



URGENT APPEAL

THE TRIBAL CONFLICT RESUMES IN BLUE NILE, SUDAN

On 13th October 2022, the conflict between Hawsa and Funj tribes started again in Blue Nile State after three months of relative calmness. As a result, hundreds were brutally killed, others injured and tens of thousands were displaced as well as destruction of property. All this happened when there was no effective intervention from the security forces (authorities).

The conflict between Funj tribes and Hawsa in Blue Nile State had earlier escalated in July 2022 by a devastating violence. In August 2022, the two parties signed a cessation of hostility agreement which had given relative peace between them up to October 2022 when the violence started again.

On 13th October 2022, a group of Hawsa people attacked some squares in Madinah – 6 where Funj people resided. This led to the death of many Funj people.

On 14th October 2022, a group of Funj people retaliated and attacked the Hawsa squares in Madinah – 6. They burnt some houses of Hawsa people and this caused displacement of many Hawsa families to Madinah – 7 and Madinah – 4 where Hawsa are the majority.

On 16th October 2022, Funj people gathered from different towns and villages then surrounded Madinah – 7 where an armed confrontation started between the two tribes. However, the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) intervened and stopped them. At this stage, the Funj people demanded that Hawsa people should be relocated out of Madinah – 7 but, the locality administration rejected their request. That same day, a night curfew was imposed by the local administration in the whole locality.

On 19th October 2022, the police security points were pulled out (withdrawn) from Madinah – 4, then a few hours after, Hawsa people armed with guns, machetes and fuel containers attacked square 1, 10 and 11 in Madinah – 4. They burnt many houses, some of them with people inside especially women and children. They killed and injured many people using the machetes and some were shot with bullets. As a result of this attack, 114 dead bodies were buried while others couldn't be collected up to date from the scene due to insecurity. About 75 people who were injured mainly by machetes or burning of skins are undergoing treatment at Damazin hospital, Military hospital in Damazin and



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Health Insurance Hospital. Tens of thousands were displaced to different cities and in need of urgent aid.

On 21st October 2022, Blue Nile state government declared the state of emergency and the people of Funj tribe submitted a statement to the high military commandant in Blue Nile demanding the replacement of the current state governor with the military governor. They gave an ultimatum of forty eight (48) hours for their demand to be fulfilled by the central government.

On 23rd October 2022, a group of Damazin residents burnt the state government headquarters office. The same day, Blue Nile military high commander was replaced by a new one who deployed many soldiers in Damazin town.

On 25th October 2022, the deployed soldiers assaulted (whipped) the residents of north Damazin town, they also shot their guns intensively, killed an armed civilian from Funj (Mr. Akram Elameir Ahmed - 24 years old) and injured other three persons.

On 26th October 2022, a confrontation between the two conflicting armed tribal groups in Madinah – 11 led to the killing of three Funj people (Mr. Abduelrahman Daif-allah, Mr. Taha Sabeit and Mr. Elnour Shebrain) and injured one. On the Hawsa side, over fifty (50) people were killed (according to Madinah – 11 residents). HUDO Centre could not confirm the number of people killed or injured on the Hawsa side because they were taken to Rabak town in White Nile State far away from Damazin.

On 28th October 2022, the deployed soldiers physically assaulted people in Ganees, shot and killed one unarmed person (Mr. Sabir Juma Hamid) of Funj tribes and injured others.

An activist in Blue Nile informed HUDO Centre that; currently, the mobilization by the two tribes for their tribe mates is going on which alarming by escalation if the government doesn't intervene timely.

HUDO Centre is very concerned about the situation of civilians in Blue Nile State and calls upon:

- Sudan government to urgently solve the tribal conflict and the insecurity in Blue Nile State.
- Sudan government to ensure that there is rule of law, safety of people and their property.
- The security committee in Blue Nile State should be held to account.
- Sudan government to disarm people with unlicensed firearms.
- The national, international organizations and UN agencies to urgently deliver aid to the victims.



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More information

Blue Nile State is one of the warring states in Sudan. As a result of Juba peace agreement, since 2021, the state governor of Blue Nile has been from Sudan People Liberation Movement –North (SPLM-N) Malik Agar faction. Funj tribe consists of many indigenous groups/ tribes like Barta, Ragareek, Maban, Dowala, Kadal, Gomuz, Hamaj and others. Hawsa tribe is a tribe emigrated from West Africa to Sudan since centuries.

Those mentioned Madinahs are in south Damazin and Roseries towns along the shores of the Blue Nile;

- A. Madinahs 1 to 7 at the eastern shore of the Blue Nile within Wad-Elmahi locality (**note:** Madinah – 4 is also called Wad-Elmahi and it's the capital of Wad-Elmahi locality while Madinah – 7 is named Umdarfa and Madinah – 6 is called Khor-Elganaa or Abu-Shandi).
- B. Madinah 8 to 12 at the western shore of the Blue Nile within Guisan locality.

The current conflict escalation was triggered by a dispute between two girls from the two groups.

Remarkably, Wad-Elmahi locality governor spoke publicly on a radiotalk show that, *“he was surprised by the withdraw of the security police points in which the decision was taken by the state level without consulting him”*.

Note: the security police points were distributed in many parts of these Madinahs immediately after the eruption of the conflict between the two tribes in July 2022 to provide security stability.

The state ministry of health together with the activists estimated the number of displaced people to be around sixty six thousand (66000) persons. The IDPs were distributed between four localities' cities and villages (Damazin, Roseries, Bau and Guisan localities), where the IDPs are distributed in the schools of these cities, such as:

- Damazin Schools; Elheejra, Elradeef, Elgisim, Elausba and Markaz Elfaid.
- Roseries schools; Abu-Lekailek, Amara Dunkus and Hanem Riziq.
- Ganees schools; Ganees Sharq, Elmukhtar, Ajeeb Elmanjuluk and Nuseiba

The tension still exists.

The affected rights: Right to life and safety; rule of law

- Articles (44 & 48) Sudan Transition Constitutional Document 2019
- Articles (6 & 26) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights together with articles (3 & 7) in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights