



41/2024

12/06/2024

*Blanca Palacián de Inza***Deadly inattention to the War in Sudan****Deadly inattention to the War in Sudan****Abstract:**

The armed conflict in Sudan has entered its second deadly year. During this time, international opinion has paid attention to other wars and ignored Sudan, contributing with this neglect to the country finding itself in a crisis of enormous proportions.

In this document, we will analyse the first year of the Sudan war, and also the active and passive role of national and international actors and its consequences.

**Keywords:**

Sudan, al-Burhan, Hemedti, attention, internal-internationalised conflict, perfect humanitarian storm.

**\*NOTE:** The ideas contained in the *Analysis Documents* are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (IEEE) or the Ministry of Defence.

## *Desatención mortal a la guerra de Sudán.*

### Resumen:

El conflicto armado de Sudán ha entrado en su segundo año de muerte. En este tiempo, la opinión internacional ha prestado atención a otras guerras contribuyendo con este desinterés a que el país se encuentre en una crisis de enormes proporciones.

En este documento se analizará el primer año de guerra y se estudiarán los apoyos activos y pasivos, nacionales e internacionales, al conflicto y sus consecuencias.

### Palabras clave:

Sudán, al-Burhan, Hemedti, atención, conflicto interno-internacionalizado, tormenta humanitaria perfecta.

### How to cite this document:

PALACIAN, Blanca. *Deadly inattention to the War in Sudan*. IEEE Analysis Document 41/2024. [https://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/docs\\_analisis/2024/DIEEEA41\\_2024\\_BLAPAL\\_Sudan\\_EN\\_G.pdf](https://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/docs_analisis/2024/DIEEEA41_2024_BLAPAL_Sudan_EN_G.pdf) and/or [link bie<sup>3</sup>](#) (accessed day/month/year)



*Simple inattention kills empathy, let alone compassion.  
So the first step in compassion is to notice the other's need.  
It all begins with the simple act of attention.*

*La simple falta de atención mata la empatía, y deja sola a la compasión.  
Entonces, el primer paso hacia la compasión es darse cuenta  
de la necesidad del otro. Todo comienza con el simple acto de atención.*

*Daniel Goleman*

## 1. INTRODUCTION.

The armed conflict in Sudan<sup>1</sup> has reached the one-year anniversary of its start date in April 2023. This is when the direct armed confrontation between the general of the country's regular army (SAF<sup>2</sup>), Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the commanding general of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF<sup>3</sup>), Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, began. However, this conflict should not be seen as a confrontation between two homogenous blocs, but of fragile coalitions, as the two sides are made up of varied and volatile groups in terms of actors and interests. Predictably, this makes it difficult to work towards a peace deal.

During this year of war, international opinion has looked to other conflicts. First to Ukraine and more recently to Gaza. This “deadly disinterest”<sup>4</sup> in the situation in Sudan has largely contributed to the country's crisis of epic proportions. According to UN estimates<sup>5</sup>, on the

<sup>1</sup> For more detailed information on the situation in the country and the conflict, up to September 2023, please consult: [Geopolitical Overview of Conflicts 2023 \(ieeee.es\)](https://ieeee.es)

On the impact of the conflict on neighbouring Chad and Libya see: [El inestable triángulo Sudán-Chad-Libia \(ieeee.es\)](https://ieeee.es), of December 2023.

<sup>2</sup> SAF: Sudanese Armed Forces.

<sup>3</sup> RSF: Rapid Support Forces.

<sup>4</sup> ALDECOA, Xavier. “Sudán cumple un año de guerra con la peor crisis de desplazados del mundo.”, La Vanguardia, 16/04/2024. Available at: [Sudán cumple un año de guerra con la peor crisis de desplazados del mundo \(lavanguardia.com\)](https://lavanguardia.com)

<sup>5</sup> UNITED NATIONS. “War in Sudan is ‘a crisis of epic proportions’ as atrocities abound”, 19/04/2024. Available at: [War in Sudan is ‘a crisis of epic proportions’ as atrocities abound | UN News](https://www.un.org)

first anniversary of the conflict, around 14,000 people had been killed and tens of thousands injured. Half of the country's population was in urgent need of assistance and almost 9 million citizens had been forced to flee their homes.

