

Sudan Consortium

*African and International Civil Society Action
for Sudan*



National Human Rights Monitors Organisation

Human Rights Update: May 2016

Children again the unacceptable victims of the conflict

The Sudan Consortium has been working with a group of trusted local Sudanese partners who have been monitoring human rights violations committed against the civilian population in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile since the current conflict began in 2011.¹

We believe that this information provides strong evidence that civilians are being directly and deliberately targeted by the Sudanese government in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile as all the attacks referred to in this report were launched against areas that were clearly identifiable as civilian in character.

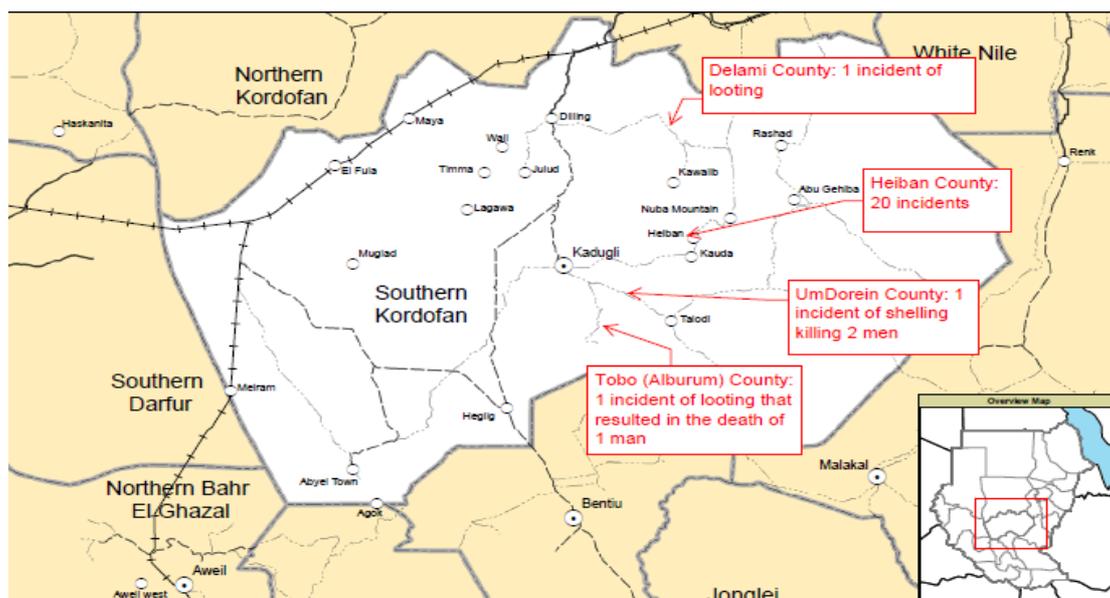
Attacks against civilians in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile (also known as the “Two Areas”) continued in May, albeit at a reduced rate compared to incidents reported during the previous two months. Our monitors recorded a total of 29 incidents in the two areas with the majority of them (20 out of the 29) taking place in Southern Kordofan's Heiban County resulting in the deaths of six children from a single incident, which garnered significant coverage including a [petition](#) signed by over 650 organisations and individuals.

One rocket attack was reported in Umdorein County, a looting incident in Tobo (Alburam) County and another looting incident in Delami County of Southern Kordofan. In Blue Nile, monitors documented six incidents of aerial bombing in Kurmuk County. Our monitors reported a total of 52 bombs dropped by the government of Sudan (GoS) planes in civilian areas of Southern Kordofan and 39 dropped in civilian areas of Blue Nile. In addition, there were two incidents of artillery shelling in Southern Kordofan.

The monitors recorded a total of 13 people killed in the two areas, three of them from Blue Nile. In Southern Kordofan, [six of the 10 civilians killed were children](#). These children were killed in Heiban County in a single incident following aerial bombardment by GoS. Three were from one family, aged between four and 15 years old. In addition, our monitors reported 34 animals (cows, donkeys and goats) and five chickens killed in Southern Kordofan, in addition to 155 cows looted by Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) soldiers and associated government militias. The consistent looting and killing of animals during this war has had a strongly negative impact on the communities as the animals are a crucial source of milk and meat, as well as a source of money when sold.

¹ 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, was gathered by these monitors.

Incidents in Southern Kordofan State



Heiban County

- **On 1 May 2016, at 6.00pm**, two MiG jet fighters dropped four bombs on Heiban village, Heiban Payam, and killed six children. Three of the children killed were from the same family, and the other three belonged to neighbours. A mother of one of the dead children was also injured. **During the same incident**, a woman in nearby Kwarly village was killed as she jumped into a fox-hole to escape the bombs. She hit her head on a plank of wood and died instantly. Two huts were completely destroyed along with all household property inside.
- **On 2 May 2016, at 8.15am**, an Antonov plane dropped eight bombs on Heiban village and injured two women and killed five goats.
- **On 3 May 2016, at 1.35pm**, two MiG fighters dropped two bombs on Hy-Almatar village, Eldo Payam, but there was no damage. **On the same day, at 1.40pm**, the same planes dropped two bombs on Heiban village, but they fell on the nearby mountains outside of the village and therefore caused no damage or casualties.
- **On 4 May, 2016 at 7.42am**, an Antonov plane dropped eight bombs on Heiban village, but there was no damage or casualties.
- **On 6 May, 2016 at 7.50am**, two MiGs dropped four bombs on Kobang village, Heiban Payam, but the bombs fell on a nearby mountain and caused no damage or casualties.
- **On 10 May, 2016 at 12.25pm**, an Antonov plane dropped two bombs on Sinnar village, Kumbur Payam, killing two cows and a donkey, and destroying three mango trees. However, there were no casualties.
- **On 12 May 2016, at 11.09am**, an Antonov plane dropped three bombs on Mandi village, Kumbur Payam, killing 17 heads of cattle, injuring a donkey and damaging five mango trees. **On the same day, at 3.25pm**, having taken Alazrag village from the SPLM-N in [March](#), SAF used this location to shell the village of Hajar Madani, Heiban Payam. Seven shells were fired but they caused no damage or casualties.



Homes destroyed, Heiban County, May 2016

- **On 17 May 2016, at 12.45pm**, an Antonov dropped 16 bombs on the villages of Lower Kauda and Upper Kauda in Eldo Payam, causing injuries to three men.



Injured men, Eldo Payam, Heiban County,
May 2016

- **On 22 May 2016, at 12.24pm**, an Antonov dropped four bombs on Eldo Payam. Two of the bombs fell in Lowere village and the others fell on South Kolo village. **On the same day**, an Antonov dropped two bombs on Chawri village, Dabi Payam, causing no damage or casualties.

- **On 23 May, at 1.40pm**, an Antonov dropped one bomb in Lowere village but caused no damage or casualties. **On the same day, at 1.45pm and again at 1.50pm**, the same plane dropped five bombs on Heiban village, injuring seven civilians, one of whom died on the way to hospital. The injured included two boys aged eight and ten, and a six-month old baby.



Baby injured by bombs dropped by
Sudanese government , Heiban County
May 2016

- **On 24 May 2016, at 8:40am**, an Antonov dropped six bombs on Nyakima village in Alazrag Payam and destroyed three houses and a hut. **Later on, at an unspecified time**, an Antonov dropped ten bombs on Jimaizay village but they fell on a forest causing no damage or casualties.

- **On 31 May 2016, at 12:04pm**, an Antonov plane dropped three bombs on the village of Kumu Ardan, in Kumbur Payam, and killed three goats. However, there were no human casualties. **On the same day, at 12:08pm**, the same plane bombed Kambara village in Heiban Payam. Two bombs burned down two huts and destroyed all household property. In addition, two cows and five chickens were killed. One young girl, an 11-year old pupil, was slightly injured on her right leg. **Shortly after**, the same plane dropped three bombs in Lowere village and two cows were killed. Six houses with all household effects were completely burned down and one hut was slightly damaged.

Delami County

- **On 21 May 2016, at 3:45pm**, seven members of a government militia looted 52 cows in Deri village as they were grazing under the care of two young boys.

