Kumbur Payam. The shells appeared to have come from Maflu, an area which is controlled by SAF. One hut was completely destroyed with all the food items inside, and another one was damaged. Just **12 minutes later**, an Antonov dropped four more bombs although this did not cause any damage or casualties. **At 1.40pm**, an Antonov dropped six bombs in Doubi village, Alazrag Payam. The bombs fell in a forest and forced the people who were hiding there to flee again. No casualties were recorded. **At 1.45pm**, the same plane dropped eight bombs on Hager-Bago village. The bombs were dropped in a civilian area and a thirty year old man and a young girl aged 10 were injured but no deaths were reported. In addition, six huts were burned down with all the families' belongings and food items inside, and two more huts were damaged. **At 11.00pm**, an Antonov dropped two bombs in Jimaizai village. The bombs fell on a farm and destroyed the crops stores of two families with a total of 23 sacks of sorghum and one and a half sacks of beans. This amount of food would have been enough to sustain four families for one year.
- **On 28 March, at 4.00pm**, an Antonov dropped two bombs in Jimaizai village which fell in a forest, burning trees and grass. The villagers fled in fear of a subsequent attack, adding to the growing number of displaced persons in the state. **At 6.11pm**, an Antonov dropped two bombs in Mandi village, Kumbur Payam. A 35 year old man (a nurse by profession) was injured. This attack also forced some of the villagers to flee the village.
- **On 29 March, at 10.40am**, two MiG jet fighters dropped two bombs in Jimaizai that fell in the forest without human or animal casualties. **At 12.30pm**, an Antonov dropped two bombs in Lower-Kauda village. They killed a herd of goats, but no further damage was recorded. The same plane also dropped two bombs in Upper-Kauda village, seriously injuring two women, with two others suffering minor injuries. In addition, four houses were completely destroyed.
- **On 30 March, at 11.25am**, two MiG jet fighters dropped two bombs in Jigaba village, Alazrag Payam, but no damage was recorded. **At 5:07pm**, shelling that appeared to be coming from the area of Khur-Aldelaib, Halouf village (a government controlled area), was reported, striking Alazrag village.
- **On 31 March, from 7.00am to 5.00pm**, in Alazrag Payam, ground fighting between SPLA-N and SAF took place. SAF attacked the SPLA-N forces from three directions and, according to eyewitnesses, they burned part of the Alazrag village. As of 1 April 2016, the ground fighting was still ongoing making it impossible for monitors to go there to assess the damage and casualties. The civilians in the area were displaced and hid in mountain caves where they lack access to even basic shelter, water and food.

Delami County

Eleven incidents of human rights violations committed by SAF and Sudan Air Forces were reported in Delami County. All the incidents occurred in civilian areas and consisted of five incidents of shelling, five incidents of aerial bombardment and one ground attack incident in Mardis village and, as a result, 11 civilians were injured. These incidents are highlighted below:

- **On 5 March, at 9.20am**, SAF fired two artillery shells at Timnang village, Aberi Payam, but nobody was injured and there was no damage.
- **On 7 March, at 9.15am**, SAF fired five artillery shells at Lumberi village, Aberi Payam, and a house was damaged.
- **On 8 March, at 11.30am**, an Antonov dropped three bombs on Deri village, Aberi Payam, but nobody was injured and there was no damage. **From 11.38 to 11.43am**, an Antonov dropped



Hole created by Antonov, Deri village - 8 March

nine bombs on Lumberi village, Aberi Payam, damaging one house.



Bomb from Antonov Bomber in Tunguli village – 9 March

- **On 9 March, between 11.37 and 11.43am**, an Antonov dropped nine bombs on Tunguli village, injuring 11 civilians. Two of the bombs were dropped near a school, injuring seven pupils and four men.

- **On 24 March, at 12.25pm**, SAF ground troops fired five shells on Tunguli village, Tunguli Payam, but fortunately nobody was injured and nothing was damaged.

