ERD ORGANIZATION's MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Environment and Rural Women's Development Organization | Sudan



Golo, Central Darfur, 27 May 2026. Young women gather at the Girls' Session on the first day of Eid al-Adha.

Voices, Resistance, and May's War

ERD ORGANIZATION • KORDOFAN • CENTRAL DARFUR • MAY 2026

Somewhere in Sudan right now, a family is sleeping on ash.

This is **May 2026**. Three years and one month into a war that has claimed more than **150,000** lives and displaced **14 million people (UN OHCHR, IPC).** In May alone, **AP** and **Sudan Doctors Network** reported **SAF** drone strikes hit **Al Quz** and **El Obeid**, killing **26 civilians**.
RSF drones also struck **Khartoum International Airport** on **4 May**. Tribal clashes in **South Darfur** using RSF vehicles spread into **Central Darfur**, killing dozens. Only **8%** of Sudan's humanitarian needs are currently funded. (CSIS)



On **Eid al-Adha, Radio Dabanga** and **Sudan Doctors Network** reported **RSF-affiliated forces** killed at least **58 people** across villages in **North Kordofan's Bara area**, in areas **Radio Dabanga** described as free of military presence. Bodies were recovered in the days that followed.

In this environment, **ERD Organization** continued working: a Girls' Session in **Golo, Central Darfur** on **27 May,** and two online panels through the **AYWV-Sudan Initiative** amplifying Sudanese women's voices internationally.

This newsletter summarizes these events and activities, drawing on verified reporting by **UN agencies**, human rights monitors, and news organizations. **ERD Organization** operates across **West Kordofan, South Kordofan, Central Darfur, and North Abyei.**

> *"Armed drones have now become by far and away the leading cause of civilian deaths."*
>
> UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk, OHCHR, 11 May 2026

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Where We Operate

"**ERD Organization** maintains an active field presence across regions most international agencies cannot fully access. Our teams are on the ground delivering response, providing safe spaces, and conducting direct verification in **West Kordofan, South Kordofan, Central Darfur, and North Abyei.**"

Behind the Cover: A Act of Resistance

"On **May 27, 2026**—the first day of Eid **al-Adha, 30** young women gathered in **Golo,** Central Darfur, for an ERD & AYWV-Sudan's Girls' Session. While severe violence was documented across **Kordofan** on the very same day, this space provided critical psychological relief, communal coffee, and a brief return to joy. Gathering under these conditions is its own form of resilience."



Girls' Session in Golo: A Safe Space on Eid al-Adha

ORGANIZED BY: ERD ORGANIZATION / TAJA ORGANIZATION • CENTRAL DARFUR • 25 YOUNG WOMEN







GGolo, Central Darfur, 27 May 2026. Photos: ERD Organization / Taja Organization field team.

ERD Organization, in partnership with **Taja Organization**, held a Girls' Session (جلسة بنات) in the city of **Golo, Central Darfur**, on **May 27th 2026**, the first day of **Eid al-Adha.** The session targeted **30 young women**.

The session served as a safe space for socialising, providing psychological support, and offering recreation. It included interactive activities and a coffee gathering in a warm and positive atmosphere.

This session is part of **ERD Organization**'s activities aimed at bringing joy and enhancing the psychological and social well-being of girls, especially given the difficult circumstances faced by communities affected by war in **Central Darfur**.

Banner reads: *"A space for safety, togetherness, and rediscovering joy."*

AYWV-Sudan Initiative: Two Online Panels

Panel 1 • Friday, 15 May 2026 • 7:30 PM EAT

"Sudanese Young Women Between Revolutions and Wars: Paths of Resistance and Continued Resilience"

Speakers: **Nadine Elsir** (feminist activist and journalist) and **Hwaida Min-Allah** (journalist and advocate for feminist issues).

The panel examined how Sudanese women's resistance predates the current war, building on decades of organized political struggle from the 1964 and 1985 uprisings through the 2019 revolution. Speakers argued that the wartime collapse of civic space has pushed women's activism into less visible forms, and that young women are continuing a trajectory of resistance, not reacting to a crisis.

Panel 2 • Thursday, 21 May 2026 • 7:30 PM EAT

"Resistance Economics: A Reading of Women's Social and Economic Roles During Current Crises"

Speaker: **Eynas Mohammed Latef** (General Manager, Tayba Press). Moderator: **Negoid Mubarak Abdallah** (feminist activist).

Eynas Mohammed Latef presented resistance economics as a survival system built from unpaid care work, informal markets, and solidarity networks Sudanese women have constructed since the collapse of formal institutions. She cautioned against calling this empowerment: it is a coerced independence driven by the absence of alternatives. The central question she posed: how does Sudan move from an economy that drains women to one that formally recognizes their role and includes them in decisions about aid and recovery?

