

Sudan country conditions

-given to asylum officers
in January 2020

SUDAN



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

OUTLINE

➤ OVERVIEW OF SUDAN

- Regional Administrations
- General Info (Ethnic Groups, Religion)
- Government of Sudan (Structure, Parties, Security)

➤ CURRENT CONFLICT

- Darfur
- Case Specific Issues

➤ RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

CASE PROFILES

- **Gender:** Male
- **Region:** Darfur
- **Non-Arab Darfuri:** Zaghawa, Masalit, Fur
- **Issues:** Janjaweed, Rapid Support Forces, displacement camp insecurity, harassment in Khartoum, Umma Party (one case)
- **Timeline:** 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

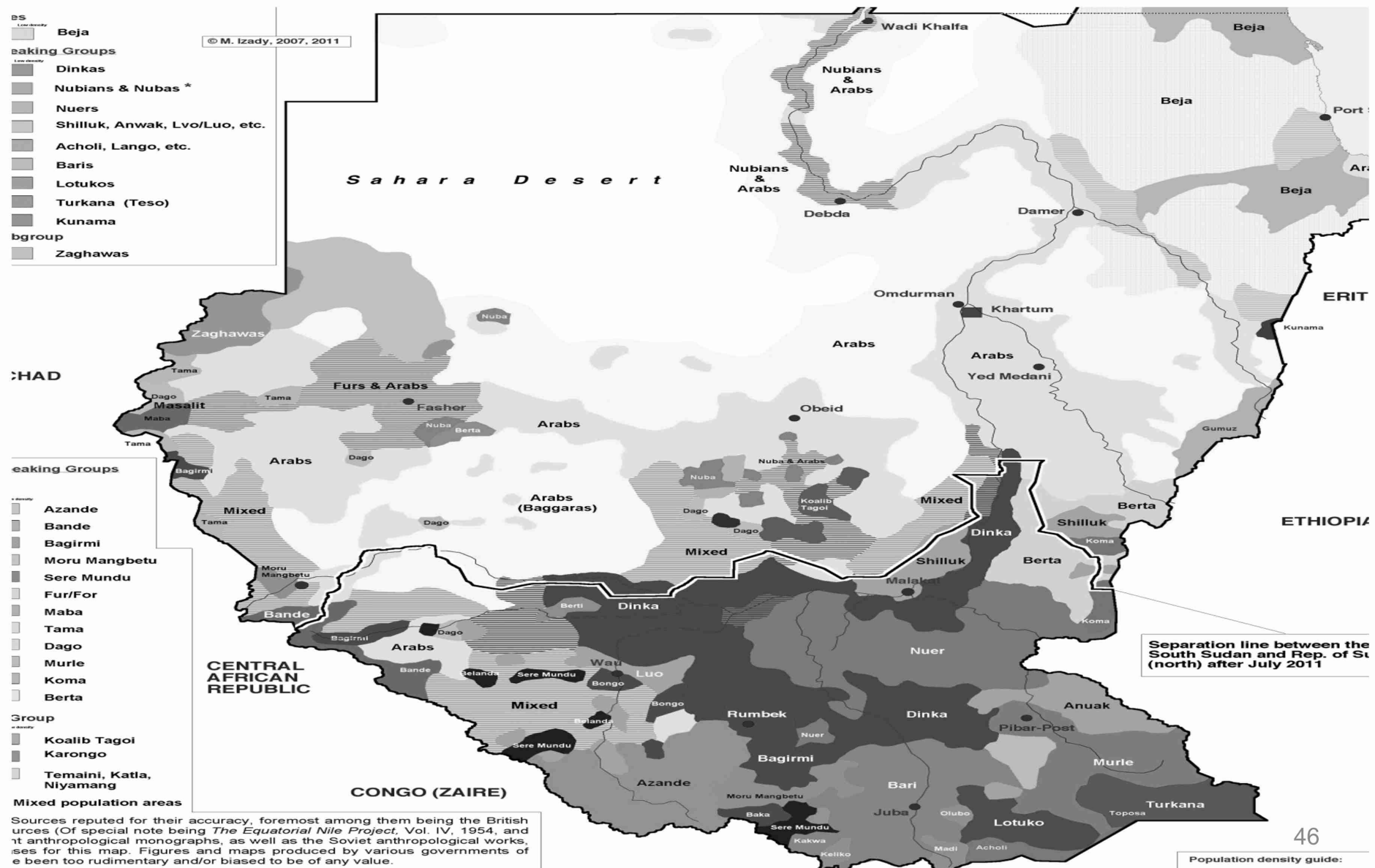
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS



GENERAL INFORMATION

- Military Service: compulsory between 18-30/33
 - Generally 24 months
- Judiciary: Sharia law
 - Each region: Court of Appeal, Supreme Court
 - Constitutional Court: established in 1998
- Marriage: Muslim Personal Law Act of Sudan
 - Polygamy is legal

