

The Sudan Consortium

African and International Civil Society Action for Sudan



National Human Rights Monitors Organisation

Human Rights Update: July-August 2015

Bombings continue despite onset of the rainy season

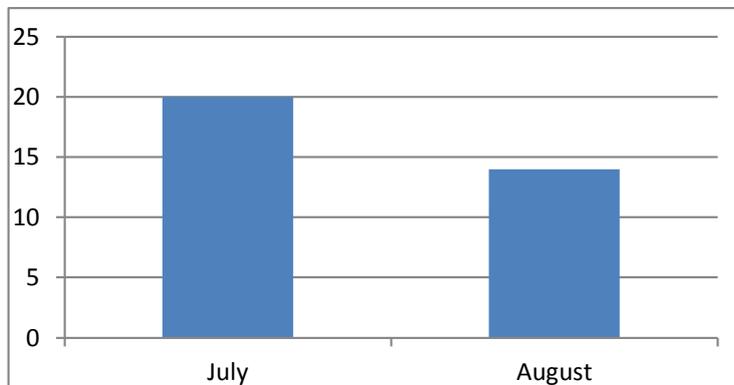
The Sudan Consortium has been working with a trusted group of local Sudanese partners who have been working on the ground in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile since the current conflict began in 2011. Some of these partners have now constituted a local organisation, the National Human Rights Monitors Organisation (NHRMO). Unless otherwise cited, information in this report, including all photos, were gathered by these monitors. **All the attacks referred to in this report were launched against areas where there was no military presence and which were clearly identifiable as civilian in character.** We believe that this information provides strong evidence that civilians are being directly and deliberately targeted by the Sudanese armed forces in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

In the two last months, the situation continued to deteriorate in Southern Kordofan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN). In July and August 2015, attacks against civilians in the two areas continued although on a reduced scale from the previous months as a result of the rainy season, which is generally associated with a reduction in the number of attacks. There was, however, a substantial increase in the number of attacks as compared with the previous rainy season. The total number of attacks recorded over the two month period, 34, was more than double the number reported in the same period in 2014.

In July, the dropping of 11 cluster bombs was reported in Umdorein and Tobo (Al Buram) counties. As mentioned in our June 2015 report,¹ due to their inherently indiscriminate nature the use of cluster munition is banned by the Convention on Cluster Munition (CCM) endorsed in 2008. Sudan is not a party to the convention, but there is increasing international consensus that use of these weapons is unacceptable. In total, attacks by the government of Sudan (GoS) on civilians over the last two months injured two women, killed 11 animals and injured eight, damaged two huts, one house and seven shelters and destroyed three farms and four shelters.

¹ Sudan Consortium, "Human Rights Update: Eight cluster bombs fall on Umdorein County," July 2015, available at http://www.sudanconsortium.org/darfur_consortium_actions/reports/2015/SKBNJune2015FINAL.pdf

In humanitarian terms, the needs remain acute and in some cases are worsening in terms of food security. Our monitors reported the critical situation in some counties in SK (Heiban, Dilling counties) where the lack of rain is disrupting cultivation and increasing the risk of food insecurity. According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET)² many household in SK are in crisis (IPC phase 3). Moreover, in BN some specific displacement of population was reported. In August, over 35000 civilians were displaced from Bau locality to the outskirts of Damazin town and Roseires. They are living in a very dire humanitarian situation.³

