



Please cite as: EUAA, '[2.5. Ethnic groups](#)' in *Sudan: Country Focus*, October 2026.

2.5. Ethnic groups

Sudan is composed of approximately 500 different ethnic groups, with Sudanese Arabs accounting for about 70 % of the total population.^{[410](#)} The country is predominantly Muslim.^{[411](#)} Sudan's ethnic landscape is highly diverse and historically characterised by overlapping identities shaped by language, region, livelihood and political affiliation, rather than rigid ethnic divisions.^{[412](#)}

For background information on ethnic groups in Sudan, see section 2.4 of the [EUAA Sudan report – Country Focus \(April 2024\)](#) and section 2.5 of [the EUAA Sudan report – Country Focus \(February 2025\)](#).

Ethnic conflict-related profiling and targeting

In 2024, SAF's MIS reportedly targeted individuals, often based on their presumed or real ethnic identity, for allegedly supporting the RSF,^{[413](#)} including Arab tribes from Kordofan^{[414](#)} and tribes from West Darfur.^{[415](#)} The RSF systematically targeted non-Arab/African groups^{[416](#)} and carried out unlawful detentions of persons in Darfur based on ethnicity, particularly the Masalit^{[417](#)} and the Zaghawa.^{[418](#)} As the conflict continued, the ACHPR FFM observed that 'civilians were also extrajudicially killed for being perceived to support the opposing side of the conflict while others, especially in the Darfur region were targeted and killed because of their ethnicity.'^{[419](#)}

As of April 2026, territorial control of Sudan was divided between the SAF, holding Khartoum and the eastern regions, and the RSF, controlling much of the west. ^{[420](#)} The situation of ethnic groups is presented according to areas of control of the warring parties, reflecting the conditions and dynamics on the ground at the time of writing.

For additional information on territorial control in Sudan, please see security situation section of the [EUAA, COI Query – Sudan - Major political, security, humanitarian developments and human rights, 09 April 2025](#).

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