

Please cite as: EUAA, '2.6.1. Actors involved and territorial control' in *Sudan: Security Situation*, October 2026.

2.6.1. Actors involved and territorial control

During the reference period, the RSF controlled most of Central Darfur, including the state capital Zalingei, while SLM-AW retained control of parts of the Jebel Marra region.[779] The RSF reportedly controlled six districts,[780] while SLM-AW controlled three: Nertiti, Golo, and Rokero. SLM-AW,[781] whose fighters are predominantly drawn from the Fur ethnic group,[782] remained neutral in the conflict between the SAF and the RSF.[783] RSF-aligned militias active in Central Darfur reportedly included Beni Halba and Salamat militias.[784] In August 2024, Arab tribal leaders from West and Central Darfur announced the mobilisation of 11 battalions in support of the RSF, while the Central Darfur administration pledged an additional 10 000 fighters.[785]

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  Sudan Tribune, RSF-led administration accuses Sudanese army of drone strike in Central Darfur, 28 March 2026, url

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  Sudan Tribune, SLM-AW adopts own flag and anthem in controlled areas, 4 January 2026, url

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