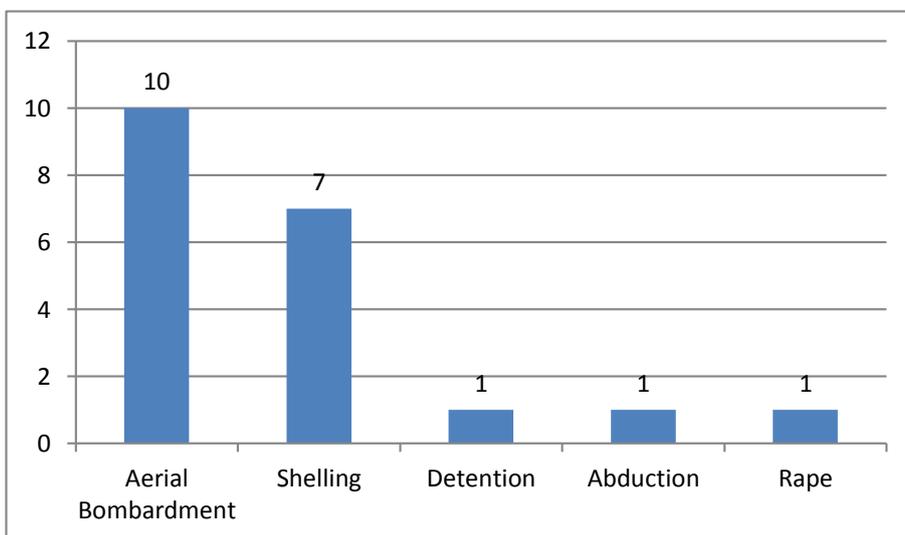


Despite the reduction in the number of verified incidents reported in SK in the last two months, the experience of previous years has shown that this relative calm is due to the rainy season and likely to be only temporary, given that GoS does not appear to be altering its strategy of trying to bring about the end to hostilities in the region by attacking the civilian population.

July 2015

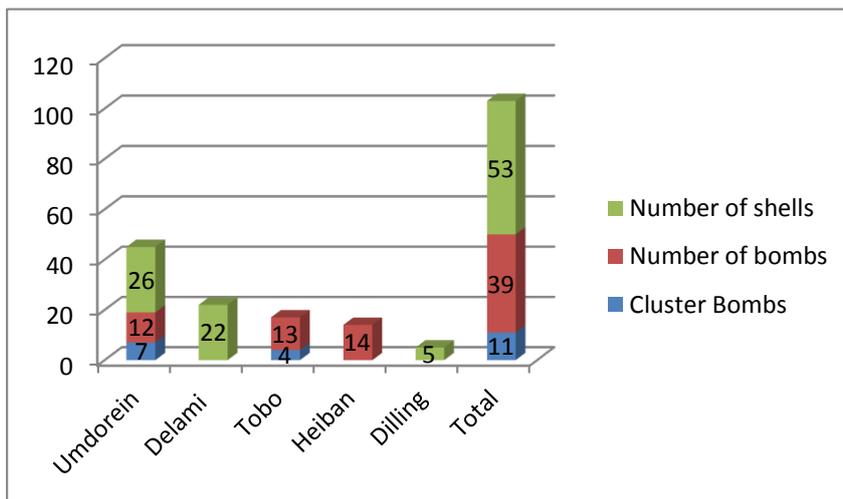
20 verified attacks on civilians were reported in July 2015, including ten aerial bombardment and seven shelling attacks. Moreover, our monitors reported one case of abduction and one case of illegal detention of civilians by GoS in Dilling County. In addition, a woman was raped by the governmental militia in Habila County. Unfortunately, two women were injured on 24 July 2015 (Opa village - Heiban County) during an aerial bombardment and some property damage was also documented: two huts and three farms were destroyed and one cow was injured.

In total at least 103 bombs and projectiles targeted the SPLM-controlled areas in Southern Kordofan including 11 confirmed use of cluster bombs, at least 39 bombs and 53 shells. Some of which did not explode posing an ongoing and severe threat to the civilian population, especially children. Of particular concern, has been the use of at least 11 cluster bombs: seven in Umdorein and four in Tobo (Al Buram).



² UN OCHA, "Humanitarian Bulletin: Sudan," Issue No. 39, 21-27 September 2015, available at http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA_Sudan_Weekly_Humanitarian_Bulletin_Issue_39_%2821_-27_September_2015%29.pdf

³ Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile Coordination Unit, "Humanitarian Update: August 2015," September 2015, available at: http://www.sudanconsortium.org/darfur_consortium_actions/reports/2015/SKBN%20CU%20Humanitarian%20update%20August%202015.pdf



In July, Umdorein County was the most targeted county with eight verified incidents followed by Dilling County with four verified incidents, Tobo (Al Buram) County with three verified incidents, Heiban and Delami counties both had two verified incidents each and Habila County had one verified incident.

In Umdorein County, the eight verified attack on civilians included six in Tangal Payam and two in Saraf Jamos Payam. There

were five aerial bombing attacks and three incidences of shelling. Unfortunately, two huts were destroyed and one was cow injured. At least 45 bombs and shells fell including 12 bombs, seven cluster bombs⁴ and 26 rockets, most of which fell in civilians areas particularly on areas used for cultivation.

The following verified incidents verified by our monitors, but thankfully did not result in any casualties and only two huts were damaged.

- On **1 July 2015** at 8am: five rockets fell on Alnugra village
- On **2 July 2015**: five shells fell on fields being cultivated in Tabula area.
- On **4 July 2015** at 10am: two Sudanese government MiG fighter jets dropped four cluster bombs on Umserndiba and Alnugra villages.
- On **7 July 2015** at 9am: two incidents were reported in Algoz and Delabai when two Sudanese government Antonov cargo planes dropped four bombs in each area.
- On **22 July 2015** at 5.58pm: 2 MiG fighter jets dropped three cluster bombs on Elbong village leaving unexploded bomblets (see photo).
- On **23 July 2015** at 9pm: 16 rockets fell in Alnugra village. The central police station as well as the local market were also hit. According to one of our witnesses: **“One shell fell on the hill and four on the local market. The rest fell close to settlements and we thank God no casualties occurred.”**
- On **25 July 2015** at 5pm: two MiG jet fighters dropped four cluster bombs in Umserndiba. Only a cow was injured but not all of the bomblets exploded and thus they continue to pose a threat to the civilian population especially for children.



In Dilling County, four verified incidents were reported in Farshaya Payam. The incidents documented were two artillery attacks, one reported abduction and one case of illegal detention.

- On **2 July 2015** at 12.19pm: Mandal village (Farshaya Payam) was shelled by the Sudan Armed Forced (SAF) with two rockets falling in the public park destroying it. No casualties were reported.
- On **6 July 2015** at 6.45pm: A civilian was arrested for no apparent reason in Mandal village (Farshaya Payam) by militias associated with the government of Sudan. He was detained for some days in

⁴ Four cluster bombs were reported to have fallen on Unserndiba village in Umdorein County and three on Elbong village in Umdorein County.

Dilling prison before been released without charge – he was/was not mistreated during his detention.

- **On 23 July 2015** at 4.45pm: Karko village (Farshaya Payam) was shelled by the SAF, with at least three rockets falling in the area. Thankfully there were no casualties and no damage to property was documented.
- **On 31 July 2015** at 5.30pm: In Kassa village (Farshaya Payam) the Sudanese army abducted a civilian on his way back from the market, taking his motorbike, his mobile phone and some other goods.



22 July 2015 -Tabanya village – Tobo (Al Buram) County – One of the seven bombs which fell on Tabanya farm.

In Tobo (Al Buram) County, three aerial bombing attacks were reported to have targeted Tabanya village. 13 barrel bombs and four cluster bombs fell but there were no casualties and no properties were damaged.

The verified incidents all took place in Tabanya village and were as follows:

- **On 10 July 2015** at 9am: two MiGs dropped four cluster bombs.
- **On 22 July 2015** at 4.50pm: an Antonov cargo plane dropped seven bombs.
- **On 25 July 2015** at 13.10pm: an Antonov dropped six bombs.

In Heiban County, two verified aerial bombing incidents were reported in Dabi Payam – one in Opa village and another one in Lomrani village. The attacks were carried out by Antonov cargo planes and a

combined 14 bombs were dropped on the two villages. Unfortunately, two women were injured and three farms were damaged.

- **On 24 July 2015** at 2pm: an Antonov dropped four bombs in Opa village. Two women were injured and two farms were destroyed.
- **On 27 July 2015** at 10am: an Antonov dropped ten bombs in Lomorani village. A farm was destroyed.

