



HUDO Centre

REPORT

ON

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SOUTH KORDUFAN
AND BLUE NILE STATES OF SUDAN**

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Prepared by

HUDO Centre

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Executive summary

This report covers some incidents that occurred between January and June 2020 in the government controlled territories of South Kordufan and Blue Nile States and among IDPs from the two states. In Khartoum state, the violations reduced significantly but in conflict areas of SK and BN, violations went on with limited or no intervention from the state or central government (authorities).

The aim of this report is to bring to light the human rights violations and abuses in SK and BN states of Sudan (government territory) and the situation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from the two states.

The information included in this report is a result of prepared instruments/tools which were used by trained field monitors in gathering the data. Data from the field monitors was reviewed and compiled by the competent reporting panel. Due to many challenges, this report does not take account of all incidents that occurred during this period.

The violations and abuses included in this report are; arbitrary arrests, unlawful killings (more than thirty civilians were shot dead) and other violations which were mainly carried out by RSF/PDF against civilians in the two conflict areas. On regular incidents, police deliberately refused or failed to carry out investigations of cases brought before them. The report also includes court observation notes for specific trials with human rights aspect.

In recommendation, this report calls upon Sudan government to respect its obligations towards the citizens and the international human rights laws. The report also urges the international community to stand with the victims in reparation for their rights.

Abbreviations

SK	South Kordufan
BN	Blue Nile
HUDO	Human Rights and Development Organization
PDF	Public Defense Forces
RSF	Rapid Support Force
IDPs	Internally Displaced People/ Persons
SPLA-N	Sudan People Liberation Army – North
SPLM-N	Sudan People Liberation Movement – North
MI	Military Intelligence
NISS	National Intelligence and Security Services
AU	African Union
AI	Amnesty International
HRW	Human Rights Watch
SAF	Sudan Armed Forces
SDG	Sudanese Genaih/ Pound
USD	United State Dollar
NCP	National Congress Party
SRC	Sudanese Red Crescent
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease - 2019

1 SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This report documents and highlights the violations and abuses from 1st January to 30th June 2020 that HUDO Centre managed to cover in the government controlled territories of South Kordufan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN). The report also includes other few incidents that were mainly associated with the internally displaced people (IDPs) from the two areas (SK and BN) and highlights what was observed during court trials that featured human rights related cases.

The report is composed of interrelated sections; the introductory section, the body which contains the stated violations with some suggested recommendations and lastly the section of appendices which has supporting documents that relate to information in the report.

1.2 About HUDO

Human Rights and Development Organization (HUDO Centre) is an independent, non-government, non-partisan and non-profit making organization based in Kampala-Uganda. HUDO Centre is currently undertaking monitoring of human rights situation in Sudan. This includes the conditions and rights of civilians in conflict areas. For instance religious rights, freedom of expression and other violations plus observing the human rights related court trials. Our focus is on areas under the control of Sudan government in South Kordufan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN) States together with the IDPs from the two areas. HUDO Centre also has a special program on refugee issues.

In order to implement this task, HUDO Centre trains human rights monitors based in SK and BN to improve their capacity to monitor, document and report on violations and abuses taking place.

Our Vision: A world where everyone's human rights are protected and fulfilled without discrimination.

Our Mission: To champion universal access to rights based information and services to vulnerable and underserved communities through sustainable innovations, humanitarian support, strategic partnerships, rights empowerment, capacity building, research and advocacy.

1.3 A Brief Background

The first six months of the year 2020 were associated with many challenges since those were the early months of the transitional government whose jurisdiction was heavily entangled with the former regime. For instance, there was disobedience within NISS' operation department in Khartoum. Also, the presence of PDF in conflict areas and the dominance of RSF in Sudan's political life and the SAF acts in conflict areas remain the same as before within the former regime.

The visibility of the transitional government is generally limited to Khartoum but the other parts of Sudan are still governed by the same state governors of the former regime. For instance the "state of emergency" declared by the former president (Al-Bashir) is still on in the states/regions under conflict and the violations are still going on mainly committed by RSF and other governmental militias like PDF.

Although the peace process is still disorderly (shambolic) and the two main armed groups were not included in the process, there were repeated announcements and extensions of ceasefire by the Sudan government and the armed groups. Noticeably, there was a visit of Sudan prime minister to SPLA-N territory.

On the other hand, the economic situation is not good within the population/public. This has been worsened by the measures (like the lockdown) put in place by government to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

1.4 Statement of the problem

The violations in conflict areas continued mainly because of the presence of the fully armed/equipped RSF and PDF and the absence of the central government. The former regime agents/members who used to ignore abuse and violations are still active within the public administration. RSF and PDF killed and injured many people/civilians by shooting them directly and sometimes they looted or confiscated property from civilians. But, in Khartoum the violations reduced significantly.

Rights were violated in form of arbitrary arrests (security of persons), unlawful killing, denying people rights to fair trial (court) and rights of civilians within conflict areas (insecurity, abuse of authority and excessive use of power). Many times, the

authorities (police in particular) refused or failed to carry out investigations of cases brought before them especially where RSF and PDF were involved. This is a challenge to good governance, rule of law and an indication of impunity.

1.5 Aim and objectives

Aim

This report aims to bring to light the human rights violations and abuses in SK and BN states of Sudan (government territory) and the situation of IDPs from the two states.

Objectives

- To provide the United Nations "Human Rights Expert for Sudan", African Union (AU), Amnesty International(AI), Human Rights Watch (HRW), the Diplomatic Missions/embassies in Sudan, institutes and individuals with information in order to enhance their efforts to improve the human rights situation in Sudan.
- To lobby and engage the Sudanese Civil Society and other stakeholders in the process of human rights advocacy.
- To study the human rights situation in the conflict zones of SK and BN in Sudan and come up with appropriate recommendations.

1.6 Scope of the report

Sudan as a country consists of eighteen states and some of these states are under conflict. This report covers SK and BN in particular. South Kordufan state consists of seventeen (17) localities, some are located within a territory controlled by SPLA-N and others are under government control. Blue Nile State consists of seven (7) localities under government control with the presence of SPLA-N in four (4) localities. The violations and abuses documented in this particular report took place in SK, BN and White Nile State.

The following are towns and villages in SK State which were mentioned in this report; Albardab and Kadogli town in Kadogli locality; Abbasiya town, Baloula and Al-Sanadra village in Al-Abbasiya locality; Umbrambeta, Khor-Eldeleib, Elfaid Um-Abdalla, Ambeir, Sefaipeer, Gardod Zaharaa, Alsharak and Abu-Kershola in Abu-Kershola locality; Rashad town in Rashad locality; Al-Farshaya, Helat Elfaki, Elsebai and Dilling town in Dilling locality; Habilla in Habilla locality; Abu-Gebaiha in Abu-Gebaiha locality and Aleri

Ghareib/ Aleri West town in Aleri locality; Talodi town in Talodi locality; Dalami town in Dalami Locality; Alkewaik town in Alkewaik locality and Kujurja in Dilling locality (under SPLA-N control).

In Blue Nile state this report covered the following; Damazin town in Damazin locality; Bout town in Tadamon locality; Khartoum Belail, Amura area and Roro in Geisan locality;

Also the report highlights incidents that took place out of SK and BN States especially targeting IDPs like in Kosti town of White Nile State that neighbours SK State.

1.7 Methodology

Our network was composed of both field monitors and focal people who gathered information within the conflict areas and among IDPs. Field monitors could only cover some incidents from areas where they could gain access but not the entire geographic territory.

Different data (information) collection methods were applied and the information from the field was critically analyzed by a reporting panel at Kampala office. The panel used analytical methods to sort the information in order to arrive at accurate findings which were included in this report. For the purposes of consolidating this report, HUDO Centre also used the following methods in collecting and analyzing data/ information;

- 1) Data collection forms were developed/ used
- 2) Interviewing of victims, their relatives and witnesses
- 3) Scrutiny, verification of documents and getting comments from professionals (Lawyers, Doctors e.t.c).
- 4) Official declarations and media articles were scrutinized.

1.8 Limitations and challenges

- Due to security threats, some of the victims and witnesses could not easily reveal information
- The government's imposition of state of emergency in the two states and the insecurity hindered the field monitors in gathering information

- The COVID-19 pandemic and restriction measures (lockdown) had limited field monitors in terms of movement
- The MI and RSF generally suspect any person that talks about human rights.
- The limited number of monitors compared to the big geographic area of coverage implies that certain incidents happen without being noticed/ reported
- The withdraw (quitting) of some field monitors
- Poor means of transport
- The general fear by the monitors in case the interviewed victims were subjected to torture and forced to reveal their (monitor's) identity.
- The poor network (internet) and the very limited power/electricity network coverage in conflict areas.

2 SECTION TWO: THE INCIDENTS

HUDO managed to gather credible information about the incidents mentioned below. The violations and abuses were committed against unarmed civilians. Generally, the arrests reduced but other kinds of violations and abuses continued.

2.1 Arbitrary Arrests

Arrests in South Kordufan

2.1.1 Arresting of youth from a Public demonstration in Kadogli

On 5th January 2020, there was a peaceful demonstration in Kadogli calling for the dismissal of some high ranking officials from the public service for hindering reforms because they were members of the former regime party (NCP). The demonstration was dispersed by police using tear gas and four (4) youth were arrested by the MI. They were detained at a police cell and released the next day (6th January 2020) without any charges. The arrested youth are:

1. Ms. Azaheir Adam Daheeya
2. Ms. Ameina Hassan
3. Mr. Mohammed Fadul
4. Mr. Hamza Nasreldin

2.1.2 Arrest and intimidation of Suliman by MI in Rashad

On 12th February 2020 morning hours, three (3) soldiers of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) arrested Mr. Suliman Adam Suliman (63 years old) from his tailoring/work place in Rashad town. They took him to MI office at Rashad military base. While there, he was interrogated about his past political activities of 2011 when he was a member of Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) and Rashad's candidate for South Kordufan State legislative council (2011) elections.

The same day (evening hours), Mr. Suliman was released after being threatened that he will be arrested and tortured if he expresses any kind of association with Sudan People Liberation Army – North (SPLA-N).

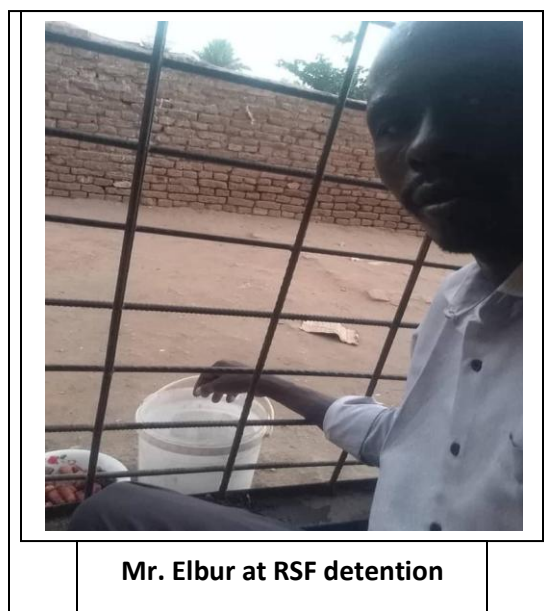
2.1.3 Arrest of Mr. Elsafi Eldegain by SAF in Aleri Ghareib

On the night of 11th April 2020 around 08:30 PM, eight (8) armed soldiers of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) came on land cruiser vehicle to the house of Mr. Elsafi Eldegain (42 years old) the farmer based in Aleri Ghareib/ Aleri West town and arrested him without giving a reason. They took him to their base in the town where he spent the night. The following day (12th April 2020), Mr. Elsafi was transferred to Talodi military base.

He was not allowed to be accessed by visitors including family and lawyers. His prolonged detention raises the fear that he could be undergoing torture. Since then Mr. Elsafi has been held incommunicado until recently (10th June 2020) when he was allowed once to communicate (via phone) with his family. The reason for Mr. Elsafi's arrest was related to his past political activities when he was a member of Sudan People Liberation Movement–North (SPLM-N).

