

## The Sudan Consortium

*African and International Civil Society Action for Sudan*

### Human Rights Update: April 2015

#### *Deadly attacks in Southern Kordofan as Sudan votes<sup>1</sup>*

The Sudan Consortium works 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. 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.

As Sudanese in Khartoum and other parts of the country went to the polls on 13-16 April, civilians in Southern Kordofan were not only excluded from the vote, they faced continuing government attacks. Over the three days of the elections, civilians faced 12 separate aerial bombardments and shelling attacks. This grim situation in Southern Kordofan is a vivid reminder of lack of credibility of elections.

In this tense context, the government significantly increased attacks in April 2015 in an apparent effort to gain ground ahead of the coming rainy season. April saw a particularly large number of attacks, 171 % more than last month, making it one of months with the highest number of attacks since the start of the war. During the month of April, there were 55 verified incidents of either bombing or shelling, one verified incident of looting and one verified incident of a ground attack – all against civilians. The attacks led by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) caused significant damage, with 10 civilian deaths, including four children,<sup>2</sup> and 19 civilians injured.<sup>3</sup> The attacks also caused significant destruction to civilian infrastructure and assets, with 38 animals reported killed and 12 injured and 23 huts and 18 houses burned or significantly damaged.

The attacks from SAF occurred in Umdorein County with 29 verified incidents, Delami County with 21 verified incidents, Al Buram (Tobo) County with 6 verified incidents and in Heiban County with 1 verified incident.

Most of these attacks were carried out by Antonovs, however at least two attacks were by jet fighters.

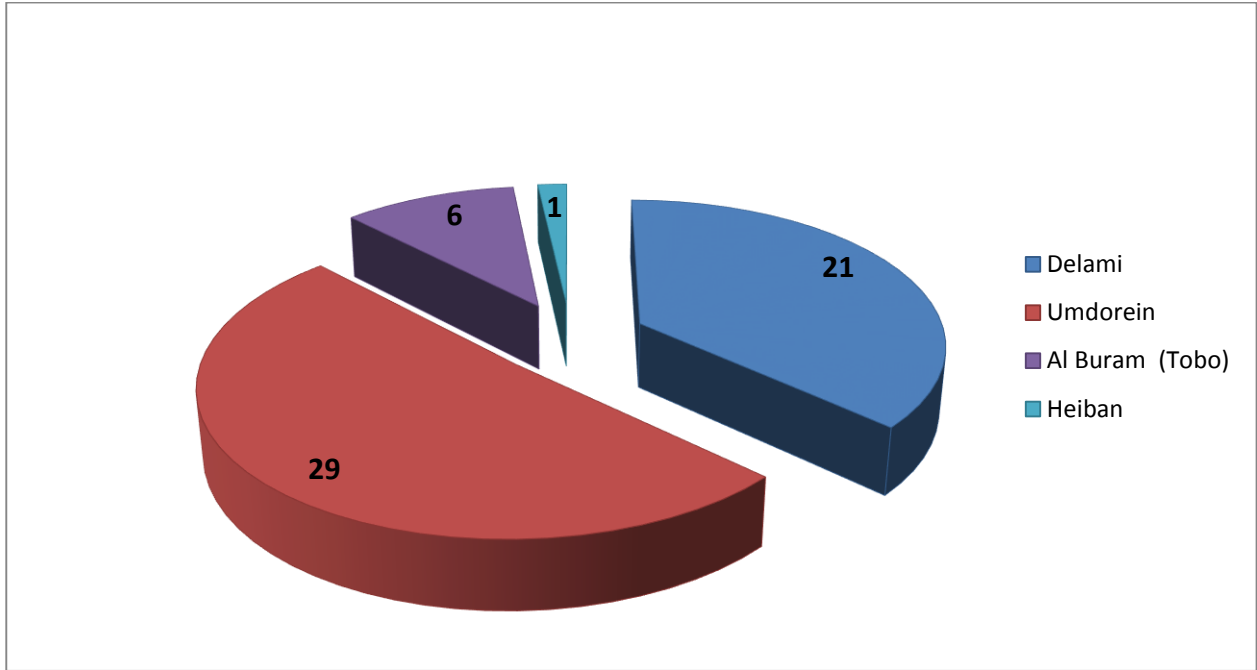
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<sup>1</sup> We have been unable to include information on Blue Nile in this update. Information from that region will be published as it becomes available.

