

# RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY THE REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE OF IRELAND ON THE 17 JULY 2024

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## DISCLAIMER

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

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## COI QUERY RESPONSE

### SUDAN – SECURITY SITUATION

*Human Rights Watch* in June 2024 states that: “Both warring parties have...indiscriminately shelled and bombed civilian neighbourhoods and infrastructure.”<sup>1</sup>

A report published by the *International Crisis Group* in June 2024 states that: “A multi-sided battle is raging in Sudan's long-stricken Darfur region. Hostilities centre on El Fasher, capital of North Darfur and home to the Sudanese army's last stronghold in the region.”<sup>2</sup>

In June 2024 the *International Rescue Committee* states that: “The conflict in Sudan began in the capital, Khartoum, one of the main epicenters of the violence, with both the SAF and the RSF trying to secure control of government facilities and institutions. The country is now largely divided in two, with the SAF controlling much of the north and east, and the RSF controlling much of the south and west. Neither side has managed to gain a decisive advantage over the other, with the RSF advancing in late 2023 and the SAF making gains around Khartoum in early 2024.”<sup>3</sup>

This document also states that: “Violence escalated in the Darfur region as soon as the first shots of the conflict were fired in Khartoum. Darfur is the stronghold of the RSF, where it is fighting alongside Arab militias against a loose alliance of Darfuri armed groups (which largely recruit from non-Arab communities) and the SAF. The RSF's origins lie in the “Janjaweed,” Darfuri Arab militias created by the central government to fight local armed groups during the Darfur conflict from 2003 onwards. Conflict reduced from the peak in 2003-2005, with the government and armed groups agreeing to three separate peace deals between 2006 and 2020. Nonetheless, some level of conflict between the RSF/Arab militias on one side and Darfuri armed groups on the other has continued since then, often

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<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Watch (24 June 2024) Sudan: EU Should Shift Gears in the Face of Atrocities in Sudan, p.1

<sup>2</sup> International Crisis Group (24 June 2024) Halting the Catastrophic Battle for Sudan's El Fasher, p.1

<sup>3</sup> International Rescue Committee (25 June 2024) Sudan Watchlist Crisis Alert: A Catastrophe the World is Choosing to Ignore, p.3

focused on control of resources like gold, water and pastureland. Fighting escalated after April 2023, however, and the RSF rapidly took control of the capitals of all Darfur states with the exception of North Darfur. Al-Fashir, the state capital of North Darfur, is now the focus of RSF advances, triggering the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights to publicly implore Hemedti and al-Burhan to de-escalate. The violence in Darfur has been marked by killings and forced displacement of civilians, often along ethnic lines. There have been reports of large-scale massacres, conflict-related sexual violence and the razing of homes.”<sup>4</sup>

*United Nations News* in June 2024 states that the: “...country's capital, Khartoum, became a battleground...”<sup>5</sup>

In July 2024 the *Foreign Policy Research Institute* points out that: “Initially the conflict was most intense in the capital of Khartoum and in the western provinces of Darfur and Kordofan, but in the last few months it has also spread to regions like Gezira state, the traditional breadbasket of the country...”<sup>6</sup>

This document also states that: “Some of the worst violence during the conflict has taken place in the state of West Darfur. In what many Darfurians experience as reminders of the violence that broke out nearly two decades ago. There have been many credible reports of sexual violence, mass expulsions, and ethnic cleansing.”<sup>7</sup>

A report issued in July 2024 by *Medecins Sans Frontieres* states that: “The security situation across the board has deteriorated significantly and in Khartoum especially.”<sup>8</sup>

In July 2024 the *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights* notes that since: “...the start of this...conflict last year, the civilian population in Sudan has been exposed to unprecedented levels of violence and suffering.”<sup>9</sup>

A report published in July 2024 by the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* comments on: “...indiscriminate attacks carried out by the Sudanese Armed Forces, often without prior warning, on residential neighbourhoods since the beginning of the conflict and the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas, often leading to violations of the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution under international humanitarian law, and resulting in civilian casualties and destruction of civilian objects, including schools and hospitals.”<sup>10</sup>

This report also includes commentary on: “...targeted killings based on ethnic grounds in West Darfur...”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p.4

<sup>5</sup> United Nations News (27 June 2024) Famine risk is real for 14 areas of Sudan amid ongoing fighting, p.1

<sup>6</sup> Foreign Policy Research Institute (3 July 2024) Sudan: How Sudan's Wars of Succession Shape the Current Conflict, p.1

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, p.1

<sup>8</sup> Medecins Sans Frontieres (10 July 2024) Sudan: MSF Suspends Delivery of Vital Care in Khartoum's Turkish Hospital After More Than a Year of Violent Incidents at the Facility

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (12 July 2024) Sudan: UN expert raises alarm at dire human rights situation

<sup>10</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (12 July 2024) End of mission statement by the Designated Expert on human rights in Sudan of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Radhouane Nouicer, p.2

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, p.3

The *Associated Press* in July 2024 states that: “Sudan plunged into conflict in mid-April 2023 when long-simmering tensions between its military and paramilitary leaders broke out in the capital, Khartoum, and spread to other regions including Darfur. The U.N. says over 14,000 people have been killed and 33,000 injured. Rights activists say the toll could be much higher. The war has also created the world’s largest displacement crisis with over 11 million people forced to flee their homes as well as allegations of rampant sexual violence and possible crimes against humanity, and international experts recently warned that 755,000 people are facing famine in the coming months.”<sup>12</sup>

In July 2024 the *Armed Conflict Location and Event Data* states that: “Since fighting first broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on 15 April 2023, ACLED records over 6,760 events of political violence and more than 18,760 reported fatalities in Sudan.

From 1 June to 5 July 2024, ACLED records over 400 political violence events and over 1,280 reported fatalities.

Most political violence was recorded in Khartoum and North Darfur states during the reporting period, with 150 and 99 events and 246 and 508 reported fatalities, respectively.”<sup>13</sup>

A report issued by *France 24* states that: “The two sides have been routinely accused of war crimes, including indiscriminately shelling residential areas and targeting civilians.”<sup>14</sup>

*United Nations News* in July 2024 points out that: “Large parts of Sudan have been impacted by the fighting, after hostilities involving heavy weapons and fighter jets spread from the capital, Khartoum, to other regions and states including the Darfurs, located in the west of the vast country.”

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<sup>12</sup> Associated Press (12 July 2024) *Sudan's warring parties arrive in Geneva for UN-hosted talks on possible local cease-fires*

<sup>13</sup> Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (12 July 2024) *Sudan: The RSF marches on Sennar and West Kordofan*, p.1)

<sup>14</sup> France 24 (16 July 2024) *A third of those wounded in Sudan conflict are women or young children*, MSF says, p.2

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