

# TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

## SUDAN

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

### SUDAN'S DUAL-TRACK STRATEGY: RECONSTRUCTION & RE-ENGAGEMENT AMIDST CONFLICT

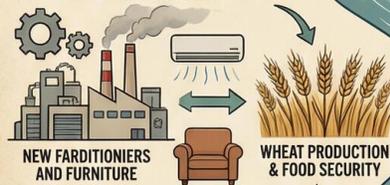
A REPORT ON MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, GOVERNANCE, AND STRATEGIC FORESIGHT - FEBRUARY 28, 2026

#### STATE-LED ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION & DIPLOMATIC RE-ENGAGEMENT



EGYPT-SUDAN STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT  
& NILE COOPERATION

#### INDUSTRIAL RESILIENCE IN KHARTOUM & RIVER NILE STATE



NEW FARDITIONIERS  
AND FURNITURE

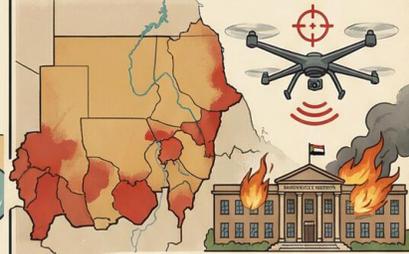
WHEAT PRODUCTION  
& FOOD SECURITY

#### PORT SUDAN LOGISTICS & RETURN OF NORMAL LIFE NARRATIVE



OPTIONAL RETURN OF  
REFUGEES FROM EGYPT

#### PERSISTENT RSF ATTRITION & REGIONAL FRICTION IN EAST AFRICA



ESCALATION OF ASYMMETRIC WARFARE &  
INFRASTRUCTURE ATTACKS (KORDOFAN, DARFUR)  
TARGETING EDUCATION, SUICIDE DRONES,  
ETHNIC MASSACRES IN GENEINA

#### REGIONAL DIPLOMATIC ESCALATION & "KENYA SCANDAL"



FAKE PASSPORTS  
FOR RSF LEADERSHIP,  
ACCUSATIONS OF  
REGIONAL CONSPIRACY

#### HUMANITARIAN CRISIS & HEALTHCARE COLLAPSE IN DARFUR (EL FASHER UNDER SIEGE)



#### KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS & LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS



**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
Pivot to Cairo-Riyadh Axis to  
counter IGAD/East Africa  
influence. Lobbying AU for  
readmission, OIC  
engagement for visibility.



**ECONOMIC SECURITY**  
Private/State efforts to  
rebuild industry.  
"Scorched earth" tactics  
by RSF. Focus on winter  
agricultural season.



**DOMESTIC STABILITY**  
"National Healing" Initiative  
& "Social Healing" as a  
buffer for political process.  
State capacity remains  
fragile.



**SECURITY ARCHITECTURE**  
Formalizing "Popular  
Resistance" & mobilizing  
tribal support. Shift  
towards a "total war"  
footing.

#### STRATEGIC FORESIGHT & RECOMMENDATIONS



**SHORT & MEDIUM TERM  
(FORESIGHT)**  
Uptick in returnees, strain on  
resources. Intensified RSF drone  
strikes. Potential AU high-level visit.  
Worsening humanitarian crisis in  
South Kordofan.



**LONG TERM  
(FORESIGHT)**  
Generational brain drain from  
attacks on academia. Hardening  
Nile Basin politics, increased  
water security tensions.



**RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS**  
**POLICY:** Monitor fake identities. AU  
conditionality on genuine dialogue.  
Prioritize medical supply to Darfur.  
**INVESTORS:** High operational risk. Supply  
chain opportunities in River Nile State.  
Regulatory caution regarding fake  
documents.

# TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

## SUDAN

FEBRUARY 28, 2026

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SUDAN NAVIGATES A DUAL-TRACK STRATEGY OF STATE-LED ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AND DIPLOMATIC RE-ENGAGEMENT WITH EGYPT WHILE FACING PERSISTENT RSF ATTRITION IN THE PERIPHERIES AND REGIONAL FRICTION IN EAST AFRICA.

### DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

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February 28, 2026, was characterized by a concerted effort by the Sudanese transitional government to project an image of resilience and returning stability, centered on the Prime Minister's high-profile return from Egypt and the reopening of industrial facilities in Khartoum. The Prime Minister's press conference at Khartoum Airport aimed to solidify the "strategic and pivotal" relationship with Cairo, specifically addressing the status of the millions of Sudanese refugees in Egypt and clarifying that [forced return concepts](#) do not exist in the bilateral agreement. Instead, the focus is on "voluntary and optional return" supported by new administrative mechanisms. This diplomatic outreach is a clear attempt to bypass regional isolation and secure a reliable northern ally as Sudan continues to lobby the

African Union (AU) for the lifting of its suspension.