Arrest in Blue Nile

2.1.4 Mr. Edriss Elbur Repeatedly Arrested by RSF in Damazin



On 9th April 2020 morning hours, a group of RSF soldiers in Damazin arrested Mr. Edriss Elbur Ahmed (40 years old) a trader and social activist. He was arrested from his shop at Damazin market and taken to RSF detention cell at Ashara Beiut neighbourhood where he was confined with other nine (9) RSF soldiers who were

breaching military laws. His arrest was under the direct orders of Major/ Faiz Balla the commander of RSF in Blue Nile State and a former locality governor during Al-Bashir regime.

During detention, Mr. Elbur was interrogated about the social media article (that he had posted on Facebook) criticizing the acts of RSF commandant for not respecting the procedures during fuel distribution exercise in one of the petrol stations in town (Appendix – 1). Mr. Elbur was intimidated and warned not to write/post such articles again, and then he was released on 11th April 2020.

Re-arrest: On 27th April 2020, Mr. Edriss Elbur was arrested again from his shop by RSF soldiers and detained at RSF office in Damazin town. While being there, he was interrogated and physically tortured (beaten) by RSF Captain/ Gouja. The following day (28th April 2020) Mr. Elbur was released with threats of being re-arrested again. The cause of the second arrest was because he opened a case against RSF for having arrested him illegally. Basing on the interrogation, the second arrest was meant to intimidate him so that he drops the case. But, he insisted on following the due course of the law (Appendix – 2) supported by some volunteer lawyers.

Arrest among IDP

2.1.5 Passenger detained and insulted at a checkpoint in Kosti

On 17th February 2020, Mr. Hassan Elamein Suliman (29 years old) a university graduate from Teera tribe/ Nuba was traveling from Abu-Gebaiha town of South Kordufan/ Nuba Mountains to Khartoum with public transport (a bus). When the bus stopped at the western checkpoint of Kosti town, three security personnel in civilian clothes entered the bus for the regular checks. On reaching Mr. Hassan's seat, one of them (security personnel) started bullying him by asking questions like, "*why are you so black*", "*are you a Sudanese*" e.t.c? Thereafter, Mr. Hassan showed them his identity card but they insisted on taking him to their office. While at their office, he was insulted further and was referred to as a slave (Abid). He was detained at the security checkpoint office for two hours. He was released after the passengers and their bus had refused to go/ leave without him.

Now days, the checkpoints are manned (managed) by Sudan Armed Force (SAF) and Rapid Support Force (RSF) soldiers.

2.2 Unlawful Killing

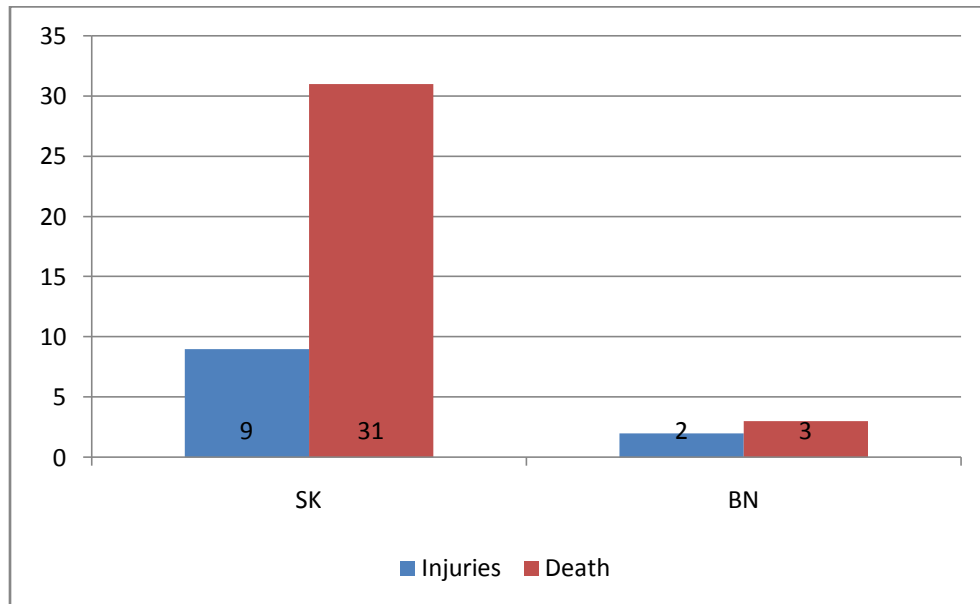
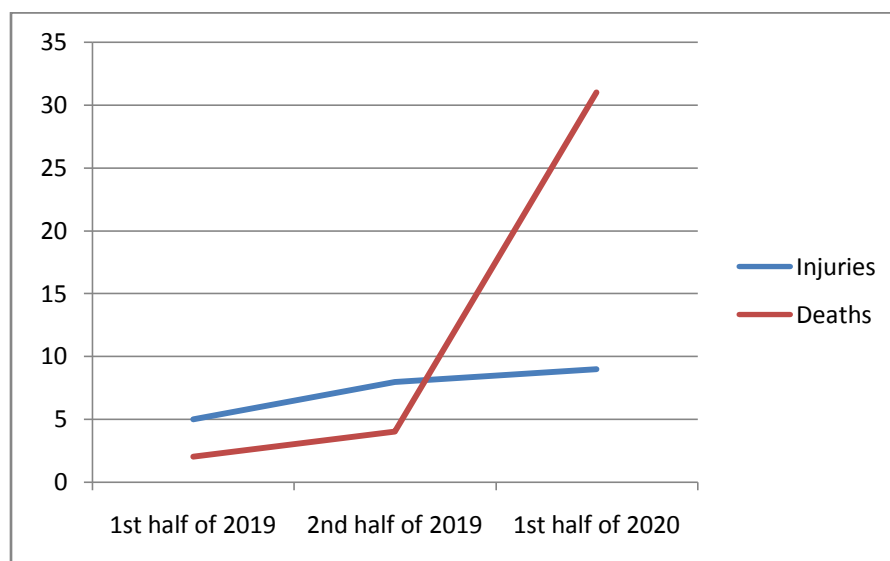


Chart showing the death and injuries in SK and BN within the first half of 2020

Unlawful Killing in South Kordufan

The unlawful killing in SK persisted especially with the direct gun shots by RSF/ PDF.



Graph comparing the death rate and injuries caused by direct gunshots in SK for the last eighteen months

2.2.1 Assassination of Musa in Elfaid Um-Abdalla

On 14th January 2020 evening hours, Mr. Musa Jar-Elnabi Omer whose nickname is Taemis (25 years old) was shot dead. Mr. Musa Jar-Elnabi Omer (a driver) was driving his tuktuk back home with his young brother (underage/ child) in Elfaid Um-Abdalla. A few meters to his home, he was stopped by three (3) armed and masked men who had a motorbike. On stopping, one of the men shot at him three times (bullets) in his chest. The three men ran away with their motorbike after shooting. The dead body was taken by the family members to Rashad town where a postmortem was done and a case was filed/reported at Rashad police office against anonymous. The child (young brother) expressed that he could recognize the attackers but the police did not take any further action.

2.2.2 Civilian Murdered and another one critically injured in Al-Abbasiya

On 22nd January 2020, both Mohammed Abduelbagi Dai-Elnour (a 32 year old teacher) and Ali Kabashi (a 28 years old farmer) travelled together on a motorbike from Al-Abbasiya to their village Baloula. Six armed and masked men with motorbikes obstructed the road and robbed them of their money and later shot them. After shooting, the attackers jumped on their bikes and went away leaving the wounded victims for dead. It was discovered later that Mr. Abduelbagi had died while Mr. Kabashi was seriously injured. They were taken to Al-Abbasiya hospital and a case was filed at Al-Abbasiya police office. The family of Kabashi who was critically injured transferred him to Um-Rawaba hospital for further treatment.

2.2.3 Murder of Mr. Ealian in Khor-Eldeleib

On 29th January 2020, two farmers Mr. Ealian Abdalla Jaragandi (58 year old) and his brother Mr. Mohammed Abdalla Jaragandi (46 years old) were traveling (walking) from Khor-Eldeleib (after attending the weekly market) to their village (Ambeir). Two armed masked men riding a motorbike shot at them by the roadside. Mr. Ealian died instantly but Mr. Mohammed survived with no injuries. Mr. Ealian's dead body was taken to Khor-Eldeleib where it was buried and a case was reported at the police post.

2.2.4 Civilians Murdered and others injured by PDF soldier in Abu-Kershola

On 29th January 2020, an armed PDF soldier named Abduelkarim Mohammed shot at a gathering of people at a water source near Abu-Kershola resulting in the death of Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim Eissa (39 years old) and Mr. Eldai Ahmed Eissa (27 years old). Three (3) other people were injured and their names are; Mr. Abduelrahman Elleheu (56 years old), Elthagafee Jeddah (48 years old) and Ibrahim Elmaikana (47 years old). The three injured people were taken to Abu-Kershola hospital for medical treatment. This case was reported at Abu-Kershola police office but no further action was taken by police to arrest the perpetrator who has since disappeared.

The reliable sources informed HUDO Centre that, the suspect (perpetrator) was earlier accused in March 2019 of kidnapping a lady. As a result, the family of the kidnapped lady attacked perpetrator's house and injured his sister. Days later, the perpetrator's father was killed by unknown people. Some days before this reported shooting incident, the lady (who was earlier kidnapped) disappeared again and her family attacked the perpetrator's house while he was away. On coming back, the perpetrator was informed about the attack to his house and he responded by shooting people.

2.2.5 Assassination of Hassan by PDF soldiers in Rashad

On 22nd February 2020, Mr. Hassan Ismail Mohammed Al-Ahdab (51 years) was travelling from his village of Baloula (approximately 15 km eastwards Rashad town) to Rashad town on a motorbike. He was obstructed and shot at by three armed masked men dressed in people Defense Force (PDF) uniform. The assassins were riding two motorbikes and after shooting him, they ran away.

Hassan was found in a pool of blood but still alive (breathing) by people on a vehicle (truck) which was coming from Rashad to Baloula and his motorbike was nearby him. They took him to Rashad town hospital where he died from. Before his death, he had informed (death confession) the people who brought him on the truck the identity of the three culprits who shot him. A case was reported/ filed at Rashad police office against anonymous.

2.2.6 Assassination of Ismail in Kadogli

On 15th March 2020 evening hours, Mr. Ismail Edriss Adam (54 years old) was shot dead by two masked men as he was alighting from his car. The killers first called him by his name and when he responded, immediately one of the masked men shot him on the chest and they ran away. Mr. Ismail was the general manager of Islamic Dawaa organization in Kadogli) and he had just arrived (returned) at his home. The neighbours and his family came to the scene only to find him in a pool of blood. They rushed him to the hospital but he died before arriving. A case was reported at Kadogli police office against anonymous and the police visited the incident/ crime scene. No further investigations or arrests have been done ever since.

2.2.7 Assassination of Fathi in Kadogli

On 15th March 2020 evening hours, while Mr. Fathi Shareif Elnour (27 years old) was going back home, he was shot dead along the main road. According to Kadogli hospital, his body had five bullet wounds especially on the abdomen and chest (trunk). The case was reported by his family at Kadogli police office against anonymous and no further investigations have been carried out yet.

2.2.8 Two people murdered and others injured by SAF soldier in Dilling Locality

On 1st May 2020, an armed soldier named Kamal Tartur, dressed in Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) uniform, obstructed the way of Mr. Saeed Nasir (42 years old) at Helat Elfaki village. This happened when the family members were riding on a tuktuk coming back to their village/ Elsebai from the weekly market of Al-Farshaya village. Soon after stopping them, he shot at them with his gun and disappeared. This resulted in the immediate death of Mr. Saeed Nasir and his infant son Mohammed Saeed Nasir (20 months). The following people were seriously injured;

1. Ms. Halima Hamid Fatees (47 years) mother of the injured child/ Mubark
2. Ms. Hawa Kowa (26 years)
3. Mubarak Mohammed Hussein (4 years).

The injured people were taken to Dilling hospital and on 2nd May 2020, they were transferred to Khartoum hospital where they received further treatment.

The case was filed at Dilling police office and the perpetrator was apprehended by Dilling military on 3rd May 2020 after two days from the incident date.

2.2.9 Two people murdered by PDF in Abu-Kershola

On 8th May 2020, four armed men in People Defense Force (PDF) uniform came riding two motorbikes and invaded Mr. Hamza Ramadan (24 years old) at his family garden in Abu-Kershola. They ordered him (Hamza) to give them the key of his motorbike but he did not comply. Immediately, one of them/PDF shot him in his abdomen and forcefully took the motorbike. Thereafter, the neighbours came only to find Mr. Hamza dead. They took the dead body to the town hospital. The case was reported to police at Abu-Kershola but, no further investigations were carried out by police not even a visit to the scene of crime.

2.2.10 Murder of a cattle keeper and looting of his cows

On 8th May 2020, about sixty armed men most of them dressed in PDF uniform came riding motorbikes and invaded the nomads' camp at Sefaipeer area of Abu-Kershola. They shot randomly and killed Mr. Mohammed Elias (34 years old and cattle keeper) and two of his cows. Thereafter, they took away around three hundred and four (304) cattle. The case was reported to police at Abu-Kershola town but, no further investigations were carried out.

2.2.11 Civilian murdered by RSF because of his ethnicity

On 21st May 2020, Mr. Awad Elwakeel Musa (33 years old) together with three others were travelling on a vehicle from Al-kewaik to Kadogli town. When they reached near a place known as Albardab, five (5) armed men dressed in Rapid Support Force (RSF) uniform obstructed them. The armed men ordered them to come down and they interrogated them about their ethnic background. When Mr. Awad revealed that he was a Nuba/ Reika, the armed men shot him immediately and allowed (let) the other travelers to continue with their journey. The dead body was later taken to Kadogli hospital and buried at Kadogli town. The murder case was filed at Kadogli police against anonymous.

2.2.12 Civilian murdered and another one injured by PDF in Kujuria

On 2nd June 2020, while Mr. Ebaid Abdalla (56 years) and Mr. Mubarak Eltoum (46 years) were at the farm near their village Kujuria¹ cultivating together with their families (wives and children), a group of armed men in Public Defense Force (PDF) uniform surrounded them. The PDF men asked them (farmers) about the location of cattle in their village. Mr. Ebaid and Mr. Mubarak replied that, they don't know. Immediately, the PDF men shot at them as their wives and kids watched. Thereafter, the attackers went away. The bullet shots killed Mr. Ebaid instantly and seriously injured Mr. Mubarak. The residents of this village buried the dead body. Mr. Mubarak (the injured) was taken to the village health centre for treatment.

2.2.13 Murder of three farmers by RSF in Kadogli

On 5th June 2020, six (6) farmers from Nuba ethnicity in Murta of Kadogli were preparing their land for cultivation when they were attacked by Rapid Support Force (RSF) soldiers. Some of the Rapid Support Force (RSF) soldiers came on a vehicle with RSF number plate and other four came on camels. The six farmers ran away but, the attackers/ RSF shot one of them (Mr. **Michael Khamees**, 33 years old) on his head and he died immediately. Then they pursued the other five farmers and caught two of them (Mr. **Musa Yousif**, 37 years old) and (Mr. **Osman Elamein Kuku**, 49 years old). They tied them with ropes, tortured and shot them dead. The three surviving farmers ran up to the town and reported to police. Later, the dead bodies were taken to Kadogli hospital by their relatives together with the community members and buried after.

One of the survivors informed HUDO Centre that, he recognized three of the attackers and he knows them by name, that he mentioned their names in his testimony to police but up to date, not a single perpetrator has been arrested or interrogated.

¹ Kujuria is a village in Nuba Mountains/ South Kordofan State located in a distance of 35 km (approximately) west of Dilling town, it is in the territory controlled by Sudan People Liberation Army - North (SPLA-N).

2.2.14 Murder of Badawi in Alsharak

On 6th June 2020, while Mr. Mohammed Badawi Adam Eldaar (34 years old) was grazing cattle near his village (Alsharak), he was shot dead by unknown people. The residents came to the crime scene when they heard the gun shots only to find Mr. Badawi in his dying moments. Mr. Badawi informed them/ residents that he was shot by men who were in a group of three. The attackers did not take any of his cattle and the reason behind the murder incident is still unknown. The victim's (Badawi) family reported the case at Abu-Kershola police against anonymous.

2.2.15 RSF murdered and injured policemen on duty in Kadogli

On 15th June 2020, three policemen were on duty guarding one of Areeba/ MTN telecom masts/ antenna site (about 13 km North of Kadogli town). Four armed soldiers dressed in Rapid Support Force (RSF) uniform came to this site and attempted to steal fuel but they were surprised to find the police guards who obstructed them. When their /RSF plans were thwarted, they moved apart a little and two of them shot at the policemen on guard. As a result, one policeman by names of Mr. Abduelmoneim Abduelfadil Kodi (48 years old) died instantly, another policeman (Mr. Adil Hamid Mohammed 27 years old) was seriously injured. The third policeman survived the shootings.

This case was filed at Kadogli police. The two surviving policemen recognized the RSF soldiers and they were able to tell their names. But, up to the time of publishing this report, police had not arrested any of the perpetrators.

Note: The management of Areeba/ MTN company branch use to find their fuel meant for operating its generator stolen, which caused a network disturbance in Kadogli town. For this reason, police guards were placed after the company continuously reported stealing of their fuel.

2.2.16 Murder of a farmer by unknown people in Damba-Kadogli

On 24th June 2020 morning hours, Mr. Nawai Elgaili Nawai (a 58 year old farmer) had gone to cultivate at his farm in Damba² suburb of Kadogli. As his usual routine in the

²Damba is a periphery suburb in Kadogli town at a distance of six (6) km Northwest Kadogli centre and closer to Albardab village (the village that was attacked by RSF members in May 2020).

farming season, he could go in the morning and return home by late in the evening, but on 24th June 2020, he did not come back home. The following day (25th June 2020), his family went to the farm looking for him and they found him dead. The dead body was taken by his family to Kadogli hospital for postmortem. The postmortem report indicated that the cause of death was the four (4) bullets in his chest and abdomen. The dead body was buried by his relatives at Kadogli and the murder case was filed against anonymous at Kadogli police.

