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2.3.2. Conflict dynamics and tactics

Early May and mid-June 2025, the SAF carried out several drone strikes on Nyala,[641](#) a strategic RSF stronghold.[642](#) In May 2026, the SAF reportedly carried out 17 drone strikes in Nyala, the highest monthly number recorded in the city since the beginning of the conflict.[643](#) During the reference period, drone strikes were also reported in other areas of the state,[644](#) for example in the Sengo Gold mining area, in April 2026.[645](#)

During the reference period, South Darfur was affected by communal violence between tribes. Media reported on clashes involving members of different groups, including Habbaniya,[646](#) Salamat, Beni Halba,[647](#) Sa'ada, and Ta'aliba.[648](#) An article also mentioned the Awlad Al Wadi,[649](#) and Fiyarin who are reportedly Beni Halba clans.[650](#) Clashes were reported, for example, in Buram[651](#) and Buba area in October 2025,[652](#) in Al-Qardoud area in December 2025,[653](#) in the town of Markandi in February 2026,[654](#) and around Kubum in May 2026.[655](#) As of June 2026, clashes between Salamat and Beni Halba tribes continued in Kubum and Markundi.[656](#) Clashes between herders and farmers particularly affected Labado and Marla areas.[657](#)

The conflict sometimes involved RSF-infighting driven by increasing competition among local commanders over power and resources.[658](#) In October 2025, RSF personnel reportedly supported their relatives involved in the clashes between two Beni Halba clans,[659](#) and in March 2026, an RSF Salamat commander killed an RSF Habbaniya commander over a displacement dispute in Nyala.[660](#) In May 2026, RSF vehicles were used in tribal clashes,[661](#) while in June 2026, the reported use of heavy weaponry suggested senior RSF involvement in clashes between Salamat and Beni Halba.[662](#)

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