

### Summary

On August 11, the RSF attacked pro-government groups in Abu Shouk Camp, El Fasher, killing dozens. The RSF attempts to counterbalance its losses on the battlefield with increased pressure over the city, a SAF's stronghold, with more frequent atrocities, and with a shift in strategy. On July 26, the RSF-led Sudan Founding Alliance announced the institution of a parallel government aiming for political legitimacy. All these developments are reducing the chances of reaching a lasting peace agreement between the parties.

### Recent events and developments

On August 11, a coordinated attack by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) was launched against armed groups allied with the Sudanese government in the Abu Shouk Camp, located in the northern part of El Fasher, resulting in dozens of fatalities among combatants and civilians. The city of El Fasher, capital of North Darfur state, and its outside camps have been affected by several attacks by the RSF over the last year, as the city remains contested between the RSF and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), as well as allied militias. Most of the surrounding areas are entirely controlled by the RSF, therefore El Fasher constitutes one of the last strongholds for the SAF in the western part of the country. On July 16, the SAF managed to repel an offensive against El Fasher. After the battle, SAF's main channels claimed that significant damages were inflicted against the RSF and that the attack represented the 222<sup>nd</sup> attempt by the RSF to penetrate the city since the beginning of the war. Although El Fasher remains an active conflict area, over the last month most of the clashes have revolved around the North, West, and South Kordofan states. The Kordofan region hosts the longest battlefront between the two belligerent sides. On July 13, the RSF managed to regain control over the town of Umm Summaymah, located around 35 km west of the state's capital El Obeid. On July 30, the RSF repelled a coordinated attack by the SAF in the northern areas of North Kordofan and towards the town of Umm Summaymah, resulting in the capture and the execution of several SAF prisoners. Politically, the Sudan Founding Alliance, a.k.a. Taasis, namely a coalition between the RSF and other aligned groups, has announced on July 26 the formation of a new government, parallel to the officially recognised Sudanese government currently based in Port Sudan. This new administration will be led by RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, amid increasing territorial losses for the RSF across the central part of the country and more frequent SAF's air operations in Darfur and Kordofan.

### Impact assessment

The Sudan conflict is witnessing an increase in hostilities between the belligerent factions as well as in war crimes and crimes against humanity. Although both sides have been accused to carry out summary executions and other crimes against humanity, the RSF is likely increasing resorting to these actions to counterbalance the territorial losses that it has experienced since the beginning of 2025 and the retreat from Khartoum. The massacre of around 450 civilians perpetrated by the RSF on July 12 in and around the village of Shak al Noum demonstrates the increased brutality and magnitude of these events, which are likely to reoccur in the future. On the battlefield, while most of the clashes will occur within the long frontline across the Kordofan region, further offensives are expected to be launched by the RSF against El Fasher. The prolonged siege of El Fasher and RSF's deeper infiltration into the city raise concerns over SAF's ability to maintain control over the city in the next months. Although these considerations have been made several times over the course of the conflict, the persistent pressure exercised by the RSF inevitably increases the possibility that this will happen. El Fasher's fall and RSF's complete control over the city's surrounding areas would severely endanger the locals and the soldiers located there, which will likely face retaliations in the form of summary execution by RSF militants. The announcement of a parallel government indicates the Taasis's intention to provide a true political rival to Prot Sudan's government and marks a significant change in RSF's strategy, shifting from military dominance to political legitimation. Again, the inclusion of political means in RSF's strategy likely stems from its necessity to compensate for its failures on the battlefield. This will likely result in the new parallel government's attempts to receive international recognition, although scarce results are expected. The creation of the government further reduces the chances of reaching a ceasefire or a long-lasting peace in the near future.

### Advice from Forth Global

- Avoid travelling to Sudan, unless strictly necessary.
- Continue monitoring the latest political and military developments of the conflict.
- Develop and gain familiarity with hibernation, relocation, and evacuation plans from the country.
- Consider alternative ways for leaving the country.

### Customized advice

Please contact us for specific advice:

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