RELIGION, ETHNIC GROUPS, LANGUAGE



GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN (GOS)

- National Congress Party (NCP)
 - Sudan's former ruling party
- Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir
 - In power since 1996
 - April 2019: removed from power by military
- Transitional Military Council vs. Civilian-led Council
 - April 2019: Mohamed Hamdan Daglo (aka Hemetti)
 - Rapid Support Force



Sudan Ousted a Brutal Dictator. His Successor Was His Enforcer The New York Times, June 2019

GOS: ARMED FORCES

- Sudan Armed Forces (SAF): formal and paramilitary/informal structures
- Formal
 - Army, Navy and Air Force
- Informal
 - Parallel to the regular armed forces



GOS: SECURITY FORCES

➤ National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS)

- Present in the North and Darfur
- Central Reserve Police
- Border Intelligence Force
- Rapid Support Force



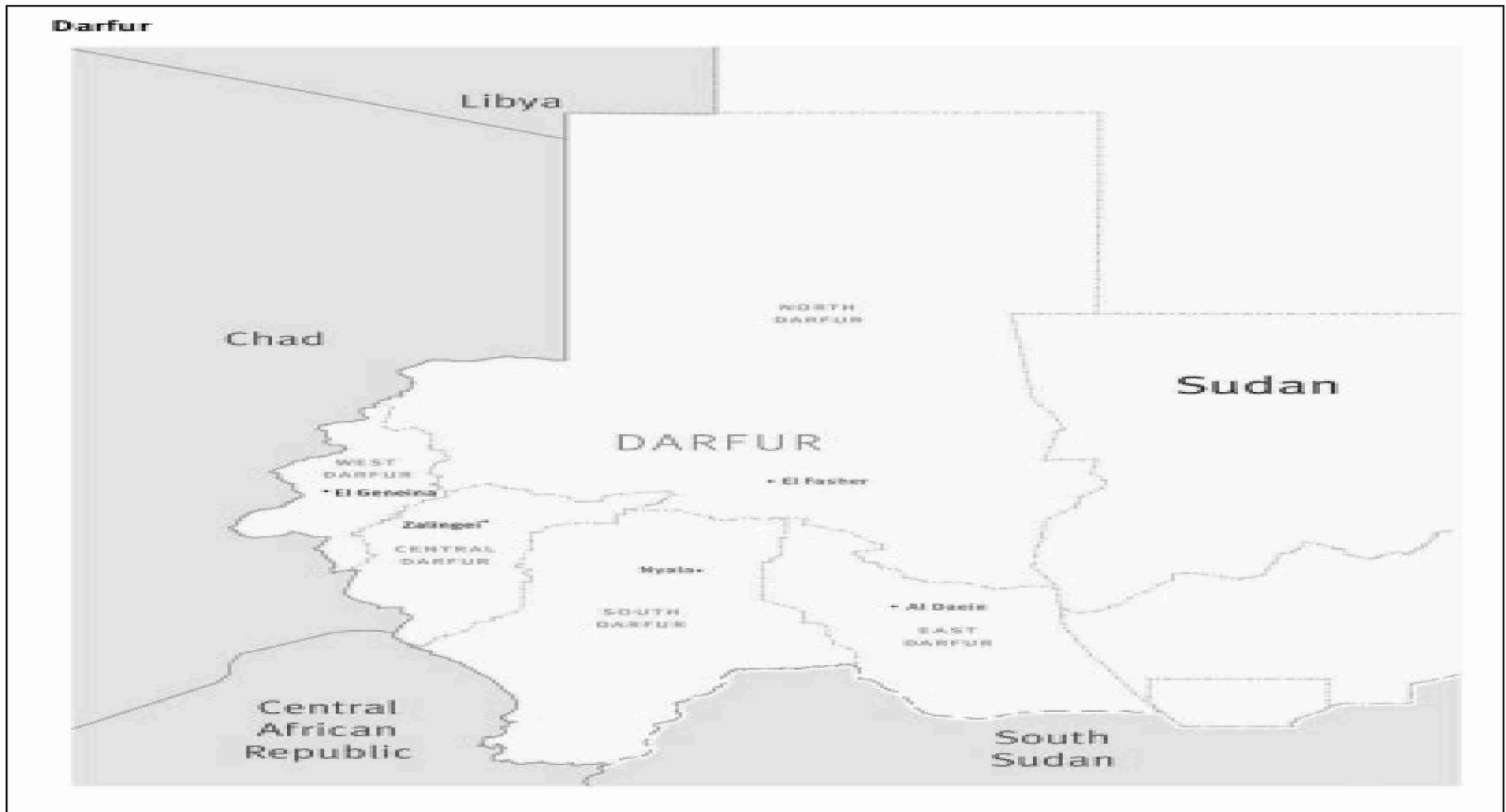
➤ 2010 National Security Act

**The Rapid Support Forces And the
Escalation of Violence in Sudan, ACLED,**
July 2019

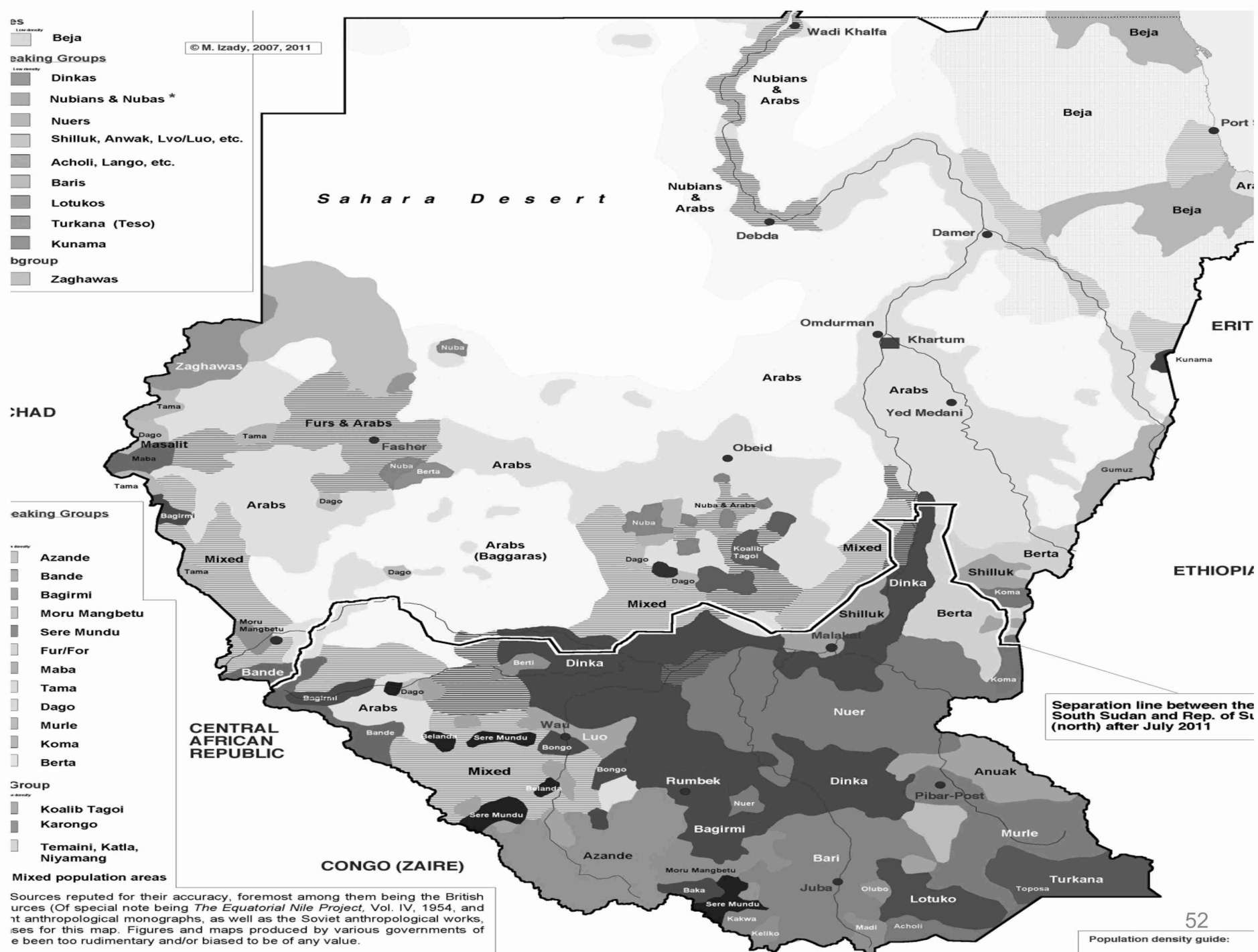


CURRENT CONFLICTS

DARFUR

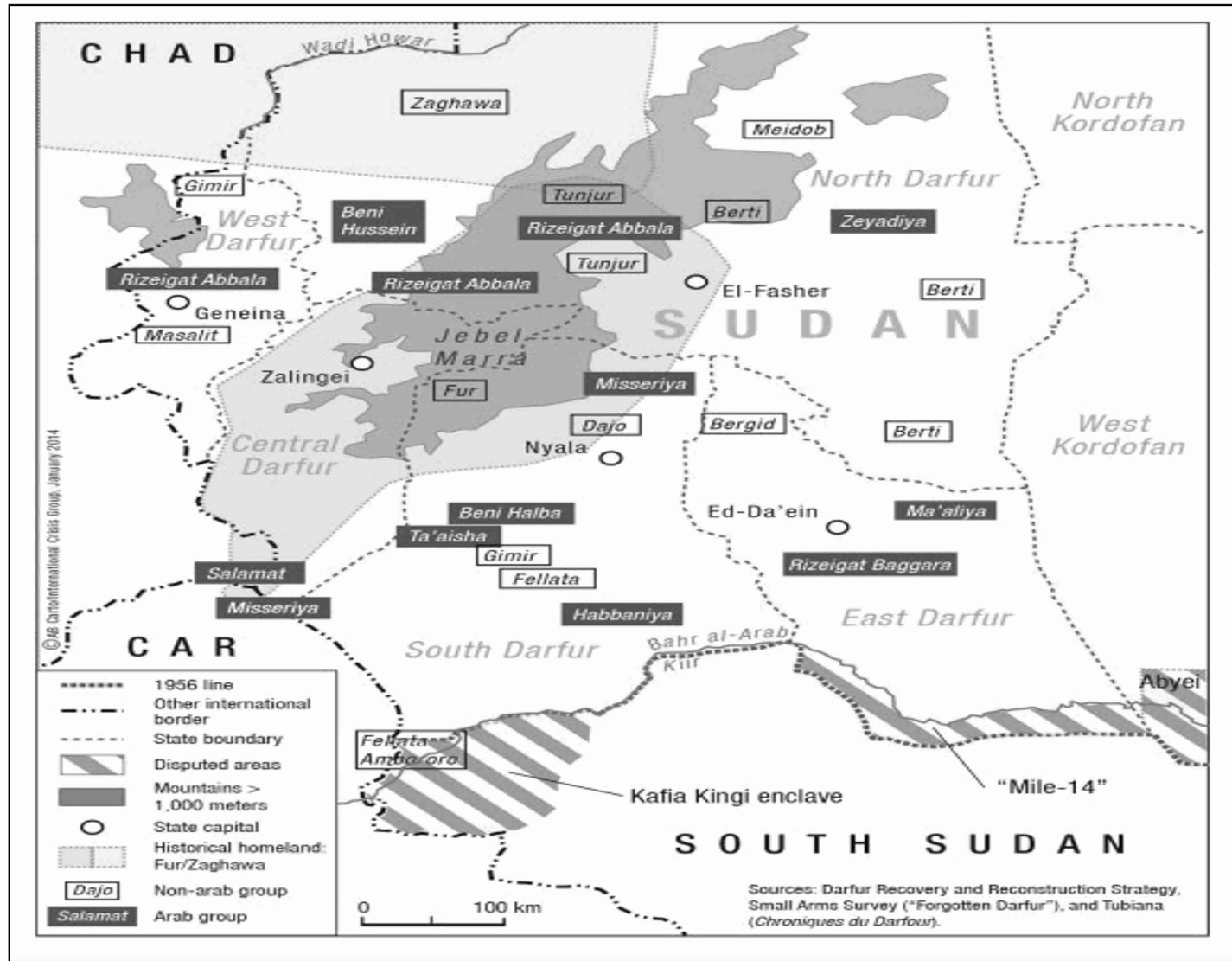


Updated Map of Darfur includes the states of Eastern and Central Darfur (Both states were added in 2012)



DARFUR: NON-ARAB ETHNIC GROUPS

- Fur
- Berti
- Massalit/
Masalit
- Zaghawa



Resource:

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DARFUR: CONFLICT

