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## 2.3.1. Actors involved and territorial control

During the reference period, the RSF controlled nearly all of South Darfur, except for a small area in the north around Jebel Marra that remained under the control of the Sudan Liberation Movement-Abdel Wahid Al-Nur (SLM-AW).[633](#) South of South Darfur lies Kafia Kingi, a disputed border region claimed by both Sudan and South Sudan.[634](#)

The RSF reportedly recruited fighters through tribal and clan leaders, although these fighters frequently returned to tribal allegiances during intercommunal conflict.[635](#) The Salamat and Beni Halba, for example, were among the main tribal groups that declared allegiance to RSF during the early stages of the conflict.[636](#) A map by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, an academic institution within the US Department of Defense, lists militias of most of the above-mentioned tribes (Awlad Al Wadi Clan, Habbaniya, Salamat, Beni Halba militias) as active RSF-aligned groups in South Darfur and further mentions a Baggara militia and Libyan armed groups.[637](#) Reportedly, Colombian mercenaries supporting RSF troops[638](#) were also present in South Darfur, especially in Nyala.[639](#) In August 2026, a prominent Fur traditional leader in South Darfur reportedly pledged four combat brigades in support of the RSF.[640](#)

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Sudan Tribune, Villages burned and civilians flee as tribal clashes erupt in South Darfur using RSF vehicles, 31 May 2026, [url](#)

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Sudan Tribune, Drone attack hits market and hospital in South Darfur as tribal war intensifies, 2 June 2026, [url](#)

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Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Mapping the Armed Actors in the Sudan Conflict [Map], 7 July 2026, [url](#)

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