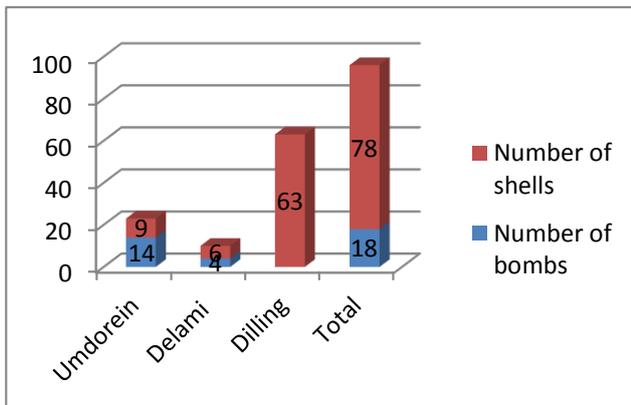
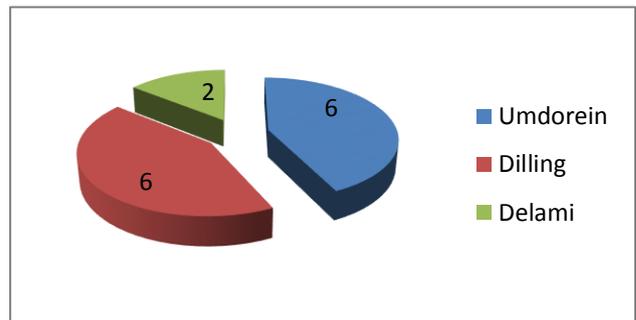
In Delami County, two shelling attacks were reported in Umberi and Lumberi villages. At least 22 rockets fell: five rockets in Umberi and 17 in Lumberi. No casualties or property damaged were reported.

- **On 17 July 2015** at 8.30am: The government of Sudan targeted Lumberi village (Aberi Payam). At least, seventeen rockets fell on the village.
- **On 18 July 2015** at 10.40am: The SAF shelled Umberi village (Aberi Payam). Five rockets fell in the civilian area.

In Habila County, just one incident was documented in July. On **12 July 2015** at 7.30pm in Kalindi village, militia associated with Sudanese government raped a women coming home from the farm.

August 2015

As in July, our monitors reported that the main target of the GoS attacks appear to be the farms and fields. The only reason that can be inferred is that the government of Sudan is attempting to disrupt planting and cultivation activities. This rainy season has been less wet than previous ones, which is resulting in decreased production. As a result, the situation in SK is really critical and the food security is not guaranteed for the coming months. Already, the people are being forced to eat grass and roots which are likely to result in high levels of malnutrition. Local administrators report that at least 20 people have died of malnutrition since the first week of August.⁵



14 verified incidents were reported by our monitors in Southern Kordofan – nine shelling and five aerial bombardments. The use of cluster bombs was not reported in August. The counties most targeted by GoS in August were, once again, Umdorein and Dilling counties with six verified incidents, followed by Delami County with only two verified incidents.

At least 96 bombs and projectiles were dropped by the GoS in August: including at least 18 bombs and 78 rockets. Thankfully, no casualties were reported. Nevertheless, four shelters were destroyed and

seven damaged by fragments in an area where civilians were displaced. One farm was also damaged. Only four cows were killed but seven cows were injured.

In Umdorein County, six verified incidents were reported. Four aerial bombardment and two shelling attacks occurred in Tangal and Andalu Payams. 14 bombs and seven rockets were dropped. No casualties were reported and only one cow was injured.

- On **9 August 2015** at 9.45am: the government of Sudan attacked an area where displaced civilians were located in Umserndiba dropping six bombs. Some of them did not explode and still constitute a real threat for the civilian population living in the area. According to one of the witnesses interviewed by the monitors: **“We were around when the plane dropped the bombs. We went into the fox-holes. The bombs fell in the farm, damaged the cultivation. One bomb did not explode.”** Already displaced the lives and livelihoods of this population were further interrupted by the bombing.
- On **13 August 2015** at 6.47pm: The government of Sudan fired four rockets onto Alnugra village. One rocket did not explode.
- On **22 August 2015**: Two verified incidents were reported. The first incident occurred at 8.45pm when the SAF fired three rockets into Alnugra village and the second incident also occurred at 8.45pm when two MIGs dropped three bombs on Kodira village. One of them did not explode.

⁵ South Kordofan and Blue Nile Coordination Unit, “Humanitarian Update,” August 2015, available at: http://www.sudanconsortium.org/darfur_consortium_actions/reports/2015/SKBN%20CU%20Humanitarian%20update%20August%202015.pdf

- On **24 August 2015** at 12.45pm: The SAF attacked Umserndiba area. Two MiGs dropped one bomb. Only one small cow was injured.
- On **27 August 2015** at 1.40pm: Four bombs fell in Abingao village. The cultivation area was once more targeted by the government of Sudan.

