



MILITIA CHAOS IN DARFUR: WHAT'S NEXT?

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Introduction

During the reporting period (20 May 2017 to November 2017), numerous developments contributing to the deterioration of security took place in Darfur. Approximately 414 members of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militias and armed opposition movements were killed and 331 wounded. In May 2017, 234 members of armed movements were taken prisoner during clashes in East and North Darfur States despite the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid (UNAMID) in Darfur since 31 December 2007. During the reporting period, there were three attacks in South Darfur by RSF in the Hajar Tuwayni region, an ammunition depot belonging to RSF was blown-up and live ammunition was fired at displaced persons in the Kalmah camp resulting in 23 deaths (including four children) and 60 injuries (including 10 civilians). In addition, 43 leaders of the Ma'aliya and Rizeigat tribes in East Darfur state were arrested under the state of emergency and transferred to prisons in Port Sudan, Red Sea State, Kober in Khartoum and North Khartoum State.

In a political move aimed at creating an impression of Government control and defusing tensions in Darfur, Khartoum announced a campaign in August 2017 under Presidential Decree No. 419 (2017) to collect weapons and legitimize the ownership of smuggled vehicles in the States of Darfur and Kordofan. Before the campaign began, the Vice-President, Hassabo Mohamed Abdelrahman, and the tribal militia leader and commander of the Border Guard Forces, Abdullah Musa Hilal traded barbs indicating strained relations between Khartoum and the militias. Subsequently, Hilal refused to collect his militia's weapons or to integrate his forces into the Rapid Support Forces led by Muhammad Hamdan Dalgo ("Hemeidti"). This resulted to the death of 17 members of the Border Guard Forces, 3 were wounded and 13 arrested in two incidents that took place at the Sudan-Libya border.

In the second stage of the weapons collection campaign, Rapid Support Forces militia and military equipment were scaled up on the ground in Darfur. About 10,000 militia were deployed in South and North Kordofan to effect the implementation of Presidential Decree No. 419 (2017) after the voluntary deadline had expired. In respect to the legitimization of ownership of vehicles imported into the Sudan from neighbouring countries, the Government revealed that there were 65,000 such vehicles and 2,000 Toyota Land Cruisers had been impounded for suspected use in military operations. The records of those vehicles indicated that the Sudanese Government had overseen and approved of their entry into the Sudan and a nominal duty of SD 3,000 per vehicle had been paid for vehicles entering from Chad and the Central African Republic in 2015 before the same measures were adopted to legitimize the ownership of vehicles that had crossed the border from Libya. This indicates that the vehicles' origins were linked to the economics of armed conflict in neighbouring countries. Later, UNAMID stated that it had withdrawn from 11 sites in Darfur and expressed its intention to establish a base in the Jabal Marrah area, where, in 2015 and 2016, integrated Government forces and allied militias had attacked civilians. The high number of victims in this reporting period can be attributed to the limited effectiveness of UNAMID, causing worries about the implications of the staged withdrawal process for civilian protection in the area.

Recommendations

- The Government of the Sudan must treat prisoners in accordance with its obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949.
- The Government must put an end to arbitrary arrests under the state of emergency.
- The Government must move military bases and ammunition depots away from urban areas.
- The Government must immediately conduct a transparent investigation of abuses involving civilians, bring perpetrators to justice, comply with obligations regarding treatment of victims and ensure fair compensation.
- The Security Council must examine the issue of the withdrawal from certain areas of Darfur and ensure that the Mission is carrying out its mandate.
- The Government must stop legitimizing the ownership of vehicles linked to conflicts in neighbouring countries.

Armed clashes between the Rapid Support Forces and armed opposition movements

During the reporting period, numerous developments in the Darfur States led to a deterioration in security and ended the ceasefire that had been extended by the Sudanese Council of Ministers on 15 January 2017.

From 19 to 21 May 2017, armed clashes broke out in East and North Darfur States between the RSF movements, the Sudan Liberation Army led by Minni Minawi and the Transitional Council under the leadership of Nimr Abdulrahman.

From 20 to 23 May 2017, in the Assalaya Wis area in East Darfur and the Adulah mountains of North Darfur, the RSF under the command of Hamdan al-Samih clashed with the Transitional Council and the Sudan Liberation Movement. The Transitional Council and the Sudan Liberation Movement had moved from the city of Raja in South Sudan towards Jabal Marrah in North Darfur in 2010 after the collapse of the Darfur Peace Agreement which had been concluded in the Nigerian capital of Abuja in 2006 by the Sudanese Government and the Sudan Liberation Movement. The two forces were supported by other forces belonging to the Minni Minawi group. Reliable sources have told the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies that those forces had moved from the Libyan desert towards North Darfur State.

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¹ May 2017 photograph of prisoners from the Sudan Liberation Movement (led by Minni Minawi) and the Transitional Council (led by Nimr Abdulrahman).

