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2.8.1. Actors involved and territorial control

During the reference period, the SAF controlled the eastern part of South Kordofan as well as a small corridor in the western part of the state connecting Kadugli and Dilling.883 In its operations against the RSF, the SAF were supported by Joint Forces elements and paramilitary volunteers.884 Both Kadugli, capital of South Kordofan, and Dilling, the state's second largest city,885 were controlled by the SAF but surrounded by RSF and SPLM-N-Al-Hilu troops.886 As of November 2025, all local government headquarters and major cities in the state were located in SAF-controlled territory with the exception of Habila town,887 which was later seized by the SAF in January 2026.888

The RSF controlled a smaller area in the northwest of the state.889 The SPLM-N-Al-Hilu controlled the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan890 and maintained its command headquarters in Kaoda (Kauda).891 Following the formation of the Taasis alliance in February 2025 (see section 1.1.1. Political developments), the RSF and SPLM-N-Al-Hilu carried out joint military operations in the state.892

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