➤ Began in February 2003

- The Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) challenged the NCP

➤ Ethnic Groups

- Fur, Masalit, and Zaghawa (non-Arab) but not limited to these specific Darfuri ethnic groups

➤ Political power and resources

- Land rights
- Policy of discrimination and marginalization

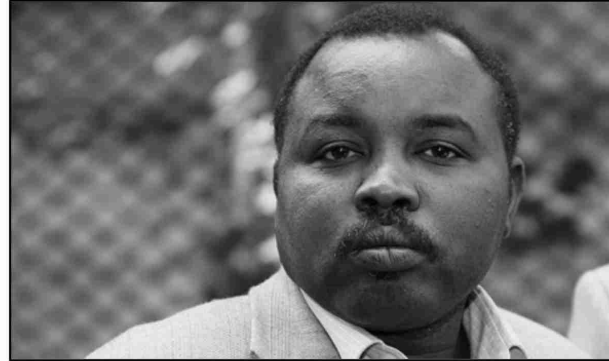
DARFUR: KEY OPPOSITION GROUPS

➤ Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A)

- Minni Minnawi Faction (SLM/A-Minni Minnawi)
- Abdul Wahid Faction (SLM/A-Abdul Wahid)

➤ The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)

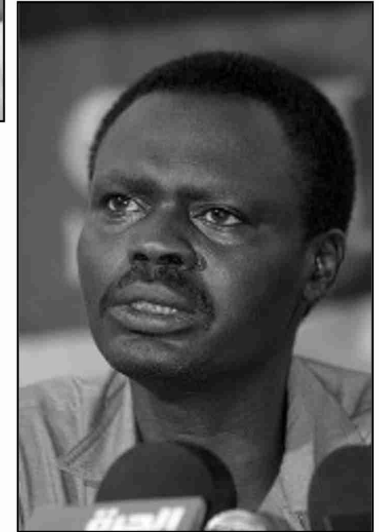
➤ Sometimes called the “Tora Bora “



Sulimar Arcura Minnawi.