Tobo (Alburam) County

- **On 12 May 2016, at 12.30pm**, a group of SAF soldiers attacked Reka village, Reka Payam, and killed a man. They also looted 85 cows belonging to the father of the dead man and another 18 cows in the neighbourhood. The soldiers were carrying four general-purpose machine guns and two rocket-propelled grenades, causing considerable fear among the civilian population. Due to the fact that cows are so important in the lives of the people, some members of the community raised the alarm and ran after the soldiers but they escaped. Fortunately, nobody was killed or injured.

Umdorein County

- **On 9 May 2016, at 8:30am**, SAF fired eight rockets on Kodira village, Tangal Payam, from the Alatmor area in the western part of the county, still occupied by Sudanese military. Two men, aged 35 and 37, were killed. They had gone to fetch water at a village water pump when the rockets struck. Two goats were also killed.



Bomb crater, Heiban village, Heiban County,
May 2016

Incidents in Blue Nile State

Kurmuk County

- **On 6 May 2016, at 9.15am**, an Antonov dropped four bombs in Yabus Kobri village, Yabus Payam. **Around the same time**, another four bombs were dropped in Yabus Gaba village, also in Yabus Payam, resulting in the destruction of three huts and everything inside.
- **On 17 May 2016, at 10.00pm**, an Antonov dropped 12 bombs in Yabus Kobri village, killing two people and injuring three others.
- **On 9 May 2016, at an unspecified time**, an Antonov dropped five bombs on Chali village, Chali Alfeel Payam. No casualties were reported.
- **On 12 May 2016**, an Antonov dropped 12 bombs on the same village, causing a huge fire and the destruction of four homesteads with all household property.
- **On 9 May 2016**, an Antonov dropped two bombs in Be village, Chali Alfeel Payam, starting a fire in the village but causing no casualties.