A social activist in Kadogli informed HUDO Centre that, *“I suspect Rapid Support Force (RSF) to be the culprits. First of all, apart from security, no one is armed in Kadogli except RSF members. Secondly, since the beginning of this cultivation season, members of RSF repeatedly announced that, they will not allow cultivation this year. So far, recently a number of farmers have been killed at their farms by RSF”.*

2.2.17 Murder of Jadalla and looting of his cattle in Elfaid

On 29th June 2020, while Mr. Ahmed Hassan Jadalla (48 years old) was grazing his cattle at Gardod Zaharaa³, unknown people shot him dead and looted eight of his cows. When other herdsman heard the gunshots, they run towards the scene only to find Mr. Jadalla dead and some of his cows missing. They took his body to Elfaid Um-Abdalla where he was buried by his family members and the murder case was reported against anonymous at Elfaid Um-Abdalla police.

2.2.18 Murder of Mr. Edriss by PDF soldiers in Elfaid

On 30th June 2020, Mr. Edriss Ismail Daoud Jabouna (a 23 years old farmer) was alone at his house in Elfaid Um-Abdalla when two armed Popular Defense Force (PDF) soldiers attacked, shot him and disappeared. The noise from gunshots attracted his neighbours to come and check on him only to find him laying down in a pool of blood. He mentioned the names of the two PDF soldiers that had shot him. Mr. Edriss was taken by neighbours to the health centre but he immediately died on arrival. The neighbours reported the murder case at Elfaid Um-Abdalla police against the perpetrators whose names were given. The police attempted to arrest the perpetrators

³A grazing field located in a distance of about 15 km Southwest Elfaid Um-Abdalla

but they were armed and they resisted by shooting at the police. The police ran away and did not make any further attempts to apprehend the perpetrators.

Unlawful Killing in Blue Nile

2.2.19 Killing of a civilian by SAF in Roro

On 16th March 2020, while organizing the distribution of fuel at petrol station in Roro under observation of Roro resistance committee and number of SAF soldiers headed by First Lieutenant, a verbal argument came up between a civilian and one of the SAF soldiers. The First Lieutenant shot two bullets from his pistol and the other SAF soldiers started to shoot on air and towards the civilians. Three civilians were injured by direct gunshots, one of them died two days after due to gunshot injuries. His name was Mr. Ahmed Bakheit.

No investigation was carried out up to date.

2.2.20 Two herdsmen killed near Khartoum Belail village

On 11th May 2020, some herdsmen were grazing their cattle at Amura jungle, a group of four armed men attacked and kidnapped two of them. Those who were kidnapped are Mr. Ramadan Hamid Eldaw (18 years) and Mr. Khamees Hamid Eldaw (20 years) and the two were selected because they belonged to Angasana tribe. Their fellow herdsmen from other tribes (falata and Arab) were left free. On 13th May 2020, the kidnapped men (Ramadan and Khamis) were found dead and their bodies were near Khartoum Belail village⁴ slaughtered.

A reliable source informed HUDO Centre that, there are some criminals moving within this area for more than six months. That they loot people's property and that the authorities have not taken action. This incident is different since the criminals never took the cattle or attacked the other herdsmen from other tribes.

⁴ Khartoum Belail village and Amura areas are near each other in Geisan locality of Blue Nile, and in a distance of approximately 25 km northwest the locality capital city/ Geisan town.

2.3 Observation of Court Trials/Proceedings

2.3.1 Al-Sanadra Case

Background of the case

On 2nd Sept 2016, Public Defense Force (PDF) soldiers attacked Al-Sanadra village of Al-Abbasiya locality in South Kordufan state. They came with more than twenty motorcycles accompanied by two land-cruiser vehicles. The attack was based on an allegation about looting of cattle where the footsteps passed through Al-Sanadra village. As a result of the attack, nine (9) people were killed, about twenty (20) wounded and some houses were looted and burnt down. Also cattle were looted and many residents of Al-Sanadra were displaced. The authorities (state/security) first ignored the case but later considered it after much pressure and outcry from the public. The case was filed at Al-Abbasiya police office.

There was an attempt to conduct this court at Al-Abbasiya and then after at Um-Rawaba town. But the court proceedings could not take place due to tension and public anxiety. Because of insecurity, the lawyers' of the victims (the accusing panel) requested that the court sessions should be conducted in Khartoum and it was accepted (granted).

The court trials began on 20th August 2017 and since then, twenty five court sessions have been conducted(three in 2017, seventeen in 2018 and five sessions in 2019). All of those sessions were conducted at Khartoum North court. At the beginning, the presiding judge was Justice/ Abdeen Hamad Dhahi up to 26th June 2018 when he was replaced by Justice/ Murshid Ahmed Elamein. On 24th October 2018 Justice/ Murshid Ahmed Elamein was also replaced by Justice/ Atif Abdalla. This was because both Judges were promoted to the court of Appeal. Later on 3rd July 2019, Justice/ Atif was replaced by Justice/ Osama Hassan for unknown reason.

Mr. Mohamed Alsafi is the prosecutor in this case and he has been absent for most of the court sittings/sessions. The accusing panel led by Mr. Baroud Sandal consists of more than twenty five lawyers including Nuba Bar Association. The panel of lawyers for the defendants is led by Mr. Elamein Ibrahim.

By year 2019, the court sessions concluded and set free three defendants. The other eleven defendants were found guilty and sentenced to death, while the other three defendants who escaped during the court process, two of them were caught and tried separately in two different courts. The update on their trail is as follows:

- A. The ninth (9th) defendant/**Abduelraheem Abdelgadir Salah Mohammed**. His trial is running at Khartoum and after series of court session, On 15th January 2020, The justice read the verdict where the defendant was found to be guilty in breaching the following articles of Sudan Criminal Act 1991:
- Article (21): Joint acts in execution of criminal conspiracy
 - Article (130): Murder
 - Article (139): Penalty for intentional causing bodily harm.

Then after two court session were conducted on 17th February and 1st March 2020 for hearing the presidential office on behalf of the deceased Mr. Adroub and the opinion of the family of the other deceased people⁵. However, the third court session of 1st April 2020, was canceled due to COVID-19 following the administrative order No. 3 of the year 2020 issued on 15 March 2020 and signed by the head of Sudan Judiciary Authority(Appendix – 3). The administrative order stopped most of the activities of criminal courts from 15th March 2020 until further notice. This was in line with the health measures put in place to control the pandemic which included banning of public gatherings.

