



[Sudan's Warring Parties Agreed upon 7-Day Humanitarian Ceasefire Has Failed](#)

The ceasefire in Sudan has failed according to monitors from Saudi Arabia and the United States. Sudan's Army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) had agreed on Saturday to a week-long humanitarian ceasefire that was supposed to begin Monday night. Reports on the ground indicate that fighting continued into the next day Tuesday. Residents reported that "from the moment of the ceasefire ... they were able to hear heavy artillery. They said from the very beginning of the ceasefire, it was already violated by both sides." The conflict has already forced 1.3 million people to flee their homes. The death toll has surpassed 600 according to the World Health Organization and more than 5,000 people have been injured because of the fighting. These are estimates and the true death toll is likely much higher. A point of alarm has been that many of the civilians coming into hospitals for treatment have been reported to have suffered from multiple gunshot wounds, indicating that they are being intentionally targeted. There have also been reports of extrajudicial killing, torture, and sexual assault.

It was hoped this truce would be different as it was brokered by the United States and Saudi Arabia, which gave it more weight and outside accountability. It was signed in Jeddah and was the first ceasefire signed by both the army and the RSF. These hopes were quickly dashed after reports of ceasefire violations came flooding in. Each side blames the other, saying they were defending themselves from the other's attacks. Heavy fighting continued into Tuesday. There was a reported lull in violence on Wednesday however, but this lull in fighting was too short, and the security situation too unpredictable for any aid to flow into the affected regions. Logistical problems also plagued attempts to get the much-needed supplies into the war zone.

There is no end in sight for the ongoing civil war in Sudan. Neither side has shown any sign of wanting to negotiate and so far, every ceasefire has been violated. Both sides were evenly matched at the beginning of the conflict and neither has been able to claim a decisive victory. Neither side has a military advantage, which means neither side is motivated to negotiate. Before the conflict broke out, the two leaders of the opposing sides, RSF commander General Mohamad Hamdan Dagalo, better known as Hemedti, and General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the commander of the Sudanese army, maintained a fragile peace after a military coup in 2021. Hemedti issued a belligerent message just hours before the agreement was due to become effective. He was recorded in an audio message saying his troops would not retreat "until we end this coup". Even if one side gets the advantage, both sides are, in essence, fighting for their survival.

Despite the disappointing result of this ceasefire, the international community must continue to urge each side to work toward a peaceful resolution. It is also important to continue the attempts to send aid and also help neighboring countries support the Sudanese refugees. One particular issue that needs immediate attention is the 60,000 to 90,000 people that have fled into Chad. This sudden flood of

refugees will make it nearly impossible to relocate them before the start of the rainy season in June, which may put them in even more danger. The United States announced \$245 million in humanitarian aid to Sudan and its neighboring countries in an effort to assist in the refugee crisis. More funds will certainly be needed, and quickly, to avert another mass casualty event.