

	
<p>The Sudan Consortium <i>African and International Civil Society Action for Sudan</i></p>	<p>National Human Rights Monitors Organisation</p>

Human Rights Update: March - May 2017

As communities in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states heave a sigh of relief from the absence of aerial bombardments, the Sudanese Armed Forces and the government sponsored Popular Defence Forces militia continue to breach the ceasefire through violent looting incursions into the SPLA/M-N controlled areas of Southern Kordofan.

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 months of March, April and May 2017 were still under the ceasefire agreement which began last year and all incidents reported here constitute 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 US in January 2017, the ceasefire was extended by another six months.

Due to the ongoing ceasefire, the situation in Southern Kordofan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN) states has been relatively calm, by the area's standards, mainly as a result of the lack of aerial bombardment of civilian areas. However, this period has been characterised by the looting of livestock (i.e. goats, sheep and cattle) in SK, undermining peoples' livelihoods at a time of drought and ensuing food insecurity. Almost every household in SK has livestock and while only richer households hold cattle, most others will hold 30-70 goats and 20-40 sheep. The poorer households will have much less. Unfortunately, whenever there is looting all animals that are owned by the household(s) concerned are taken.

It also seems that malnutrition is widespread in SK and BN although the lack of humanitarian access to the two areas means this data is unverifiable.

SOUTHERN KORDOFAN STATE

March 2017

There were no incidents of human rights violations by Sudan government forces or government sponsored militias reported in SPLA/M-N areas of SK in the month of March 2017.

April 2017

Twelve incidents of looting by Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) militia were recorded in SK during the months of April and May 2017, targeting Delami, Heiban and Talodi counties. In total, communities lost 562 animals consisting of 342 head of cattle, 100 sheep and 152 goats. In each case, the looters were heavily armed but no one was injured or killed.

As in the first two months of 2017, the communities continued to enjoy moving, working and socialising without the constant fear of getting injured or killed by falling bombs.

However, as reported in our February issue of [Human Rights Update](#) there is widespread food insecurity, particularly in Delami, Heiban and Western Jebels counties, due to the persistent drought that is part of a region wide phenomenon covering both the Horn of Africa and East Africa. The period November to March is supposed to be a harvesting season but agricultural production was minimal due to this 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.

Delami County

- **On 2 April 2017, at 2.00pm**, SAF troops looted 26 goats in Deri village, Aberi Payam, an SPLA/M-N controlled area, but no casualties were reported. This was in addition to the 64 goats looted by SAF from the same village, in December 2016.
- **On 9 April 2017, at 1.00pm**, SAF troops looted 18 goats from Timaning village, Aberi Payam, in a part controlled by the SPLA/M-N.
- **On 17 April, at 3.00am**, SAF troops looted 100 sheep in Hadara village, Umethan Payam, in addition to the 42 sheep looted by the PDF from Hadara village in January 2017. The looters consisted of 20 soldiers riding on 10 camels as a strategy to avoid early detection and therefore confrontation, since camels do not make noise like that of vehicles.

Heiban County

- **On 9 April 2017, at 3.30am**, the PDF looted 37 heads of cattle in Gardud (Ora) village, Alazrag Payam. The looted cows were subsequently confirmed to have entered Khoraldelip village, an area controlled by the Sudanese government.
- **On 15 April 2017, at 2.00am**, the PDF looted 27 cattle in Umdurdu village, in Umdurdu Payam. The cows were later confirmed to have entered Umduhelip village, an area controlled by Sudanese government.

Talodi County

- **On 27 April 2017, at 2.00am**, the PDF looted 76 goats from Angarto village, Angarto Payam. According to our monitors, the cows were taken to Talodi town, a government controlled area. **Later that same day, at 11.00am**, the PDF looted a further 23 cows from the same village.

May 2017

Four incidents of looting by SAF and the PDF were recorded in SK during the month of May 2017 targeting Delami and Heiban counties but no one was injured or killed. The community lost 255 head of cattle and 32 goats belonging to various households. It was also reported that 27 civilians left the SPLA/M-N areas of SK for SAF controlled areas of SK because of the fear and insecurity caused by the looting.

Delami County

- **On 1 May 2017, at 1.55pm**, 10 SAF soldiers riding on five camels looted 45 cows from Sanjar village, Nyukur Payam. The cows belonged to two households whose livestock was their main source of income.
- **On 11 May 2017, at 12.32pm**, nine SAF soldiers riding on camels looted 50 cows from Deri village, Aberi Payam.

- **On 18 May at 4.00am**, 12 SAF soldiers riding on six camels looted 160 cows belonging to four households in Dokuri village, Nyukur Payam.

Heiban County

- **On 15 May 2017, at 3.30am**, the PDF militia looted 32 goats belonging to a household in Hajarbako village, Alazrag Payam.

BLUE NILE STATE

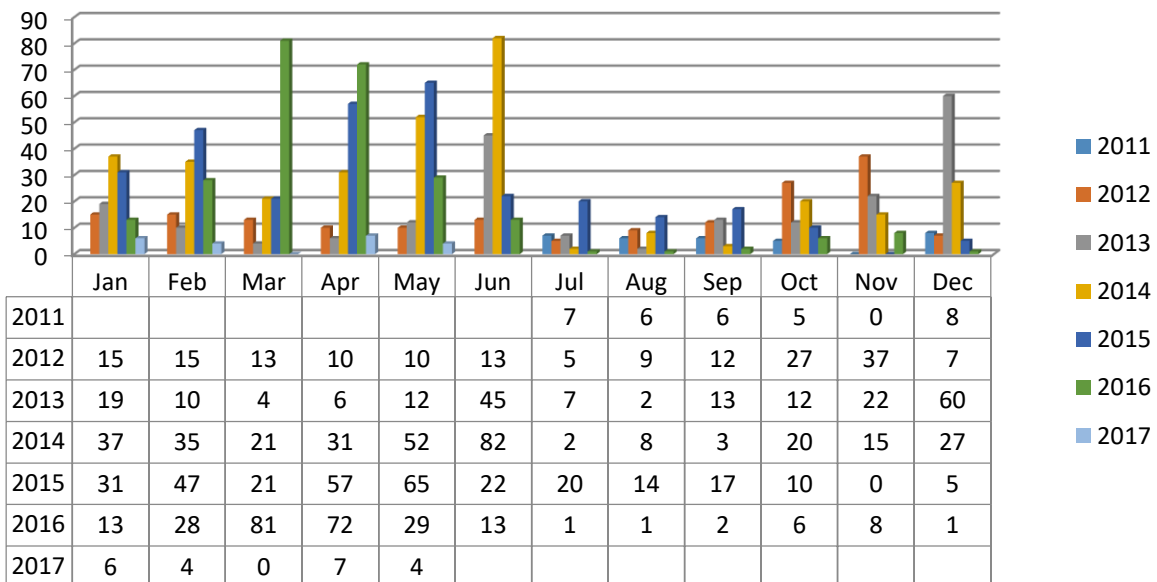
March, April and May 2017

There were no government sponsored incidents registered by our monitors in BN during the months of March, April and May 2017.

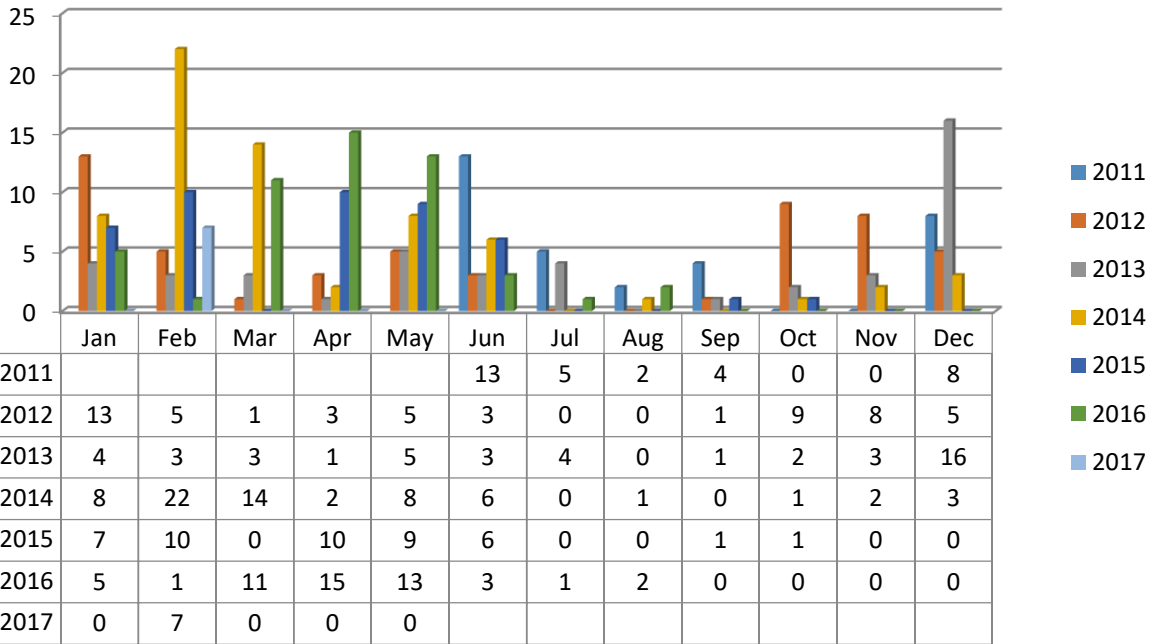
Conclusion

Apart from the looting incidents highlighted in SK, the ceasefire is at least preventing the aerial bombardments. However, looting always triggers displacements as people move away from targeted areas, travelling from place to place, with their animals for safety and pasture. Due to fear and insecurity caused by looting incursions, at least 27 people left SPLA/M-N areas for SAF controlled areas of SK. Additionally, these lootings continue to exacerbate the physical and economic insecurity of the communities whose livelihoods are being constantly eroded due to the loss of their livestock. They live in fear, not knowing when the attackers will strike again.

**Number of incidents against civilians in SK and BN
2011 - 2017**



Number of civilians killed in SK and BN 2011 - 2017



Number of civilians injured in SK and BN 2011 - 2017