This is the third Sudanese civil war, a conflict that is internal, internationalised and entrenched with the help of the actions and omissions of other countries. This working paper will analyse the active and passive support for the conflict and its consequences, which have led to what can be called the “perfect humanitarian storm”.

## 2. A YEAR OF INTERNAL-INTERNATIONALISED CONFLICT.

In the doctrine of International Humanitarian Law, the rules are divided into those that apply to internal armed conflicts and those that apply to international armed conflicts. However, the conflict in Sudan can be defined as internal-internationalised and falls outside these two categories. This is not unique to the civil war in Sudan, as half of today's conflicts also combine both features.

An internal-internationalised armed conflict means a conflict in which external actors play a role in existing internal hostilities (in the case of Sudan, a civil war), either directly or indirectly and covertly, by participating in hostilities or political developments. Such foreign involvement takes place in the vast majority if not all internal armed conflicts<sup>6</sup>.

It is not difficult to see the internationalisation of a conflict through the action of one or more foreign states, either directly or subtly. It is also worth considering whether, in addition to external action, the internal conflict can be considered “internationalised” by foreign omission. In this regard, and in the conflict at hand, the fact that the international community has ignored the war in Sudan during its first year of hostilities could be understood to have contributed to its entrenchment in a similar way to the support that the combatants have found in different countries.

As discussed above, internal and, above all, external actors are involved in this complex conflict by action or omission.

---

<sup>6</sup> I. Dettner, *The Law of War*, Cambridge University Press, London, 2002, p.40.

On the domestic front, there are, on the one hand, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) with some 300,000 troops. For their part, the RSF numbers 100,000<sup>7</sup>. The background to the war is the confrontation between north and south over inequalities inherited from the colonial period. Thus, the warring generals represent not only two armed groups but also two sets of Sudanese: Al-Burhan represents Khartoum's most privileged citizenry, while Hemedti, a native of Darfur, represents the poorest and most marginalised population group<sup>8</sup>. But as noted above, these are not two homogenous blocs at loggerheads, but fragile coalitions that bring together diverse groups with different agendas. One example is the Islamist “shadow brigades” fighting on the side of al-Burhan.

In the international sphere, there are numerous direct supports (by action) for one side and the other. Sudan's excellent geographical location provides an incentive for some regional powers to engage in the war as it is a gateway to the sub-Saharan region and to trade routes across the Red Sea.

The UAE and Iran are alleged accomplices in the atrocities committed in the year-long armed conflict. Iran, by sending drones to the Sudanese army – a collaboration that the Sudanese government denies<sup>9</sup>– and the UAE for providing military support to the paramilitaries<sup>10</sup>.

These two countries seem to be the biggest supporters for both sides, but they are not the only ones. Various media and experts believe that al-Burhan's Armed Forces are also backed by the US, Egypt, Saudi Arabia<sup>11</sup> and Eritrea. For their part, the paramilitaries

---

<sup>7</sup> LODHI, Areesha. “After a year of war in Sudan, what is the situation now?”, Al Jazeera, 11/04/2024. Available at: [After a year of war in Sudan, what is the situation now? | Conflict News | Al Jazeera](#)

<sup>8</sup> SKÖLD, Mattias. “Researcher: Hemedti and Al-Burhan represent historical division in Sudan”, The Nordic Africa Institute, 08/09/2023. Available at: [Researcher: Hemedti and Al-Burhan represent historical division in Sudan - The Nordic Africa Institute \(uu.se\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> ALI AL-SADIQ, Ali. “European Union and the War in Sudan: Considering Different Perspectives”, 17/04/2024. Available at: [European Union and the War in Sudan: Considering Different Perspectives - Sudan Tribune](#)

<sup>10</sup> THE NEW ARAB. “US envoy warns regional powers against ‘fuelling’ Sudan war”, The New Arab, 19/04/2024. Available at: [US envoy accuses Iran and UAE of ‘complicity’ in Sudan war \(newarab.com\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> MOHAMMED, Talal. “How Sudan Became a Saudi-UAE Proxy War”, Foreign Policy, 12/07/2023. Available at: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/07/12/sudan-conflict-saudi-arabia-uae-gulf-burhan-hemeti-rsf/>

commanded by Hemedti appear to have support from Libya, Chad, South Sudan<sup>12</sup> and Ethiopia<sup>13</sup>.

In addition, Russia seems to have been “playing” both sides since before the start of the armed conflict<sup>14</sup> as a strategy for developing and securing its interests in the country.

In the same vein, although outside the regional context, it is worth mentioning that there is increasing Russian activity on the continent. Officially, Russia has a dual role in the conflict. It is Sudan's main arms supplier, and on the other hand, in the words of Minister Lavrov in June 2023<sup>15</sup>, it expresses its desire to stabilise the situation in the country. At the same time, it appears that both combatants have links to Russia<sup>16</sup> and that the Wagner Group is fuelling the conflict along the same lines as it is doing in other countries on the continent.

Western countries, and especially the United States, have been important supporters of the attempted democratic transition after the fall of Al-Bashir<sup>17</sup>. However, little or no action has been taken with regard to the current armed conflict in Sudan. They therefore fall within what is understood in this paper as action by omission, which has undoubtedly also influenced the course of events. Everything seems to confirm that the Responsibility to Protect<sup>18</sup> died on the same day as Gaddafi.

---

<sup>12</sup> ABDELAZIZ, Khalid; HAFEZI, Parisa y LEWIS, Aidan. “Sudan civil war: are Iranian drones helping the army gain ground?”, 10/04/2024. Available at: [Sudan civil war: are Iranian drones helping the army gain ground? | Reuters](#)

<sup>13</sup> This document will only deal with the most important supports in the conflict. For information on alliances of other countries, please consult: [Geopolitical Overview of Conflicts 2023 \(ieee.es\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> RICKETT, Oscar and AMIN, Mohammed. “Sudan war: Russia hedges bets by aiding both sides in conflict”, 06/05/2024. Available at: [Sudan war: Russia hedges bets by aiding both sides in conflict | Middle East Eye](#)

<sup>15</sup> SWISSINFO, “Moscú quiere contribuir a la normalización en Sudán, dice Lavrov”, 29/06/2023. Available at: [Moscú quiere contribuir a la normalización en Sudán, dice Lavrov - SWI swissinfo.ch](#)  
RUSSIA ISLAMIC WORLD, “Lavrov: Russia Backs Sudan's Efforts to Normalize the Situation”, 22/09/2023. Available at: [Lavrov: Russia Backs Sudan's Efforts to Normalize the Situation — Группы стратегического видения "Россия - Исламский мир" \(russia-islworld.ru\)](#)

<sup>16</sup> LEWIS, A. y BARRINGTON, L. “Sudan's conflict: Who's backing the rival commanders?” Reuters, 03/05/2023. Available at: [Sudan's conflict: Who's backing the rival commanders? | Reuters](#)

<sup>17</sup> AL JAZEERA. “What is happening in Sudan? A simple guide” Al Jazeera, 03/05/2023. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/4/18/what-is-happening-in-sudan-a-simple-guide#:~:text=Fighting%20broke%20out%20on%20April,the%20RSF%20into%20the%20military.>

<sup>18</sup> For more information on the Responsibility to Protect read [La responsabilidad de proteger y el derecho de veto \(ieee.es\)](#)

The US options for mitigating the armed crisis are limited beyond alleviating the humanitarian disaster<sup>19</sup>; although after a year of war, its role seems to be becoming more pivotal in getting a peace agreement signed<sup>20</sup>.

For their part, the most prominent supranational bodies have not been active in the conflict or in its resolution, beyond condemning it. These bodies, as well as the press and public opinion, have focused their attention on the war in Ukraine and the subsequent conflict in Gaza.

Thus, the African Union has roundly condemned the war in Sudan<sup>21</sup>, but has not led an intervention, a peace process or undertaken any plans to alleviate the plight of the population. Both the European Union and the United Nations have acted along the same lines, and it is worrying that the latter has not even managed to pass a resolution guaranteeing safe access for humanitarian aid<sup>22</sup>. This is undoubtedly a further reflection not only of the Security Council's ineffectiveness, but also of the international interests at odds in the conflict.

It is worth mentioning, due to its uniqueness, a local Sudanese civilian anti-war and supposedly neutral civilian coalition<sup>23</sup>. This is *Taqaddum*, also known as Coordination of Civil Democratic Forces, led by former Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, which aims to represent the civilian population when peace talks take place. Until then, it seeks to coordinate humanitarian efforts.

---

<sup>19</sup> GAVIN, Michelle. "Sudan in Crisis", Council on Foreign Relations, 20/04/2023. Available at: [Sudan in Crisis | Council on Foreign Relations \(cfr.org\)](#)

<sup>20</sup> CAMPBELL-JAMES, Jonathan. "Curbing Outside Intervention in the Sudan War", The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. 04/04/2024. Available at: [Curbing Outside Intervention in the Sudan War | The Washington Institute](#)

<sup>21</sup> AFRICAN UNION. "African Union Condemns Violence in Sudan, Calls for Humanitarian Ceasefire and Urges Coordinated International Support to the Sudanese People Amidst Armed Confrontation", 02/05/2023. Available at: [African Union Condemns Violence in Sudan, Calls for Humanitarian Ceasefire and Urges Coordinated International Support to the Sudanese People Amidst Armed Confrontation | African Union \(au.int\)](#)

<sup>22</sup> STROEHLEIN, Andrew. "Sudan is sinking", Human Rights Watch. Newsletter, 13 September 2023. Available at: [Sudan is sinking | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\)](#)

<sup>23</sup> It has been accused of being allied with Hemedti. [The Sudan war: The potential of civil and democratic forces \(cmi.no\)](#)

### 3. THE PERFECT HUMANITARIAN STORM.

The world has turned a blind eye to a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions. The war has caused profound human and material damage during the year that it has been active, leaving the country in social, economic and political ruin.

The loss of human lives is estimated at 14,000, and the situation is so serious that, with reference to the Darfur region, there is already talk of genocide of the non-Arab population at the hands of the RSF<sup>24</sup>. While it is true that the term genocide is currently used with a prodigality far removed from its actual legal meaning, the facts are nonetheless extremely serious.

Half of the country's population needs urgent aid and almost 8 million people have been forced to leave their homes. Hunger and thirst spread much faster than the fighting itself.

Much of the basic civilian infrastructure has been destroyed, such as hospitals<sup>25</sup> and schools, as well as the infrastructure needed for the country's production sector, which has completely paralysed the economy. It is estimated that it will take at least a generation to rebuild Sudan from the date peace is achieved<sup>26</sup>. For the moment, the country remains an orphan in the eyes of the world as the disaster continues to worsen.

As of January 2024, the UN estimated that almost 6 million people had fled their homes as internally displaced persons and 1.5 million as refugees. It is the worst population movement crisis in the world<sup>27</sup>.

---

<sup>24</sup> RICKETT, Oscar. "Sudan: Genocide 'against non-Arab groups' taking place in Darfur", Middle East Eye, 19/04/2024. Available at: [Sudan: Genocide 'against non-Arab groups' taking place in Darfur | Middle East Eye](#)

DE WAAL, Alex. "Sudan is collapsing – here's how to stop it", Chatham House, 21/03/2024. Available at: [Sudan is collapsing – here's how to stop it | Chatham House – International Affairs Think Tank](#)

<sup>25</sup> In May 2024, Médecins Sans Frontières was forced to withdraw from the only functioning hospital in Wad Madani, south of Khartoum.

<sup>26</sup> GRAVELLINI, Jean-Marc. "Civil War in Sudan: a Long Delayed Response of the International Community?", 29/04/2024. Available at: [Civil War in Sudan: a Long Delayed Response of the International Community? | IRIS \(iris-france.org\)](#)

<sup>27</sup> ALDEKOA, Xavier. "Sudán cumple un año de guerra con la peor crisis de desplazados del mundo", La Vanguardia, 16/04/2024. Available at: [Sudán cumple un año de guerra con la peor crisis de desplazados del mundo \(lavanguardia.com\)](#)

