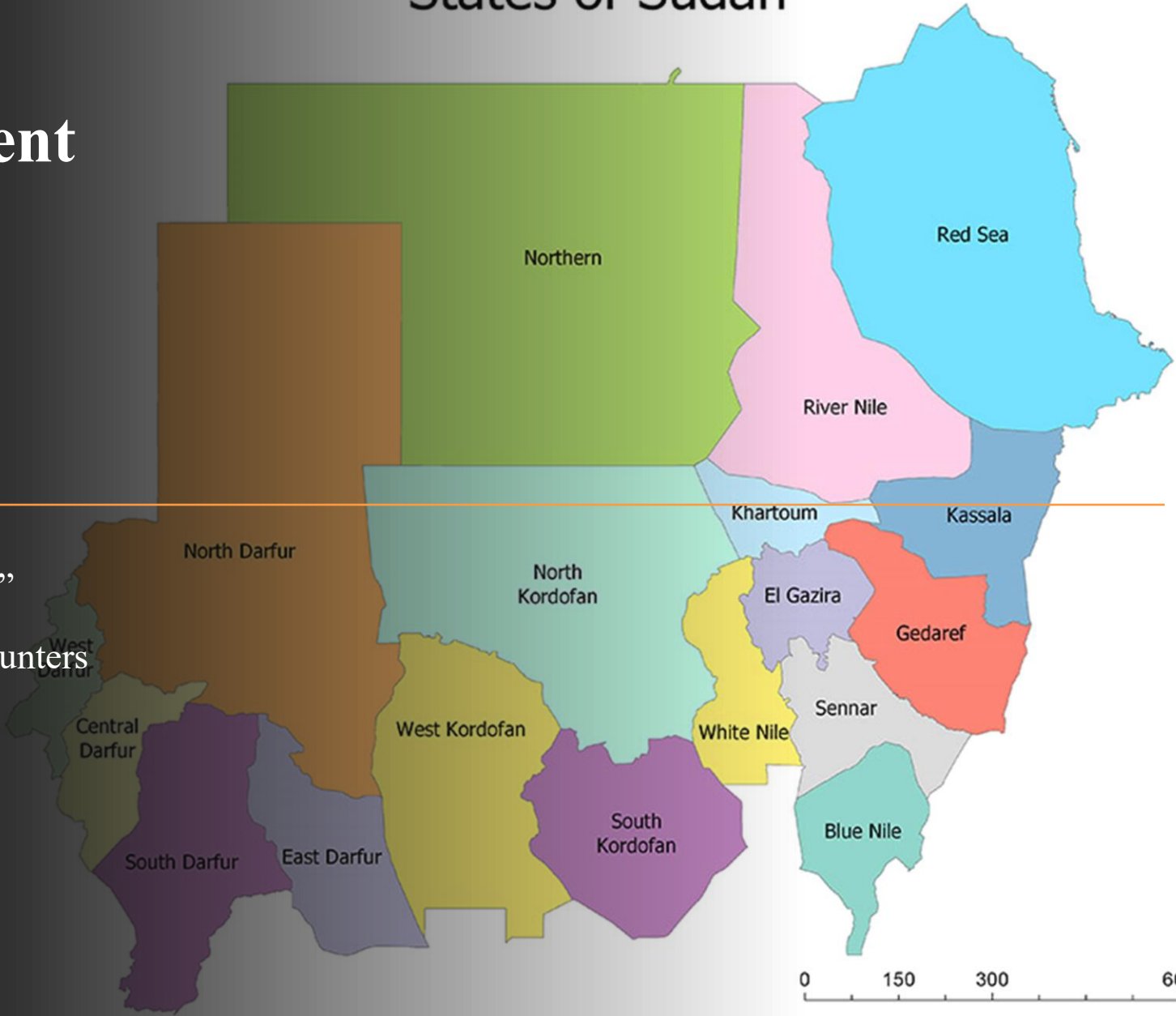


States of Sudan



Overview of Sudan's current situation

By Mad Gabriel

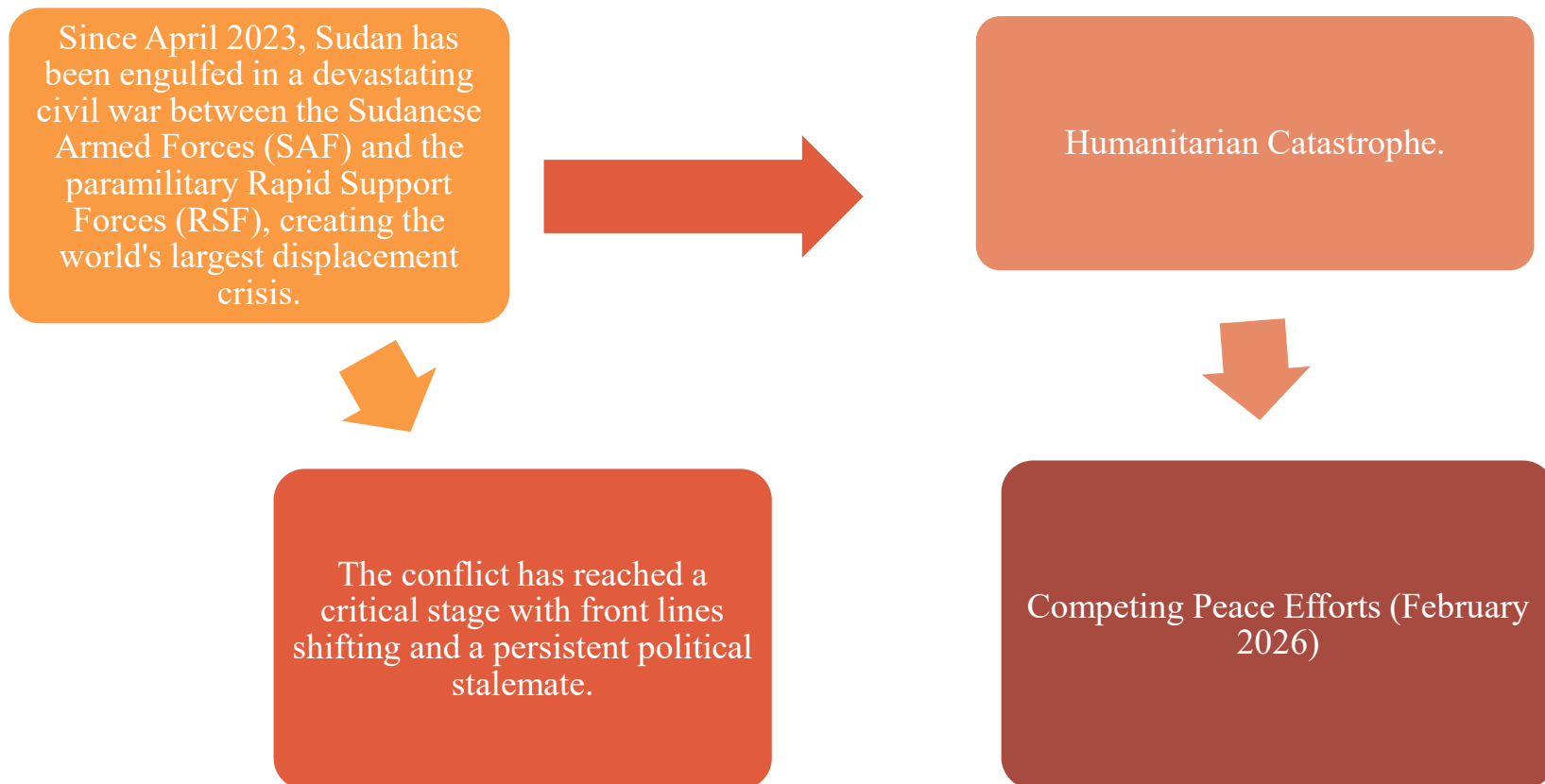


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The State of the Conflict



Actors & Conflict Dynamics

Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) & Main Allies

State military institution; claims legitimacy as the national armed force. Accused of abuses and obstruction of aid; also subject to sanctions.

Rapid Support Forces (RSF) & Main Allies

Paramilitary force originating from earlier militia structures; accused of mass atrocities in Darfur and elsewhere; subject to sanctions.

Civilian Forces/External Support

Civilian versus military forces. Regional and international actors shape incentives through diplomacy, arms flows, and humanitarian support.

Selected timeline





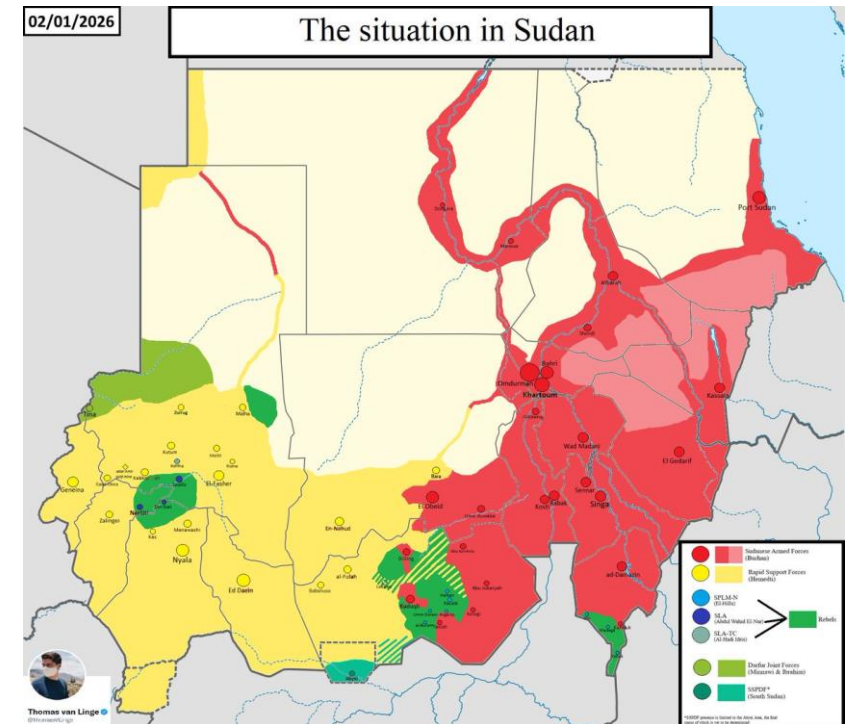
Hamdok Accuses Islamists of Driving the War

- *Former Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok leads Sudan's Civilian Democratic Alliance for Revolutionary Forces, known as Somoud (Perseverance).*
- *Accused Islamist loyalists of deposed dictator Omar al-Bashir of “hijacking” the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).*
- *He claims they are deliberately sabotaging peace efforts to regain political control.*
- *These groups, linked to the former National Congress Party (NCP), fear a democratic transition because it could lead to accountability and loss of economic monopolies.*
- *According to the group, while the fighting is between SAF and RSF, the real political engine behind the conflict is a “third party” — the Islamist old guard (Kizan).*
- *Hamdok calls for civilian unity and says dialogue with armed actors is necessary, including both Hemedti and Burhan.*



Several armed groups have backed the SAF in the conflict, while opposing the December 2022 Framework Agreement.

- The Democratic Bloc comprises aligned political parties.
- Darfur armed formations backed the 2021 coup.
- Sudan People's Liberation Movement–North-Agar (SPLM-N-Agar), signatory of the JPA.
- Islamist militias, such as the Al-Bara bin Malik Brigade.
- Civilian volunteers known as 'Popular Resistance' or 'National Civil Resistance'
- National Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD) and the Eastern Corps, both Eritrea-backed militias, among others.



Dimensions of the conflict

- **Ideological Clash:** A deep divide exists between left-leaning secular groups and right-wing factions advocating for an Islamic republic in Sudan.
- **Resource Scramble:** There is a fierce competition for control over valuable resources such as gold, minerals, land, and water.
- **Ethnic Conflict:** Long-standing grievances, along with sectarian and ethnic tensions, continue to escalate and fuel the conflict.
- **Nationalism:** Various suppressed and divided communities are driven by nationalistic aspirations, further complicating the situation.
- **Regional Hegemony:** Competing regional powers are fueling the conflict by supporting different factions and using them as proxies in a struggle for regional dominance.



Situation snapshot (early 2026)

14 million

People have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety (as of 2026).

9.5 million

People internally displaced IDPs by the conflict (as of 2026).

4.3 million

fled to neighbouring countries – the highest refugee population in Africa.

Atrocities and Alleged War Crimes

- Both groups are accused of serious human rights crimes, with international organisations establishing a pattern of atrocities against civilians.
- Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide The RSF and affiliated militias are involved in a systematic campaign of ethnic violence in Darfur, which US and UN officials have described as genocide targeting non-Arab populations such as the Masalit.
- Indiscriminate attacks, drone strikes, and bombardment of civilian places, including markets, mosques, and hospitals, continue to result in massive deaths.
- Widespread Sexual Violence Reports of conflict-related sexual assault, particularly against women and girls, have increased since the war began, and it is being employed as a purposeful military tactic.



International Sanctions:
Global powers have applied sanctions to put pressure on the warring parties, specifically targeting people and networks responsible for atrocities and fuelling the conflict.

The United Nations (UN)

- The sanctions and arms embargo on Darfur have been extended until September 2026.
- Consider increasing the arms embargo to cover all of Sudan.

The European Union (EU)

- Sanctions increased in January 2026, bringing the total to 18 persons and 8 businesses.
- Includes travel bans, asset freezes, and financing restrictions.

The United States (US)

- A formal Genocide Determination was issued against RSF.
- Both the SAF and the RSF's leadership, notably al-Burhan and Hemedti, have received sanctions.
- Targeted weapons procurement networks and financial facilitators.

Sanctioned Entities by Faction

- **Sanctions against the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)**
 - **Leadership Designations:** for their roles in atrocities and obstructing humanitarian aid.
 - **Chemical Weapons Sanctions:** The U.S. determined SAF used chemical weapons (likely chlorine gas) during combat in 2024.
 - **Procurement Networks:** Sanctions target the Defence Industries System (DIS), its director general, Mirghani Idris Suleiman, for acquiring weapons from Iran and Russia.
 - **Affiliated Militias:** The U.S. sanctioned the SAF-aligned Baraa bin Malik Battalion and Finance Minister Gabriel Ibrahim.
- **Sanctions against the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**
 - **Genocide Determination:** The U.S. formally declared that the RSF and allied militias committed genocide in Darfur.
 - **Leadership Designations:** RSF leader was sanctioned for systemic atrocities, including mass rape and ethnic cleansing.
 - **Financial & Supply Networks:** The U.S. has targeted a transnational network supporting the RSF, including seven companies based in the UAE.
- **Field Commanders: Multiple senior RSF leaders, procurement directors and commanders involved in the siege of Al Fasher.**

Party	Sanctioned Targets Include
SAF	Senior leaders (including Al-Burhan), weapons procurement directors, and government-aligned companies.
RSF	Senior commanders (Dagalo, Hamid, Barkalla), procurement directors, and affiliated companies are funding paramilitary operations.
Militias	Commanders of affiliated groups, such as the SAF-aligned Baraa bin Malik Battalion .

The Search for Justice: ICC Investigation

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) is looking into war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- In January 2026, ICC Deputy Prosecutor affirmed an early assessment based on substantial evidence. Focus on the RSF siege of Al Fasher.
- Evidence consists of video, audio, and satellite data. Described an "organised, calculated campaign of the most profound suffering."
- Working on "linkage evidence" to identify and prosecute specific culprits.



Diplomacy & Mediation (AU, IGAD, UN, Quad)



African-led track

- AU Peace and Security Council reiterated ceasefire and humanitarian access priorities (Feb 2026 communiqué).
- Sudan announced resumption of participation in IGAD (Feb 2026), potentially re-opening a regional channel for engagement.
- The “Quintet” (AU, IGAD, LAS, EU, UN) issued a joint statement calling for de-escalation ahead of Ramadan (Feb 2026).

Strategy’s priorities:

- Immediate humanitarian truce
- Transition to a full ceasefire
- Launch of an inclusive national dialogue

U.S.- and Partner-led initiatives

- Jeddah process (U.S./Saudi facilitation) sought humanitarian steps; implementation has been limited.
- A “Quad” (U.S., Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE) has supported renewed diplomacy and a humanitarian truce push.
- Feb 2026: U.S. hosted a call-to-action event reporting ~\$1.5B in new assistance pledges for Sudan’s humanitarian needs.
- 1. Three-Month Humanitarian Truce
- 2. Permanent Ceasefire
- 3. Nine-Month Political Transition
- 4. Military Redeployment
- 5. UN-led International Monitoring

Two Competing Visions for Sudan's Future

The core of the diplomatic stalemate lies in two fundamentally different roadmaps for peace. proposed by the Sudanese Government (SAF) and the RSF-led Tasis Alliance.

Feature	Sudanese Govt (Idris Plan)	Tasis Alliance (RSF-Led)
Primary Base	Port Sudan / Khartoum	Nyala, South Darfur
Governance Goal	Unified state under recognized institutions	Secular, decentralised federalism
RSF Role	Complete disarmament and withdrawal	Integrated political & military stakeholder
Intl. Alignment	Backed by AU, Egypt and others.	Signals support for the U.S.-led "Quad" truce & UAE & some African States.

Mediation Landscape: A Fractured Effort

- Multiple international and regional bodies are involved in mediation, with efforts sometimes overlapping or competing. Key groups are working to create a unified voice for peace.

Current Priorities

- Securing a Humanitarian Truce.
- Halting the external influx of arms and fighters.
- Ensuring accountability for atrocities, especially in Al Fasher.
- An inclusive dialogue among Sudanese stakeholders.



27/02/2026

Outlook (next 6–12 months): plausible scenarios

1) Protracted stalemate

- Continued attrition and shifting local fronts.
- Humanitarian access remains episodic; displacement continues.
- Diplomacy struggles to generate enforceable commitments.

2) Limited de-escalation

- Short humanitarian pauses around key corridors (e.g., Ramadan initiatives).
- Localized ceasefires reduce civilian harm in specific areas.
- Requires monitoring, incentives, and credible enforcement.

3) Fragmentation / parallel authority

- Competing “governance” claims; increased risk of partition dynamics.
- Non-state armed groups and local militias gain leverage.
- Higher protection risks for minorities and displaced populations.

Conclusion: A Precarious Path Forward

- The civil conflict has resulted in an unprecedented humanitarian disaster, including widespread crimes and vast displacement. While international pressure and sanctions are increasing, the path to peace is hampered by the warring groups deeply entrenched, opposing views.
- Key challenges ahead include bridging the divide between the SAF's vision of state restoration and the RSF's demand for political participation.
- Unifying Mediation: Combining many diplomatic routes into a single, unified approach to increase pressure on both parties.
- Ending Impunity: Ensuring that systems for justice and accountability, such as the ICC inquiry, are strengthened to stop the cycle of violence.
- Humanitarian Access: Obtaining an immediate ceasefire so that life-saving supplies may reach millions on the verge of hunger.

**THANK
YOU
FOR
YOUR
ATTENTION**