



[Troubling Armed Violence Kills Hundreds in Sudan's Darfur Region](#)

Armed violence over the past week in Sudan's Darfur region has killed hundreds of people and displaced tens of thousands more. This latest troubling outbreak of fighting is believed to have started after the bodies of 2 nomads suspected of cattle rustling were discovered near Kreinik, prompting Janjaweed militias to raid and attack the town. The fighting later spread into the regional capital of Al Geneina, a city which hosts around 100,000 displaced people, many of whom live in temporary shelters that are especially vulnerable to the attacks. Human rights organizations have called for calm and an end to the violence in the area, which has included entire villages being burned down and livestock slaughtered. The destruction of supply warehouses has been heavily condemned as it will certainly lead to increased food insecurity in the region, which is already plagued with dire humanitarian circumstances. Reports also emerged that the Sudanese government's Rapid Support Forces were taking part in the attacks as well, and officials in Darfur criticized the military regime for its apparent lack of effort in stopping the violence.

This latest string of violence has raised new concerns about aid workers operating in the region. Though Darfur is already notoriously dangerous for aid workers, this uptick in violence may make their situation even more treacherous. A hospital in Kreinik supported by the humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders was attacked and looted. Three people were killed in the attack, including two medical workers. The hospital in El Geneina was forced to shut down after multiple shootings took place in the facilities. Many health workers were evacuated. This has left a shortage of doctors and healthcare professionals in the area for treating the rising number of wounded. It is expected that many who are wounded will succumb to their wounds because of a lack of medical supplies and doctors. This is the first time that the hospital was shut down. Even at the high of the Darfur conflict, it was able to remain in operation.

Darfur has been subject to varying degrees of conflict for nearly 2 decades now, starting in 2003 when non-Arabs took up arms against the government, citing discrimination and a lack of development. The government retaliated by mobilizing the Janjaweed to fight the rebels, unleashing a wave of violence that ultimately led to the genocide of non-Arabs in the region. Some 300,000 people were killed and 2.5 million displaced during the conflict. Peacekeepers were placed in the region, but were withdrawn in January of 2020. A peace deal was signed in 2020 as well, but it has shown little to no signs of being effectively implemented, especially in the aftermath of the October 2021 military coup.

There was hope after the ouster of the longtime dictator of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir, that the cycle of violence in Darfur would end. Things have only worsened in the region, especially after the military coup in October of last year headed by General al-Burnhan, which derailed the democratic transition process in the country. The political turmoil in the capital of Khartoum has further fueled the violence in Darfur. The Janjaweed can act with impunity, and often with support from areas of the government.