The Girls' Session in Golo is one of a series of **ERD Organization** programs that prioritize psychological well-being and social recovery alongside material aid. In a war that has forcibly displaced **14 million people (UN OHCHR, IPC)**, the act of gathering on a holiday, of sharing coffee and being safe together, is not incidental. On the same day this session took place, **Radio Dabanga** and **Sudan Doctors Network** confirmed **58 civilians** were killed in **North Kordofan's Bara area**. ERD Organization teams in **Central Darfur** continued working.

ERD Organization • Central Darfur Field Presence • May 2026

Drones, Defections, and a War Without Borders

UN High Commissioner **Volker Türk** reported in **May 2026** that drones had killed more than **880 civilians** in four months. Three senior **RSF** commanders defected to the SAF in the same period; al-Burhan welcomed all unconditionally despite atrocity records documented by the UN Fact-Finding Mission in relation to El Fasher and by regional reporting on the remaining two (Sudan Tribune, Al Arabiya, Al Majalla). Only **8%** of humanitarian needs are currently funded. (UN OHCHR, CSIS)

SOURCES: ERD ORGANIZATION • UN OHCHR • ACLED • THE NEW ARAB • AL MAJALLA • RADIO DABANGA • SUDAN TRIBUNE • AP

880+ Dead From Drones

Pattern of Targeting

UN OHCHR documented strikes by both parties on markets, health facilities, and residential areas. **28 market attacks** and **12 health facility strikes** recorded January through **April 2026.** The geographic expansion into **Blue Nile**, **White Nile**, and **Khartoum** signals no part of Sudan remains beyond the drone war's reach. On **4 May**, **RSF** struck **Khartoum International Airport**, suspending all flights; Sudan's government accused **Ethiopia** and the **UAE.** (**Sudan Tribune**, **Al Jazeera**)

May 2026: Documented Incidents

8 May **AP** and **Sudan Doctors Network** reported **SAF drone strikes** killed **26 civilians** in **Al Quz, S. Kordofan** and **El Obeid, N. Kordofan**.

29 May Radio Dabanga reported **RSF-affiliated forces** killed at least **58 civilians** across villages west of **Bara** on **Eid al-Adha, North Kordofan**. Toll confirmed **31 May** via **Radio Dabanga**; initial count was **27.** (**Radio Dabanga**, **Sudan Doctors Network**, **AP**)

From 23 May **DNHR** documented **Salamat-Beni Halba** clashes in **Kubum, South Darfur** using RSF vehicles; a drone killed **21**. **AFP**: **16** dead by 31 May; **Sudan Tribune**: **50+** by **3 June.** Fighting spread to **Central Darfur**. (DNHR, Sudan Tribune)

South Kordofan, May 2026 **AP** and **Sudan Tribune** reported SPLM-N-linked forces and the **Otoro** tribe clashed in **South Kordofan**, killing **61 people** including **9 children**, an ERD operating area.



Clashes between **Salamat** and **Beni Halba** Tribes in South Darfur

The Fracture Within: Defections

The Trigger: Mistariha, February 2026

RSF stormed **Mistariha, North Darfur**, stronghold of Mahamid leader **Musa Hilal**; drones struck his guesthouse during Ramadan breakfast. **28 civilians killed.** Hilal escaped. Al Majalla and ACLED documented how the attack alienated Mahamid fighters from within the RSF, triggering the defections that followed. (Sudan Doctors Network, Al Jazeera)

The Defectors (April-May 2026)

Al-Qubba (Apr) Former RSF operational commander in the 18-month siege of **El Fasher**. Passed over for **North Darfur** governor; defected with a convoy. Hemedti sentenced him to death in absentia. (**Daily Trust**, Al **Majalla**)

Savanna (May) Senior RSF field commander, **North Darfur** and **West Kordofan**, led operations including the seizure of **al-Nahud**. (**Sudan Tribune**, **Middle East Eye**)

Huwaira (May) RSF commander in **Bara, North Kordofan**, a vital supply corridor. Arrived with **15 combat vehicles**. (**Al Arabiya**, **Al Majalla**)

The Reception and Its Cost

Al-Burhan personally welcomed all three, offering vehicles and amnesty to the fury of many. Reports in **The New Arab** and **Al Majalla** documented significant public opposition: Al-Qubba commanded the siege preceding **El Fasher's fall**, when **6,000+** people were killed in three days (UN FFM). Both outlets reported widespread public questioning of how commanders with those records received unconditional amnesty. **ACLED** notes the defections reflect personal and tribal grievances, not ideological change. (ACLED, The New Arab, Al Majalla)



RSF Commander affiliated with the Beni Halba tribe announcing efforts to make peace amid ongoing clashes

> *"Sudan is experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world — with no end in sight."*
>
> **UN OHCHR • May 2026 • Only 8% of humanitarian needs are funded**

Both Sides, One Pattern: Arbitrary Detention in Sudan

SOURCES: ERD ORGANIZATION • SUDAN DOCTORS NETWORK • CPJ • HRW • AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL • UN FFM

RAPID SUPPORT FORCES (RSF)



El Fasher: Detention at Scale

Sudan Doctors Network (April 2026) documented **2,377 people** held by **RSF** in **El Fasher**: at least **1,470 civilians**, including **426 children** and **370 women**; 907 military; and at least **22 doctors**.