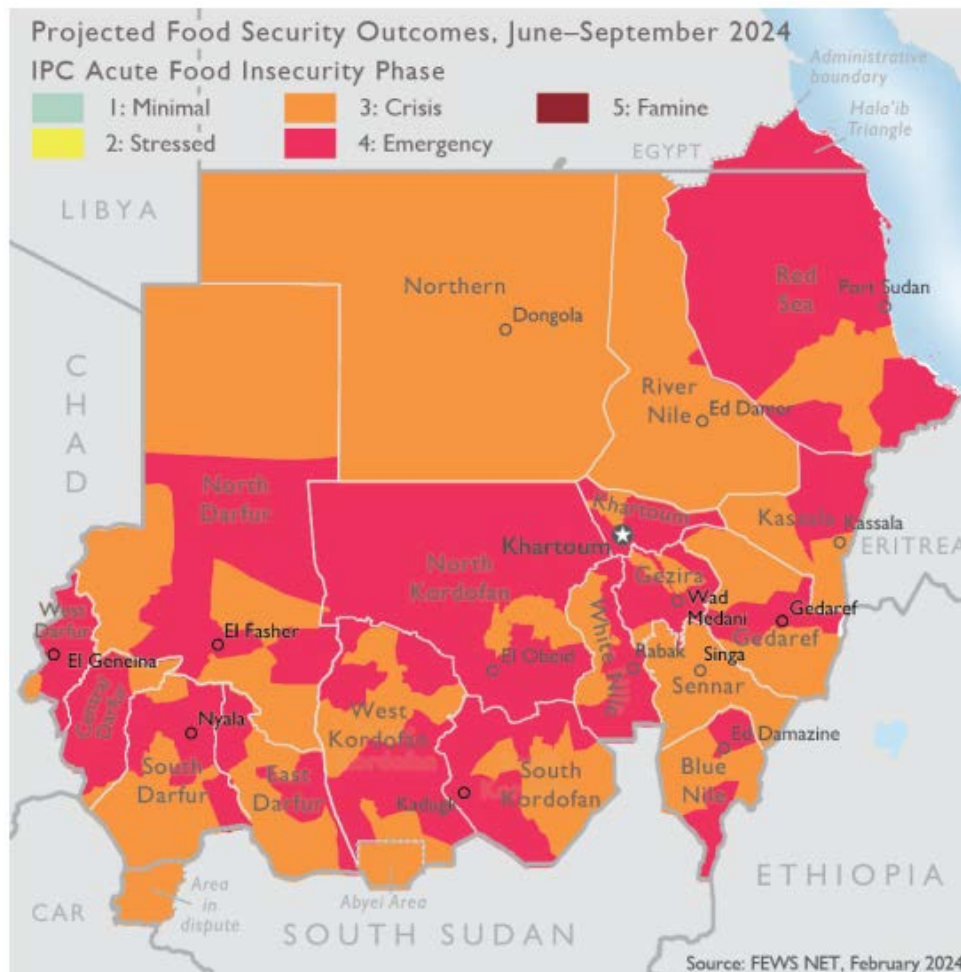


Image: Projected food security outcomes, June-September 2024, IPC acute food security phase. Source: USAID.

<https://reliefweb.int/attachments/0787f600-4626-432e-8d68-80cb5773ce3f/USG%20Sudan%20Complex%20Emergency%20Fact%20Sheet%20%2314.pdf>

In such a context of flight and need, violence, particularly sexual violence used as a weapon of war<sup>28</sup>, child recruitment, torture and arbitrary detention are on the rise. Such violence can be considered “war crimes and crimes against humanity”, as stated by the UNSG in April 2024<sup>29</sup>.

<sup>28</sup> For more information on this type of violence see: [La violencia sexual como arma de guerra \(ieee.es\)](https://www.ieee.es)

<sup>29</sup> NEWS AGENCIES. “‘Crimes against humanity’ may have been committed in Sudan, says UN chief”, Al Jazeera, 15/04/2024. Available at: [‘Crimes against humanity’ may have been committed in Sudan, says UN chief | Conflict News | Al Jazeera](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/15/un-chief-crimes-against-humanity-sudan)

## Crimes against humanity.

Crimes against humanity are those committed as part of a systematic attack against the civilian population, such as rape, torture, persecution of certain population groups, among others. They might have occurred in Sudan, according to UNSG Antonio Guterres<sup>30</sup>, and given the reports in the press, there seems little doubt that they have. However, no palliative action has been taken by any organisation.

There is also evidence that a new ethnic cleansing is taking place in Darfur at the hands of the RSF against non-Arab communities<sup>31</sup>. It echoes the genocide that took place in this region two decades ago, and like then, a scorched earth policy is also being pursued that is reaching such proportions that, in the current conflict, it is being considered as the “use of fire as a weapon of war”<sup>32</sup>.

The humanitarian storm can be considered perfect if we add to all these factors the inaction and scarce international aid to alleviate a crisis of this magnitude.

## Regional impact.

The war situation and its effects have an impact on neighbouring countries, such as Chad and the Central African Republic, which are undergoing their own situations of instability aggravated by the tides of Sudanese refugees and national returnees who flock to these countries, which do not have the resources to care for them. Sudan's internal conflicts thus have an impact on the very complex regional balance and above all on its economy. This impact on the precarious stability is particularly noticeable in young South Sudan.

The war in Sudan has a devastating impact on its southern neighbour in social terms, due to returnees and refugees, and on the economy, which is extremely dependent on oil. In this respect, its greatest vulnerability, apart from a lack of diversification, is its dependence on its northern neighbour for crude oil exports. For this reason, the

---

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

TOWNSEND, Mark. “Children ‘piled up and shot’: new details emerge of ethnic cleansing in Darfur”, The Guardian, 09/06/2024. Available at: [Children ‘piled up and shot’: new details emerge of ethnic cleansing in Darfur | Global development | The Guardian](#)

<sup>31</sup> ESPAÑOL, Marc. “Las evidencias de una nueva limpieza étnica en Sudán se ciernen sobre Darfur”, El País, 09/05/2024. Available at: [Las evidencias de una nueva limpieza étnica en Sudán se ciernen sobre Darfur | Planeta Futuro | EL PAÍS \(elpais.com\)](#)

<sup>32</sup> THE BHARAT EXPRESS NEWS. “Fires weaponized in Sudan’s conflict destroyed more western towns than ever in April, study says”, The Barat Express News. 12/05/2024. Available at: [Fires weaponized in Sudan's conflict destroyed more western towns than ever in April, study says - THE BHARAT EXPRESS NEWS](#)

destruction of the war and the closure of Sudanese airspace has been catastrophic for the South Sudanese economy<sup>33</sup>.

Before the outbreak of the Sudanese war, South Sudan was already suffering from its own internal conflicts over resources and its situation was already one of economic and humanitarian crisis. Its neighbour's war has only worsened the situation. Against such a backdrop, if the international community continues to look the other way, violence is expected to flare up in this country as well, since despite the government's attempts to maintain good relations with the two warring generals, South Sudanese citizens are fighting on both sides.

#### 4. WORK FOR PEACE

Despite the aforementioned inaction, there are some initiatives and attempts to mitigate the catastrophe.

##### **Paris Humanitarian Conference.**

In the face of blatant international blindness, there were glimmers of hope for Sudan and neighbouring countries at the Paris Humanitarian Conference in April 2024. Although the aid approved is insufficient, it is a record amount of EUR 2 billion.

The Sudanese government was not invited to the conference, which was described by its foreign minister as ignoring the principle of sovereignty<sup>34</sup>.

During the Paris summit, French Foreign Minister Stéphane Séjourné highlighted the neglect of the Sudanese crisis in favour of conflicts in Gaza or Ukraine. And while the conference has helped Sudan for a day, it is insufficient for a war that is now a year old and has caused the world's worst displacement crisis.

---

<sup>33</sup> BADAWI, Mohamed. "Sudan's Conflicts: Destabilizing South Sudan", Sudan Tribune, 07/04/2024. Available at: [Sudan's Conflicts: Destabilizing South Sudan - Sudan Tribune](#)

<sup>34</sup> RADIO TAMAZUJ. "Sudan criticizes exclusion from Paris conference", 14/04/2024. Available at: [Sudan criticizes exclusion from Paris conference | Radio Tamazuj](#)

## Peace Talks.

Following several failed attempts during the year-long conflict in Sudan, the paramilitary leader had recently declared himself ready for a ceasefire and the start of peace negotiations<sup>35</sup>. Negotiations in Saudi Arabia were expected to take place in the first week of May, but statements by Al-Burhan<sup>36</sup> claiming that neither these nor any other negotiations would take place until the surrender of the RSF have once again put the brakes on the process. Some researchers, however, had already expressed little hope, not only because of the two contending groups but also because of the countries that support them, which are not fully committed to bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion<sup>37</sup>.

For some parties, the narrative that this conflict is a lost and unresolvable cause seems to be the justification for their involvement in its continuation to the detriment of achieving a ceasefire<sup>38</sup>. For this reason, the commitment to peace is unstable and uneven. This explains why, to date, no single call for peace talks has been taken up by all parties involved. It is not only essential that the two groups directly confronting each other meet, but also those countries that, in one way or another, are sustaining the conflict. Let us hope that the Egyptian government's announcement of a peace conference at the end of June 2024 will be organised more effectively.

