

Sudan War: Hundreds killed, several others injured and massive destruction of property in Khartoum State

Airstrikes, bombing, and shelling intensify as the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) continue to engage the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). During the month of September 2023, residents of Khartoum State witnessed some of the most intense gunfights between the warring parties. When the armed conflict first broke out in Marawi, the national army (SAF) quickly captured Khartoum and took control of the state. However, in September 2023, RSF started engaging in a bid to seize and control Khartoum. The gunfights resulted in the capture of military (SAF) bases located within the residential areas further compromising the security of civilians.

The September 2023 events had devastating effects such as the death of approximately **350** civilians including children and the shelling that destroyed several properties. The health sector too was affected as some medical facilities such as Al-Naw Hospital located in Althura neighborhood in Omdurman have been targeted at least three times since the war erupted. Currently the only functional health facilities in Khartoum are; Alawo Hospital located in Althura in Omdurman, Bashir Hospital located in Mayo, South of Khartoum, and Alrazi Hospital located in Khartoum Bahari with inadequate supplies.

There was another series of shelling in [Nyala town in South Darfur](#) during the same period that resulted in the death and injuring of thousands of civilians including women and children.

Shelling Incidents in Khartoum

Khartoum State comprises three main towns namely; Khartoum, Khartoum Bahari, and Omdurman, all linked through bridges. The towns were affected differently by the shelling and airstrikes

1. Khartoum Town

The shelling in Khartoum town mainly targeted the areas located in the southern part of the town i.e Alazhari, Alklakla, and Mayo neighborhoods. Mayo neighborhood however was the most affected by the shelling during the September 2023 incidents.

Mayo neighborhood is mainly occupied by Marginalized groups from the Nuba mountains, Darfur region, and South Sudanese victims of the 1983 war. When RSF captured Mayo neighborhood, they started the mass recruitment of residents into the conflict. RSF also blocked areas used as access points for supplies from the local market. It is reported that the local market in Mayo has become a hub for the stolen goods looted from neighborhoods in Central and Southern Khartoum.

Additionally, Mayo is strategically located near the SAF Military manufacturing complex that was later seized by RSF in November 2023. Mayo also hosts the RSF military camp in Taiba located in the Southern side of the neighborhood. Mayo is also connected to Jabel Awlya locality by a bridge that was bombed in December 2023 by SAF. In May 2024, RSF seized the Western part of the bridge from Omdurman and resultantly capturing the SAF military base in Jabel Awlya in December 2024 and therefore gaining full access to North Omdurman and South Khartoum.

Eventually RSF was able to capture the Khartoum International Airport and the former National Security building located in Airport Street in the center of Khartoum and consequently gained control of areas around the Airport and Alryad neighborhood where there are reportedly many detention centers. RSF has successfully managed to push SAF out of Central Khartoum hence why SAF has since focused on using airstrikes as they have no control on ground. This further solidifies the allegations that RSF is responsible for the abductions and sexual violations against women and girls in Central and South Khartoum in the Neighborhoods of Alsgana, Aldoum East, Suba, Alslama, Alazhari, Abu Adam, Eid Hussien, Jabraah and Mayo to mention but a few.

Shelling Events

- √ On 30 September 2023, two civilians were killed and at least 20 others including 3 children sustained injuries as a result of shelling by SAF.
- √ On 24 September 2023, one child was killed in Aljreef–Karkooj neighborhood in Khartoum as a result of a random shelling.
- √ On 24 September 2023, one male civilian was killed and another sustained injuries in the Hab El-Naseem neighborhood in Aljreef East, Khartoum as a result of shelling.
- √ On 23 September 2023, a local cinema located in the Suba neighborhood in Khartoum was shelled by a military aircraft resulting in the killing of four civilians. It is reported that some RSF members often visited the said cinema during their leisure time.
- √ On 21 September 2023, one minor was killed while four others sustained severe injuries as a result of a shelling in the Karkooj neighborhood located in Aljreef East of Khartoum.
- √ On 21 September 2023, a SAF aircraft aerial bombed a mechanical workshop/garage owned by a civilian who unfortunately lost his life during the incident. It is alleged that the workshop was targeted because RSF often visited it to have their vehicles repaired.
- √ On 19 September 2023, a child was killed while two adults sustained severe injuries as a result of an air bombardment in Plot 3 and 12 in Mayo by the SAF. The same aircraft also bombed some properties in plot 12 in Alazhari that same day.
- √ On 18 September 2023, the square in the Aljreef neighborhood located East of Khartoum was shelled by a military aircraft consequently killing one male, injuring several others, and destroying houses.
- √ On 15 September 2023, a SAF aircraft targeted both plot 1 in Eid Hussien and Alazhari neighborhoods resulting in injuring a child and destroying houses.
- √ On 15 September 2023, a SAF aircraft targeted the Mayo local market also known as the Goro market resultantly killing 40 civilians and injuring several others.
- √ On 10 September 2023, A woman and a child were killed while 7 others sustained injuries as a result of a bomb explosion in plot 14 in Mayo.
- √ On 3 September 2023, approximately 20 civilians were killed by an airstrike in the Alguba neighborhood in Alkalkla located South of Khartoum.
- √ On 8 September 2023, one male civilian was killed at his home in the Alshajara neighborhood in Khartoum as a result of a bomb explosion.
- √ On 4 September 2023, one male civilian was killed by a shelling in the Alhamadab neighborhood in Khartoum

- √ Several people were killed in the Wad Algali neighborhood in South Khartoum as a result of a shelling.

2. Omdurman

In Omdurman town, the shelling mainly targeted localities in the northern and western parts of the town namely Karri and Almair/Um-Badah localities. Karri locality was targeted because it is one of the areas that are under the control of SAF and it also hosts the SAF military base. The Althura neighborhood is also one of the areas under the control of SAF and has severally been targeted. RSF and SAF territories in Omdurman are separated by the junction leading to Althura Square next to Omdurman Gardens.

Alamir locality is strategically located a few kilometers from Darfur region, east of Omdurman hence why RSF was interested in the area. Gaining control of the locality means that RSF have access to Darfur region. The two most important neighborhoods in Alamir locality are; Suq Algash which is an entry and exit point for RSF troops from and to Darfur and through which injured soldiers are evacuated for medical attention. Additionally, the livestock market known as Gandhar is also important to RSF as it has been all kinds of trade. The market has been shelled twice by SAF since the beginning of the war i.e. in July 2023 and May 2024.

Shelling events

- √ On 30 September 2023, square 3 in the Althura neighborhood in Omdurman was shelled resultantly killing three females (from the same family) and injuring one who was transferred to Alnao hospital for medical attention.
- √ Sometime in September 2023, RSF arrived in Omdurman from Khartoum Bahari across the river Nile and shelled the area targeting a house located near Wadi Street and moved towards the northern direction of the Karri SAF neighborhood. This incident led to the massive destruction of properties.
- √ On 13 September 2023, RSF shelled square 1 in the Althura neighborhood in Omdurman which resulted in the injuring of five civilians who were evacuated to Alnawo Hospital located in square 8 in Althura for medical attention.
- √ Sometime in September 2023, RSF fired into the road leading to north Omdurman in Althura neighborhood consequently killing nine civilians including three from one family. The road is a link between the old Omdurman and Awadi Saydna military base.
- √ On 26 September 2023, four civilians including a child were killed as a result of a shelling.
- √ On 24 September 2023, a child was killed as a result of shelling in square 18 in the Alamir/Umbanda neighborhood in Omdurman. The deceased's father and brother sustained serious injuries.
- √ On 24 September 2023, several civilians lost their lives during the shelling in squares 54 and 71 in the Althura neighborhood in Omdurman. Those who sustained injuries were transferred to Alnawo and Wadi Sydnah hospitals for treatment.
- √ On 20 September 2023, a female doctor was killed by a shelling at her family home located in Alamir, Omdurman.

- √ On 1 September 2023, the area of Algmair (near the river Nile) was heavily shelled. The shellings came from the areas under RSF control in Omdurman namely; Bit Almal and Abu roof, old Omdurman, and Shambat in Khartoum Bahari. This incident resulted in massive destruction of property and the loss of livestock
- √ During the period between 3rd to 6th September 2023, SAF shelled the Engineering Unit base located in Omdurman. Other areas that were affected by the shelling are; Squares 20 and 21 in Alamir locality. Approximately 21 civilians lost their lives in Square 21 while 8 others were killed in Square 20 during the attack.

3. Khartoum Bahari Town

In Khartoum Bahari, the shelling concentrated mainly in the neighborhoods of East Nile, Helat Kuku, Alhaj Yousef, and Alhalfaya in Bahari. The attack on the Alhaj Yousef neighborhood by SAF was so that they can capture the East Nile Hospital and through Almanshia bridge gain access to the SAF headquarters in Khartoum. Additionally, Alhaj Yousef is one of the areas where RSF has done mass recruitment of civilians. The Alhaj Yousef neighborhood hosts different marginalized groups i.e. refugees from South Sudan who fled to Sudan during the civil war, and IDPs from Western Sudan who fled during the 1984 conflict.

The Helat Kuku neighborhood was targeted because it is a hub of livestock and agricultural markets used by RSF for trade. The neighborhood can also be used to access Kafuri neighborhood that hosts cabins that belonged to former high ranking government officials during the previous regime and the transitional periods.

Alhalfaya neighborhood is located between the two bridges of Shambat (which was bombarded by SAF in November 2023) and Alhalfaya. Both bridges connect Omdurman to Khartoum Bahari thus giving RSF access to old Omdurman and North Omdurman and the control of the two hospitals within the areas i.e. Al- Amal and Abraha private hospital.

Shelling events

- √ On 27 September 2023, three civilians lost their lives and 10 others sustained injuries as a result of shelling in Alhalfaya, Khartoum Bahari.
- √ On 24 September 2023, a mosque was partially destroyed due to shelling in Alhalfaya, Khartoum
- √ On 24 September 2023, five children were killed as a result of shelling in the Alhaj Yousef neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari
- √ On 14 September 2023, the Algadsia North neighborhood in Alhaj Yousef was shelled resultantly killing one male civilian and injuring 21 others.
- √ On 21 September 2023, three houses (that were still under construction) in the Alshegla, Alhaj Yousef in Khartoum Bahari were destroyed as a result of shelling.
- √ On 12 September 2023, approximately 30 people including children and women were killed as a result of shelling of the livestock market locally known as Souq Alganam located in the Helat Kuku neighborhood in Khartoum Bahari.

- √ On 12 September 2023, the Alsgai village in Alhaj Yousef neighborhood was shelled and unfortunately, one woman was killed in the process.
- √ On 6 September 2023, three civilians were killed and four others were injured as a result of a shelling in Alsamrab in Khartoum Bahari
- √ On 6 September 2023, 54 civilians mainly children and Women were killed as a result of a shelling by SAF in Karri Omdurman by RSF and square 10 in Alamir locality
- √ On 2 September 2023, one male civilian was killed in his house in Almnara in Omdurman as a result of shelling.
- √ On 2 September 2023, two civilians and one child were killed as a result of shelling at the Martas Hassan Al-Khaiari road in Khartoum Bahari next to Alrazi Hospital. Ten civilians also sustained serious injuries during the incident.