Detainees are held at **Shalla Prison**, a converted children's hospital, and cargo containers. Cholera killed more than **300 detainees** since **February 2026.** Sudan Doctors Network documented killings it described as ethnically motivated. Among those detained are **22 medical personnel** stripped from **El Fasher's** last functioning health facilities during the siege. The Shalla Prison complex holds detainees without legal access or family contact. The disproportionate number of women and children among the 1,470 civilians indicates community-wide sweeps rather than targeted detention of combatants.

Nyala: Journalists Arrested

Three female radio journalists were arrested by RSF in **Nyala** on **28 February 2026**: **Mawaheb Ibrahim**, **Zahraa Muhammad Al-Hassan**, and **Ishraqah Abdulrahman** All three were employed at radio stations covering the conflict in **South Darfur**. They were arrested without formal charges or warrants. As of **May 2026**, **CPJ** reported all three remain in RSF custody with no access to legal representation, effectively silencing independent radio coverage of the conflict in **Nyala**.

SUDANESE ARMED FORCES (SAF)

Darfuris Labelled "Collaborators"

Human Rights Watch (April 2026) documented the arbitrary detention of **Darfuri civilians by SAF,** accused without evidence of collaborating with **RSF.** Humanitarian workers were interrogated. Cases in **Khartoum**, **Gezira**, **Gedaref**, **Red Sea**, Northern states. HRW documented that men from Darfuri communities were stopped at checkpoints, arrested at their homes, and held in military and police facilities for days to weeks without formal charges. The pattern suggests ethnic profiling by SAF security forces in government-held cities. Some detainees were released following payment of informal fees; others remain unaccounted for.

Activists and Aid Workers: Both Sides

Amnesty International documented detentions and killings of **Emergency Response Room** members, activists, journalists, medical workers, and humanitarian workers by **both parties** to the conflict.

Sudan Journalists Syndicate: three enforced disappearances and four confirmed arrests of Sudanese journalists documented since the start of the war. Those arrested were held incommunicado, with families unable to confirm their location. Some have been detained for more than one year without any formal judicial process, in violation of Sudan's own legal standards.

UN Fact-Finding Mission: **84+ humanitarian workers** killed since **April 2023;** others arbitrarily detained by both parties. The detained include **Emergency Response Room volunteers,** health workers, and staff from aid organizations. Arbitrary detention has been used as a tool to restrict humanitarian monitoring and access to civilian populations in need.

ERD Organization operates across South Kordofan and Central Darfur, where the patterns of arbitrary detention documented here directly threaten communities ERD Organization serves. ERD Organization compiles this documentation from named sources to support humanitarian planning and accountability.



The families cannot wait. Neither can we.

> ***ERD Organization*** *is a Sudanese national NGO with teams operating across* ***West Kordofan***, ***South Kordofan***, ***Central Darfur***, *and* ***North Abyei****. Every dollar that reaches ERD Organization reaches communities that most international organizations cannot access.*

9M	4.4M	8%	92¢
IDPS INSIDE SUDAN	REFUGEES ACROSS BORDERS	OF HUMANITARIAN NEEDS FUNDED	OF EVERY NEEDED DOLLAR: MISSING

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MAKES POSSIBLE

Girls' Session	On 27 May, 25 young women gathered in Golo on Eid al-Adha. Radio Dabanga confirmed at least 58 civilians killed in North Kordofan that same day. ERD Organization worked in both places.
Online panels	ERD Organization co-organized two AYWV-Sudan online panels in May, bringing Sudanese women's voices into the international discourse on peace and recovery.
Field presence	ERD Organization operates across communities in Kordofan and Darfur where most international organizations have no staff. Rapid response. Ground-level verification.
Incident documentation	ERD Organization compiles and analyses incident data from published reporting and partner networks, used as evidence for humanitarian planning and accountability.

ERD Organization: How to Engage

ERD Organization's ability to document and respond depends on sustained operational support. Every contribution reaches the field within weeks, not months.

Whether through direct funding, partnership, or advocacy, there is a role for you. The communities **ERD Organization** works in are counting on people outside Sudan staying engaged.

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ERD Organization in the Field

Continuous field presence since April 2023 • 15 sub-offices • South Kordofan • West Kordofan • Central Darfur • North Abyei

TO PARTNER WITH ERD ORGANIZATION

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NEWSLETTER • MAY 2026

With deepest gratitude,

The ERD Organization Team

Environment and Rural Women's Development Organization | Sudan

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ERD Organization is a Sudanese national NGO operating across West Kordofan, South Kordofan, Central Darfur, and North Abyei. We turn community presence into humanitarian response.

Sources: ERD Organization, UN OHCHR (Volker Türk statement, May 2026), Sudan Doctors Network, CPJ, HRW, Amnesty International, Sudan Journalists Syndicate, UN FFM, AP, CSIS