

The Sudan Consortium

*African and International Civil Society Action
for Sudan*

National Human Rights Monitors Organisation

Human Rights Update: July, August and September 2016

Welcome calm but fear of resumed aerial bombing in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile remains.

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.

Introduction

Since June 2016, the incidents of violence and human rights violations carried out by Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) in Southern Kordofan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN) states (also known as the “Two Areas”) have reduced significantly. This is not unusual for the time of the year since the period June to November is the rainy season and fighting has traditionally been low as roads are flooded and rendered impassable for any military operations. The difference this time is that the President of Sudan, Omar Al Bashir, declared a four month ceasefire on 17 June 2016. This unilateral ceasefire declaration is applicable to SK, BN (and Darfur) and **all the incidents mentioned in this report constitute a breach of this ceasefire**. There was some bombing by SAF planes in SK and the planes have been sighted circling the skies in both SK and BN for several months but without dropping bombs. There are also reports indicating new movement of SAF troops and formations, as well as new battle equipment, at the frontlines in the Two Areas.

SOUTHERN KORDOFAN

Kadugli County

- **On 12 July 2016, at 1.00pm**, the Popular Defence Forces (PDF), a militia allied to the Sudanese government, attacked civilians in their farms at Lima village, Mirri Payam, killing a 42-year old woman and injuring a 52-year old man. All other people who were working at their farms fled the area and no other casualties were reported.
- **On 8 September 2016**, two SAF MiG jet fighters dropped four bombs on Shat Tabadi village, Krongo Payam but there were no casualties.

Umdorein County

- **On 1 August, 2016, at 2.30pm**, SAF fired 60 shells on Tablo village, Tangal Payam, killing two people, a man and a woman and damaging a house.

Delami County

- **On 7 September 2016, at 7.45am**, there was shelling by SAF on Kubula village, Umethan Payam, from Umethan town where their base is located. Seven shells were fired on a civilian settlement but there were no human casualties or property damaged.

BLUE NILE

In July, August and September there were no reported incidents of aerial bombardment, shelling or looting by SAF in SPLM-N controlled areas of Blue Nile State. However, just like in SK, SAF's Antonov planes have been sighted circling the skies on several occasions.

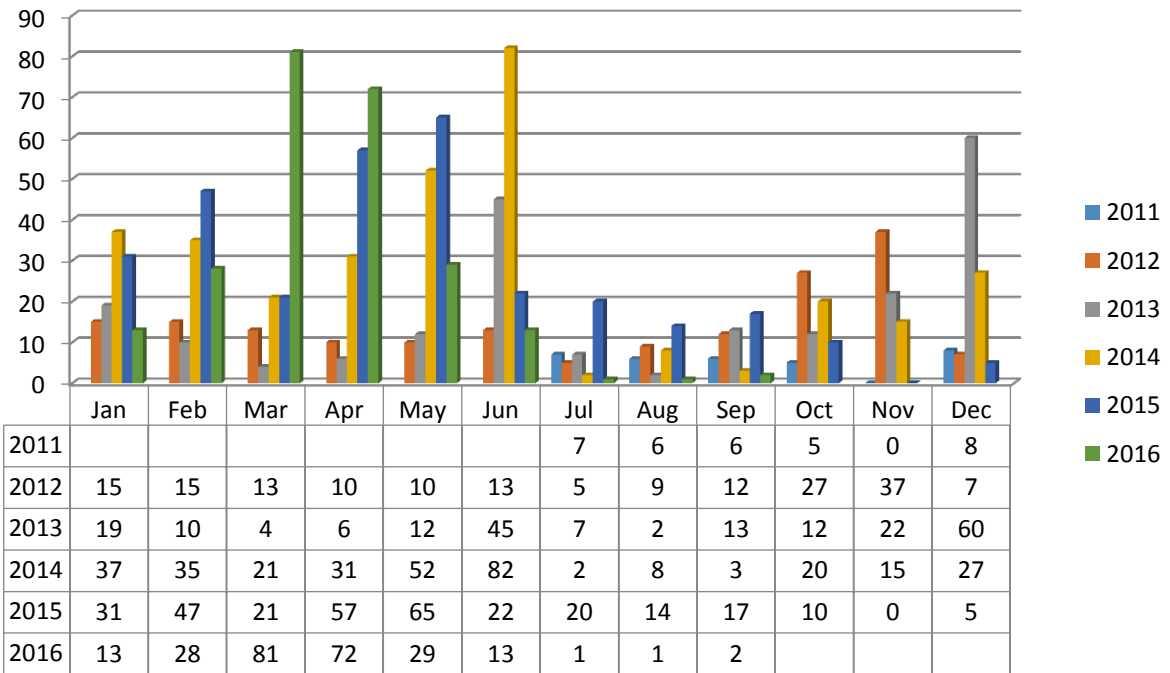
However, during the month of July, 16 people allegedly died of hunger in the villages of Tanfona, Sumaat Aradeba and Goz Bagarin Mayak Payam, Kurmuk County. Our monitors visited some of the families concerned and confirmed the deaths of ten people, including seven children.

