



Human Rights Update: March – September 2018

Ceasefire has not ended abuses by government forces and pro-government militia

The National Human Rights Monitors Organisation (NHRMO) has been monitoring human rights violations committed against the civilian population in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, Sudan, since the current conflict began in 2011.

The information in this update has been verified by NHRMO field monitors in the SPLM/A-N controlled areas of Southern Kordofan/Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile. It highlights a number of incidents perpetrated by Sudanese government forces and its allied militias/paramilitary forces against the local population. The update provides strong evidence that civilians are being directly and deliberately targeted by the Sudanese government and its allied militias/paramilitary forces as most of the attacks were against clearly identifiable and unarmed civilians.

This report covers the period March – September 2018. Both sides of the conflict, the Sudan government and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N), claimed to be respecting unilateral ceasefires throughout the reporting period.

In July, the Sudan government issued a decree extending its unilateral ceasefire in South Kordofan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN) until 31 December 2018. The same ceasefire also applies to Darfur. For its part, the SPLA-N led by Abdel Azziz Alhilu extended its cessation of hostilities from 1 June - 30 November 2018.

The ceasefires which were first declared in June 2016, and have since been renewed from time to time, have decreased the level of violence and human rights violations in SK and BN. However, looting, abductions, killing and other human rights violations by the Sudan government and pro-government militias continue. In the last few months, these violations appear to have grown more violent, resulting, unlike prior recent attacks, in civilian deaths.

SOUTHERN KORDOFAN STATE/NUBA MOUNTAINS

NHRMO monitored 21 incidents of human rights violations in SK between March and July 2018. No incidents were recorded by our monitors in SK in August or September. Most violations are committed by the government or its allied militias, but in this reporting period one incident, involving the loss of three lives, was committed by Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army-North (SPLM/A-N) in Alabasiya County. There were four civilians injured and 21 civilians killed during the period. By way of comparison, NHRMO monitors recorded only eight civilian deaths for all of 2017. Four people were injured between March and July 2018 as compared to no injuries at all for the whole of 2018. These figures indicate a significant increase in violence in SK over the reporting period (in BN there have been inter-communal tensions and conflict although the monitoring team was not able to document any incidents there). Although the reasons are unclear, increased violence from the Sudan government army and its allied

forces, coupled with reports of increased government recruitment of young Nuba men into the army on the government controlled side as well as the return of military planes overflying the Two Areas, do not augur well for the future.

March 2018

Alabasiya County

- **On 1 March 2018, at about 11.00pm**, a group of eight SPLM/A-N soldiers killed three civilians Kalinda village, Kotore Payam, Alabasiya County. The soldiers who committed this offence were arrested and held in custody before being charged in court. Four of the soldiers were eventually sentenced to death by firing squad and the other four to life imprisonment. By the end of September, the death penalties had not yet been carried out.

Delami County

- **On 3 March 2018, at 2.30am**, a group of 16 armed soldiers of the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) looted 41 cows in Kamili village, Nyukur Payam. Dressed in their green uniforms, they came riding on camels. They are said to have come from Habila village, Nyukur Payam, which is controlled by the Sudanese government. There were no casualties.

Heiban County

- **On 9 March 2018, at 10.00am**, 21 Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) soldiers killed a 38-year old man in Habijad Payam, Habijad village. They came riding seven motorbikes with three soldiers on each and were armed with Kalashnikovs, Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs) and PKMs.¹ The dead man left behind three wives and 10 children, the eldest being 13 years old and the youngest only three months. The dead man had been displaced to the area from Khurdelib town in 2011 as a result of the conflict.

A 35-year old man who witnessed the incident described it as follows:

The Sudanese army usually attacks us when we are working on the farms. That day, we were already tired of working and went half a kilometre away to harvest honey. All of a sudden, we saw seven motorbikes with soldiers coming towards us on the road. Our immediate reaction was to run away and we were shot at with the Kalashnikovs and PKMs. One of us, a friend, was shot down and began to yell in pain but we could not stop or turn back to help. We came back the next day to see what had happened to him but he was already dead and one of his ears had been cut off. I think the soldiers intended to loot our cows but decided to shoot when they found us on the road.

- **On 13 March 2018**, a group of five SAF soldiers made an incursion into Tobo village, an SPLA/M-N controlled area in Tobo (or Alburam) County, but were quickly repulsed by the SPLM/A-N following an exchange of fire. One SPLM/A-N soldier was killed and another was seriously injured. The government soldiers appear to have come from Umshoran village, an SAF controlled area.

April 2018

Delami County

- **On 15 April 2018, at 8.30am**, a group of 14 armed SAF soldiers wearing Rapid Support Forces (RSF) green uniforms and riding on seven camels attacked three civilians working on their farms in Abeyat village, Nyukur Payam. One civilian was killed and another sustained serious injuries to his neck. Another civilian was shot at but not hit. The murdered civilian was a 75-year old farmer and he left behind seven daughters.

¹ PKM is a Russian-made portable, reusable, unguided, shoulder-launched, anti-tank rocket propelled grenade launcher.

- **On 15 April 2018, at around 8.30am**, the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) militia looted 41 cows in Kamili village, Nyukur Payam. They are said to have come from Habila village, Nyukur Payam, which is controlled by the Sudanese government.

Heiban County

The specific dates and times of the incidents below were not established.

- 176 cattle were looted by PDF in Debbi village, Debbi Payam, but no more details were available about this incident.
- 18 houses were burned down in Debbi village, Debbi Payam. Two children and their parents, four people in total, were burned to death.
- In Mandi village, Mandi Payam, 59 houses and more than 60 fields of crops and fruit trees were burned.

Apart from Delami and Heiban, the situation remained calm in other counties.

May 2018

Delami

- **On 1 May 2018, at 8.00pm**, eight SAF soldiers armed with AK47s and RPGs attacked Kamili village, Nyukur Payam, and looted 24 cows. Riding on four camels, each carrying two soldiers, they moved on to the town of Habila on the government controlled side where they are probably based. There were no casualties.
- **On 16 May 2018, at 1.30pm**, in Wera village, Sabat Payam, nine SAF soldiers all armed with AK47s looted 18 cows. No one was injured or killed.
- **On 24 May 2018, at 4.15pm**, in Deri village, Aberi Payam, nine SAF soldiers attacked civilians who were grazing their cows and killed a 48-year old man. However, one of the herders, an armed member of the community, exchanged fire with the SAF group. In the end, the SAF group was unable to loot any cows and two SAF soldiers were injured.

Heiban

- **In the first week of May 2018, at 11:00am**, the PDF attacked the community and looted 35 cows leaving one person dead and another one wounded. However, three of looted cows returned to the village by themselves and were returned to their owners.
- **On 18 May 2018, at 2.00pm**, the PDF militia abducted five children and looted 150 cows. They also killed three boys who were herding cows in Tembera village, Umdordo Payam. However, they later released the children.
- **On 21 May 2018, at 8.00 pm**, the PDF looted 150 cows and killed three boys tending them in Mandi village. The militiamen were riding 75 camels, two on each.
- **On 25 May 2018, at 3.30 pm**, in Haja Bago area, Alazrag Payam, the PDF looted 85 cows belonging to five people. There were no casualties. One man was abducted but he was allowed to return to the village with 12 cows on the same day. It is not clear why or under what circumstances the PDF allowed this man to return to the village with the cows.

June 2018

Delami

- **On 4 June 2018, at 4.00pm**, in Sabat village, Sabat Payam, SAF forces killed a 38-year old man. He was returning home from his farm when SAF soldiers shot him to death. The SAF soldiers came from Aberi barracks, about 45 – 60 minutes' walk from the village.
- **On 24 June 2018, at 1.30pm**, in Kubola village, Umhetan Payam, 15 SAF soldiers armed with AK47s and RPGs attacked civilians in their farms, resulting in the death of two men.
- In Sabat village, Sabat Payam, SAF soldiers also killed three civilians who were resisting looting of their livestock. The exact time and date of the incident are unclear.

July 2018

Delami

- **On 6 July 2018, at 2:00pm**, in Hadra village, Umhitan Payam, 18 armed men in RSF uniforms attacked the community. One man and a child were killed and two people were injured. The attackers looted 80 sheep, 63 head of cattle and three motor cycles.

Umdorin

- **On 15 July 2018, at 11:00am**, an armed militia group composed of 40 men from Kadugli looted 520 head of cattle from 14 households in Abushashim area in the south-western part of Tangal village, Tangal Payam. They also killed a 17-year old boy.

BLUE NILE STATE

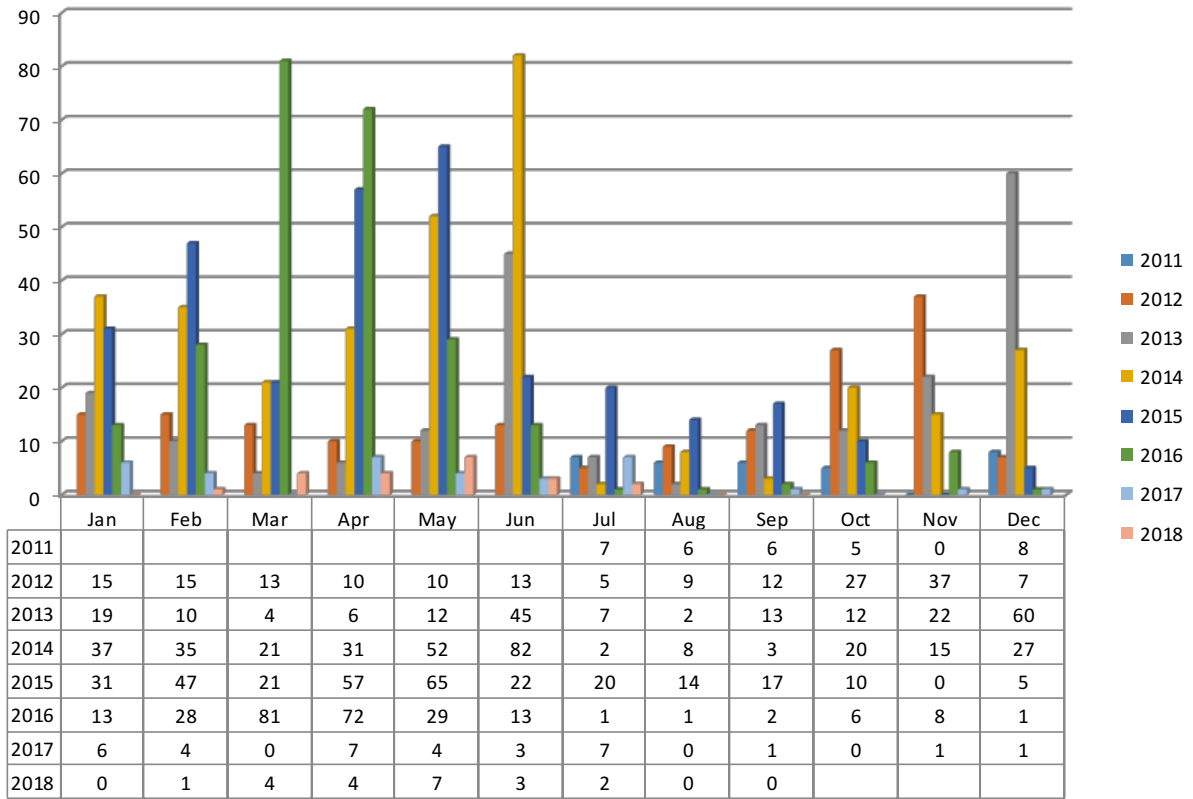
March - September 2018

Our monitors did not document any human rights violations in BN during the months of March to September 2018.

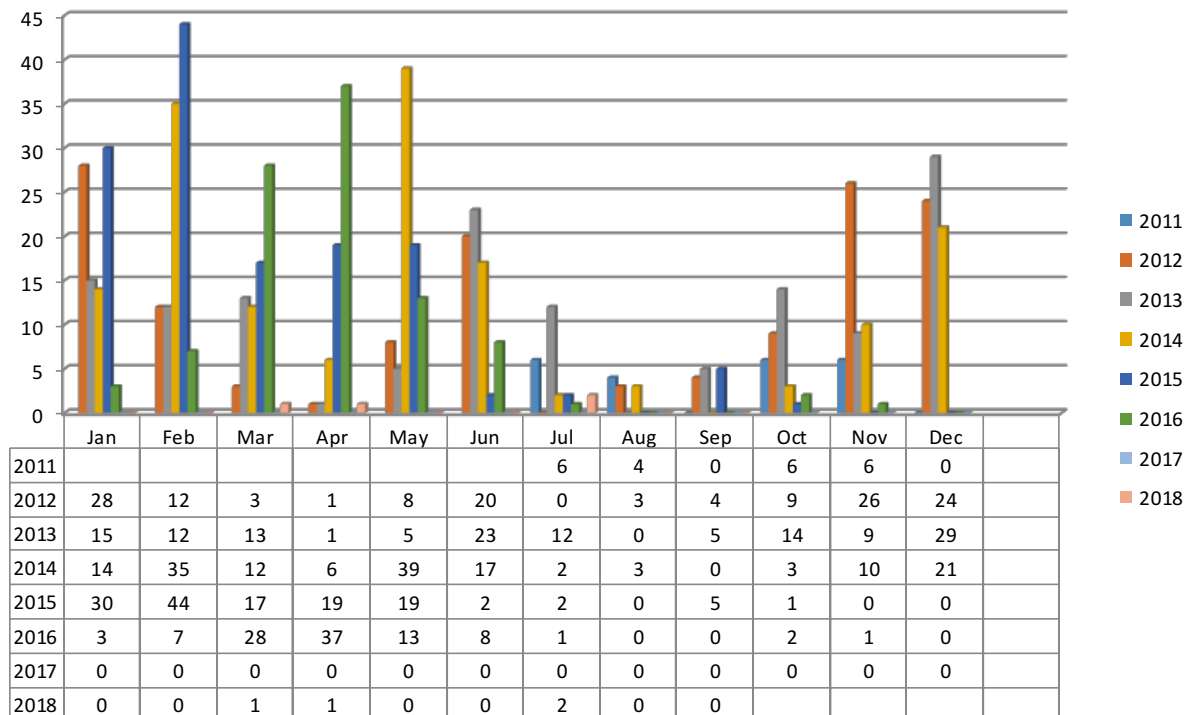
Conclusion

While incidents of human rights violations have declined across the two states in the last two years owing mainly to the cessation of aerial bombing, the increase in violence recently is unsettling. It is also currently more difficult to locate human rights incidents since they occur more quietly. Limited communication capacity in the region also inhibits monitoring and it is possible that we are not able to document all incidents. Additionally, the continued inter-communal tension in Blue Nile State did not allow free access to all areas of the state under the control of SPLM/A-N further inhibiting our ability to monitor all incidents.

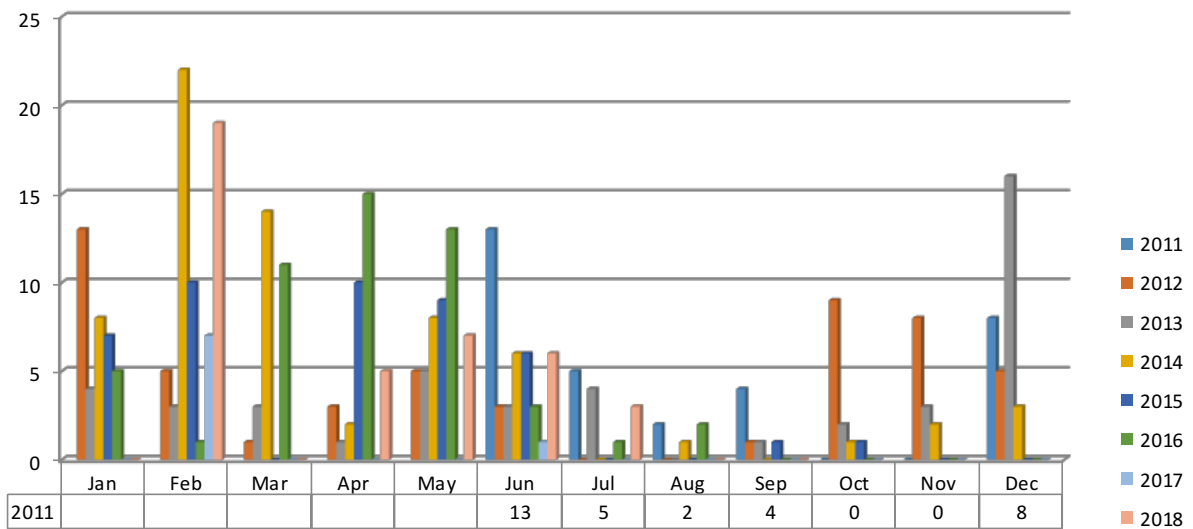
Number of incidents against civilians in SK and BN 2011 - 2018



Number of civilians injured in SK and BN 2011 - 2018



Number of civilians killed in SK and BN 2011 - 2018



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011						13	5	2	4	0	0	8
2012	13	5	1	3	5	3	0	0	1	9	8	5
2013	4	3	3	1	5	3	4	0	1	2	3	16
2014	8	22	14	2	8	6	0	1	0	1	2	3
2015	7	10	0	10	9	6	0	0	1	1	0	0
2016	5	1	11	15	13	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
2017	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	0	19	0	5	7	6	3	0	0			