Jibril Ibrahim



Abdul Wahid Mohamed al Nur

DARFUR: JANJAWEED



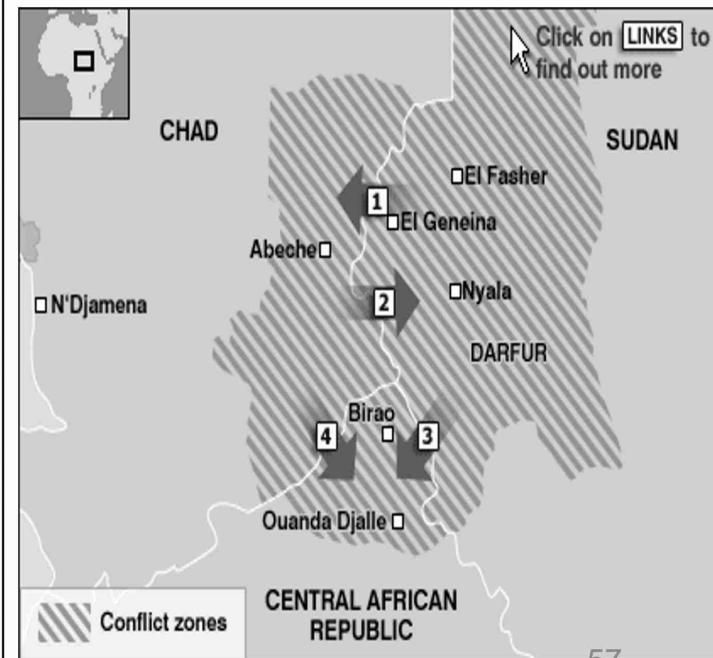
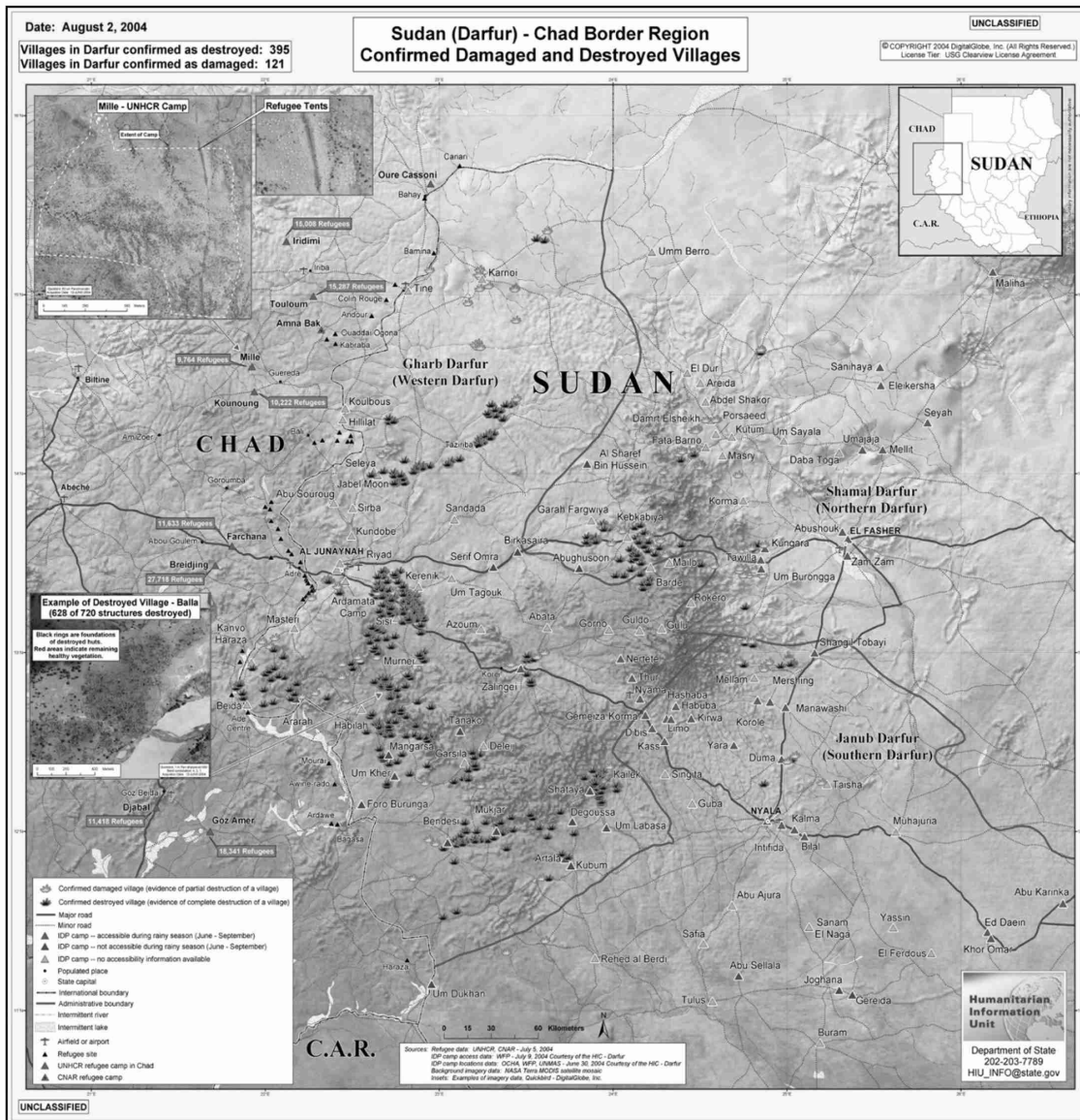
➤ Janjaweed (Janjawid, Janjawad, Jingaweit, Jinjaweed):

- Mid-1980s: GOS “arm Arab militias” against Southern Sudanese rebellion
- Darfuri leaders link the Janjaweed to a manifesto called the *Quresh*
- Coordinated with SAF, Popular Defense Force (PDF) (2010) & Air Force



Beyond ‘Janjaweed:
Understanding the Militia of
Darfur, Small Arms Survey, 2009

JANJAWEEED – CONT'D



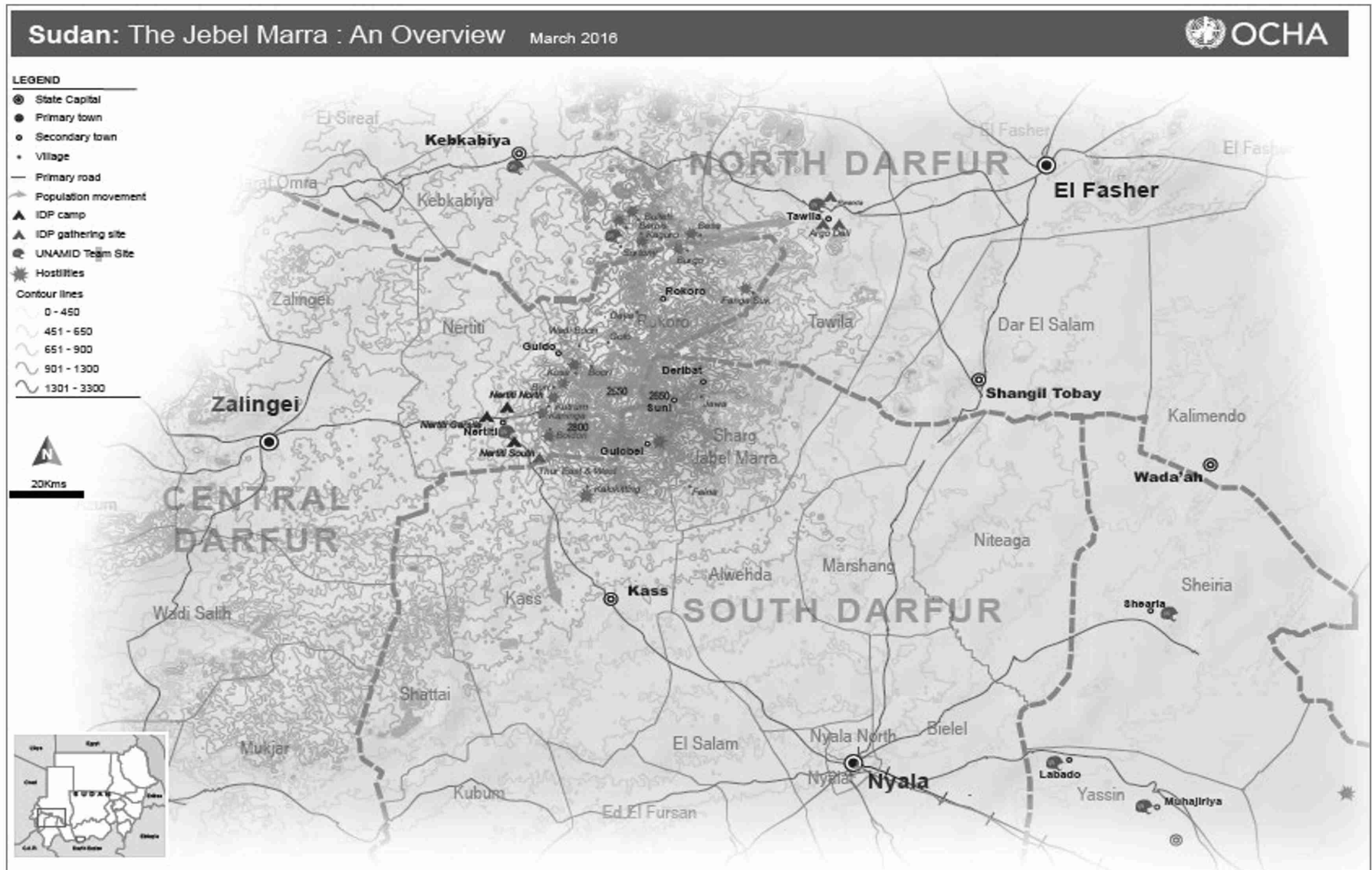
TIMELINE OF REGIONAL FIGHTING

- 2006: increased violence e.g. Gereida (South Darfur), Shearia and Jebel Marra areas
- 2008-2010: intra-Arab fighting, notably between Abbala (camel-herding) and Baggara (cattle-herding) groups in South Darfur
- 2010-2011: use of PDF in Eastern Darfur
- 2016 UN Report: West Darfur - attacks on Masalit, Fur, Tama and Burgo in June 2015
- May 2017: fighting between Sudanese forces and SLA/MM and JEM in North and East Darfur
- August 2017: GOE six month disarmament campaign

JEBEL MARRA REGION

- Mid-January 2016: fighting in Jebel Marra areas
 - SAF and SLA/AW and first month - 129,000 displaced
 - Large part of these areas (Central and South Darfur) inaccessible to humanitarians since 2010
- Ceasefire: extended several times (Nov. 2018)
- April - May 2017: renewed fighting began SLA/MM, SLA/AW and Sudanese forces
- April & September 2018: clashes continue between SLM/AW and Sudanese forces
- January 2019: limited access to the UN peacekeepers

MAP OF JEBEL MARRA REGION

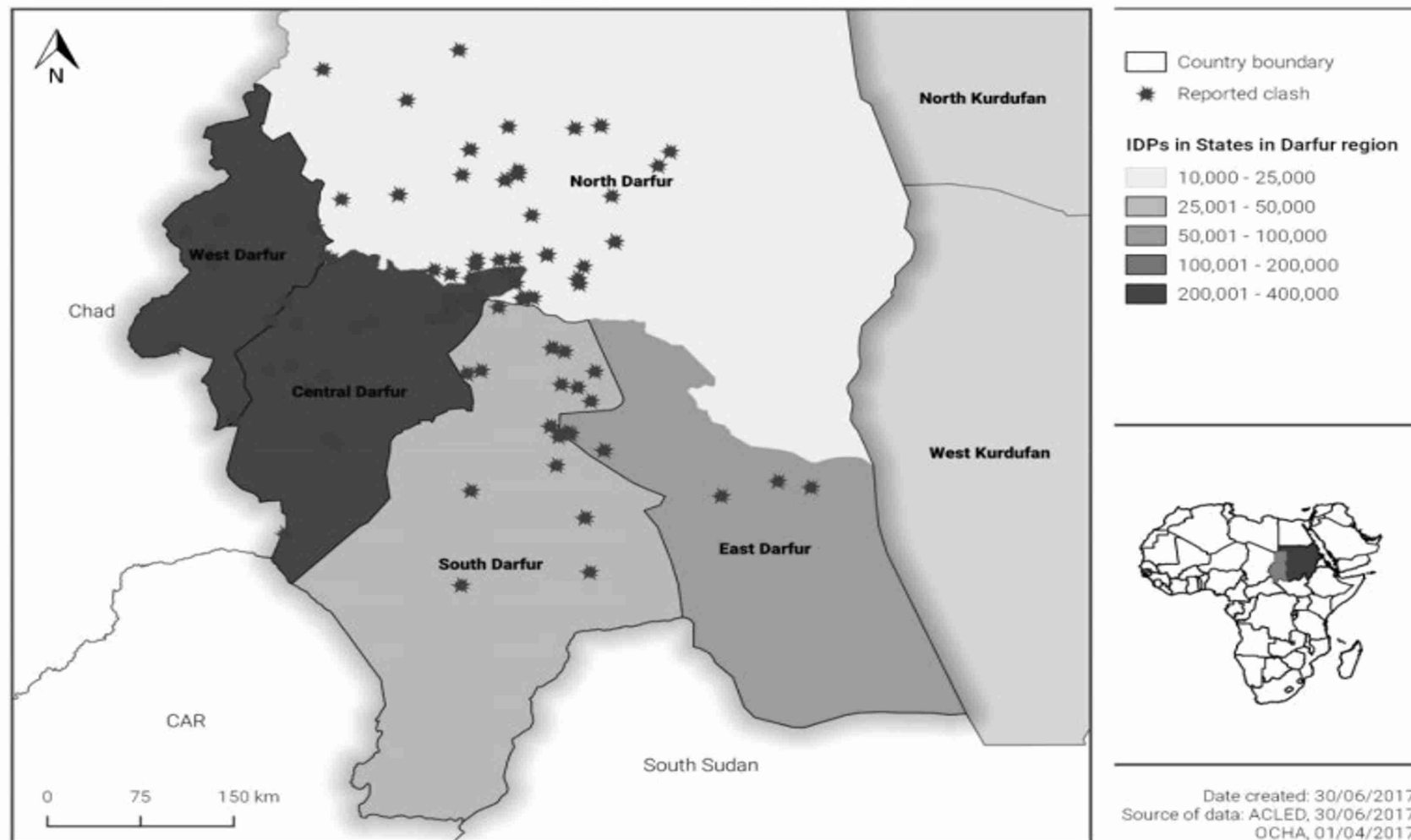


Amnesty International Report: reported use of chemical weapon (September 2016)

Map: Conflict and displacement in Darfur, Sudan 2017



Conflict and displacement in Darfur, Sudan in 2017



CURRENT STATUS

- July 2018-Feb. 2019: government forces and associated “militias” damaged & destroyed 45 villages (Amnesty International)
- March 2019: peace negotiations between of government and Darfuri opposition groups on hold
- May 2019: RSF-related violence in IDP camps in North Darfur (Human Rights Watch)
- June 2019: UNAMID reporting on inter-communal violence in Central Darfur
 - Looting and property destruction at World Vision and World Food Program sites in South Darfur

CURRENT STATUS

➤ Additional Resources

- Sudan's Transition Hasn't Ended Abuses in Darfur, Human Rights Watch, May 2019
- Darfur Country Report, Asylum Research Center, January 2020
 - North Darfur (pg. 42-47)
 - South Darfur (pg. 47-51)
 - Central Darfur (pg. 51-53)
 - West Darfur (pg. 54-57)
 - East Darfur (pg. 57-58)

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDP)

➤ IDP Camps Security Concerns

- Insecurity within IDP remains a problem (State Department 2017)
- Widespread impunity a major challenge (UN Secretary General July 2016)

➤ IDP Camp Insecurity: some examples

- UN Independent Expert states “security situation and protection of human rights, especially of (IDPs) remained fragile in Darfur (June 2019)
- Tensions in IDPs camps between Fur and Ben Halba in Zalingei (December 2017)
- Security forces raid at Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur (August 2007)



ARBITRARY DETENTION

- Supporters or perceived supporters of SLA or JEM
 - Members of the same ethnic group or relatives of opposition groups
 - Status in the community e.g. elders
 - May 2008 attack on Omdurman City by JEM
- Role of the National Security Act 2010 and NISS
 - Detain up to four and half months without judicial review
- Reported abuses
 - Beatings (wire, sticks, pipes, butts of guns), mock executions, rape and other forms of sexual abuse

LIVING IN KHARTOUM