At any event, in the medium and long term, the country's leaders will have to face the challenges that lie behind the apparent causes of the conflict: the absence of a common national identity that serves as a cohesive force and that is underpinned by an equitable distribution of resources, representation and decision-making. This will be the way to alleviate the concerns of the part of the population that feels marginalised. Without addressing these basic shortcomings, it is quite possible that in a few years' time we will again witness a conflict situation similar to the current one.

---

<sup>35</sup> SUDAN TRIBUNE. "RSF leader expresses readiness for ceasefire, peace negotiations", 15/04/2024.

Available at: [RSF leader expresses readiness for ceasefire, peace negotiations - Sudan Tribune](#)

<sup>36</sup> NAAR, Ismaeel. "Sudan peace talks in doubt as army chief rejects any deal with rival paramilitary", The National News, 09/05/2024. Available at: [Sudan peace talks in doubt as army chief rejects any deal with rival paramilitary \(thenationalnews.com\)](#)

<sup>37</sup> DABANGA. "Cameron Hudson on Sudan war: 'I do not expect anything from the Jeddah negotiations'", Dabanga, 08/04/2024. Available at: [Cameron Hudson on Sudan war: 'I do not expect anything from the Jeddah negotiations' - Dabanga Radio TV Online \(dabangasudan.org\)](#)

<sup>38</sup> MUSA, Suha. "Sudan Is Not a Lost Cause", Foreign Policy. 17/04/2024. Available at: [Even After 1 Year of War, Sudan Is Not a Lost Cause \(foreignpolicy.com\)](#)

If the peace accords do not bear the desired fruit and the armed conflict is prolonged, the consequences for the country, and even for its neighbours, could be devastating. It would increase and spread the ills that the Sudanese population is already suffering beyond the direct victims of the war: hunger, thirst, lack of basic services and massive population movements.

At such a juncture, it is possible that citizens would do their best to arm themselves and try to survive by joining an armed group. Not only would Sudan be even more destabilised than it is today, but also its regional environment, which could provide fertile ground for jihadist actors<sup>39</sup>.



Imagen: Gala Yousif Goly posa delante de su mural "A man with a heavy heart".

Fuente: [https://www.instagram.com/galalgoly/p/CxD-fzoYTP/?locale=es\\_US%3FCID%3DBLOG\\_MBF\\_ES](https://www.instagram.com/galalgoly/p/CxD-fzoYTP/?locale=es_US%3FCID%3DBLOG_MBF_ES)

<sup>39</sup> ALI, Hager y KURTZ, Gerrit. "Stopping the War in Sudan: Civilian actors, not just the parties to the conflict, should lead the peace negotiations", Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, 22/05/2023. Available at: [Stopping the War in Sudan - Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik \(swp-berlin.org\)](https://www.swp-berlin.org/en/stopping-the-war-in-sudan)

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

In the current armed conflict in Sudan, which has been analysed in this working paper, two trends can be observed, which although not new, are becoming more widespread: the increasing existence of internationalised internal conflicts and the decrease in respect for International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. Both have a significant impact on the difficulty of reaching a peace agreement on the one hand, and on the other, on the population's experience of increasingly large-scale humanitarian crises.

In addition to these two features, there is another one that facilitates the previous ones and which is not a new development either: public opinion focuses on no more than one or two simultaneous conflicts. And for a short time. And a conflict that is not looked at, becomes entrenched. Fortunately, albeit timidly and insufficiently, the world seems to be beginning to see Sudan, and if it pays it attention, there is hope. We are beginning to glimpse a little international attention and intent in the hope that it is not just a spark.

When there is no political solution on the horizon because both sides see themselves as strong enough to win, only international attention and pressure can bring about progress towards peace. Meanwhile, the numbers are mounting: millions displaced, parts of the country on the brink of famine, sexual and ethnic violence, destroyed infrastructure... It will take a generation to rebuild the country and the non-material losses will be irreplaceable.

The root causes of the conflict, which are grounded in the inequalities between the north and south of the country, will have to be addressed. Failure to do so will result in conflict again and again, weakening the country as a poorly cured disease would debilitate a frail body. But none of this will happen if the world, immersed into a global crisis of attention, turns its head elsewhere, ignoring the thousands of lives cut short, the crisis of displaced people, thirst, famine, ...

*Blanca Palacián de Inza\**  
IEEE Analyst