

SKBN CU Protection Report # 1 - 2015

Period covered: 16 December 2014- 15 January 2015 Date of Report: 17/01/2015

The South Kordofan Blue Nile Coordination Unit (SKBN CU) works with local civil society organizations and international humanitarian actors to share credible information on humanitarian needs in the two conflict-affected states. In this focused protection update, the main sources of information are civilians involved in local humanitarian monitoring and protection activities.

Summary: In Blue Nile, a widespread aerial bombardment campaign occurred on December 17th, 2014, in areas closest to the conflict front lines, which resulted in civilian households moving away from their villages to the riversides. The fighting between SPLA-iO and SPLA in and around Jamam in Upper Nile state continues to increased the sense of insecurity in the large Blue Nile refugee community in Maban county, with movements out of Bunj (Maban town) to Doro as well as movements of households into Blue Nile state for security being reported by CU informants.

The CU continues to receive reports from local informants regarding the extremely difficult conditions being faced by some BN refugees in Ethiopia, including reports of detention, severe restrictions on movements in and out of the camps, as well as abductions and transfer of refugees to Sudan government custody.

An intensive bombing campaign commenced in January, in Southern Kordofan, mostly in Heiban and Umdorein Counties, in advance of large scale ground offensives by SAF and associated RSF. One movement of SAF and associated RSF was from Talodi northwards toward Kauda in Heiban County. This offensive was concentrated over a period of 3 – 4 days around the Mendi/ Angartu area and resulted in complete displacement of civilians from those centers. The fighting apparently ended on 16th January, with the SAF forces retreating towards Talodi.

A second ground offensive moved from Kadugli towards Umsirdiba from January 9th with SAF and allied militia simultaneously attacking Daloka (on the road to Buram) and Al Ginaiziya (on the main road to Kauda). SPLA-N declared, on Wednesday January 15th, that it again controlled Al Ginaiziya with the SAF/allied militia reportedly moving back to Kadugli. As a result of these offensives, the CU received unconfirmed reports¹ from local authorities that destruction of civilian facilities such as homes, health clinics, churches and mosques was evident in the locations affected by the conflict. Additionally, many civilians were reported by local authorities to have moved to nearby hill-tops and caves, with some households deciding to move towards Yida, in South Sudan.

Reports from various sources including donor and UN indicate more than 600 persons a week arriving in Yida in 2015, and this movement was visible to this writer during his recent travel in this area. Throughout 2014, residents / IDPs in SK generally were unwilling to move to Unity State, in spite of ongoing violence in their locations, but it seems that the increased threats from ground attacks and aerial bombardment in 2015 may have started to change the perception of which locations may be most conducive to their personal safety.

An independent source has posted specific reports on the security and protection related situation facing civilians during the past few weeks in Southern Kordofan as follows:

<http://nubareports.org/weeks-of-bombardment-show-no-signs-of-stopping-as-forces-clash-near-kadugli/>

<http://nubareports.org/government-forces-push-within-20-kilometers-of-rebel-capital/>

¹ There were no CU Humanitarian Monitors in the direct vicinity of this conflict zone.

South Kordofan State

Time, Date	Location		Nature of attack on civilians & weapons used	Human casualties		Animals/crops destroyed	Homes destroyed and# of homeless	Other consequences
	Villages	Payam/ County		Fatalities	Injuries			
Dec. 16 – 18, 2014	Karkaria and Lugi	Um Dorein County	Antonov aerial bombardment(details N/A)	-	-		-	Grace Secondary School damaged.
Dec. 16 – 18, 2014	Mendi	Heiban County	Antonov (details N/A)	-	-		-	
Jan. 5, 2015	Mendi & Angartu	Heiban County	Shelling	-	-		-	Displacement of civilians, in advance of expected ground attacks against SPLA-N.
10:50 & 14:30 – Jan. 6, 2015	Kalkada	Um Durdu / Heiban County	Sukhoi jet fighter - 10 bombs, two separate missions		One woman	Livestock, 1 bull	-	Fields set on fire, already harvested.
09:00 –Jan. 7, 2015	Mendi	Heiban County	Antonov 13 bombs Shelling	-	-	-	-	Displacement of civilians, in advance of expected ground attacks by SAF from Talodi
Throughout Jan 10, 2015	Angartu and Mendi	Kumbur payam, Heiban County	Heavy shelling and aerial bombardment from Antonov	One woman from Antonov bomb				SAF Ground attacks commence towards Mendi, Angartu
Jan. 11, 12, 2015	Angartu and Mendi	Kumbur payam, Heiban County	Antonov and Sukhoi jet fighter – 24 bombs				10 homes destroyed	All HH's (estimated 135 – about 800 persons) temporarily displaced from Mendi to Um Shaigen village
11:00 - Jan. 13, 2015	Kumo	Heiban County	Sukhoi – 6 bombs					
11:00 - Jan. 13, 2015	Kauda	Heiban County	Sukhoi – 2 bombs		One woman			Damage to Peace Secondary School
Jan. 14, 2015	Mendi, Um Shaigen	Heiban County	Antonov - 24 Bombs		One boy			

Blue Nile State

Time, Date	Location		Nature of attack on civilians & weapons used	Human casualties		Animals/crops destroyed	Homes destroyed and # of homeless	Other consequences
	Villages	Payam/ County		Fatalities	Injuries			
15:00 - Dec. 17, 2014	Chali Alfil	Chali Alfil, Kurmuk County	Antonov – 3 bombs	-	-	Goats killed	-	
14:30 Dec. 17, 2014	Sumari	Wadaka payam, Kurmuk County	Antonov – 2 bombs	-	-	Up to 600 fedans of farm land set on fire, affecting farms of 30 HHs	-	300 HHs voluntarily displaced to Khor Bashum, to avoid expected continued aerial bombardment
14:00 Dec. 17, 2014	Balila	Wadaka payam, Kurmuk County	Antonov – 3 bombs	-	One woman	Donkey	-	Movement of civilians to the river banks away from their homes
19:00 Dec. 17, 2014	Mofu	Wadaka payam, Kurmuk County	Antonov – 4 bombs	-	-	-	-	-
16:30 Dec. 17, 2014	Mayak	Wadaka payam, Kurmuk County	Antonov – 4 bombs	-	-	-	-	Displacement of civilians
Jan. 12, 2015	Chali Alfil	Chali Alfil, Kurmuk County	Antonov – n/a # bombs	2 persons	4 persons	-	-	