

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 SAF⁸⁴⁴ 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 party⁸⁴⁸ reportedly held territories in Blue Nile state,⁸⁴⁹ namely the New Funj area.⁸⁵⁰

833

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