

The Sudan Consortium

African and International Civil Society Action for Sudan

Human Rights Update: Southern Kordofan State, Sudan

August 2013

This update is intended as the first in a series of monthly updates to be produced by the Sudan Consortium in cooperation with local human rights monitors on the ground to highlight ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the region.

In the six week period from 1 June to 15 July, the Sudanese Air Force and Sudanese Armed Forces bombed and shelled civilian areas in Southern Kordofan. During the reporting period, the Sudanese Air Force systematically bombed civilian settlements in opposition-held areas of Heiban, Al Buram, Kadugli and Um Dorein Counties in Southern Kordofan. The Sudanese Armed Forces also shelled populated areas in Al Buram and Um Dorein

Local human rights monitors working in Southern Kordofan documented more than 50 such attacks during the reporting period, with the majority of attacks being bombing raids carried out by Antonov bomber aircraft. These aircraft drop large, crudely constructed, and unguided bombs from high altitude – relying on methods and means of delivery which are inherently indiscriminate.

As a result of these attacks, ten civilians (including seven children and one woman) were killed, and 25 were injured during the reporting period. According to the monitors who documented these attacks, all the locations where these casualties occurred were clearly identifiable as being civilian in character, were not being used for military purposes and did not represent legitimate military targets.

The reporting period saw a significant increase in bombing attacks launched by the Sudanese Air Force against cultivated agricultural areas in Southern Kordofan. Delami County, known as fertile and productive agricultural area, was subjected to a particularly intensive and systematic attack during June and early July. Monitors on the ground recorded a total of 178 bombs dropped in the course of 32 separate air raids on Delami during this period. The attacks, the majority of which targeted areas of

The Sudan Consortium works with a trusted group of local Sudanese partners who have been working on the ground in Southern Kordofan since the current conflict began in late 2011. The incidents described below all occurred in late 2012/early 2013, with the most recent taking place on 19 March 2013. Each of these incidents has been documented and verified directly and personally by individuals known to us. Permission was received from the families and communities of those who died for the taking of the photographs included in this briefing.

We believe that this information provides strong circumstantial evidence that civilians are being directly and deliberately targeted by the Sudanese armed forces in Southern Kordofan.

cultivated land, damaged or destroyed newly planted crops in 12 locations, and appear to have been timed to coincide with the planting and early growing season (The planting season in Delami began in June).

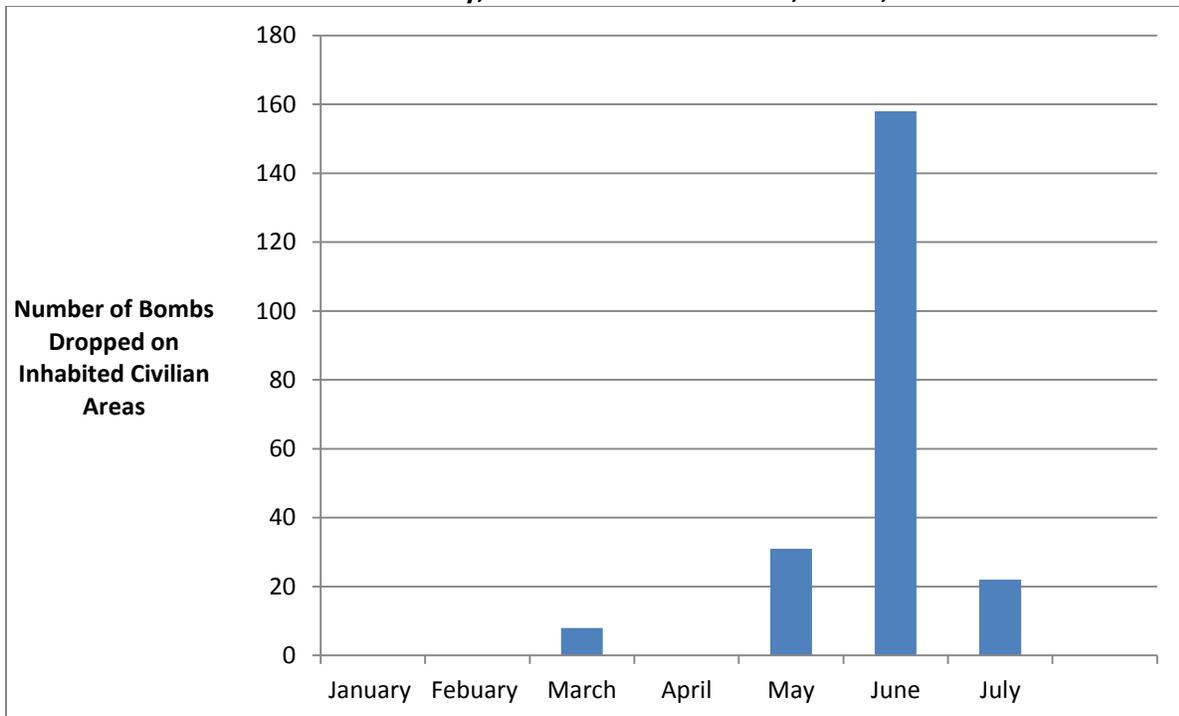
The graph below clearly illustrates the unusual intensity of attacks launched by the Sudanese government against targets in Delami during June. Again, human rights monitors on the ground report that



Woman killed when her hut was burned in an aerial bombardment on Tadugli.

there were no legitimate military targets in the vicinity of any of these attacks. Delami is not located in a strategic area and is a significant distance from the lines of confrontation between Sudanese Government and armed opposition forces. The aim of the Sudanese Government in focusing on Delami therefore appears to have been primarily to destroy or damage the newly planted crop fields, to deter future cultivation in this area, and thereby accelerate the on-going displacement of the civilian population from opposition controlled areas.

Delami County, Southern Kordofan State, Sudan, 2013



Whilst the Sudanese government appears to have taken the opportunity afforded by the planting season to step up its efforts to disrupt agricultural production in opposition-held Southern Kordofan, their broader bombing campaign continues to target those essential community amenities and services necessary to sustain the civilian population.



Tadugli medical clinic after the July 9 bombing.

Community medical facilities in Southern Kordofan suffered particularly badly during this reporting period. On 9 July the medical clinic in Tadugli, Delami County was hit by one of three bombs dropped on the village by a Sudanese Air Force Antonov. The clinic was completely destroyed, along with its entire stock of medicines. A medical nurse who was working in the clinic at the time of the attack was amongst those killed.

Elsewhere in Southern Kordofan, in Al Buram county, the Al Buram health centre was amongst the buildings damaged in an air raid on the district's administrative centre on 6 June (an attack which marked the two year anniversary of the beginning of the current conflict in Southern Kordofan).