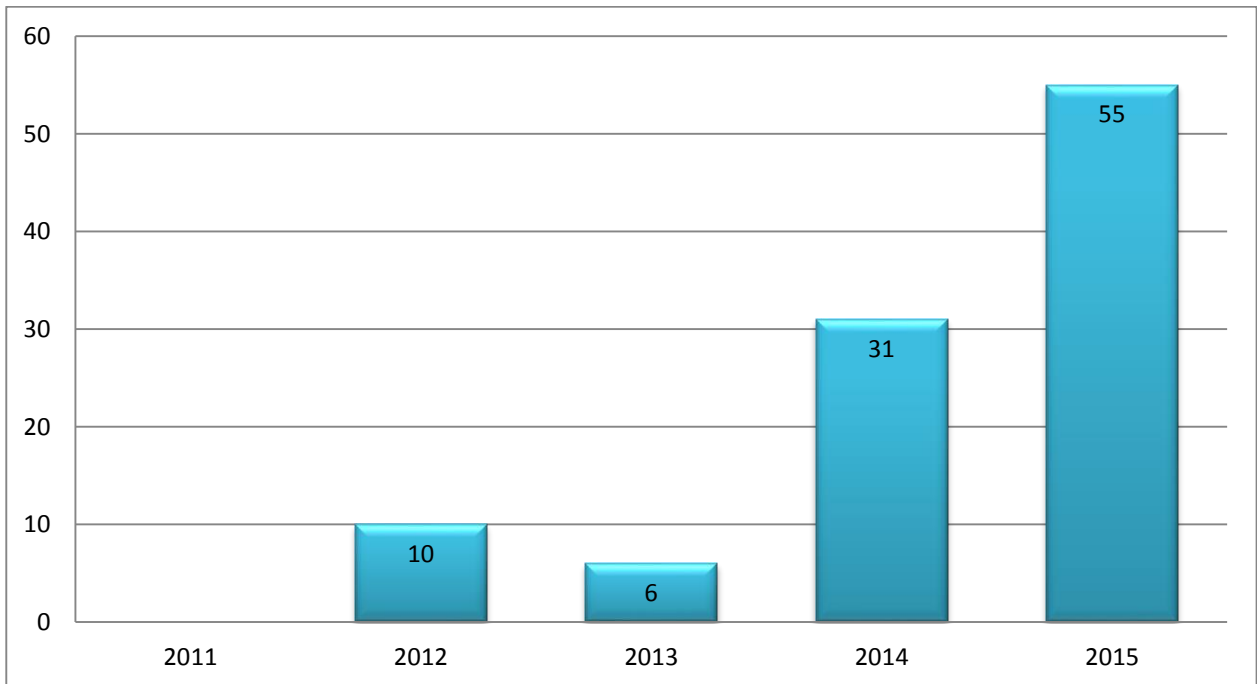
<sup>2</sup> Of the 10 deaths, four were children, two women and four men.

<sup>3</sup> Of the 19 persons injured, 10 were men, seven were women and two were children.

Number of incidents by county – April 2015



Number of bombing/shelling attacks against civilian and civilian objects in Southern Kordofan: April 2011- 2015



**In Umdorein County**, 29 verified incidents were reported: 23 shelling attacks, three bombing attacks and three unidentified incidents. The three villages most targeted in the area were Umserdiba<sup>4</sup>, Alnugra<sup>5</sup> and Tabula<sup>6</sup>. One man and one woman were injured in Alnugra during aerial bombing. The attacks didn't cause any material damage. Nevertheless, there was one incident of child abduction by a military group reported from Shaboon village, 11 April 2015.

