



Please cite as: EUAA, '[2.17.2. Conflict dynamics and tactics](#)' in *Sudan: Security Situation*, October 2026.

2.17.2. Conflict dynamics and tactics

As of August 2025, UNHCR described Kassala state as 'relatively stable'.¹²³⁹ A drone attack, an incident which was described as 'rare' in the SAF-controlled east, was reported at the beginning of May 2025, targeting Kassala airport without causing casualties or damages.¹²⁴⁰ Further drone strikes around the same time reportedly targeted the SAF 11th Division in Khashm Al-Girba.¹²⁴¹ According to Dabanga, the proliferation of weapons in Kassala state had led to a widespread security breakdown, such as in June 2025, when a soldier fired wildly into crowds in Khashm Al-Girba, killing seven people.¹²⁴² In September 2026, the SAF reported to have shot down an RSF drone over Khashm Al-Girba.¹²⁴³

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UNHCR, Protection Brief Sudan, August 2025, 20 November 2025, [url](#), p. 23

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AFP, Paramilitary drone hits Sudan airport near Eritrea: pro-army source, 3 May 2025

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ACJPS, Report on Human Rights Situation in Sudan – April to June 2025, 25 July 2025, [url](#), p. 22

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Dabanga, نادر السال قرش في يدنج لبق نم ران قالط في صاخشأة عبس لتقم [Seven people killed in gunfire from a soldier in eastern Sudan], 9 June 2025, [url](#)

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Al Jazeera, فراضقلا تيالو في عيرسلال معدلل تاريسم 3 طاقسإ: نادر السال شيجلا [SAF: Three RSF drones shot down in Gedaref and Kassala states] [Online video], 15 September 2026, [url](#)