Conclusion

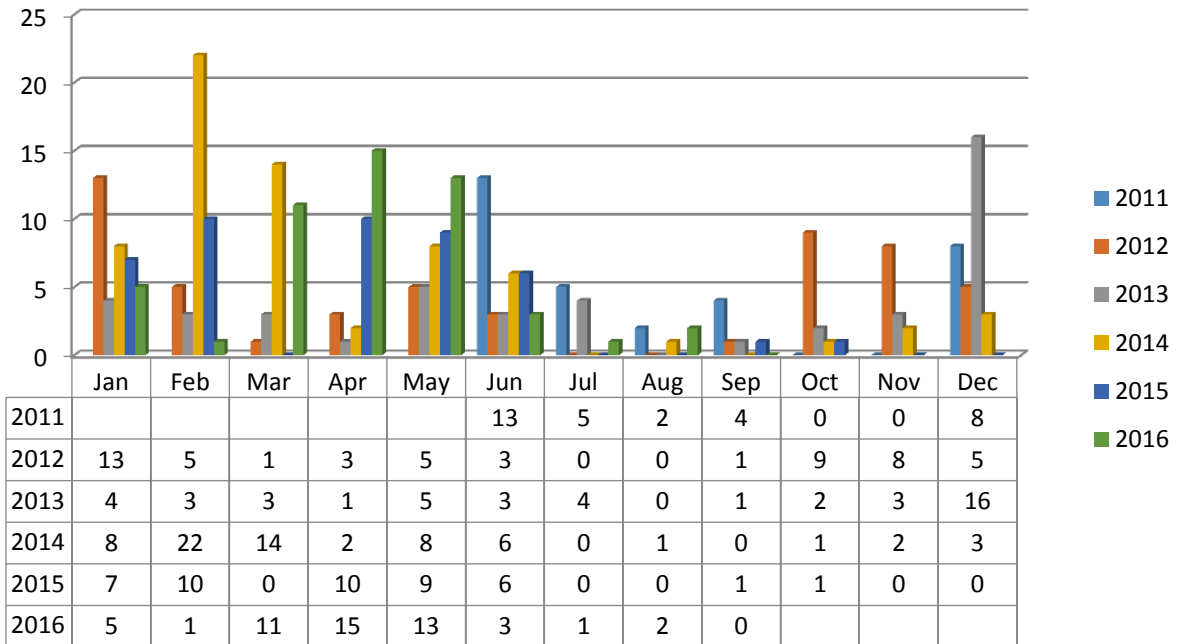
Despite the lull in the war, there is a looming famine due to insufficient rains during the season in both SK and BN. This situation is worsened by the fact that large agricultural areas of Mardis and Jaberdar in SK were set on fire by SAF during earlier fighting this year and this has contributed to food insecurity. Additionally, SAF captured and still occupies some of the most agriculturally productive lands, for example around Alazrag Payam. Sudanese forces are "accused of waging a systematic [war of attrition](#) designed to squeeze civilians out of rebel-held areas by destroying farmland and markets, and blocking planting by civilians during the rainy season." Due to the threat of hunger, many people have moved to government held areas where they can get some food. The government of Sudan continues to block humanitarian assistance to SK and BN states.

The situation is expected to become worse if fighting resumes in January 2017 at the end of the unilateral ceasefire.

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



Number of civilians killed in SK and BN July - September 2011-2016



Number of civilians injured in SK and BN 2011-2016