**In Delami County**, 21 incidents were reported: 19 aerial bombings/shelling targeting villages<sup>7</sup>, one ground attack in Hadara village and one looting in Abeyath village. The two payams most targeted by the SAF were Tunguli<sup>8</sup> and Sabat<sup>9</sup>. In total, nine deaths were verified among them were five children, two of whom were under two years old, two women and two men. In addition, 11 persons were injured, one child, two women and seven men. Furthermore, SAF attacks caused substantial property damages (10 houses burned, three huts damaged, three animals killed and a store of livestock feed was destroyed).



**Photo 1 - Women collecting sorghum after their stores were burned by the aerial bombing of Tunguli village, Delami County – 5 April 2015**

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<sup>4</sup> The village of Umserdiba was attacked 18 times in April 2015.

<sup>5</sup> The village of Alnugra was attack six times in April 2015.

<sup>6</sup> Tabula village was the target of four attacks in April 2015.

<sup>7</sup> The villages in Delami County which were targeted are Tunguli, Temaning, Kulurina, Hawkur, Umberi, Daga, Deri, Toluna, Alimura, Adouna, and Alhamam.

<sup>8</sup> Tunguli village experienced eight aerial bombings.

<sup>9</sup> Five attacks (aerial bombing/shelling) were reported in Sabat village.

**In Al Buram (Tobo) County**, there were a total of six verified incidents reported three in Asolo village, two in Ates village, and one in Tobo village. Five persons were injured in the county, two in Tobo village and three in Asolo<sup>10</sup>village.

**In Heiban County**, the monitors reported one incident on 18 April 2015. One child was killed, one woman injured, eight houses burned and two houses slightly damaged.

**Photo 2– Woman injured during an aerial bombing in Tobo County**



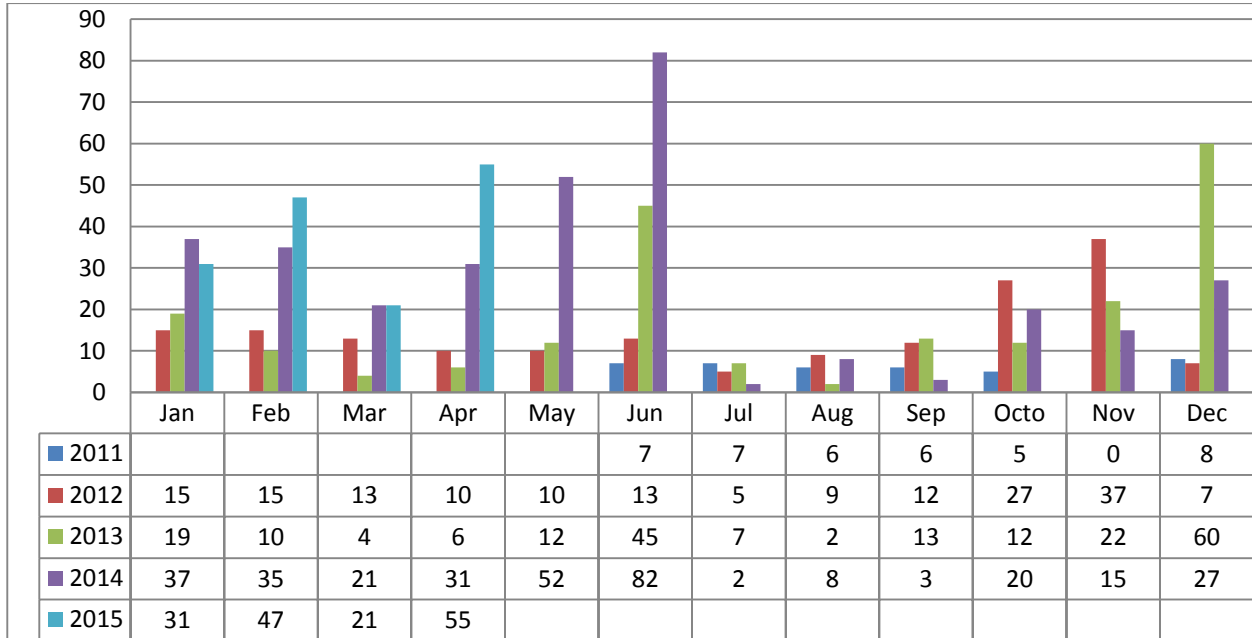
**Photo 3 – Huts burned after an aerial bombing – Delami County**