The Government was supported by armed groups led by Muhammadayn Isma‘il Bishr, Abkar Falanga and Al-Tijani Shaghab. They had joined the Sudanese Government in 2014 after splitting from the Sudan Liberation Movement. The commander of the RSF militias stated that the military commander of the Sudan Liberation Movement, Jum‘ah Mundi had been killed but the Minawi group has not confirmed this as of the date of this report². Hemeidti of the RSF stated that his deputy, Hamdan al-Samih had been killed. The two integrated movements issued a statement that 312 government fighters had been killed³. Over 300 wounded RSF members were taken for treatment to military hospitals in Fashir, Nyala, Daein, and to Omdurman in Khartoum State. According to a reliable source, approximately 35 individuals from the two movements’ integrated forces were killed and wounded; the governor of East Darfur State, Mr Anas Umar refused to allow them to be buried demanding that they be left in the open to be eaten by hawks. Twelve individuals remained unaccounted for and the African Centre for justice and peace studies has obtained the names of 155 of the 234 individuals taken prisoner. According to reliable sources, the military commander of the Transitional Council group, Muhammad Adam Abdulsalam (“Taradah”) was killed after being arrested with injuries.⁴

Names of prisoners provided to the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies.

1. Ali Umar Musa
2. Muhammad Uthman Bakhit
3. Umar Shakkur Abkar
4. Amir Abdullah Adam
5. Muhammad Hari Jiddu Adam
6. Abdulkarim Abdullah
7. Yunus Hasan Isa
8. Al-Tayyib Muhammad Isma‘il
9. Adam Salih Adam
10. Muhammad Abdullah Ibrahim
11. Muhammad Salih Bakhit
12. Hamid Dawud Muhammad
13. Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad

² “Hemeidti: Commander of Minawi forces and colonel of RSF killed in battles in Darfur”, *Sudan Tribune*, 22 May 2017.

³ “Minawi and Nimr Abdulrahman movements: 214 killed, 300 wounded from RSF; victory disputed”. Radio Dabanga, 22 May 2017.

⁴ “Governor of East Darfur orders no burial for corpses of killed movement members; Taradah killed, Nimr Abdulrahman imprisoned.” Radio Dabanga, 24 May 2017.

14. Ahmad Abdulkarim Muhammad
15. Abdulsalam Muhammad Sadiq
16. Ibrahim Abdullah al-Tum
17. Yusuf Ya'qub Abdullah
18. Jum'ah Sulayman Muhammad Shuqar
19. Nur al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Isa
20. Hari Isma'il Namir
21. Hamid Muhammad Salih
22. Hasan Ahmad Muhammad
23. Harun Uthman Sam
24. Umar Husayn Ahmad
25. Isma'il Ishaq Ahmad
26. Abdullah Uthman Ishaq
27. Adam Ya'qub Isma'il
28. Umar Adam Muhammad
29. Abdulqadir Abdullah Abdulraziq Umar
30. Ahmad Sadiq Imam
31. Mukhtar Yusuf Khamis
32. Jum'ah Kafi Muqdam
33. Ba Bakr Musa Muhammad Dalij
34. Ahmad Mahmud Mustafa Ahmad
35. Isma'il Ya'qub Ishaq
36. Tariq Adam Jaw Idris
37. Al-Daw al-Radi Adam Sabil
38. Al-Nur Ba Bakr Muhammad Hamid

39. Sadiq Ahmad Adam Muhammad
40. Hasan Abdullah Adam
41. Nadir Hasan Fadl Tagallah
42. Ba Bakr Kafi Jarad Abdu
43. Muhammad Yahya Bakhit
44. Binyamin Butrus Tutu
45. Najib Adam Muhammad Abkar
46. Fadl Husayn Abdullah al-Tum
47. Umar Adam Musa
48. Muhammad Abdullah Muhammad Abdulrahman
49. Ibrahim Hasan Hamid Abdulrahman
50. Mukhtar Hasan Hamid Mahmud
51. Al-Mardi Ibrahim Sharif
52. Muhammad Sulayman Adam Muhammad
53. Sulayman Mustafa Ibrahim
54. Sadiq Muhammad Ahmad Khamis
55. Adam Abkar Muhammad Ahmad
56. Abdulrahim Ahmad Jum'ah
57. Mahjub Sulayman Sharif
58. Adam Jum'ah Isa al-Tayyib
59. Musa Abdullah Uthman
60. Adam Yahya Ahmad
61. Teh Ya'qub Teh Shallal
62. Abu Bakr Ahmad Abdullah Abdulqawi
63. Jum'ah Isa

64. Abu Bakr Ishaq Abakar Abdulkarim
65. Ali Hamid Ali
66. Abduljabbar Adam Isa Dawud
67. Mubarak Adam Ibrahim
68. Al-Sadiq Ishaq Abdulrahim
69. Ya'qub Adam Muhammad Jabir
70. Mu'tazz Ahmad Abakar
71. Ishaq Abdul'aziz Muhammad Sulayman
72. Adam Harun Abdullah Ahmad
73. Abdulsalam Abdullah Adam Mahmud
74. Ibrahim Yahya Dawud
75. Ahmad Muhammad Umar Mahdi
76. Ya'qub Dalil Hasan Ali
77. Mubarak Idris Khatir Ishaq
78. Shams al-Din Adam Ibrahim
79. Ya'qub Muhammad Husayn Daldum
80. Muhammad Abdullah Ibrahim
81. Muhammad Yahya Fitr
82. Muhammad Ishaq Abdullah Adam
83. Muhammad Husayn Mustafa Bakhit
84. Sabun Yahya Jibril Abdulkarim
85. Ahmad al-Hajj Muhammad Sulayman
86. Arabi Mahmud Arabi Adam
87. Muhammad Ibrahim Adam
88. Salih Abdullah Harun Muhammad

89. Al-Sadiq Abdulrahman Abdullah
90. Al-Fadil Muhammad Adam Sulayman
91. Musa Abdullah Salih Umar
92. Abdullah Adam Bakhit
93. Abdullah Muhammad Musa Muhammad
94. Mubarak Jum'ah Umar Sharaf al-Din
95. Uthman Ahmad Abdullah Umar
96. Husayn Muhammad Hamid Muhyi al-Din
97. Samawi Isa al-Ahmar Koko
98. Abdullah Ahmad Khatir
99. Muhammad Hari Jiddu
100. Amir Abdullah Adam
101. Abdulkarim Abdullah
102. Yasin Hasan Arabi
103. Al-Tayyib Muhammad Isma'il
104. Adam Salih Adam Abdullah
105. Muhammad Abdullah Ibrahim
106. Muhammad Salih Bakhit
107. Hamid Dawud Muhammad
108. Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad
109. Ahmad Abdulkarim Muhammad
110. Al-Hajj Ahmad Muhyi al-Din Muhammad
111. Yom Dal
112. Ali Abkar Ya'qub
113. Salih Husayn Ahmad Ya'qub

114. Muhammad Ali Mahdi
115. Mu‘tazz Ibrahim Adam Isa
116. Jamal Yusuf Ishaq Isa
117. Ishaq Abdullah Ba Bakr
118. Isa Muhammad Ahmad al-Hajj
119. Mukhtar Adam Arbab
120. Bahr al-Din Ahmad Adam Musa
121. Isa Koko Salatin Isma‘il
122. Umar Kawa Mojo Jihadiyah
123. Muhammad Ali Adam Khamis Jum‘ah
124. Abdul‘azim Ahmad Muhammad Shattah
125. Adam al-Tum Abdulrahman
126. Abdu Adam Ishaq Wadi
127. Abdulmajid Ahmad Adam Abdulmajid
128. Adam Musi Ali Ishaq
129. Muzzammil Abdulkarim Ibrahim
130. Abkar Dawud Ishaq Husayn
131. Abdulrahman Ahmad Ibrahim
132. Kamal Yahya Umar Adam
133. Ba Bakr Harun Abdulmawla
134. Husayn Adam Abdullah Isma‘il
135. Hamid Adam Arbab Musa
137. Umar Husayn Muhammad Sharaf al-Din
138. Abdullah Issa
139. Abdulsalam Muhammad Sadiq

- 140. Umar Adam Musa
- 141. Muhammad Abdulmawla Muhammad Abdulrahman
- 143. Nur al-Din Sharaf Ali Dirah
- 144. Mubarak Ba Bakr Ya‘qub Muhammad
- 145. Adam Jibril Muhammad Abdulwali
- 147. Tijani
- 147. Al-Sadiq Musa Muhammad
- 149. Ahmad Adam Abdullah Ahmad
- 149. Isa Ishaq Abdullah Sharif
- 150. Musa Muhammad Dawud Uthman
- 151. Ashraf Yasin Ahmad Mustafa
- 152. Umar Muhammad Hasan Ahmad
- 153. Mustafa Ibrahim Khamis Tarbush
- 154. Sayf Adam Ali Ishaq
- 155. Ya‘qub Khatir Muhammad Dahiyah
- 156. Ahmad Husayn Mustafa
- 157. Jamal al-Din Adam Abdulshafi‘

On 22 May 2017, social media circulated pictures of Nimr Abdulrahman, leader of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Transitional Council with his hands tied along with pictures of other prisoners who were being held by Government forces. The captives whose arms and legs were tied in chains were about to be transported to the towns of Fashir, Nyala and Daein, in North, South and East Darfur States. They were displayed before the public in chains, ropes and in some cases shackles. Some of them were transferred to the Security Service detention centres in Khartoum and subsequently at a time that the African Centre has not been able to ascertain to the Huda prison in Omdurman. The Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir stated⁵ on 23 May 2017 that Government forces had seized Egyptian armoured military vehicles from “rebels” without specifying how they had obtained them: “Army forces and RSF have taken possession of Egyptian armoured and other vehicles that the Darfur rebels used in their attack on the two States last Sunday”, he stated.

