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2.14.1. Actors involved and territorial control

During the reference period, the SAF controlled the Nile valley in the eastern part of the state with the state capital Dongola.1160 The SAF 19th Infantry Division was based in Merowe.1161 In the vast desert areas outside the Nile valley, in June 2025, the RSF seized control of the border triangle between Sudan, Egypt and Libya in the state's northwest, allowing them access to supplies and reinforcements from Libya.1162 In response, the SAF reportedly deployed reinforcements to the state in order to prevent potential RSF advances.1163 Furthermore, curfews and a growing number of checkpoints were reportedly imposed near Dongola and west of Wadi Halfa.1164

A map provided by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies as of the start of July 2026 depicted the SAF as having control of the Nile valley and all areas east of the Nile with support from the Al-Baraa Bin Malik Brigade, the tribal Kababeesh militia and Chadian Zaghawa foreign fighters. 1165 Sudanese media further reported on the presence of Darfur Joint Force elements in Halfa district in Northern state1166 and Joint Force factions Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in Delgo district.1167 The Africa Center for Strategic Studies map showed the RSF in control of the border triangle with Egypt and Libya in the northwest with support from Libyan and Chadian armed groups as of July 2026.1168

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