Please cite as: EUAA, '2.3.2. Conflict dynamics and tactics' in *Sudan: Security Situation*, October 2026.

2.3.2. Conflict dynamics and tactics

Early May and mid-June 2025, the SAF carried out several drone strikes on Nyala,641 a strategic RSF stronghold.642 In May 2026, the SAF reportedly carried out 17 drone strikes in Nyala, the highest monthly number recorded in the city since the beginning of the conflict.643 During the reference period, drone strikes were also reported in other areas of the state,644 for example in the Sengo Gold mining area, in April 2026.645

During the reference period, South Darfur was affected by communal violence between tribes. Media reported on clashes involving members of different groups, including Habbaniya,646 Salamat, Beni Halba,647 Sa'ada, and Ta'aliba.648 An article also mentioned the Awlad Al Wadi, 649 and Fiyarin who are reportedly Beni Halba clans.650 Clashes were reported, for example, in Buram651 and Buba area in October 2025,652 in Al-Qardoud area in December 2025,653 in the town of Markandi in February 2026,654 and around Kubum in May 2026.655 As of June 2026, clashes between Salamat and Beni Halba tribes continued in Kubum and Markundi.656 Clashes between herders and farmers particularly affected Labado and Marla areas.657

The conflict sometimes involved RSF-infighting driven by increasing competition among local commanders over power and resources.658 In October 2025, RSF personnel reportedly supported their relatives involved in the clashes between two Beni Halba clans,659 and in March 2026, an RSF Salamat commander killed an RSF Habbaniya commander over a displacement dispute in Nyala.660 In May 2026, RSF vehicles were used in tribal clashes,661 while in June 2026, the reported use of heavy weaponry suggested senior RSF involvement in clashes between Salamat and Beni Halba.662

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