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2.1.2. Conflict dynamics and tactics

During the reference period, the parties to the conflict continued to engage in intense clashes around the cities of Khartoum, Bahri and Omdurman,[610](#) which remained the SAF's primary military objective.[611](#) Shifting from a tactical defensive posture to an offensive one,[612](#) the SAF launched a major military campaign in the Khartoum area in January 2024, focusing on retaking areas in Omdurman,[613](#) but also attacking RSF units in Bahri.[614](#) Civilians continued to be killed in heavy artillery crossfire in Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri.[615](#)

During the major offensive launched by the SAF against RSF positions in Khartoum and Bahri in late September 2024,[616](#) the armed forces conducted waves of infantry assaults accompanied by airstrikes and heavy artillery fire.[617](#) The SAF's attacks were supported by the Egyptian Air Force which helped the army to retake key strategic locations and disrupt RSF supply routes.[618](#) In late November 2024, the SAF began to deploy – for the first time during this conflict – Turkish-manufactured Bayraktar drones to target RSF artillery positions within Khartoum state.[619](#)

Although armed confrontations largely centred around strategically important installations, there were numerous reports of impacts on civilians, as pointed out by the UN Secretary-General.[620](#) The deployment of explosive weapons with large area effects in the densely inhabited areas of Khartoum state has led to significant numbers of conflict-related deaths and injuries.[621](#) These attacks included the use of drone-dropped munitions against persons wearing civilian clothes.[622](#) An increase in civilian casualties at the hands of the warring parties was reported in autumn 2024[623](#) when dozens of civilians were killed or injured by airstrikes and shelling during the early days of the SAF's offensive.[624](#) A late December 2024 SAF airstrike on a fuel station in Khartoum left at least 28 people dead and dozens injured.[625](#) Moreover, according to the UN, dozens of young men from Bahri's al-Halfaya neighbourhood were reportedly executed, allegedly at the hands of the SAF and its allied Al-Bara bin Malik Brigade.[626](#)

The RSF carried out repeated heavy artillery attacks on Omdurman's old neighbourhoods[627](#) and drone and artillery strikes on civilian areas (markets, medical facilities and other service areas) in northern Omdurman's SAF-controlled Karari locality,[628](#) killing and injuring dozens of people,[629](#) including in December 2024, when what was reported as the RSF's 'heaviest artillery shelling yet' left at least 65 people dead.[630](#) The RSF has also been accused of planting mines in northern Bahri, where it maintained control over some areas.[631](#) In the outskirts of Khartoum, unaccompanied and poor children were being targeted for recruitment by the RSF.[632](#)

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