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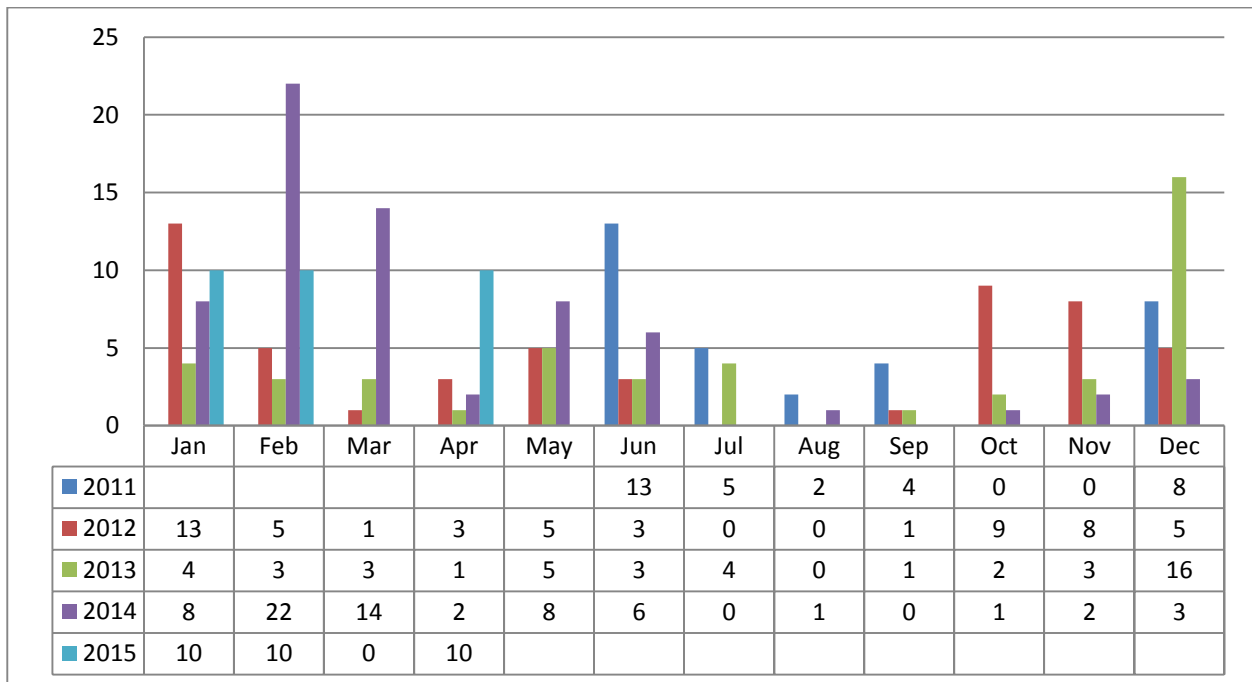
<sup>10</sup> These people were injured in attacks on 14, 16 and 22 April 2015.

