Please cite as: EUAA, '2.3.1. Actors involved and territorial control' in *Sudan: Security Situation*, October 2026.

2.3.1. Actors involved and territorial control

During the reference period, the RSF controlled nearly all of South Darfur, except for a small area in the north around Jebel Marra that remained under the control of the Sudan Liberation Movement–Abdel Wahid Al-Nur (SLM-AW).633 South of South Darfur lies Kafia Kingi, a disputed border region claimed by both Sudan and South Sudan.634

The RSF reportedly recruited fighters through tribal and clan leaders, although these fighters frequently returned to tribal allegiances during intercommunal conflict.635 The Salamat and Beni Halba, for example, were among the main tribal groups that declared allegiance to RSF during the early stages of the conflict.636 A map by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, an academic institution within the US Department of Defense, lists militias of most of the above-mentioned tribes (Awlad Al Wadi Clan, Habbaniya, Salamat, Beni Halba militias) as active RSF-aligned groups in South Darfur and further mentions a Baggara militia and Libyan armed groups. 637 Reportedly, Colombian mercenaries supporting RSF troops638 were also present in South Darfur, especially in Nyala.639 In August 2026, a prominent Fur traditional leader in South Darfur reportedly pledged four combat brigades in support of the RSF.640

- 633

  Sudans Post, Territorial Control Map – Sudan Conflict (as of June 21, 2026) [Map 1], 22 June 2026, url; Sudans Post, Territorial control in Sudan – October 2025 [Map 1], 12 October 2025, url; Soliman, A. and Baldo, S., Gold and the war in Sudan [Map], Chatham House, updated 24 March 2026, url

- 634

  Netherlands (The), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Country of Origin Information Report on Sudan, May 2024, url, p. 42

- 635

  Sudan Tribune, Villages burned and civilians flee as tribal clashes erupt in South Darfur using RSF vehicles, 31 May 2026, url

- 636

Sudan Tribune, Drone attack hits market and hospital in South Darfur as tribal war intensifies, 2 June 2026, url

- 637

  Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Mapping the Armed Actors in the Sudan Conflict [Map], 7 July 2026, url

- 638

  Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Mapping the Armed Actors in the Sudan Conflict, 7 July 2026, url

- 639

  BBC News, UAE-backed Colombian mercenaries provided support to Sudan paramilitary, report says, 22 April 2026, url; Africa Report (The), Sudan: How Colombian mercenaries were duped into fighting in a brutal civil war, 8 April 2025, url

- 640

  Sudan Tribune, Sudan’s RSF turns to tribal leaders to stem losses after Kordofan defeats, 4 August 2026, url

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu