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2.5.1. Actors involved and territorial control

During the reference period, the RSF maintained control over all of East Darfur,736 where it was frequently accused of unlawful killings, looting and arbitrarily detaining civilians suspected of collaborating with the SAF.737 In August 2025, for instance, the RSF conducted a large-scale arrest campaign in the town of Adila.738 Along the border with South Sudan, RSF forces reportedly were present north of the Kiir River, while South Sudanese security forces were deployed along the southern bank.739 RSF-aligned militias reportedly active in East Darfur included armed groups associated with the Barqit (Bergid) and Fur communities,740 as well as the Darfur Communal Militia, Habbaniyah Militia, and Al-Fayaren Clan Militia.741 Following a May 2025 campaign by RSF to recruit new fighters that reportedly involved the forced recruitment of civilians,742 the RSF-aligned civilian administration launched a state-wide mobilisation drive in August 2026 to recruit volunteers from localities across East Darfur for deployment to North Kordofan.743

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