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2.1.1. Actors involved and territorial control

During the reference period, the SAF gained control of the entire Khartoum state by late May 2025 and retained it thereafter.[491](#)

The SAF offensive on Khartoum[492](#) involved the SAF and aligned forces, including Popular Resistance,[493](#) the Darfur Joint Forces, the Sudan Shield Forces (SSF), and other militias.[494](#) Another significant SAF-aligned force was the Islamist-linked Al-Baraa Bin Malik Brigade. The militia played a key role in the battle for Khartoum,[495](#) but has repeatedly resisted integration into SAF command structures.[496](#) As of July 2026, an article by AFP mentions the presence of Darfur Joint Forces and Al-Baraa Bin Malik Brigade fighters in Khartoum state.[497](#) Neighbourhood defence units have also emerged across Khartoum and were reportedly operating increasingly outside SAF oversight.[498](#) The SAF reportedly sought to restore order in Khartoum since retaking the capital; however, sporadic shootings have continued amid the widespread presence of arms and armed groups.[499](#)

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