In **Dilling County**, six verified shelling attacks were reported. Over 63 rockets were fired by the Sudan Armed Forces. No casualties nor property damage was reported.

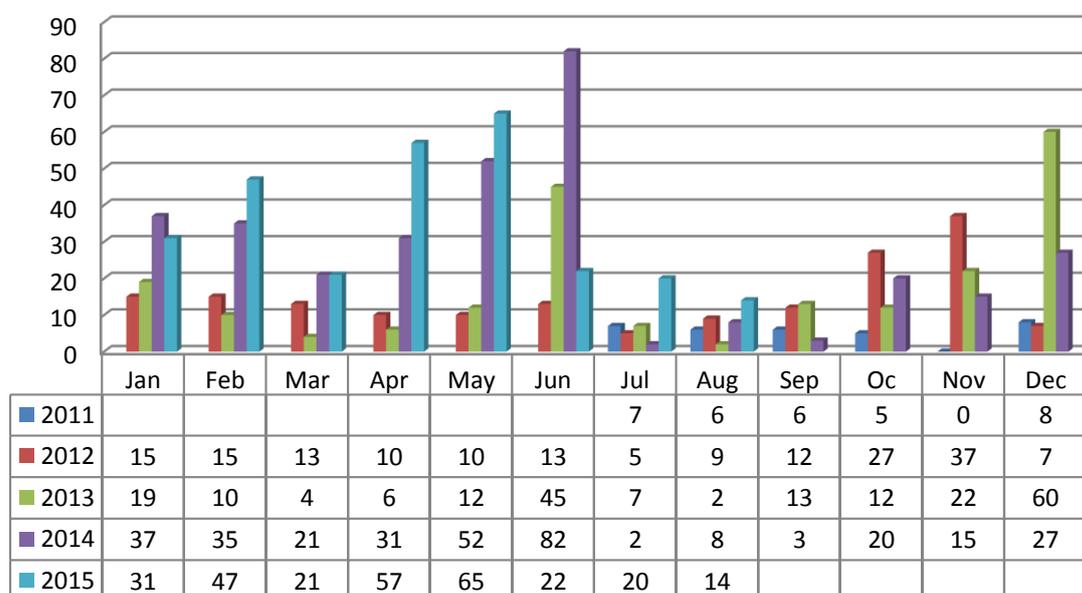
- On **7 August 2015** at 9.15pm: Four shells fell in Korko and Salarah Payam. One of them fell close to Salarah School. Fortunately, no casualties were reported.
- On **8 August 2015** from 9.12am to 12.12pm: shells attacks were reported in Salarah Payam - Fraragil village. Four rockets fell in the area.
- On **9 August 2015** at 8.00pm: Several artillery attacks were reported all over Dilling County. We were unable to cover all the incidents, nevertheless, in total, they reported that 35 rockets fell and some of these remain unexploded.
- On **13 August 2015** from 8.00am up to 3.45pm: Seven rockets fell in Frashaya and Salarah payams.
- On **18 August 2015** from 10.02pm to 4.30am: Several barrages targeted Salarah and Korko payams.
- On **21 August 2015** at 8.12pm: Six rockets were fired at Subei village (Korko Payam)



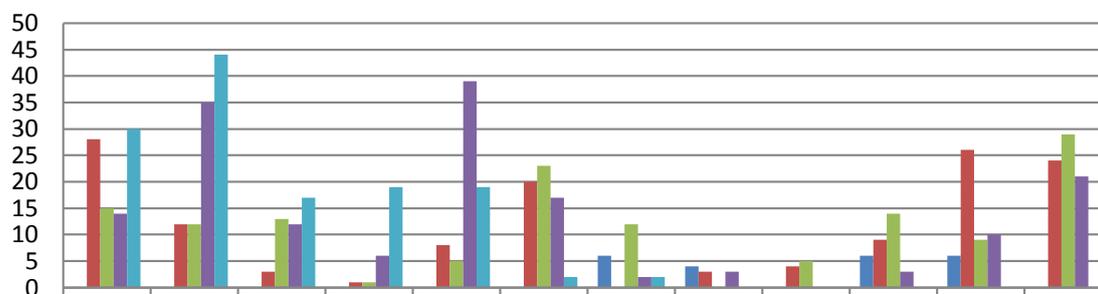
9 August 2015-Umdorein County – Umserndiba village - Tangal Payam – Umdorein County.

In **Delami County**, just two verified incidents were reported: one aerial bombing, in which at least seven bombs were dropped of which two did not explode and one shelling, including at least three rockets. One house was damaged and six cows were injured. The villages targeted by the GoS were Aberi village on **11 August 2015** and Sabat Village on **20 August 2015**.

Number of incidents against civilians in Southern Kordofan July 2011- August 2015

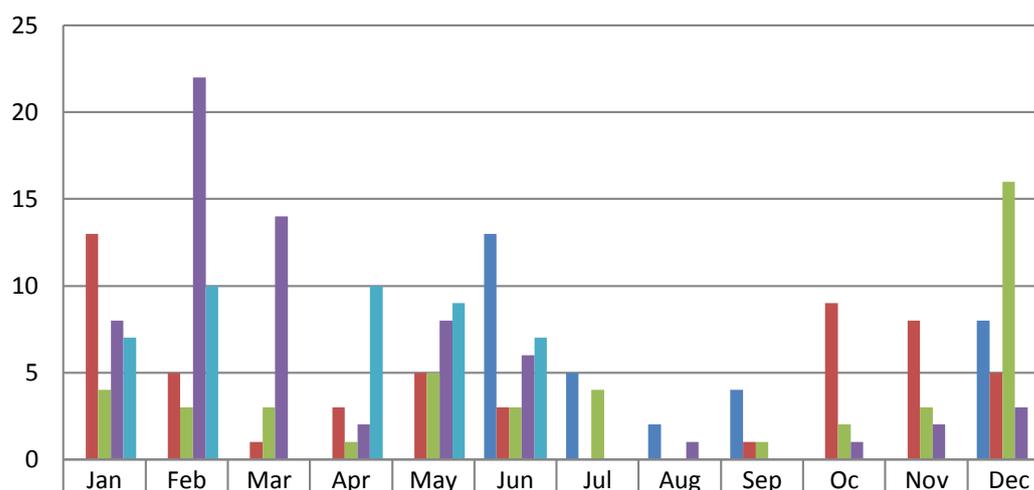


Number of civilians injured in Southern Kordofan July 2011- August 2015



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oc	Nov	Dec
■ 2011							6	4	0	6	6	0
■ 2012	28	12	3	1	8	20	0	3	4	9	26	24
■ 2013	15	12	13	1	5	23	12	0	5	14	9	29
■ 2014	14	35	12	6	39	17	2	3	0	3	10	21
■ 2015	30	44	17	19	19	2	2	0				

Number of civilians killed in Southern Kordofan June 2011-August 2015



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oc	Nov	Dec
■ 2011						13	5	2	4	0	0	8
■ 2012	13	5	1	3	5	3	0	0	1	9	8	5
■ 2013	4	3	3	1	5	3	4	0	1	2	3	16
■ 2014	8	22	14	2	8	6	0	1	0	1	2	3
■ 2015	7	10	0	10	9	7	0	0				

Conclusion

July and August were relatively quiet compared to previous months though consistent for this time of year and the attacks are expected to start again as soon as the rainy season draws to an end. This decrease in attacks and deaths is of course welcome respite for the people of SK. Nevertheless, after four years of conflict, the psychological impact on those living under a constant threat of being killed by bombardments cannot be underestimated. What this means in practice is that even without bombs being dropped the mere presence of aircraft in or around a village is enough to disrupt people, have them running for cover and suffering the ongoing effects.

In addition, it is crucial to keep in mind that the situation in the two areas continues to deteriorate in terms of food security, health, access to clean water and sanitation. With each year of conflict, the coping capacity of affected communities are worn down. If humanitarian access continues to be prohibited by the Sudanese authorities, the situation is likely to deteriorate still further. Thousands of lives are in danger and the international community must immediately increase pressure on the government of Sudan to stop their targeting of civilians and allow unfettered and independent humanitarian access.