- **On 26 March, at 3.15pm**, an Antonov dropped twelve bombs on Mardis village, Tunguli Payam, but no casualties, damage or losses were reported. **At 5.15pm**, there was a SAF ground attack

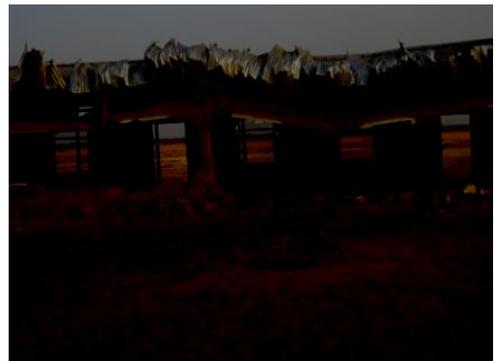
involving thirty vehicles and three tanks on Mardis village, Tunguli Payam, but no casualties or damage were reported.

- **On 27 March, at 9.40am**, a Sukhoi plane dropped bombs at Timnang village, Aberi Payam.
- **On 29 March, 3.07pm**, SAF troops fired three shells at Lumberi village, Aberi Payam, but there were no victims or damage. **At 3.33am**, four artillery shells were fired at Nayimeriyalu village, Sabat Payam, but no casualties or damage were reported.

Tobo (Al Buram) County

Seven incidents of human rights violations were reported in Tobo County. These included four incidents of aerial bombardment by Antonovs, and three ground attack incidents, including shelling. In all, 23 Antonov bombs were dropped. The monitors recorded 57 shells fired in the county but we we have information indicating significant additional shelling, however we were unable to verify these. This intensive shelling promoted many people to flee. Fortunately, only two people were injured and two animals were killed and one injured.

- **On 7 March, at 10.00am**, an Antonov dropped eleven bombs on Trochi Payam, nine fell in Trochi village, Trochi Payam. A man and a woman were injured by bomb fragments, two goats killed and two rooms on a house destroyed. **Five minutes later**, a further two bombs were dropped in Dabakaya village, hitting a primary school and destroying two classrooms.
- **10 March, at 11.15am**, an Antonov dropped 12 bombs in Trochi village and destroyed three houses, killing two goats and injuring a cow.



Bombed classroom of Dabakaya Primary school – 7 March

- **On 26 March, at 7.00pm**, shelling started from the Umshuran SAF camp targeting Altees village, and 37 shells were recorded but no casualties. The civilians managed to flee to the nearest village.

- **On 27 March, at 9.00am**, SAF again attacked Altees village, this time with more than 50 vehicles and using different kinds of artillery and guns. The SPLA-N pushed them back, but fighting continued until 2.00pm. According to the chief of Altees village, more than 53 families fled their homes, taking refuge in Jabal Kuwa village. **On the same day**, there was a similar ground attack on Sofaya village, but the SPLA-N managed to stop the attack. One donkey was killed but there were no human casualties as civilians managed to escape and hide in caves and mountains. **At 3.30pm**, an Antonov dropped six bombs in Tobo village, partially destroying a house and a compound but there were no casualties.



Destroyed house by Antonov Bomb, Trochi village - 10 March

Umdorien County

There was intensive ground fighting and shelling in this county in March, with limited air bombardment. 342 artillery shells were fired and 10 bombs dropped by Antonovs. Nine people were killed including seven women, one man and a child. 23 animals were killed and one was injured. There was one confirmed abduction and several others, which could not be confirmed, were reported. Five houses and X tons/10 sacks of food stocks were destroyed.

- **On 14 March, at 10.00am**, two artillery shells were fired by SAF on Tabula village, Tangal Payam.
- **On 24 March**, in Alhebeil village, Tangal Payam, shelling by SAF injured a child. (We have been unable to confirm the exact time of the shelling). **At 8.00am**, SAF fired three artillery shells on Koderra village, Tangal Payam, killing a woman, a child and a goat. **At 6.00pm**, four shells were fired by SAF at Umserndiba village, Tangal Payam, but no one was injured or killed and nothing was destroyed. **At 8.00pm**, SAF fired 95 shells on Umserndiba village, Tangal Payam, killing one woman. **At 10.00pm**, SAF fired 50 shells on Umserndiba village again, but fortunately no one was injured or killed and there was no property damage.
- **On 25 March, at 2.00am**, SAF again fired two shells on Umserndiba village, injuring a man and a woman. **At 10.15pm**, SAF fired one shell on Tabari village, Lumun Payam, but there was no property damage and no one was injured. **At 11.45pm**, SAF fired a rocket on Tabari village again but no casualties were reported.



IDPs hiding under mountain rocks Enbal caves, Umdorien County

- **On 26 March** a series of attacks were launched on Umserndiba village, Tangal Payam. **At 7.40am**, SAF fired 20 artillery shells, but no casualties or damage were reported. **At 8.00am**, SAF fired 30 artillery shells but again no casualties or damage were reported. **At 9.00am**, a new round of 45 shells were

fired on the village, killing a woman. Three houses were also destroyed and food stocks consisting of five sacks of sorghum, three sacks of simsim (sesame seed) and two sacks of groundnuts were destroyed and one goat was killed. **At 9.00pm**, four artillery shells were fired on the village again. Two houses were destroyed and a number of animals were killed, including 30 chickens. Additionally, a number of personal possessions were destroyed or burned, including a bicycle, two radios, two sacks of sugar, six sacks of simsim, six sacks of sorghum, two jerrycans of cooking oil and various water containers. **At 11.00pm**, 35 shells were fired on Alnugra village, Tangal Payam, injuring a man and killing 16 cows. **At 12.00am**, 15 shells were fired on Alnugra village again but no casualties, losses or damage were reported.

- **On 27 March, at 2.00pm**, an Antonov dropped two bombs on Enbal village. Two goats were killed but no humans were killed or injured. On 28 March, ground fighting between SPLA-N and SAF took place in Alatmor, Almushtaraka and Karkarai villages, Tangal Payam, resulting in the death of three women. **At 8.10am**, SAF fired 30 artillery shells on Tabula village, 35 shells on Alnugra village and 40 shells on Umserndiba village, all in Tangal Payam, but without casualties. **At 12.30pm**, a militia group known as Popular Defence Forces (PDF), fighting in support of the SAF, burned the village of Karkarai. Two women were burned to death inside their homes and a child was killed by stray bullets. The militia group abducted the village's deputy Shiekh (community leader) and took him to Kadugli County. Witnesses also reported that a number of civilians were abducted but our monitors were unable to confirm this as, at the time of reporting, the fighting was ongoing and troops still occupied the area.
- **On 29 March, at 5.00pm**, the PDF attacked Almushtaraka village, Tangal Payam, using various heavy and light weapons, killing a man and a woman. Another man was abducted but released later. **At 6.00pm**, an Antonov dropped three bombs on Umserndiba village and two men and a woman were killed.
- **On 30 March, at 5.40pm**, an Antonov dropped eight bombs on Taulu village, Tangal Payam but no casualties were reported. **On the same day**, the PDF killed a mentally disabled man in Ningdity village. Due to their vulnerability, people with disability face a higher risk of torture, injury and death than others.

All primary schools in the two payams of Tangal and Andulu were closed down because of the insecurity. The information our monitors were able to verify in this payam is currently limited due to the high levels of insecurity making it too risky for them to travel and verify the incidents in this area.

Talodi County

Talodi County experienced only three incidents of aerial bombing by Antonovs. Sixteen bombs were dropped in all but nobody was injured and there was no damage.

- **On 4 March, at 9.30am**, the Sudan Air Force targeted Traktrak village, Angarto Payam. They dropped four bombs in the forest which caught fire but no people were injured and no property damaged or destroyed.
- **On 24 March, at 11.45pm**, an Antonov which was circling over the county dropped eight bombs, however they appear to have landed in an area under the control of SAF. According to our contact in the SAF controlled area, they fell at Shagrabh village but given that this is in a government-controlled area, our monitors were unable to get detailed information about destruction or casualties.
- **On 27 March, at 12.12pm**, the Sudan Air Force dropped four bombs again in Angarto Payam. The bombs fell on a garden, no victims were reported but a mango tree was damaged.

Conclusion

The data collected by the monitors in different counties show that GoS intensively carried out ground attacks and aerial bombardments in March 2016, mostly against civilians. From a recorded 81 incidents, at least 181