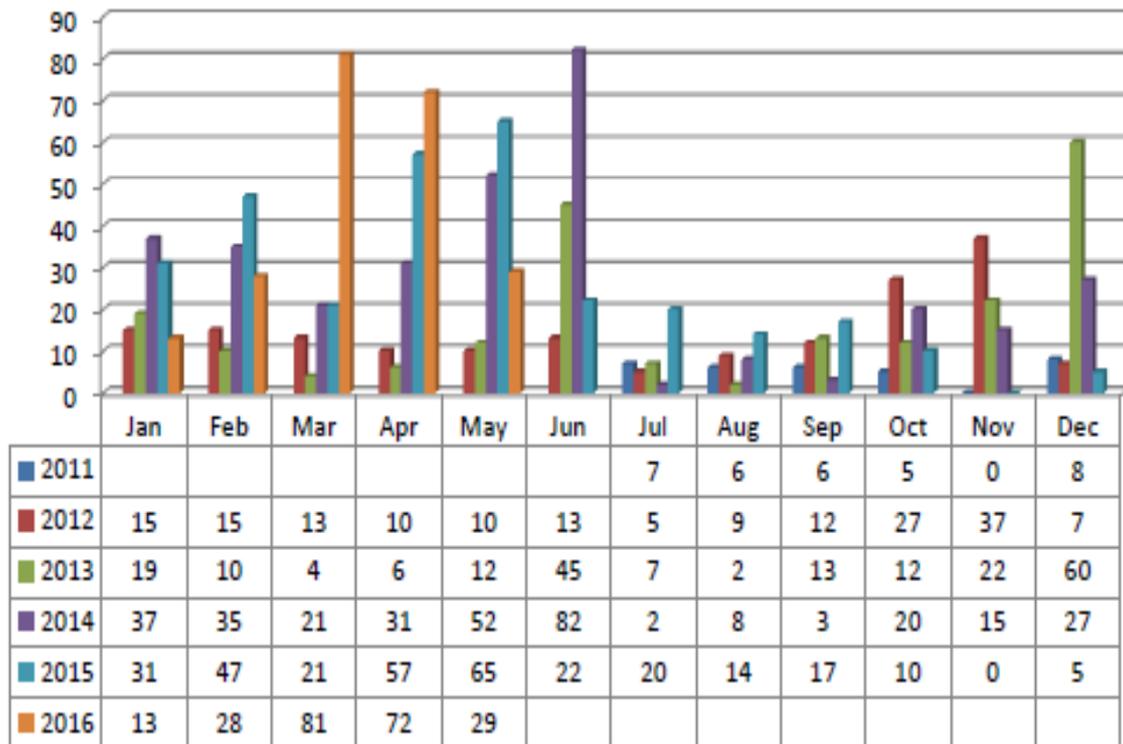
Conclusion

Whilst there were less incidents in May compared to the previous months, the death toll – particularly the high number of children was unacceptable. The death of the six children in a single incident in Heiban County received some attention within Sudan and internationally, however this did not stop the ongoing bombardments.

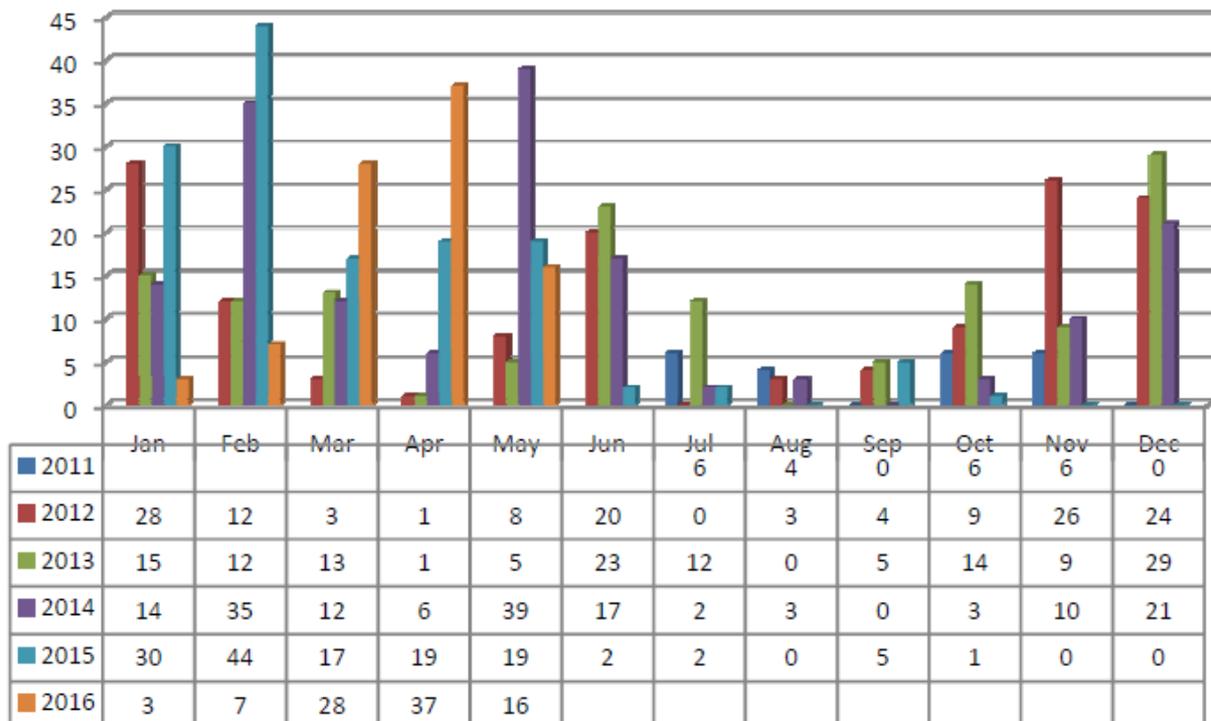
SAF's consistent looting of livestock from the communities continues to reflect an almost systematic attack on people's livelihoods which are already precarious as a result of the ravages of war, with some of the food crops and food stocks destroyed by the fighting.

In the coming weeks, the fighting is likely to scale down further due to the rainy season which makes roads impassable and flying difficult. Additionally, on June 17, Sudan's President Omar Bashir declared a unilateral [four month ceasefire](#), in theory putting the fighting to rest for that period.

Number of incidents in SK - June 2011- May 2016



Number of civilians injured in SKBN - June 2011- May 2016



Number of civilians killed SK - June 2011- May 2016

