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2.5.2. Conflict dynamics and tactics

During the reference period, drone strikes were reported in El Daein, for example, in March[744] and August[745] 2025, as well as in March, [746] April,[747] and May[748] 2026. Reportedly, as of April 2026, East Darfur had recorded more than 250 drone attacks over the preceding six months, the highest number among Sudan's states.[749] El Daein was repeatedly attacked by the SAF as part of efforts to push the RSF out of Sudan's central corridor.[750]

In June 2025, media sources reported that the RSF detained local officials in El-Daein and military personnel following changes in its local leadership.[751] In January 2026, the RSF reportedly carried out an arrest campaign, targeting politicians, former military personnel, and civil servants.[752] The head of the civil administration in the state was arrested in August 2026. [753] Arrests of tribal leaders were also reported.[754] In February 2026, clashes erupted between two RSF-affiliated groups in Khazan Jedeed, Shia'ria (Sha'iriya) district, following the arrest of individuals wanted in connection with both factions, leading to armed confrontations within the town.[755]

Clashes between herders and farmers occurred across Darfur from October to December 2025, during the harvest period, with Yassin and Shia'ria (Sha'iriya) in East Darfur among the particularly affected areas. Reportedly, four people (two farmers[756] and two pastoralists) were killed in such disputes in the state during the 2025 agricultural season.[757] In June 2026, community leaders and livestock owners in East Darfur warned that delays in making livestock migration corridors, grazing land and water sources accessible risked renewed confrontation between pastoralists and farmers with the onset of the rainy season.[758]

- [744]

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