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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

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