



South Kordofan State (the Nuba Mountains): A Dire Humanitarian Crisis

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The Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan state have been embroiled in conflict for decades. The first civil war began in 1985 and ended in 2005 with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which unfortunately only lasted for six years. The war resumed in June 2011 due to disputes over regional election results.

Escalation of Conflict

Since the start of the war between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in April 2023, the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N) has ended its ceasefire, which had lasted over five years, and begun attacking SAF garrisons in South Kordofan. This has re-ignited the conflict between the SAF and SPLA-N, resulting in severe humanitarian consequences.

Key Effects of the Conflict

- **Siege of Kadogli and El Dalinj:** The cities, with a combined population of approximately 270,000 people, are under siege, with shortages of essential commodities, including food and medication. The prices of food items, particularly sorghum, have increased fivefold.
- **Humanitarian Crisis:** The conflict has led to a dire humanitarian situation, with limited access to healthcare, education, and food. The alliance between SPLA-N and RSF under the newly established (Tassis) has further aggravated the situation.
- **Food Insecurity and Malnutrition:** The conflict has resulted in acute food insecurity and malnutrition, particularly in the Nuba Mountains, due to the destruction of critical infrastructure and disruptions to agricultural production.
- **Limited Humanitarian Access:** The conflict has restricted humanitarian access, with aid workers facing challenges in reaching affected areas. The suspension of NGO operations in South Kordofan has further complicated relief efforts.
- **Health Concerns:** The siege and conflict have resulted in health concerns, with reports of civilians being caught in crossfire and limited access to medical care.

Consequences of Further Escalation

- **Civilian Casualties:** Any escalation will lead to mass displacement and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis.
- **Humanitarian Crisis:** The crisis will deepen, and many innocent lives will be lost, leaving around 2 million people in severe shortage of food.

Call to Action

We urge:

- **Immediate Cessation of Military Operations:** SPLA/N and RSF should immediately halt their military operations in South Kordofan, including drones attacks.
- **Immediate cessation of military operations;** SAF should immediately hold military operations including drones attacks.
- **End of Siege:** The siege of Kadogli and El Dalinj should be lifted, and the flow of people and goods to the region should be allowed.
- **Restoration of Quartet's Role in Mediation:** The Quartet's role in mediation should be restored to comprehensively address the Sudanese crisis.

Conclusion

The situation in South Kordofan is critical, and a peaceful resolution is urgently needed to alleviate the humanitarian crisis. We strongly believe that restoring the Quartet's role in mediation is the only way to comprehensively address the Sudanese crisis.

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