

## **Update on Violations Committed in Blue Nile and Dalang, South Kordofan**

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The Africa Center for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) continues to monitor the situation in the conflicted states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan states in Sudan. Please find below an update on the types of rights violations being committed by both the forces of the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N). In order to end the conflicts and prevent further suffering, the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-N must urgently agree to a ceasefire, full humanitarian access, commitment to international human rights and humanitarian laws, and a process for resolving outstanding political and security issues. For an in-depth analysis of the conflicts in the two states please see the previous ACJPS report *Continuing Violations of Human Rights in Blue Nile and South Kordofan States: 24 August – 8 September 2011*.

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### **I. Update: Blue Nile State**

#### **A. Security Situation**

The security situation in Blue Nile state remains unstable. Fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and SPLM-N began on 2 September and continued throughout the month, with heavy clashes and SAF aerial bombardment taking place in the *Dindro*, *Silik*, *Baw* and *Gesan* areas.

ACJPS monitors documented the following aerial bombardments during September.

- On 4 September, the SAF began aerial bombing of *Baw* area using Antonov aircrafts. In *Derling* village, 3 females were killed as a result of the bombing (ACJPS was unable to confirm their names).
- The SAF also bombed *El-Kormuk*, *Dem Mansour* (*Southern El-Kormuk*) and the western areas of *Ingessana* mountains. Approximately 10 civilians were killed and 50 civilians injured during the aerial bombardment of *El-Dindro* Mountains that started on 4 September.

- On 17 September, the SAF bombed *Agadi Jabal Abu Garin* area to eradicate the SPLM-N troops in these areas.

Reports indicate that SAF is using *Sinja* airport to refuel and resupply planes conducting aerial bombardments.

When the clashes began, the Government of Sudan began indiscriminately arresting persons suspected of affiliation with the SPLM-N. The arrests have abated. It is difficult to get clear information about the number of civilians and political still being held in detention. Many of those that have been released are still required by NISS to appear at their offices for questioning on a daily basis. Some SPLM-N members from Sennar have disappeared and have not been heard from. It is not clear if they have been arrested.

## **B. Humanitarian Situation**

Following the outbreak of fighting in Blue Nile in early September, the government banned the establishment of formal camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as they did in South Kordofan when fighting broke out there in June. However, there are thousands of IDPs in informal camps in northern and eastern *El-Damazein*. The government has prevented domestic and international NGOs from accessing these areas and providing relief to IDPs residing there. IDPs from the conflicted southern part of the state have fled to Ethiopia and the Republic of South Sudan. Around 6000 families fled *Bek, Agadi, El-Silik* and *Wadbok* (100 kilometers from *El-Damazein*) areas and arrived in *Roro* city, western *El-Damazein* on 20 September. The IDPs are using schools as shelters and claim that the government has failed to provide them with any food. There is apparently an increase in diarrhea among children in the shelters. Some of the IPDs have reported that they were threatened by security agents and ordered by SAF to immediately leave the shelters. Government agents refused shelter to the young men and women from *El-Ingessana* in the informal camp in *El-Srew* due to suspicions that their husbands and fathers belong to the SPLM-N.

- *T. A.* a 22-year-old male returnee that fled *Dindro* told ACJPS that the SPLM-N arrested him on 5 September. When the SPLM-N questioned him about his work, he told them he was a student. They then asked for his identification card, which he did not have on him at the time. During the questioning, an SPLM-N leader the SPLM-N forces looted his and other houses in *Dindro*, taking furniture. They occupied the shops and started to sell a cup of sugar for 5 SDG to the civilians, an extremely high price.
- Groups of IDPs fled *Dindro* on 4 September and arrived in *El-Damaezin* on 24 September. The IDPs traveled on foot in rainy weather with children and women among them.

Some of these IDPs said that when they arrived in *El-Dereg* area, they found it looted by the SPLM-N troops that had passed through during the first days of fighting following the movement of the local population to *El-Damazein*. The IDPs reported details about the bombing of *El-Dindro* Mountains by SAF and

said that SAF ground forces have been ordered not to move towards civilians to avoid being bombed.

One source by an international NGO to observe the humanitarian situation in Blue Nile visited the Military Hospital in *El-Damazein* on 15 September and found around 200 injured persons, including civilians. The situation of the injured and sick persons inside the hospital is dire as there is little medical care and a severe shortage of medicine. The source indicated that his movement was tightly controlled by the security authorities during his visit to Blue Nile and he was denied access to three informal IDP camps outside *El-Damazein*. According to information received by ACJPS monitors, the government is not providing any food or support to the persons in the camps nor is it allowing any NGOs to provide support to the IDPs.

### **C. Looting**

With the outbreak of fighting in Blue Nile on 2 September, the government authorities - including the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), other security bodies and Mujahedeen began looting and destroy the homes of people who belong to the SPLM-N, the SPLM-N offices, and the offices of some INGOs in the state. A similar campaign was conducted in South Kordofan. The looting in Blue Nile continued throughout the month of September.

#### **i. Looting of Non-Governmental Organizations**

Agents of the government looted the headquarters of AECOM in *El-Damazein* taking all of the furniture. The organization's office in *Baw* area was also bombed on 2 September. The offices of World Vision, the Monitoring Council of Scotland and the Food and Agriculture Organization in *El-Ryadh* neighborhood of *El-Damazein* were also looted. According the local sources, the looting was carried out by the police, security forces and Mujahedeen. An eye-witness mentioned that he saw security agents confiscating all vehicles that have NGO license plates and storing them in a big garage in *Sinja* city.

#### **ii. Destroying and Looting of Houses and Offices by Agents of the Government**

- On 3 September two tanks attacked the Malik Agar Cultural Center and *Malik Agar's* house in block 33 east of Royal Hospital. The forces that looted the house and the center took more than 30 desktop computers from the Cultural Center's internet cafe, many books, and other valuable items.
- *Ali Bandar El-Sisi's* house in *El-Thawra* neighborhood was looted. His other house in *El-Roseris* was occupied by the security forces.
- The SPLM-N's office in *El-Nahda* neighborhood was looted.
- The secretariat of the SPLM-N in *El-Thawra* neighborhood was looted.
- Supply offices in the industry area were looted.

- On 3 September the house of *Gasim Sabit* in *Arkaweeet north El-Damazin* was looted and destroyed. Sabit worked for the Ministry of Agriculture and belongs to the SPLM-N.
- The house of *Sa'ad Agar* the Governor of *El-Tadamon* locality was looted and destroyed on 3 September. The house of *Aalim Mon* an advisor to *Agar* was looted and destroyed in *Arkaweeet North – El-Damazin* on the same day.
- *Gafar Galko's* house was looted and destroyed by NISS on 3 September. *Galko* is the former *Baw* Governor (northern *El-Damazein*).
- The advisor to the Minister of Finance and Mining, *Abdul-Ghani Deges Khalifa's* house in *El-Thawra* neighborhood was looted on 3 September. *Khalifa* is a member of the NCP. However he was accused by the government of being a spy for the SPLM-N. Security agents claimed that they found documents in his house that outlined plans for the assassination of NCP members in Blue Nile. *Khalifa* is being detained in Infantry Division 14 headquarters. His car was taken from him and a house he owned in the *Matar* neighborhood was looted and the furniture was taken.
- The house of *Aboud Kajaba*, a military officer in the SPLM-N, in *El-Zohor* neighborhood was looted. Security officials opened fire on the house before entering.
- The house of *Badr El-Dien Ali*, a military officer that belongs to the SPLM-N was looted and destroyed.
- The house of *El-Samani Agar (Malik Agar's brother)*, the chairman of El-Salateen in Blue Nile was looted and destroyed. The house was in *El-Zohor* neighborhood – *El-Damazein*.
- The house of *Ahmed El-Omda Badey* – the leader of SPLM-N troops in *El-Kormok* - was looted on 4 September. One of his guards, who was hiding in the house at the time of the looting, was killed.
- The house of *Abbas Juma* – the State Minister of Agriculture – in *El-Zohor* was looted and destroyed. His wife *Alaweya Omer Kol* - a member of the State Legislative Council - and their sons were arrested when the family tried to move to Ethiopia from *El-Gadaarif*. They were later released.
- The house of *Ahmed Yousif Abu-Gaya* - lieutenant colonel in the Joint Integrated Units (JIU) and member of SPLM-N – in *A'ashara bioot* was looted by the NISS.

- On 3 and 4 September, the house of the late lieutenant *Hassen Sa'ad Lolo – El-Nasr west* neighborhood was looted by NISS agents and all of the furniture was taken.
- The family of *Shadia Ismail* - a member of the State Legislative Council and SPLM-N member from *Gesan* - was harassed by security agents. All of their furniture was thrown outside of the house. Ismail was also kicked out of her relatives' house where she was staying due to her pregnancy.
- The house of *Ms. Ishraga Khamis* – an SPLM-N leader and employee of the state government was looted numerous times by security forces accompanied by the NISS, SAF and Mujahadeen troops

### iii. SPLM-N Looting Of Civilians' Properties

ACJPS received a few reports of SPLM-N looting in Blue Nile. SPLM-N forces looted some of the villages from which people fled following the outbreak of fighting. They looted tractors from farms and used them to carry goods from looted properties. The SPLM-N also looted livestock from herders after threatening the herders with death if they refused to give up their livestock.

- The SPLM-N stole 35 goats from an IDP named A.S. using force and intimidation as he was fleeing from *Gesan* to *El-Damazein*.

### D. Detentions

- NISS agents arrested *A.T.A.* on 6 September in *El-Roseris* because his father belongs to the SPLM-N and the NISS found a Kalashnikov weapon in his house during a search. The agents also arrested his uncle *M.A.S.* who was in the house at the time of the search, though he is not involved in politics.
- The wife of the former Governor of *Baw – Gafar Galko* – was arrested in *Sinja* and released after questioning.
- On 15 September ACJPS sources met with two detainees who had been recently released. One of them is a member of SPLM-N in *El-Masalma* neighborhood in *Soba El-Roseris* named *M.* The other detainee did not want to release his information. Both were arrested on 8 September and were released after they were kicked in the head. Below are some details of their treatment.
  - One of the detainees, a civilian in the neighborhood, reported to ACJPS the following, “I said to one of the people who were torturing me please kill me so I can get some rest from this torture and being kicked.” When questioned by the security agents about his relationship with the SPLM-N, he informed them that he has played the *Waza* (a local musical instrument) during SPLM-N celebrations in the past. He said that he does not personally know the leaders of the SPLM-N.

- Every day for a week, the security agents forced *M* to jump up and down repeatedly and kicked him all over his body. He was interrogated about other detainees. He said these detainees were simple local people not soldiers or politicians. *M* reported that the security agents were distinguishing Southern Sudanese civilians from other Sudanese and foreigners. The civilians from South Sudan and Ethiopia were deported while Sudanese civilians and soldiers remained to be tried in courts or released.
- *Abdullah Ibrahim Hussien* – an administrative officer who was the Youth and Student Secretary of the SPLM-N, was arrested and is still held in detention. The last time he was seen when he was giving his condolences when one of his relatives passed away and he was heavily guarded.
- *Huwayda Tartoza* – a local singer who supports SPLM-N and lives in *El-Rabe'e* neighborhood, was arrested on 9 September in *Sinja* and was taken to *El-Damazein*. It has been reported that her hair was shaved by the security agents during detention. She has been released.
- *Samira Andirson* – *Ali Bandar's* secretary – was arrested and forced to sign a pledge that she will never participate in politics.
- *Amna Mamoun* – a member of the state legislative council from Kormuk, was arrested and subsequently released.
- *Abbas Mohamed Abdul Rahman* – the Minister of Humanitarian and Organizations' Affairs, was arrested and later released.
- The wife of *Baw* governor *Mr. Gafar Jalko* in *Sinja* – was questioned and later released.
- *Abdul Ghani Deges Khalifa* – the advisor for the Minister of Finance for Mining was arrested and accused to be a spy for the enemy. Security agents claimed that they found some documents planning the assassination of NCP members in his house. He is being held in 14 Infantry Division headquarters.
- *Siraj Ali Hamid* – from the popular consultation commission – was arrested and released.
- *Yousif Ahmed Awad* – a member of the SPLM-N, was arrested in *El-Roseris south*. He signed a pledge saying he would not affiliate with the SPLM-N in the future and was released.
- *Ismail Joma'a* – was arrested on 24 September by three security agents at his house in *Ahmar Roro*. Before the recent fighting, he was a trader in *El-Kormuk*

city (controlled by the SPLM-N). He was arrested under suspicion of being a member of the SPLM-N. He is being held in *Roro* security headquarters and there is no information about his circumstances.

#### **i. The Detention of *Abdul Monim Rahama***

*Abdul Monim Rahama* – a governmental advisor for Culture and Media has been held in NISS custody in the security headquarters in *El-Damazin*, since the beginning of the clashes in early September. A former detainee, a male student who refused to tell his name and was released on 7 September, mentioned that he witnessed *Abdul Monim Rahama* being beaten and assaulted by the security agents every time he asked to go to the bathroom. The source reported that *Abdul Monim* is suffering from an unknown disease, he is unable to go to the bathroom standing up, and he hunches over when he walks.

The above source could not speak freely about the circumstances of detention because he was forced to sign a pledge not to do so before he was released on 7 September. He said that he was arrested because he belongs to the SPLM-N, and while he was not tortured in detention he was threatened, assaulted and insulted with racist epithets such as, “You Darfurians and Ingessana people, where did you come from, you slaves.” He was also insulted because he is not a Muslim.

#### **E. Extrajudicial Executions**

ACJPS monitors received confirmation that the SAF executed 11 citizens from *Silik – Baw* locality in the western area on Thursday 8 September.

SAF soldiers arrested 7 members of the *Fong* tribe and 4 from other tribes from western Sudan when fighting broke out in Blue Nile. The arrested persons were tortured and beaten everyday by soldiers with their hands and legs tied. When the SPLM-N attacked the SAF in the area, the SAF withdrew. However before they withdrew, they executed the detainees that belonged to the SPLM-N. The names of the executed people from *Fong* tribe are:

1. *Bellah Kafi Rajab* – male – 37 years old.
2. *Hassen Abdullah El-Ballal* - male – 24 years old.
3. *Badey Babo Osman* – male – 47 years old.
4. *Mohamed Boshara* – male.
5. *Edrees Dows* – male.
6. *Ahmed El-Safi* – male.
7. *Nasir Adam Gontar* – male.

It was not possible to get the names of the other 4 executed persons.

ACJPS monitors also documented the following incidents relating to extrajudicial executions:

- A herder – *Adam Awad* – was murdered in *El-Darang* by the SPLM-N troops on 4 September because he was carrying a weapon.

- Eye-witnesses mentioned that they saw the bodies of 12 dead civilians in *El-Damazein* northwest from the market near the Shell petrol station on 3 September.

## **II. Update: Dalang, South Kordofan State**

### **A. Security Situation**

The situation in *Dalang* was generally calm in the reporting period. On 15 September, a battalion of SAF passed through *Dalang* that consisted of 40 pickup vehicles with Doshka weapons and about 11 soldiers, 3 tractors carrying tanks, a Reno car and 7 Ural cars, each one carrying Doshka weapon.

ACJPS sources inside Sudan received reports that the government in South Kordofan is re-mobilizing some of its forces that were demobilized before or during the transitional period after the CPA was signed and veterans that were discharged from the army. Re-mobilized soldiers are receiving an incentive of 500 SDG initially to re-sign and then their salaries are increased to 1250 SDG per month from the 300 SDG they were receiving before they demobilized. ACJPS sources also stated that the government has created a new battalion in South Kordofan to fight the SPLM-N in the state and that they are working on creating a second new battalion called “El-Jamoos.”

ACJPS monitors witnessed military aircraft flying over South Kordofan on a daily basis during September and that the MiG and Antonov aircraft are flying at a very low level over the areas of *El-Dalang*, *Rashad* and *Talodi*. Aerial bombing of *Rashad*, *Talodi* and *El-Fed Um Abdullah* areas continued throughout September.

### **B. Detentions and Torture**

- A.G. a 23-year-old female Nuba student at *Dalang University* was arrested on 7 September at 09:00 am from *Bella* neighborhood in *Dalang* by NISS forces wearing military uniforms. She was whipped with tree sticks and wires. The security agents spoke to her as a member of the SPLM-N and threatened her to give them plans related to the SPLM-N or they would photograph themselves raping her. They also gave her the choice of working with them as an employee of a secret office that belongs to the NISS. She refused this position. They used different interrogation tactics designed to intimidate her including allowing her to see people in other interrogation rooms covered in blood or half dressed. She was released on the same day at 7:00 pm.
- On 21 September the military police launched an intimidation campaign in the markets of *Dalang*. They beat citizens with tubes and they shaved the heads of three civilians with long hair (one of them was a tuktuk driver). The military police agents shot a mentally ill person in the market on the evening of 21 September. The victim was injured in his left shoulder and is still bedridden in *Dalang* hospital. The military police that conducted these assaults are new to *Dalang*.
- On 24 September security forces arrested a number of students of *El-Dalang University*. The following three students were arrested from *El-Salam* Students

Compound. The *El-Salam* Students' compound is controlled by the NISS. Security agents even collect the fees for accommodation.

- *A.H.* - a Darfurian student in the Faculty of Education. He was released on 26 September.
  - *M* - a Zaghawa student who was accused of being a member of the Justice and Equality Movement and was questioned by a number of interrogators. They used different tactics to force him to confess including showing him a person who was supposedly being interrogated covered in blood and another interrogator carrying a whip. His hands were tied behind his back during the interrogation. He was released on 26 September.
  - *M. K.* was still being held in detention as of mid October. His colleagues asked the Students Affairs Office about his status and heard that the University could not intervene on his behalf.
- On 1 October a Zaghawa student *A.M.* was again arrested by NISS because they found an ID card with him that belongs to the Sudan Liberation Movement.

### C. Looting

- On 7 September, the SPLM-N looted 80 cows from a Fallata citizen in *El-Badrab* area – 30 to 40 km Northwest *Kadugli*.
- ACJPS monitors received reports that on 20 September in western *El-Dalang*, SPLM-N troops looted 100 cows belonging to local residents. The names of the cows' rightful owners are:
- *El-Sadig El-Dhay Kabashi.*
  - *El-A'asha Hamed Ahmed.*
  - *Musa Jadeer.*
  - *El-Rady.*
- Two shepherds, one Misserya and the other a Nuba, were grazing the cows in *El-Torog* and *El-hilla El-jadeeda* in *Dalang*. The SPLM-N soldiers released the Nuba shepherd but beat the Misserya shepherd.