

2.3.2. Conflict dynamics and tactics

In West Kordofan, the RSF took control of the state capital Al-Fula on 20 June 2024,^{[779](#)} described by Ayin network as 'the first major RSF advance in several months', putting the RSF in control of major oil fields in the area.^{[780](#)} During the reference period, repeated clashes were reported between the SAF and the RSF in and around Babanusa.^{[781](#)} As of September 2024, an RSF siege of the SAF military garrison in Babanusa that had commenced in January 2024^{[782](#)} was reported to be ongoing but making little progress.^{[783](#)} The Misseriya, the largest ethnic group in the region, reportedly remained split in its support for the conflict parties.^{[784](#)}

In February 2024, SPLM-N-al-Hilu seized Habila town in South Kordofan from the RSF,^{[785](#)} leading to a counterattack by the RSF which turned into fighting between RSF-affiliated Arab tribes and Nuba.^{[786](#)} In March 2024, further clashes between the RSF and SPLM-N-al-Hilu reportedly occurred in Umm Safifa and Karkaraya.^{[787](#)} According to the October 2024 report by the UN Secretary-General, South Kordofan witnessed an increase in violence from June 2024 involving the SAF, the RSF and the SPLM-N-al-Hilu,^{[788](#)} the three main armed groups in the state, each trying to expand their territorial control there.^{[789](#)} As of August 2024, clashes escalated in Dilling as the SAF tried to break a blockade imposed by the SPLM-N on their supply lines. Meanwhile, the state capital Kadugli remained besieged by the RSF, and the restriction of commercial flows caused food prices to soar.^{[790](#)}

In North Kordofan, the RSF and the SAF reportedly clashed repeatedly, particularly in and around the state capital El Obeid.^{[791](#)} An attack on a village near El Obeid in October 2024 reportedly resulted in 20 deaths.^{[792](#)} In May 2024, the SAF managed to recapture Jabal Al-Ain military base 20 km outside the city.^{[793](#)} That same month, the RSF captured Umm Rawaba area on the road connecting North Kordofan and White Nile state.^{[794](#)}

According to the report by the UN Secretary-General on the Situation in Abyei covering the period from October 2023 to mid-April 2024, the security situation there remained tense, witnessing a rise in casualties due to intercommunal clashes in southern and central Abyei, especially between the Ngok Dinka and Twic Dinka communities.^{[795](#)} For the reference period mid-April to the end of September 2024, the UN Secretary-General noted that the security situation was still tense but witnessed a decrease in kidnapping incidents and intercommunal violence.^{[796](#)} In July 2024, SAF forces withdrew from Al-Meiram area near Abyei to South Sudan following clashes with the RSF.^{[797](#)}

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