⁵ Al-Bashir: Our army has taken Egyptian armoured vehicles in Darfur. Egypt responds: We have not and will not intervene in Sudan: alarabiya.net, 23 May 2017.

On 29 May 2017, the Sudan Liberation Movement clashed with the RSF led by Muhammadayn Isma‘il Bishr and Al-Tijani Shaghab. 24 and 6 RSF and Minawi fighters were killed respectively.

On 30 May 2017, the RSF led by Muhammad Isma‘il Bishr and Abdullah al-Tijani (“Shaghab”) attacked the villages of Hajj Ibrahim, Musteria/Yari, Tono, Tujiri, Diri, Kala and Mangastu largely inhabited by members of the Fur ethnic group in the Ayn Sero mountain chain in North Darfur State. The villages were burned down and about 400 civilians were displaced. One of the civilians, Mahmud Ahmad Umar, was shot dead during a clash between the Sudan Liberation Movement-Minni Minawi and the RSF with backup from the Sudanese air force. 6 and 11 Minni Minawi fighters were killed and wounded while 31 RSF fighters were injured.

Violations committed by the Rapid Support Forces

On 11 November 2017⁶, 4 children who had been playing in the Masani suburb of Nyala city were killed by an explosive device and 6 others were injured. The latter was a remnant of the explosion of an RSF ammunition depot in the residential suburb of Matar, in Nyala. The blast occurred on 21 May 2017. The remnants are still in the open in residential areas.

Names of those killed:

- 1 - Iflah Salah Abdullah (female)
- 2 - Iqbal Adam al-Sayir (female)
- 3 - Musajid Muhammad Hamid (female)
- 4 - Maryam Muhammad Hamid (female)

Names of those injured:

- 1 - Khalid Ajub Ahmad
- 2 - Rawiyah Isma‘il Ahmad
- 3 - Mutawakkil Abdullah
- 4 - Ahmad Yahya Abdulrahman
- 5 - Wali al-Din Wadyan
- 6 - Fatimah Adam al-Sayir

Background to the incident: On the date in question, the ammunition depot exploded killing 8 and injuring 22 civilians. The wounded were taken to Nyala hospital and others to Khartoum for further treatment. About 320 homes were wholly or partially destroyed. However, there has been no official investigation into the causes of the incident. The Governor of South Darfur, Adam al-Fakki⁷ stated on 21 May 2017 that the explosion had been caused by high temperatures. Brigadier Ahmad al-Khalifah of the Sudanese Armed Forces said that the

⁶ Darfur 24, 11 November 2017

⁷ Press statement of the Governor of South Darfur, Adam al-Fakki, on 21 May 2017.

explosion was caused by an electrical short-circuit⁸. The government of South Darfur State has refused to bear responsibility for what had happened blaming “high-level parties”. Six months later, some of the victims of the incident whose homes were completely destroyed still live in temporary “tents”.

Names of those injured:

- 1 - Sadiq Adam Matar (male)
- 2 - Su‘ad Adam (female)
- 3 - Maryam Ishaq (female)
- 4 - Rawdah Salih Umar (female)
- 5 - Salih Muhammad Usul (male)

Names of those killed:

- 1 - Ahmad al-Fadil (male)
- 2 - Salih Abdullah Ishaq (male)

On 14 June 2017, the RSF launched a military attack on the Hajar Tuwayni area of South Darfur State. 5 displaced people were killed and 6 injured while in the fields. The victims who had previously left for Kalmah camp in South Darfur had returned to tend to their fields in the rainy season. According to a reliable source, the attack was carried out in order to deter the displaced persons from returning to live their normal lives in their original homes.

Names of those injured:

- 1 - Hasan Abdullah Dawud (male)
- 2 - Muhammad Umar Musa (male)
- 3 - Abdul'azim Adam Abkar (male)
- 4 - Abdulwahhab Yahya Muhammad (male)
- 5 - Ibrahim Musa (male)

Names of those killed:

- 1 - Abdu Ba Bakr Abdullah (male)
- 2 - Khadijah Ba Bakr Abdullah (female)

⁸ Press statement of the spokesperson of the Sudanese Armed Force, Brigadier Ahmad al-Khalifah, on 21 May 2017.

- 3 - Dawud Ibrahim Jadullah (male)
- 4 - Adam Salih Hamid (Male)
- 5 - Shumum Adam (female)
- 6 - Ahmad Muhammad Salih (male)

Arbitrary arrests of tribal leaders under the state of emergency

On 29 July 2017, the Governor of East Darfur State, Mr Anas Umar decided under the state of emergency to imprison 124 tribal leaders of the *Ma'aliya* and *Rizeigat* for six months, subject to renewal. The detainees were sent to Kober prison in Khartoum North and Port Sudan in Red Sea State. Because the decision was taken under the state of emergency regulation, Governor Anas Umar or his appointed representative pursuant to the regulation have the power to grant access to visitors, doctors and legal representatives. Although Umar has not given reasons for his decision, a reliable source stated that the imprisonments were made against the backdrop of the events in the Kilaki Abu Salama area on 21 and 23 July 2017. The *Ma'aliya* and *Rizeigat* have been in armed conflict since 2002 following the announcement in 1997 of an administrative division for the Ma'aliya which would be known as Greater Adilah Province and would be divided into the administrative units of Adilah, Kilaki Abu Salamah and Abu Karinka. The *Ma'aliya* are based across the States of East Darfur and West Kordofan while the *Rizeigat* are in East Darfur and their historic capital is Daein. There have been 21 instances of conflict between the two. Yusuf Sa'id Taknah points out that the history of conflict between the two tribes goes back to 1966.

Members of the *Ma'aliya* and *Rizeigat* have been imprisoned at length. The heads of civil administration of the two tribes who are aged above 60 years have been detained for transfer to the prisons of Port Sudan in Red Sea State and Kober in Khartoum State under a state of emergency, this violates their fundamental rights. Transfer to other governorates is akin to exile. The power lies with the person who issued the detention order, something that leads to denial of doctors' calls and family visits. It should be noted that the Darfur region has been under a state of emergency for one year.

On 3 November 2017, the following tribal leaders (5) of the *Ma'aliya* tribe were released from Kober and Port Sudan prisons.

- 1 - Abdulmannan Musa Saghurun (Kober)
- 2 - Ahmad Yusuf Ibrahim (Port Sudan)
- 3 - Zada Ibrahim Zada (Port Sudan)
- 4 - Adam Abu al-Saydah (Port Sudan)
- 5 - Bashir Balak (Port Sudan)

On 7 November 2017, seven tribal leaders of the *Rizeigat* tribe were released from Port Sudan prison.

- 1 - Muhammad Bannani
- 2 - Idam Abu Bakr

- 3 - Jatuh Qadim al-Tahir
- 4 - Ahmad al-Aqid
- 5 - Hammudah Muhammad Imbaddi
- 6 - Hamdan Mahmud
- 7 - Jibril Teh

On 13 November 2017, four tribal leaders of the *Ma'aliya* tribe were released from Kober prisons.

- 1 - Hasbullah Adam Jibril
- 2 - Ahmad Tandal Uthman
- 3 - Muhammad Yusuf Tub al-Dabi
- 4 - Adam al-Qaws

On 15 November 2017, 11 tribal leaders of the *Rizeigat* tribe were released from Rizeigat prison.

- 1 - Umar Nahulah
- 2 - Husayn Kibr
- 3 - Ali Baram
- 4 - Salih Naynat
- 5 - Isa al-Sadiq Yahya
- 6 - Al-Hadi Isa Ubayd
- 7 - Adam Dawud Musa
- 8 - Al-Hadi Barmah
- 9 - Al-Bashari Barrar
- 10 - Amir Muhammad Amir
- 11 - Musa Adam Juba

On 20 November 2017, five tribal leaders of the *Ma'aliya* tribe were released from Kober prisons.

- 1 - Ya'qub Fadlullah
- 2 - Ahmad Jum'ah Sa'd al-Nur

- 3 - Muhammad Ahmad Barrar
- 4 - Abu al-Hasan Mahmud al-Tum
- 5 - Ahmad al-Jabiri

On 21 November 2017, 11 tribal leaders of the *Ma'aliya* were released from Port Sudan prison.

- 1 - Hamid Muhammad Bashar
- 2 - Jamayil Ahmad Ajab
- 3 - Kurina Abdullah Jamayil
- 4 - Muhammad Ahmad Madini
- 5 - Rahmatullah Jad Karim
- 6 - Abd al-Fadil Ahmad Ali
- 7 - Muhammad Ahmad Muhammad
- 8 - Al-Fakki Musa al-Amin
- 9 - Ali Wadi
- 10 - Muhammad Jum'ah
- 11 - Jad al-Karim al-Amin

Extrajudicial killings

On 21 September 2017, 4 displaced persons in Kalmah camp in South Darfur were killed and 29 were injured when integrated Government forces fired gunshots on a peaceful demonstration of displaced persons. The forces consisted of members of the RSF, the National Intelligence Security Services, the army and the police force. Demonstrators had been carrying signs that opposed a visit to the camp by the Sudanese President, Omar Al-Bashir and urged him to go to the International Criminal Court. The wounded were taken to a UNAMID medical centre in Nyala city, South Darfur.

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⁹ Aircraft of the Sudanese President flying over the Kalmah displaced persons' camp in South Darfur State

Names of those killed:

1. Fatimah Adam Salih, female, aged 45
2. Arfah Muhammad Adam, female, aged 40
3. Ishaq Salih Abdulrahman, male, aged 41
4. Ibrahim Adam Idris, male, aged 42

Names of those injured:

- 1 - Wala' al-Din Abkar Isma'il, male, aged 16
- 2 - Nasr al-Din Muhammad, male, aged 16
- 3 - Muhammad Adam Muhammad Umar, male, aged 17
- 4 - Amir Adam Abdulmawla, male, aged 17
- 5 - Haytham Dawud Bilal, male, aged 18
- 6 - Yusuf Ibrahim Umar, male, aged 19
- 7 - Hasan Adam Abdulmawla, male
- 8 - Kulthum Umar Muhammad, female, aged 22 or 23
- 9 - Imam Abdulmahmud Abduljabbar, male
- 10 - Musa Ishaq Jum'ah, male, aged 24
- 11 - Muhammad Muhammad Badawi, male, aged 25
- 12 - Yasir Yusuf Muhammad, male
- 13 - Abdullah Musa Muhammad, male, aged 27
- 14 - Hasan Husayn Mustafa, male, aged 26
- 15 - Su'ad Umar Idris, female, aged 29
- 16 - Jiddu Umar Abdulshafi', male, aged 30
- 17 - Hamid Abdul'aziz Husayn, male, aged 31
- 18 - Hasan Ibrahim Abu al-Qasim, male, aged 35

- 19 - Yusuf Adam Abdulrahman, male, aged 36
- 20 - Hawwa' Adam Abdulmawla, female, aged 36
- 21 - Maryam Ahmad Salih, female, aged 40
- 22 - Ya'qub Muhammad Abkar, male, aged 43
- 23 - Ibrahim Muhammad Idris, male, aged 44
- 24 - Abdulbaqi Harun Isa, male, aged 46
- 25 - Fatimah Adam Abdulrahman, female, aged 50
- 26 - Khadijah Ishaq Sabir, female, aged 50
- 27 - Sulayman Adam al-Tahir, male, aged 55
- 28 - Ishaq Ishaq Sharif, male, aged 62
- 29 - Abdulmannan Ishaq Muhammad, male, aged 67.

Weapon collection campaign in Darfur

On 8 August 2017, the Vice-President of Sudan, Hassabo Mohamed Abdelrahman issued Presidential Decree No. 419 of 11 July 2017 on weapon collection and the legitimization of vehicles brought into the Sudan from neighbouring countries¹⁰. The Decree grants the joint force comprising of the RSF, the National Intelligence and Security Service and the armed forces the power to implement the provisions of the Decree by entering private and public facilities, making arrests and seizing property. It also grants the force immunity from prosecution unless permission is granted by the President of the Republic of Sudan. The Decree is aimed at collecting weapons from paramilitary force, individuals and groups.

On 12 August 2017, the Revolutionary Awakening Council headed by the leader of the Border Guard Forces militia announced that the RSF had arrested 7¹¹ of the council's leaders on the Sudan-Libya border and had transferred them to Khartoum¹². The Sudanese Government accused the group of conspiring with the head of the Libyan Army, Khalifa Haftar. The Vice-President of the Sudan, Hassabo Mohamed Abdelrahman said that Hilal was cooperating with the Libyan General, Haftar to undermine the Khartoum regime¹³.

¹⁰ Presidential Decree No. 419 of 11 July 2017, signed by the President of the Sudan, Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, on weapons collection in Darfur and Kordofan states and the legitimization of vehicles brought into Sudan from neighbouring countries.

¹¹ Report on the arrest by RSF of a group loyal to Musa Hilal that was arriving from Libya, *Al-Sudan al-Youm*, 12 August 2017.

¹² President: "Group under Musa Hilal is recruiting civilians for Haftar", *Sudan Tribune*, 16 August 2017.

¹³ "Musa Hilal's forces choose confrontation and deploy in East Darfur", *Al-Sudan al-Youm*, 19 August 2017.

On 16 August 2017, His excellency Hassabo stated that if Hilal refused to cooperate, the arms would be collected by force¹⁴. He added in a press release that the issue of arms collection was a matter of life or death¹⁵. The Sudanese Air Force had previously circled over Hilal's military base in the Mustarihah region of North Darfur, an act that led Hilal to release a statement goading Hassabo and Khartoum. On 19 August, Hilal's forces began to move from North Darfur to East Darfur in a show of force. Hilal had refused to surrender his forces' weapons and merge them with the RSF.

On 13 October 2017, an RSF contingent consisting of 400 military Land cruiser vehicles arrived in Fashir, North Darfur State, from South and North Kordofan States for a mission to collect weapons¹⁶. The Governor of North Darfur, Abdulwahid Ibrahim, stated¹⁷ that the force's sole mission was to collect arms by force. The force was deployed because Hemeidti refused to engage in the weapons collection campaign.

On 21 September 2017, in an armed clash on the Libya-Sudan border, the RSF killed 17 people, injured 3, arrested 6 and seized 6 Land cruiser vehicles from a group loyal to Musa Hilal. The RSF announced that the group is a human trafficking organization. However, a reliable source of the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies has said that the group works in the gold trade in the Sudan-Libya-Egypt border triangle¹⁸.

On 26 October 2017, the RSF moved to the town of Kabkabiya in North Darfur¹⁹ where they rounded up and burned motorcycles which belonged to people believed to be loyal to Musa Hilal's Border Guard Forces alleging that they were being used to disrupt peace.

On 7 August 2017²⁰, the Vice-President of the Sudan announced the beginning of a campaign to collect weapons and non-legitimized vehicle in several Darfur States. Government statistics showed that not more than 30,000 weapons had been collected since the beginning of the voluntary campaign whereas over 700,000 weapons are registered to civilians in Darfur²¹. However, a reliable source of the African Centre for Justice and peace studies has said that arms collection operations focused on civilian-owned licensed weapons while regular armed groups, militia, and armed resistance movements kept their weapons. The arms collection operations took place against the backdrop of tensions in the relationship between Khartoum and the militias created in 2003 by the Border Guard Forces under Hilal, not to mention conflict over such resources as gold from Jabal Amir. The situation on the ground still reflects the conflict that broke out in 2003; the displaced persons' camps is one example. Moreover, the Sudanese Government has shown no desire for justice or fairness to the victims. The arms collection operations in conflict zones ought to have been carried out under the supervision of the United Nations. As things stand, the crisis has been rekindled and national resources have been wasted on military spending and that will lead to increased tension in the future.

Legitimization of ownership of vehicles smuggled from neighbouring States

On 8 August 2017, the Sudanese Vice-President Hassabo Mohamed Abdelrahman announced the adoption of Presidential Decree No. 419 which initiated the process of legitimizing ownership of vehicles that

¹⁴ "Hassabo threatens to shut Hilal down amidst fears of imminent clashes", *Al-Taghyeer* website, 17 August 2017

¹⁵ "Musa Hilal refuses to surrender arms and merge his forces with RSF", 12 August 2017.

¹⁶ "10,000 RSF members to carry out forced arms collection in North Darfur - the Awakening Council is on alert," *Al-Sudan al-Youm*, 13 October 2017.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ "26 people killed and six arrested in clash between RSF and armed persons on the Libya-Sudan-Egypt border", Radio Dabanga, 23 September 2017.

¹⁹ "RSF enters Jabal Amir mine and seizes weapons and vehicles", Radio Dabanga, 27 October 2017.

²⁰ "From Darfur, Hassabo announces an immediate campaign to collect weapons and arrest criminals", *Alnilin* website, 7 August 2017.

²¹ "Forced arms collection in the states of Darfur runs into difficulties", *Sudan Tribune*, 4 November 2017.

had crossed into the Darfur region from neighbouring countries. These vehicles initially entered the Sudan in 2013 after RSF (then called the Border Guard Forces) had become involved in regime change in the Central African Republic in July 2015. In 2015, in the city of Nyala, South Darfur, the Sudanese Government licensed the ownership of approximately 3,000 vehicles, including vehicles transported across the border or driven by members of the RSF militias or the Border Intelligence Brigade. Such vehicles were seized by the militias that helped to install President Dlotodia in 2013 as the President of the Central African Republic and driven around the cities without licence plates. For that purpose, certificates of importation were issued by the Customs Authority which was given responsibility for the process. Owners were asked to provide a sworn statement issued by the courts asserting that the applicant was the sole owner of the vehicle.

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The fees collected varied according to the estimated value of the vehicle. Militia men received preferential treatment, paying 10 per cent of the estimated value while others paid 25 per cent.²³

On 14 February 2014, the South Darfur State Police reported that about 1,117 cars that had been smuggled from the Central African Republic, Chad and elsewhere had been seized during clashes between the Government and the armed movements in Darfur. The State's Director of Police, General Ahmad Uthman Muhammad said that the vehicles were a security threat as they cruised around the city unlicensed.

These vehicles are exempted from the general policy of the Government of the Sudan which sets forth specific guidelines for importing used vehicles. Cabinet Decision No. 274 (2010)²⁴ bans the importation of used vehicles with exceptions for diplomats, emissaries, seconded officials, expatriates and emigrants returning to the country permanently. The measures followed the declaration of a state of emergency on 15 July 2015 in the city of Nyala, South Darfur State for security reasons.

According to reliable sources, as of March 2017, some 20,000 vehicles had crossed into the Darfur region. The Sudanese Vice-President stated that as of June 2017, the number had increased to 24,574²⁵. A customs duty of SD 160,000 was imposed on the 2014 model Toyota Hilux and the duty on Land Cruisers was SD 280,000. Duties on a Korean-made motor vehicle was SD 22,000. The State imposed taxes and other administrative municipality fees varies from SD 9,000 to SD 13,000 depending on the model and the value of the vehicle's customs duties. In addition to duties, North Darfur State charged local fees on vehicles for temporary licence plates, traffic fines and administrative municipality charges. The vehicles were allowed to cross into Sudan via an official regulated road through the area of Malihah in North Darfur. According to reliable sources, the vehicles were obtained during the period when extremist Islamic groups controlled oil

²² Photograph dated March 2017 of a main street in the city of Fashir, North Darfur, showing vehicles popularly known as "Boko Haram cars".

²³ According to the African Centre for Justice Peace Studies.

²⁴ Official website of Sudanese customs.

²⁵ "Presidency orders comprehensive plan to deal with illicitly-imported vehicles in Darfur". *Al-Mighar al-siyasi*, 4 July 2017.

rights in Libya. On 16 August 2017, the Vice-President of the Sudan stated that they numbered 65,000²⁶ and the aforementioned legitimization process set out in Presidential Decree 419 (2017) aims to legitimize the legal status of such vehicles which have been a key element of the economy of the extremist Islamist militias in Libya.

Involvement of militias in Operation Restoring Hope in Yemen

On 28 September 2017, Hemeidti's group revealed that 412 militia members drawn from Rapid Support Forces from the Darfur region had been killed in Yemen²⁷. Later, on 21 October 2017, reliable sources said that 80 Sudanese troops were killed in clashes with Emirati forces in the city of Mukha. In March 2015, Sudan sent an initial force of 6,000 troops and another 2000 in June 2017. A third corps whose number was not disclosed by the Ministry of Defence was sent and followed by members of RSF. According to a reliable source there, enlistment in the Yemen effort was robust as salaries were as high as SD 60 million (approximately \$30,000 per soldier) for a tour of duty of six months; by contrast, a soldier in the Sudanese Army is paid SD 17,500 or approximately \$900 for an in-country assignment of the same duration. Soldiers fighting in Yemen are paid upon their return since service in Yemen is a "prepaid mission" that does not affect monthly salaries.

The 2011 secession of South Sudan led to the announcement of economic austerity packages in 2012 and 2013, a reversal of the decision to float the currency in 2016 and in November 2017, the devaluing of the Sudanese pound from 20 to 28 pounds to the US dollar.²⁸ These economic conditions provided the impetus for members of RSF to join the conflict in Yemen for financial gain. Reliable sources told the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies that high numbers of potential enlistees in East Darfur prompted Armed Forces' leaders to hold draws to decide who would be recruited and long queues of individuals seeking the opportunity to fight in Yemen were seen at the military base in South Darfur.

United Nations - African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur

In June 2017, UNAMID announced its gradual staged withdrawal from 11 locations in the Darfur region. On 14 and 15 August, the Operation began withdrawing from the Malihah and Mellit regions in North Darfur. UNAMID will establish a task force which will operate in Jabal Marrah and will have the ability to address violations that may occur in these areas. At a press conference held at the United Nations office in Khartoum, the Head of UNAMID, Jeremiah Mamabolo stated that the Operation would soon begin the first phase of its restructuring and would be reducing the number of its soldiers over the following six months from 10,395 to 8,000 by July 2018²⁹. The Government of the Sudan has been advocating for the withdrawal of the Operation since 2015 on the pretext that the situation has become stable³⁰. On 4 November 2017, UNAMID issued a press release stating that it had not been notified that the integrated forces charged with forced arms collection would raid the Kalmah camp for displaced persons in South Darfur. There have been other instances in which the Operation was unable to intervene for example in 2015³¹ when integrated Government forces raided

²⁶ "Presidency: Group led by Musa Hilal is recruiting citizens for Haftar". *Sudan Tribune*, 16 August 2017.

²⁷ *Al-Jaridah al-Sudaniyah*.

²⁸ There is no formal Sudanese currency exchange. However, on 23 November 2017, the Government announced campaigns targeting individuals trading in convertible currencies in the Sudan. Incidentally, in 1991, the Sudanese pilot Majdi Jirjis was tried in Khartoum and executed for possession of United States dollars. On 29 June 1989 (one day before the National Salvation Revolution, which was led by Omer Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, who was then a colonel in the Sudanese Armed Forces at the time and is now President of the Sudan and commander of the Armed Forces) the US dollar was equivalent to SD 8.

²⁹ "UNAMID announces that its forces will withdraw from 11 locations in Darfur, Khartoum". Sudan News Agency, 11 June 2017.

³⁰ UNAMID website.

³¹ The regional court of South Darfur declared a state of emergency after killings and looting in the city caused the security situation to deteriorate.

the Dereige and Otash camps for displaced persons in South Darfur state under the state of emergency regulation ostensibly to search for weapons. As a result, displaced persons were arrested and subjected to expedited trials before the Public Order Court of Nyala, which was convened at the armed forces' military base. The Court imposed a range of sentences.

The former spokesperson for the Operation, Aicha Elbasri, resigned in 2014 stating that the Operation was failing to protect civilians.