- B. The fugitive defendants (**Babikir Nematalla Babikir**) was caught and court tried him in Al-Abbasiya and he was sentenced to seven years in prison. However, the two lawyers appealed the judgment to the Court of Appeal. No feedback up to date from the Court of Appeal.

⁵This was because according to Sudan law, they should provide opinion on either to forgive, compensate (Deeya) or death sentence (Gasas).

2.4 Other Kinds of Violations

Other kinds of violations in South Kordufan

2.4.1 PDF soldiers kidnapped and robbed farmers in Dalami Locality

On 31st March 2020, Mr. Elsadiq Ishaq Adam a driver (47 years old), Mr. Gasim Badri a farmer (28 years old), Hassan Jabir a farmer (30 years old) and Isam Mahmoud (35 years old) were abducted/ kidnapped by ten armed men dressed in Public Defense Force (PDF) uniform on motorbikes. The abducted people were on a tractor from their farms in Habilla⁶ to Dalami town. As they approached Kokaya village⁷, the armed men obstructed and forcefully diverted them to Elmughafal forest where they robbed them of their money (approximately **2500** Sudanese Genaih/ SDG = **250** USD) and six (6) smart phones. The kidnappers asked for a ransom by making a phone call to the owner of the tractor.

The next day/morning (1st-April-2020), relatives of the abducted people gathered and started to trace the kidnappers up to Elmughafal forest⁸. The kidnappers managed to run away leaving the tractor and the captives behind. The captives were rescued and the case was reported at Dalami town and Habilla police but no further investigations were conducted.

⁶Habilla is an agricultural scheme about 70 km west Dalami

⁷Kokaya village is between Habilla and Dalami in a distance of 35 km west of Dalami

⁸Elmughafal forest is about 65 km north of Dalami

2.4.2 Two children kidnapped by PDF members in Dilling



On 20th April 2020, a group of PDF members kidnapped child/ Osama Elsadiq (13 years old) and child/ Muamar Tariq Hamid (12 years old) from the main road between Dilling and Elhegairat village (the children's home village). The two children were on their way home from shopping in Dilling market. They were obstructed by the kidnapers and taken under gunpoint to a nomad camp. The two children were tortured/ beaten, threatened to be killed, pointing guns to their mouths and given one poor meal a day with little water. They were held in that state for three days till when the kidnapers released them to community leader on 23rd April 2020 under pressure of Dilling community. The reason for the kidnap was that, the kidnapers claimed they had twenty seven goats which were stolen and they accused/suspected the Elhegairat people. So, they wanted those children to tell them where the stolen goats were kept.

A case was filed at Dilling police against the kidnapers .The children had recognized one of them named Hassan Gabeir. But no further step was taken by police except that the children's bicycles were brought back to them.

2.4.3 Civilian injured by PDF gunshots in Kadogli

On the night of 9th May 2020 at around 10:00 PM, three armed men (with face masks) dressed in People Defense Force (PDF) uniform forcefully (at gun point) took the mobile phone of Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Saeed (brother of the injured) in front of his family

house at Hai Alsouq (the market neighborhood) in Kadogli town. At the moment, Mr. Saeed Mohammed (48 years old) was inside the house but when he heard the fracas and the crowd outside with his brother, he came out to witness what was wrong. Immediately after his appearance at the gate, one of the masked men shot him two bullets on his stomach. The three armed men ran away. Saeed was taken to the hospital by his family where a surgical operation was carried out and he recovered some weeks after.

2.4.4 Miserable conditions of the recently displaced people in Kadogli



On 13th May 2020, armed group of Rapid Support Force (RSF) soldiers came on four land-cruiser vehicles with some motorbikes and invaded Albardab village. On arrival, they started to ask about the ethnicity of the residents they came across and it turned out that they were targeting the Nuba. Whoever said that they were from Nuba ethnicity had to be assaulted / beaten or killed and their houses had to be looted and burnt down.



The burial of victims by SRC



The state governor visiting the incident scene

As a result, nine (9) people were killed (they were buried by Sudan Red Crescent on 16th May 2020), more than two hundred (200) huts/houses were burnt down and more than two thousand people were displaced. The displaced people settled in two schools⁹ near the military base of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) in Kadogli town while others went to al-Kewaik and Dameek village in search of protection. The government officials requested the IDPs to return home without offering any protection or rehabilitation. Yet the attackers are still threatening to attack again.

Other kinds of violations in Blue Nile

2.4.5 Three churches set on fire twice in Bout



Civilians in Blue Nile State demonstrating against burning of their churches and for religious rights

⁹Elheejra school and Lewaa El-Islam school

On 16th January 2020, three churches were set on fire for the second time in less than a month.

On the evening of 28th December 2019, three churches in three different neighborhoods (10, 11 and 12) of Bout town were set on fire (burnt) at the same time by arsonists. The church members (worshippers) reported the case/incident at Bout police office against anonymous but police did not investigate further or put preventive measures. The members of the church managed to rebuild the three churches using the local materials as it was before.

For a second time, on 16th January 2020 (evening hours), the arsonists burnt down the three churches. Another case was filed against anonymous at Bout police and no further step was taken by police investigators.

The three burnt churches are; Sudan Internal Church, Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church

2.5 Recommendations

- Both government and SPLA-N to reserve the ceasefire status and accelerate the peace negotiation process and to make it inclusive.
- The government of Sudan should lift the state of emergency imposed on SK and BN states and enforce the rule of law.
- Sudan government should respect its international obligations in safeguarding the civilians in conflict areas
- Sudan government should dissolve and disarm the government militias
- Sudan human rights commission and international human rights mechanism to conduct genuine investigations on the alleged cases of violations and to stand with the victims for reparation.

3 SECTION THREE: APPENDICES

3.1 Appendix (1): Mr. Elbur's Facebook article

Essam's Post

إدريس البراحمد

Yesterday at 10:10 PM · 🌐

المقدم فائز بله علي. قوات الدعم السريع انا لا اعترف بالاستخبارات ولا الحرية والتغيير ولجان الخدمات والطلمية دي حقتي بتصرف فيه زي ما داير ادي الداير اديهو وانا حر لما البلد دي كانت مولعة انتوا كنتوا وين والبقر للطلمية دي يا عساكر ربطوا

أتى الكوز الي الي طلمية التمكين يريد الوقود واخذ ثم عاد مرة أخرى واخذ أيضا وثم مرة ثلاثة تحدث معه أفراد الاستخبارات لقد اخذت الكفاية يا ساعاتك ونحن عندنا حصر بتاع آليات خدمية. رفض المقدم بلا مؤهل وقام بكسر للطلمية واخذ ما يكفيه من وقود ثم قام بنفير كل المواطنين ان يأتوا الي الطلمبة وعمت الفوضى. لذلك اراء تيم الاستخبارات ان تنسحب من موقعها حفاظا على سلامة المنطقة لان الأمر كان قد يؤدي الي اشتباك. فائز بله قام اجتماع مع كبار السلك وتحدث معهم اي زول جاكم هنا من باسم الثوار ما تشتغلوا مستقلا مناسبة شقيقة طيب يا (جيدنا) انا جاي السلك وعندي ندوة سياسية وتعال قول كلامك دا بصفتك قائد واقف. فتح الرحمن إدارة لما اتصلو بيك بانو الجاز ناقص خمسة براميل قلتو شنو مش قلت عليكم الله الكلام دا خلو ثاني ما يحصل وحدث ما يحدث

اخيرا تم نقل الملازم اول استخبارات ود ابوك بسبب التقرير الكاذب الذي رفعته فائز لا يهمني امر النقل لان الشأن ليس شاني ولكن يهمني ان نلتقي حتى إمام حميدتي أشك انو دقلوا ما عارف انت قائد ظل و معتمد لدورتين وي وي وي ود خالي جوه البخسة

Write a comment...

GIF

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🎥

👤

👥

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This is a screen shot of an article from Elbur's Facebook page that caused his arrest in which he had criticized the behavior of RSF commandant in Blue Nile State.

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3.2 Appendix (2): Suit follow up form for Mr. Elbur

جمهورية السودان
الدائرة العامة

رقم التتبع (٦)

أبو طالب ومختار تظري

الاعتداء على الملكية

21/6/2020

المختار تظري

Official prosecution office form for following a suit/case. This was made by Mr.Elbur following his case against RSF in BN dated 21st June 2020. It was signed by the prosecutor instructing the investigator to resume the process.

3.3 Appendix (3): The judicial administrative order

٥. على مشرعي المحاكم وبالتنسيق مع رؤساء الأجهزة القضائية ، اتخاذ التدابير اللازمة لتجنب الازدحام بالمحاكم ، واتخاذ كافة التدابير التي من شأنها أن تحقق الغرض من هذا المنشور. ٦. على السيد / رئيس عام إدارة المحاكم إتخاذ ما يلزم بشأن التنسيق لتساوب العاملين بلا أداء العمل بما يحقق الغرض من المنشور. ٧. على السيد / المسجل العام للأراضي إتخاذ ما يلزم بشأن تنظيم العمل بكافة مكاتب تسجيلات الأراضي ، واتخاذ ما يلزم من إجراءات على النحو الذي يحقق الغرض من هذا المنشور. ٨. على السادة رؤساء الأجهزة القضائية والقضاء المشرفين على المحاكم متابعة تنفيذ المنشور وحسن تطبيقه. ٩. يسيّر العمل بهذا المنشور حتى ٢٠٢٠/٣/٢٦ م ما لم يصدر منشور آخر يعدله. صدرت تحت توقيع سيّة اليوم العشرين من شهر رجب سنة ١٤٤١هـ الموافق لليوم الخامس عشر من شهر مارس سنة ٢٠٢٠م نعمات عبد الله محمد خير رئيس القضاء	جمهورية السودان السلطة القضائية المكتب الفني للمرجع الفني Republic of The Sudan The Judiciary TECHNICAL BUREAU AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH توجيه إداري رقم (٣) لسنة ٢٠٢٠م الموضوع: تعليق العمل جزئياً بالمحاكم تشهد البلاد في هذه الأيام تحذيرات سلبية من تفشي فيروس الكورونا covid-19 وقد اتخذت السلطات الصحية بالسودان احتياطاتها ، وأعلنت عن الإرشادات الواجب إتباعها لتجنب الإصابة بالمرض. ولما كانت التجمعات وحالات الازدحام بالمرافق العامة للدولة تسهم بصورة فاعلة في تفشي الوباء ، فقد تقرر - واعتباراً من اليوم ٢٠٢٠/٣/١٥ م - الآتي: ١. تعليق العمل بالمحاكم المدنية (الإبتدائية) ، على أن يُستثنى من ذلك قبول مذكرات الاستئناف المرفوعة أمام المحكمة العامة بصفة استئنافية. ٢. تعليق العمل بمحاكم الأحوال الشخصية (الإبتدائية) على أن يُستثنى من ذلك نظر التفويضات والقضايا المتعلقة بالتفقات، وقبول مذكرات الاستئناف المرفوعة أمام المحكمة العامة بصفة استئنافية. ٣. تعليق العمل بمحاكم الجنائيات (الإبتدائية) فيما يتعلق بالقضايا التي يكون المتهمون فيها بالضمان ، على أن تُزال المحاكم أعمالها فيما يتعلق بقبول مذكرات الاستئناف المرفوعة أمام المحكمة العامة بصفة استئنافية ، وقضايا الحراسات فيما عدا تلك التي تصل عقوبات الجرائم فيها إلى الإعدام أو السجن المؤبد. ٤. يجوز للقضاء المشرفين على محاكم الأحوال الشخصية استثناء بعض الحالات المستعجلة فيما يتعلق بالإشهادات والإعلامات الأولية وخلافه. الطوبى محمد ب: 7١3 هاتف: 772296 فاكس: 749173 749173 P.O.Box:763 Khartoum Email: info@stj.gov.sd
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Judicial administrative order No. 3 of the year 2020 in Judiciary Technical Bureau and Scientific Research headed paper issued on 15 March 2020 and signed by the head of Sudan Judiciary Authority Ms. Nemat Abdalla Mohammed Khair. The administrative order stopped most of the activities of criminal courts from 15th March 2020 until further notice. This was in line with the health measures put in place to control the Covi-19 pandemic which included banning of public gatherings.