- Move to Khartoum: safety and access to services
 - Difficult to secure jobs, access services and education, and lived in a state of insecurity and fear
- Harassment
 - Supporters or perceived supports of opposition groups
- Lack of Access and Means
 - Darfuri markets - harassment, forced shut down or transfer of ownership

Report of fact-finding mission to Khartoum, Sudan
UK Home Office, November 2018

NATIONAL SERVICE

- National Service Law of 1992
 - Age Requirements, term, process
- Conscription in the 1990s
 - Recruitment
 - Checkpoints, mistreatment in training camps
- Popular Defense Force Act of 1989
 - Age Requirements, term, process
 - Training camp conditions
- Desertion

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

2019 PROTESTS

- Sudan Professional Association & Forces of the Declaration of Freedom and Change
 - Group of private unions, including doctors, health workers, lawyers, and other opposition groups (e.g. Umma Party)
- April - May 2019: escalation of tensions
- June 3 violence: sit-in turned violence - reportedly RSF forces opened fire on protestors
 - Burned tents, raped women, raided hospitals, shut down internet



2019 PROTESTS (cont'd)

- July 30: largest protest against the military council
- July 2019: power-sharing agreement between both parties
 - Dissolve the council and replace with joint council of military and civilian members
 - Leadership will transfer from military to civilian in 21 months
 - Independent investigation of June 3 violence
 - TMC: council did not order “crackdown
- August 2019: appointed Abdalla Hamdok - Prime Minister
 - transition period for 39 months - elections

CASELOAD: UMMMA PARTY

- Formed in 1945 as a political opposition party
- Leadership: Sadiq al-Mahdi (since 1961)
 - Mariam al-Sadiq al-Mahdi
- Bashir Years: 1986-2019
 - 1986: banned all political parties including Umma Party
 - Alliances: National Consensus Force (2010), Sudan Call (2014)
 - 2019 Protests: arrest of Mariam al-Mahdi
 - DOS 2019: Umma Party faced harassment from security agents

Umma Party Sudan COI Report, RU, December 2019

THANK YOU

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