



National Human Rights Monitors Organisation

Special Human Rights Update

September 2018

NHRMO has been monitoring human rights violations committed against the civilian population in the areas of Nuba Mountains / Southern Kordofan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN) held by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement / Army – North (SPLM/A –N) since the current conflict began in 2011.

The information in this report provides strong evidence that even during the ceasefire civilians and their property are being directly and deliberately targeted by the Sudanese government and/or its allied militias, as most of the attacks referred to were carried out against clearly identifiable and unarmed civilians. Although incidents of human rights violations against the civilian population in the two states have significantly reduced since the coming into force of the ceasefire in June 2016, they continue up to today.

Violations of the cessation of hostilities in Nuba Mountains / South Kordofan and Blue Nile states of Sudan

Introduction

This special update covers the period from June 2016 to July 2018 and focuses on the SPLM/A-N controlled areas of Nuba Mountains/Southern Kordofan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN) states of Sudan.

For over two years now, since mid-2016, there has been a fairly effective cessation of hostilities¹ in place in SK and BN. The decisive step taken to cease fighting and stop over five years of regular aerial bombardments was first declared by Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir on 16 June 2016 and then subsequently extended several times on a unilateral basis by the belligerent parties (SPLM/A-N and the government of Sudan), in parallel fashion, whenever their respective unilateral ceasefires are about to expire.

However, despite the cessation of hostilities, human rights violations, have continued to be committed, mainly by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and allied militias or paramilitary forces though admittedly at a lower rate. This update contains a summary of human rights violations of the cessation of hostilities meant to provide a quick reference on this topic to regional and international policy makers, as well as advocates for peace in SK and BN. It is hoped, that these institutions will pressure the Government of Sudan to stop these violations. The update also provides evidence to international actors, that despite the cessation of hostilities, the situation in the Two Areas remains fragile until a definitive resolution of the conflict is found. The reported incidents of human rights violations, during the period of the cessation of hostilities, are only those that have been verified

¹ The Government of Sudan ordinarily uses the term 'ceasefire' while the SPLM/A-N uses 'cessation of hostilities'. NHRMO is using the term 'cessation of hostilities' as it describes better the actual situation, as each of the opposing sides unilaterally declares that they will suspend fighting, but such declarations are provisional and nonbinding. A ceasefire is typically a jointly negotiated agreement to cease hostilities and take other steps, and are usually meant to be binding. By using the concept 'cessation of hostilities' we do not take position in favour or against one or the other party.

by the human rights monitors of the National Human Rights Organisation (NHRMO) but the actual number of violations could be much higher.

The most important positive result of the cessation of hostilities, during the period under review, is the absence of aerial bombardments by the Sudan Air Force, a phenomenon which had become the main characteristic of the war since it started in 2011. Hundreds of lives were lost, livelihoods degraded due to serious injuries, and large-scale destruction of properties and social amenities as a consequence of the aerial bombardment campaign. It is estimated that since 2012 Sudan bombed civilian targets including farmlands and schools over [4,000 times](#). Apart from aerial bombardments, large scale ground attacks by Sudanese government forces appear to have ceased, at least temporarily. The situation has therefore been generally calmer, particularly in SK, but incidents of looting of livestock (i.e. cattle, goats, sheep), by armed militias or paramilitary forces allied to the government of Sudan, as well as incidents of abductions and killings have continued.

Violations of the cessation of hostilities, such as those reported in this publication, ordinarily trigger internal displacement of people and scare communities away from their agricultural fields, thus causing food insecurity and undermining people's livelihoods. Since the two states have already known food insecurity and famine for several years, these acts have obviously aggravated the situation, and are at times seen as a deliberate strategy on the part of the Sudanese government to unsettle communities in SK and BN. The food insecurity in SPLM/A-N controlled areas have forced many civilians to move to government-controlled areas, where food is more accessible. However, there are no comprehensive nutritional statistics available, since the government of Sudan still blocks humanitarian access to SK and BN, due to a stalemate with the SPLM/A-N regarding the supply route(s) for humanitarian aid. Humanitarian access could provide a conducive environment for fully fledged nutritional assessments, as a first step in generating comprehensive and reliable nutrition statistics. In February 2018, NHRMO published a report on [civilian perspectives](#) regarding humanitarian access, which is accessible [here](#).

Summary of Violations of the Cessation of Hostilities, June 2016 – July 2018

Date	Time	Type	Location (<i>state, county, payam, village</i>)	Perpetrator	Comments
28/06/2016	1:25 pm	Aerial Bombing	BN/ Alkurnuk/ Wadaka/ Wadaka	Sudan Air Force	4 bombs dropped
28/06/2016	1:25 pm	Aerial Bombing	BN/ Alkurnuk/ Shali/ Shali Alfeel	Sudan Air Force	4 bombs dropped
29/06/2016	1:45 pm	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Tungule/ Tungule	SAF	No fatalities or injuries
12/07/2016	1:00 pm	Attack	SK/ Kadugli/ Mirri/ Lima	PDF	Civilians were attacked while working in their fields. A 42-year-old, a mother of eight children, was killed. A 52-year-old man, a father of eight children, was injured
01/08/2016	2:30 pm	Shelling	SK/ Umdorin/ Tablo	SAF	Two men and a 79-year-old woman were killed.
15/08/2016	2:48 pm	Looting	SK/ Umdorin/ Nomtaing	PDF	A 17-year-old boy was killed. Two children both aged 12 years went missing.
07/09/2016	7:45 am	Shelling	SK/ Delami/ Umhitan/ Kubla	SAF	No fatalities or injuries.
08/09/2016	10:30 am	Aerial Bombing	SK/ Kadugli/ Korongo/ Shat Tabaldi	Sudan Air Force	2 MiGs dropped 4 bombs, but no injuries
29/09/2016	1:00 pm	Shelling	SK/ Umdorin/ Alnugra	SAF	A 53-year-old man was injured.
09/10/2016	8:00 am	Attack	SK/ Kadugli/ Mirri/ Lima	PDF	A 60-year-old woman named was injured.
14/10/2016	8:00 am	Shelling	SK/ Umdorin/ Alnugra	SAF	A four-month-old baby was injured.

16/10/2016	1:00 am	Shelling	SK/ Umdorin/ Alnugra	SAF	No fatalities or injuries.
16/10/2016	3:00 pm	Shelling	SK/ Umdorin/ Umsirdiba	SAF	27 shells were fired but no casualties.
21/10/2016	4:13 pm	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Umhitan/ Hadra	PDF	180 cows from 3 households were looted.
17/11/2016	2:00 pm	Abduction	SK/ Heiban/ Kumbur/ Tembera	PDF	A man harvesting crops was kidnapped, still missing.
19/11/2016	8:00 am	Shelling	SK/ Umdorin/ Umsirdiba	SAF	28 shells were fired but no casualties.
23/11/2016	3:15 pm	Shelling	SK/ Heiban/ Ardicanan	SAF	A man was injured.
24/11/2016	2:00 pm	Shelling	SK/ Heiban/ Nyakima	SAF	No fatalities or injuries.
24/11/2016	12:00 noon	Shelling	SK/ Umdorin/ Alnugra	SAF	30 shells were fired.
28/11/2016	2:13 pm	Aerial Bombing	SK/ Heiban/ Alazrag/ Lula	Sudan Air Force	Two bombs dropped by two MIGs.
12/12/2016	3:32 pm	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Tungule/ Tungule	SAF	64 goats looted.
01/01/2017	1:00 AM	Shelling	SK/ Alabasiya/ SPLM/A - N areas	SAF	7 shells were fired.
02/01/2017	10:00 AM	Shelling	SK/ Alabasiya/ SPLM/A - N areas	SAF	12 shells were fired.
05/01/2017	4:00 AM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Umhitan/ Hadra	PDF	42 sheep were looted
14/01/2017	3:00 AM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Umhitan/ Hadra	PDF	9 goats and 20 cows were looted.
14/01/2017	1:15 AM	Looting	SK/ Heiban/ Alazrag/ Aljimezai	PDF	22 cows were looted.
02/02/2017	3:00 AM	Looting	SK/ Kadugli/ Korongo/ Altuma	PDF	No fatalities or injuries.
21/02/2017	6:00 PM	Ground fighting	SK/ Kadugli/ Mirri/ Almashayish	SAF	No fatalities or injuries.
22/02/2017	3:00 AM	Looting	SK/ Kadugli/ Mirri/ Abbi	SAF	19 goats and 13 cows were looted.
11/03/2017	1:35 AM	Looting	SK/ Talodi/ Taragtarag	PDF	No fatalities or injuries.
02/04/2017	2:00 PM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Aberi/ Deri	SAF	26 goats were looted.
09/04/2017	1:00 PM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Umhitan/ Hadra	SAF	18 goats were looted.
09/04/2017	3:30 AM	Looting	SK/ Heiban/ Alazrag/ Ora	PDF	37 cows were looted.
15/04/2017	2:00 AM	Looting	SK/ Heiban/ Umdurdu	PDF	27 cows were looted.
17/04/2017	3:00 AM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Umhitan/ Hadra	SAF	100 sheep were looted.
27/04/2017	11:00 AM	Looting	SK/ Talodi/ Angarto	PDF	23 cows were looted.
27/04/2017	2:00 AM	Looting	SK/ Talodi/ Angarto	PDF	76 goats were looted.
01/05/2017	1:55 AM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Nyukur/ Sanjar	SAF	45 cows were looted, belonging to 2 households.
11/05/2017	12:32 PM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Aberi/ Deri	SAF	50 cows were looted, belonging to 5 households.
15/05/2017	3:30 AM	Looting	SK/ Heiban/ Alazrag/ Hajarbago	PDF	32 goats were looted.
18/05/2017	4:00 AM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Nyukur/ Dokuri	SAF	160 cows were looted, belong to 4 families.
02/06/2017	5:35 AM	Looting	SK/ Heiban/ Kumbur/ Kalkada	PDF	149 cows and 148 goats were looted, belong to 12 people.
19/06/2017	3:00 AM	Abduction	SK/ Kadugli/ Korongo	RSF	A 55-years-old civilian was kidnapped while working in his farm His dead body was found in the bush two days later.
01/07/2017	8:30 AM	Looting	SK/ Dilling/ Julud/ Kitungo	PDF	40 cows were looted.
06/07/2017	1:00 PM	Arbitrary killing	SK/ Dilling/ Farshya/ Kassa	PDF	A 35-year-old was killed on his way back from the market.
08/07/2017	3:00 AM	Looting	SK/ Tobo (Alburam)/ Tobo (Alburam)	SAF	51 cows were looted.
14/07/2017	11:00 AM	Looting	SK/ Umdorin/ Tangal/ Alhabil	RSF	100 cows were looted.
25/10/2017	10:00 PM	Looting	SK/ Heiban/ Alazrag/ Hajarbago	PDF	81 cows were looted.

26/07/2017	11:32 PM	Looting	SK/ Heiban/ Kumbur/ Mandi	SPLA-N	1 goat, belonging to a 55-year-old woman, was looted. SPLA - N Military Police arrested the culprit, a soldier, and took him to court. The looted property was returned to the owner.
07/09/2017	1:00 AM	Land mine	SK/ Delami/ Aberi/ Tamau	SAF	No fatalities or injuries.
18/11/2017	1:30 AM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Nyukur/ Kumbur	PDF	27 cows were looted.
13/12/2017	12: 10 midnight	Looting	SK/ Heiban/ Kumbur/ Hallobi	PDF	13 cows were looted.
05/02/2018	12: 00 midnight	Looting	SK/ Heiban/ Kumbur/ Larro	PDF	49 cows were looted.
10/02/2018	10:30 AM	Arbitrary killing	SK/ Heiban/ Kumbur/ Kalkada	Unknown	2 dead bodies of civilians were found in the bush.
01/03/2018	11:00 PM	Arbitrary killing	SK/ Alabasiya/ Government areas	SPLA-N	Asoldier from SPLA-N, killed 3 civilians. SPLM/A-N authority arrested the perpetrator and presented him to court, the trial is ongoing.
03/03/2018	2:30 AM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Nyukur/ Kamili	PDF	41 cows were looted.
09/03/2018	10:00 AM	Arbitrary killing	SK/ Delami/ Aberi/ Habijad	SAF	A civilian was killed while going back home from his farm
15/04/2018	8:30 AM	Arbitrary killing	SK/ Delami/ Nyukur/ Abeyat	SAF	A 75-year-old man and a 74-year-old man, were killed while working in their farm.
01/05/2018	8:00 PM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Nyukur/ Kamili	SAF	24 cows were looted.
02/05/2018	4:15 PM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Aberi/ Deri	SAF	One man was killed and two other civilians were injured.
16/05/2018	1:30 AM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Sabat/ Wera	SAF	18 cows were looted.
18/05/2018	2:00 PM	Looting	SK/ Heiban/ Kumbur/ Tembera	PDF	75 cows were looted.
21/05/2018	8:00 PM	Looting	SK/ Heiban/ Kumbur/ Mandi	PDF	150 cows were looted.
04/06/2018	4:00 PM	Arbitrary killing	SK/ Delami/ Sabat	SAF	Ibrahim Luo, 38 years old, was shot to dead on his way back home from his farm.
24/06/2018	1:30 PM	Arbitrary killing	SK/ Delami/ Umhitan/ Kubla	SAF	A 40-year-old man and a 48-year-old man were killed while working in their farm.
06/07/2018	2:00 PM	Looting	SK/ Delami/ Umhitan/ Hadra	RSF	80 sheep and 63 cows were looted.
15/07/2018	11:00 AM	Looting	SK/ Umdorin/ Tangal/ Abuhashim	PDF	A 17-year-old youth was killed, and 520 cows from 14 households were looted.

Civilians affected by incidents of violations of the cessation of hostilities

Date	Killed	Injured	Missing	Perpetrator	Force Description of Major Perpetrators
12/07/2016	1	1	0	Popular Defence Forces	The Popular Defence Forces (PDF) is a paramilitary force of the Sudan government and is part of Sudan's military, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) as it was created by a statute, the 1989 Popular Defence Forces Act. Informally, it is widely known as a Sudan government militia.
01/08/2016	2	0	0	Sudanese Armed Forces	
15/08/2016	1	0	2	Popular Defence Forces	
29/09/2016	0	1	0	Sudanese Armed Forces	
09/10/2016	0	1	0	Popular Defence Forces	
14/10/2016	0	1	0	Sudanese Armed Forces	
17/11/2016	0	0	1	Popular Defence Forces	
23/11/2016	0	1	0	Sudanese Armed Forces	
19/06/2017	1	0	0	Rapid Support Forces	

06/07/2017	1	0	0	Popular Defence Forces	The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) are a Sudanese paramilitary force under control of the Sudanese government. For technical and administrative purposes the RSF are administered by the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) although during military operations they are commanded by the Sudanese Armed Forces. The RSF are popularly known as a government militia.
10/02/2018	2	0	0	Unknown	
01/03/2018	3	0	0	Sudanese People's Liberation Army - North	
09/03/2018	1	0	0	Sudanese Armed Forces	
15/04/2018	1	1	0	Sudanese Armed Forces	
02/05/2018	1	2	0	Sudanese Armed Forces	
04/06/2018	1	0	0	Sudanese Armed Forces	
24/06/2018	2	0	0	Sudanese Armed Forces	
06/07/2018	2	2	0	Rapid Support Forces	
15/07/2018	1	0	0	Popular Defence Forces	
Totals	20	10	3		

Conclusion

Although the cessation of hostilities has not been fully implemented by the Sudanese government, it has had a significant impact on the lives of civilians mainly due to the suspension of Sudan Air Force bombing raids. The current situation has therefore enabled people to carry on their lives almost "normally". Although other human rights violations have been perpetrated by the SAF and government-allied militias, they are obviously not as destructive as aerial bombardments in terms of scale and intensity. Nevertheless, reports collected by our human rights monitors, during the last few months, seem to indicate deliberate targeting of civilians by SAF and allied militias on agricultural farms, resulting in several deaths. Additionally, SAF war planes continue to circle both SK and BN skies, rekindling bad memories, causing stress and sowing fear among the communities. More pressure is thus needed on both parties to strictly maintain the current cessation of hostilities and upgrade it to a joint ceasefire with a clearly defined monitoring component.