Some additional data:

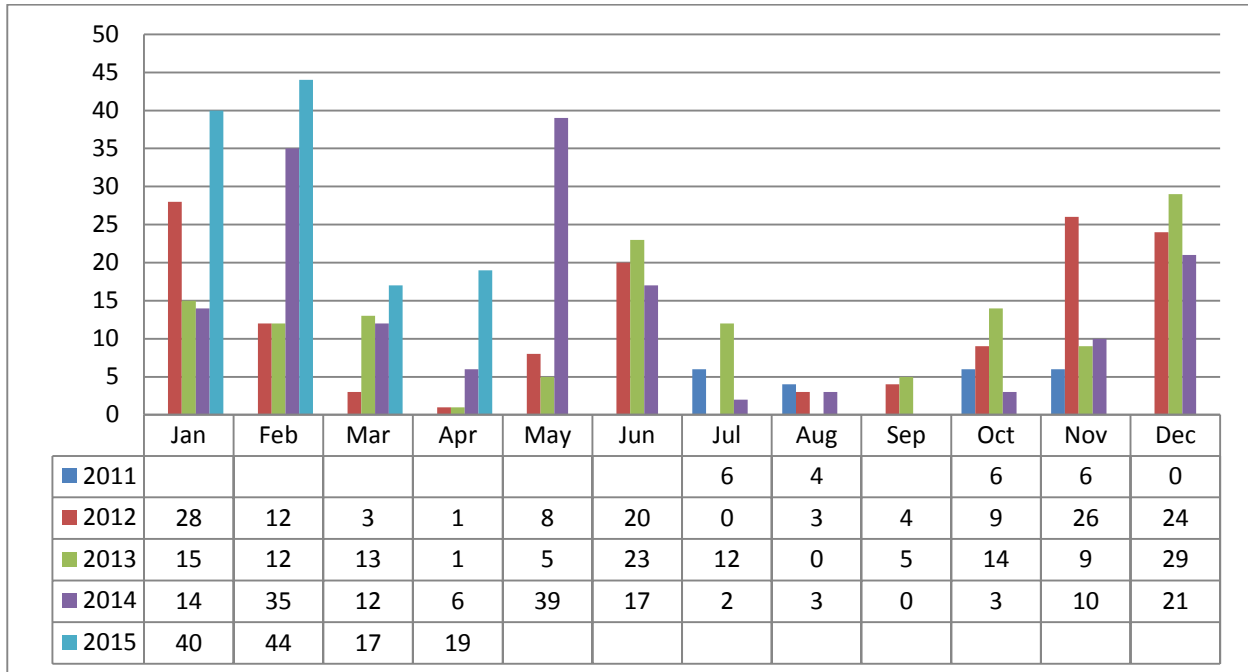
Number of bombing/Shelling attacks in Southern Kordofan 2011-2015



Number of civilians killed in bombing/Shelling attacks in Southern Kordofan 2011-2015



### Number of civilians injured in bombing/Shelling attacks in Southern Kordofan 2011-2015



### Conclusion

The recent monitoring demonstrates that bombing and shelling attacks increased dramatically in April 2015. Sudan has continued to bomb civilian areas indiscriminately throughout the region. In April, the use of cluster bombs<sup>11</sup> was not been reported. However, we reported the suspected use of cluster bombs in our [March 2015 update](#) and this was confirmed by Human Rights Watch, who in April 2015 reported evidence of the use six cluster bombs, dropped by government aircraft on villages in Umdorein and Delami counties in April 2015.<sup>12</sup>

Urgent action is needed from the international community to stop bombing/shelling attacks, to ensure the humanitarian access and to protect civilian in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. Humanitarian access is particularly critical in the coming months as the coming rainy season will make movement of aid even more difficult in the coming months.

<sup>11</sup> The use of cluster bombs are recognised under the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (of which Sudan is not a signatory) prohibits all use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions due to the unacceptable harm to civilians that cluster bombs cause.

<sup>12</sup> See Human Rights Watch, "[Sudan: Cluster Bombs Used in Nuba Mountains](#)," 16 April 2015.