

2.4.1. Actors involved and territorial control

Since December 2023, the RSF has seized Al Jazirah state by invading at least 137 villages and localities, controlling more than 90 % of the state apart from Al-Manaqil and nearby villages in the south as of November 2024.^{[833](#)} The takeover of Al Jazirah allowed the RSF to push further south into Sennar state in the summer of 2024.^{[834](#)} The RSF in Al-Jazirah were reportedly having difficulties controlling and commanding their troops,^{[835](#)} its hierarchical structure having broken down and competing factions operating independently.^{[836](#)} In March 2024, the SLM-MM under Darfur governor Minni Minnawi announced that it would join the SAF in its military operations against the RSF in Al Jazirah.^{[837](#)} Similarly, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) announced it was joining the fighting alongside the SAF in Al Jazirah, undertaking a recruitment drive in eastern Sudan.^{[838](#)} Beside these Darfur armed groups, the SAF in its endeavour to retake Al Jazirah was increasingly relying on Islamist militia originally mobilised under the Bashir regime.^{[839](#)} The May 2024 SAF offensive to retake Al Jazirah reportedly faced coordination issues between the SAF regular troops and allied armed groups such as the SLA-MM, JEM, SPLM-N-Agar and the SLM-Tambour.^{[840](#)}

As for Sennar, by November 2024 the last stronghold of the RSF was the state capital,^{[841](#)} which was recaptured by the SAF in December 2024.^{[842](#)} Clashes between the SAF and the RSF in White Nile were ongoing as of December 2024.^{[843](#)}

The SPLM-N-Agar, a splinter faction of the SPLM-N led by Malik Agar, has aligned its forces with the SAF^{[844](#)} and in February 2024 started moving troops from Blue Nile towards Wad Madani in Al Jazirah.^{[845](#)} In March 2024, SPLM-N-Agar troops were reportedly ambushed by the RSF on their way from Sennar to Wad Madani, suffering a high number of casualties.^{[846](#)} As of August 2024, the SPLM-N-Agar forces were still present in Blue Nile state and mobilising troops there.^{[847](#)} The SPLM-N-al-Hilu faction, which was not aligned with either conflict party^{[848](#)} reportedly held territories in Blue Nile state,^{[849](#)} namely the New Funj area.^{[850](#)}

^{[833](#)}

Ayin Network, Al-Jazeera: Over 130 villages invaded by RSF, 19 November 2024, [url](#)

^{[834](#)}

Sudan Tribune, Sudanese army launches offensive to recapture key states, 18 October 2024, [url](#)

^{[835](#)}

Ayin Network et al., Sudan Conflict Monitor # 13, 23 May 2024, [url](#), p. 3; Reuters, Unruly RSF fighters sow chaos in Sudan's farming heartland, 9 August 2024, [url](#)

^{[836](#)}

Mada Masr, RSF accused of poisoning hundreds in besieged Hilaliya, eastern Gezira | Tens of thousands displaced from Gezira to eastern Sudan, 13 November 2024, [url](#)

[837](#)

International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch – Sudan: February 2024 – December 2024, n.d., [url](#)

[838](#)

Sudan War Monitor, JEM to join battle on Gedaref front, 22 March 2024, [url](#)

[839](#)

Ayin Network et al., Sudan Conflict Monitor # 11, 12 March 2024, [url](#), p. 3

[840](#)

Ayin Network et al., Sudan Conflict Monitor # 13, 23 May 2024, [url](#), p. 3

[841](#)

Mada Masr, Sudan Nashra: RSF floods villages in Gezira | Clashes intensify in Fasher | Sudan split on Russian veto, 20 November 2024, [url](#)

[842](#)

Sudan Tribune, Sudanese army repels RSF attack in Blue Nile, retakes key town in Al Jazirah, 7 December 2024, [url](#)

[843](#)

Sudan Tribune, Fighting erupts in Sudan's Blue Nile and White Nile states, 8 December 2024, [url](#)

[844](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan – Advance unedited version, A/HRC/57/23, 5 September 2024, [url](#), para. 26

[845](#)

ACLED, Sudan: Escalating Conflict in Khartoum and Attacks on Civilians in al-Jazirah and South Kordofan, 15 March 2024, [url](#)

[846](#)

Ayin Network et al., Sudan Conflict Monitor # 11, 12 March 2024, [url](#), p. 3

[847](#)

Ayin Network et al., Sudan Conflict Monitor # 15, 1 August 2024, [url](#), p. 3

[848](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan – Advance unedited version, A/HRC/57/23, 5 September 2024, [url](#), para. 31

[849](#)

UNSG, Children and armed conflict in the Sudan, S/2024/443, 7 June 2024, [url](#), para. 17

[850](#)

Radio Dabanga, SPLM-N El Hilu: ‘Over three million people face famine in southern Sudan, aid obstructed’, 29 September 2024, [url](#)

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu