

Sudan Consortium

*African and International Civil Society Action
for Sudan*



National Human Rights Monitors Organisation

Human Rights Update: June 2016

Aerial bombing decreases but three children are killed by explosive remnants of war

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.

We believe that 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 month of June saw the least reported number of incidents of violence and human rights violations carried out directly or indirectly by Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states since January 2016. Most of the incidents reported were carried out before the declaration of a four month ceasefire by Sudan's President, Omar Al Bashir, on 17 June 2016. Whilst a welcome relief for the civilians of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, the period of the ceasefire corresponds with the rainy season when fighting has traditionally been extremely low.

SOUTHERN KORDOFAN

There were four direct attacks committed by SAF in civilian areas of Southern Kordofan. Four incidents were the result of unexploded ordnance (UXOs) in the area from earlier fighting. Two of the UXO incidents resulted in the death of three children and injuries to seven people including four children. Children are especially vulnerable to death and injury from UXOs because they do not usually understand the danger they pose and are tempted to handle them.

Despite the fact that incidents of violence and human rights violations against civilians were minimal, the continued presence of government forces in part of Alazrag Payam, which they captured from the SPLA-N in [March 2016](#), has caused a cloud of constant fear that continues to hang over the population in the area.

Heiban County

There were three reported incidents of violence and human rights violations in Heiban County during the month. These consisted of two bombings where approximately 11 bombs were dropped by Antonov planes over civilian areas and one incident of abduction.

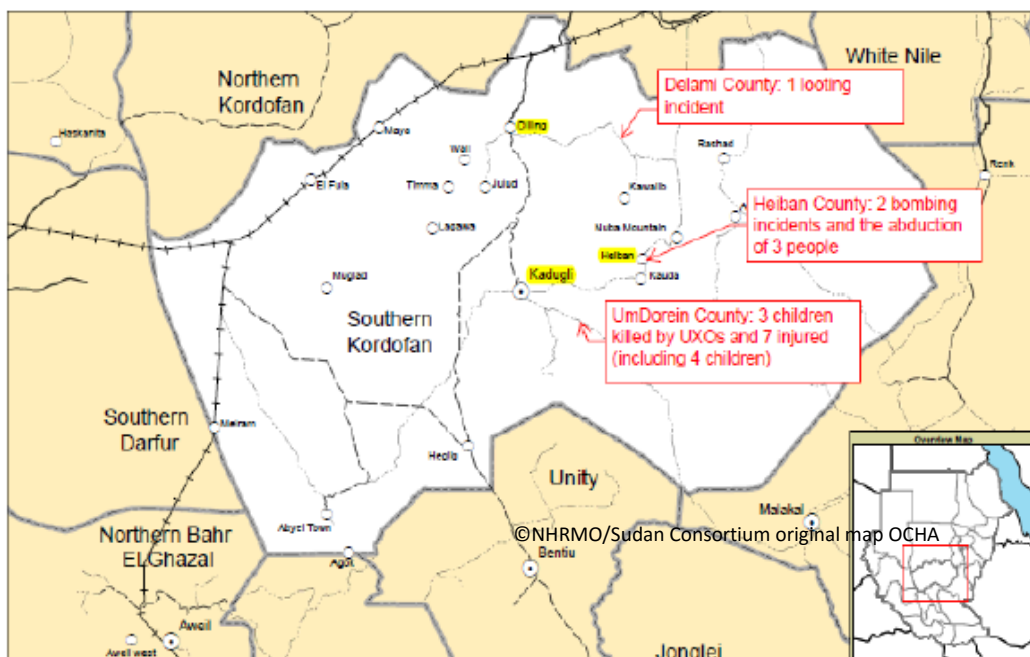
- **On 1 June 2016, at 11.25pm**, it was reported that an Antonov plane dropped five bombs on Hajar Bago village in Alazrag Payam but there were no casualties, however our monitors were unable to reach the scene of the bombing for verification due to the insecurity there.

- **On 9 June 2016, at 2.00pm**, an Antonov dropped six bombs in Jimaizay village, again in Alazrag Payam. The bombs destroyed two huts and killed three goats and three chickens. As it is the rainy season, it is especially difficult for the families affected to be able to rebuild their homes, meaning they will have to find shelter elsewhere until the end of the rains around mid-October. In addition, the goats and chickens were almost the only assets of the family's livelihood system which has now been further undermined by the loss.
- **On 12 June 2016, at 1.00pm**, two men and a woman were abducted by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) while working on their farms in Oli village, Alazrag Payam. Their whereabouts are still unknown.

Delami County

Just like everywhere else, the human rights situation in Delami County was better in June 2016. Our monitors reported one incident where Sudanese forces attempted to loot livestock.

- **On 29 June 2016, at 1.45pm**, SAF soldiers based in Habila County tried to loot the cows of civilians in Tunguli village, Tunguli Payam. They were repelled by the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army – North (SPLA-N) but not before three cows and one goat had been killed.



Umdorein County



UXOs in Karakai village, Tangal Payam

The reports of the human rights monitors from Umdorein County consisted of incidents where UXOs caused the death of three children and injured seven people, including four children. Different types of UXO have been in the area particularly since March 2016 which saw intensive fighting in the county. The high number of children who are victims of UXOs points to the need for widespread awareness-raising in order to prevent future loss of lives.

- **On 10 June 2016, at 2.00pm**, two children aged 13 and 17 were killed by an UXO in Agab village, Andulu Payam. Two other children in the area were injured but survived.



Different types of explosive remnants of war (ERWs) in Karkarai village, Tangal Payam, intended for disposal.

- **On 11 June 2016**, another UXO exploded in Umserndiba village, Tangal Payam, killing a 15-year old and injuring a 14-year old. **The same day**, a 10-year old boy was injured on his left hand by another UXO in Toldong village, Andulu Payam.



An injured man at Ekwarting.

On 13 June 2016, at an unspecified time, three people were injured whilst working their land in Ekwarting farms, on the way to Agab village, Andulu Payam. A 20-year old man, a 30-year old woman and a 45-year old man sustained deep wounds.

BLUE NILE

Al Kurmuk County

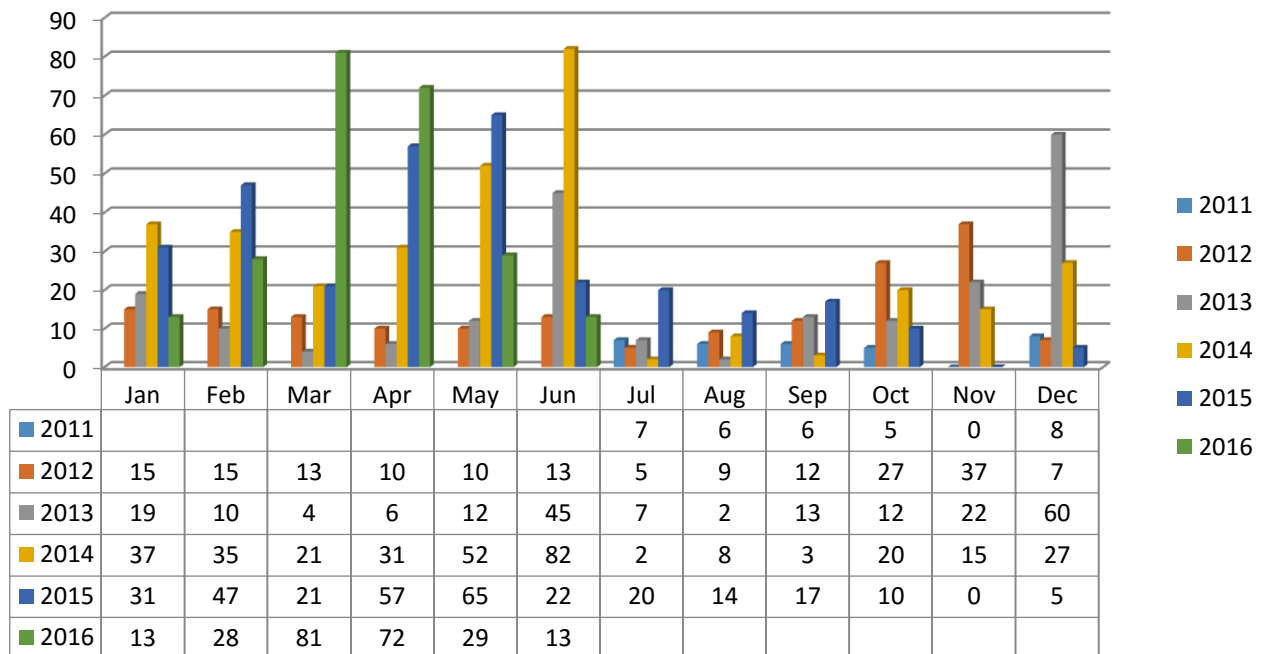
There were five incidents of aerial bombing in Blue Nile state, all in Al Kurmuk County. A total of 30 bombs were dropped by Antonov planes in several areas, with one of the bombing incidents happening after the declaration of the ceasefire. Nobody was killed but one man was injured, two goats killed and crops destroyed.

- **On 12 June 2016, at 3.00pm**, a Sudan Air Force Antonov dropped eight bombs in Magar and Jiro villages, Wadaka Payam. The bombs fell 55 metres away from a compound, injuring one man. **Also at 3.00pm**, an Antonov dropped four bombs on a farm in Soda village, Shali Payam, where all crops were destroyed but without causing human casualties.
- **On 13 June 2016, at midday**, an Antonov dropped six bombs in Samary village, Wadaka Payam, killing two goats. **On the same day, at 12.25pm**, an Antonov dropped four bombs in Gandolo village, Yabus Payam, but no casualties were reported.
- **On 28 June, 2016 at 1.25pm**, an Antonov dropped eight bombs on farms in Wadaka and Shali villages but there were no casualties. These villages are located in the Wadaka and Shali payams respectively.

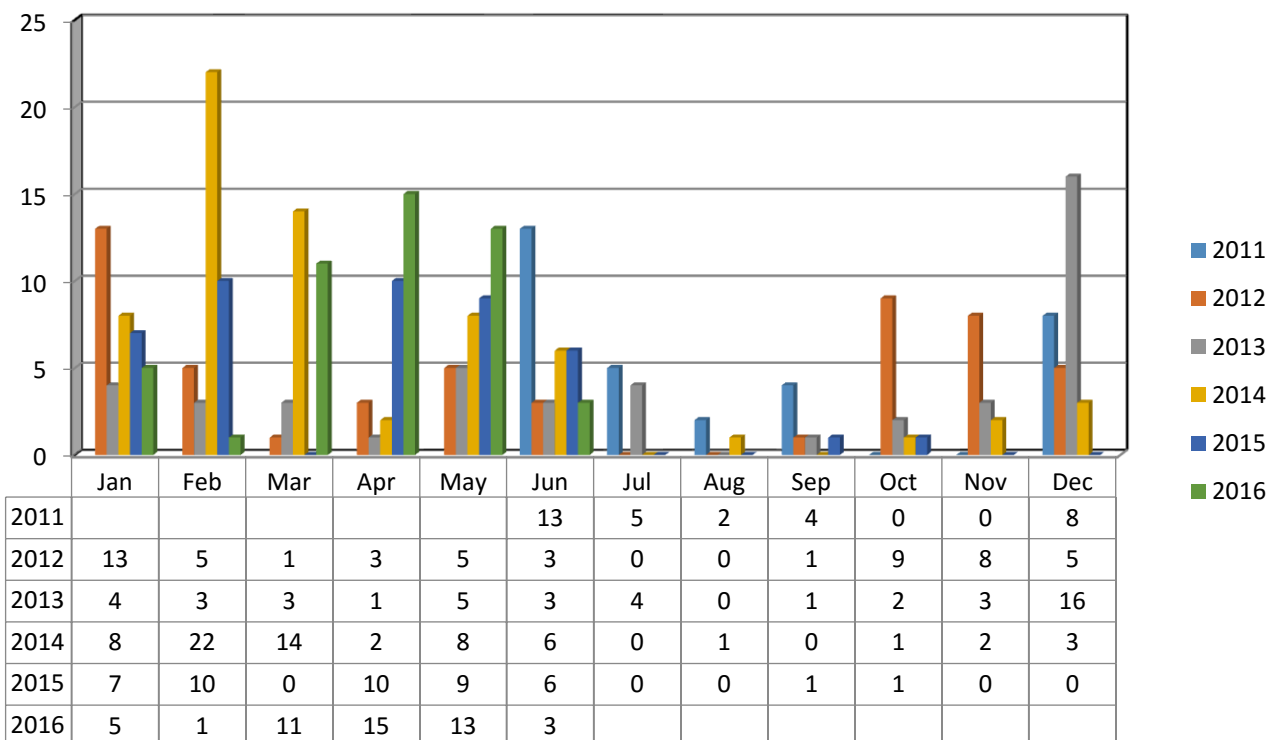
Conclusion

The four month ceasefire announced by the government of Sudan, combined with the start of the rains, has helped to significantly reduce the number and intensity of attacks. However, the human deaths and injuries caused by UXO from previous bombing and shelling, show that there is a continued threat to the civilian population, especially children and those working in the fields. Due to the rainy season and the signed ceasefire agreement, the level and intensity of violence are unlikely to rise during the coming few months.

Number of incidents against civilians in SK and BN 2011-2016



Number of civilians killed in SK and BN 2011-2016



Number of civilians injured in SK and BN 2011-2016