However, this narrative of normalization is sharply contested by reports of extreme violence and infrastructure targeting in Kordofan and Darfur. The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have reportedly transitioned to a strategy of "demographic clearing," targeting educational institutions such as Kordofan University and [destroying the resources hall](#) in North Kordofan. In Darfur, the situation remains dire, with surgical teams in El Fasher operating under siege conditions, reportedly facing [120 to 140 shells](#) per day. The government is leveraging these atrocities in international forums, such as the OIC and AU, to push for the designation of the RSF as a terrorist organization and to condemn regional actors, specifically Uganda and Kenya, for providing diplomatic and logistical cover to the militia.

### MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

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#### The Egypt-Sudan Strategic Alignment

- The Sudanese Prime Minister concluded a high-level visit to Cairo, meeting with President Sisi and PM Madbouly to discuss national security and [Nile water technical data](#) exchange regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).
- Agreements were reached to extend residency permits for Sudanese nationals in Egypt to six months and to facilitate the [optional return of citizens](#) via official channels.
- The Prime Minister emphasized a "Sudanese-Sudanese dialogue" as the only path to political settlement, rejecting incomplete truces or external impositions [rejecting incomplete truces](#).

## State-Led Industrial Resilience and Reconstruction

- The National Cooperative Foundation inaugurated new factories for air conditioners (Soba) and furniture (Ibex) in Khartoum to replace [infrastructure looted by militias](#).
- The Muawiya Elberier Group reported on the massive destruction of its industrial complexes in Baqair and Soba, where RSF elements reportedly [systematically looted raw materials](#) and destroyed heavy machinery.
- The government is promoting these openings as a "sign of the return of normal life" to the national capital, despite the proximity of active combat zones.

## Regional Diplomatic Escalation and the "Kenya Scandal"

- Sudanese officials issued sharp rebukes to Uganda for hosting RSF leader Hemedti, characterizing it as an [affront to the AU](#) and the Sudanese people.
- Reports emerged from the Kenyan press regarding a scandal involving the [issuance of fake passports](#) and identity documents to RSF leadership, which Sudan intends to use as evidence of regional conspiracy [regional conspiracy](#).
- Sudan's permanent representative to the AU, Ambassador Zein Ibrahim, called for the [terrorist designation of the RSF](#) during sessions in Addis Ababa.

## Escalation of Asymmetric Warfare and Infrastructure Attacks

- The RSF has intensified the use of "suicide drones" and strategic UAVs against civilian targets in North Kordofan, South Kordofan, and the Blue Nile region [suicide drone attacks](#).
- Sultan Saad Bahreldin of the Masalit provided testimony to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva regarding [unprecedented ethnic massacres](#) in Geneina, aiming to build a case for international intervention or criminal prosecution.

## KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

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**International Relations & Geopolitical Power Dynamics** Sudan is aggressively pivotally toward a Cairo-Riyadh-Khartoum axis to counter East African influence (IGAD/Kenya/Uganda) perceived as pro-RSF. The Prime Minister's visit to Egypt was not merely about refugees but about [reaffirming Nile water rights](#) and seeking a veteran diplomatic heavyweight to sponsor its return to the African Union. The Sudanese delegation also attended an extraordinary OIC meeting in Jeddah to discuss Palestinian issues, primarily as a vehicle to maintain [visibility in the Islamic bloc](#) and seek solidarity for its domestic conflict.

**Economic Security & Critical Infrastructure** The destruction of the Muawiya Elberier industrial sites in Soba highlights the "scorched earth" economic tactics of the RSF. Private sector leaders and state cooperatives are attempting to rebuild [industrial capacity for detergents](#) and essential goods to mitigate the severe supply chain shocks caused by the war. The government is also focusing on the "winter

agricultural season" in River Nile State, claiming success in planting [65,000 acres of wheat](#) to ensure food security.

**Domestic Stability & Social Order** The "National Healing" (Istishfa' al-Watani) initiative was launched, aimed at "mending the social fabric" and preparing for [post-war reconciliation](#). This governance tool appears intended to manage the transition from military to civilian order once the conflict subsides. However, the reality on the ground in Darfur, where surgeons operate [by mobile phone flashlights](#) due to total grid collapse, suggests that state capacity remains extremely localized and fragile.

**Security Architecture** The government is increasingly formalizing the role of "Popular Resistance" and tribal "Hakkamas" (women traditional singers/poets) in the security architecture [mobilizing traditional support](#). This reflects a shift toward a "total war" footing where civilian populations are integrated into the defense of provincial capitals like El Fasher and El Obeid.

## LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

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Governance activity focused on administrative decrees and bilateral protocols rather than formal parliamentary legislation, given the transitional state and ongoing conflict.

### BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **The Egypt-Sudan Residency Protocol:** Not a bill, but a formal diplomatic agreement extending the residency period for Sudanese in Egypt to [six months](#) and standardizing "voluntary return" procedures.

- **The 19-Point Roadblock Regulation:** A technical committee in River Nile State moved to abolish [illegal collection points](#) and roadblocks to facilitate the flow of goods, excepting essential tax and Zakat checkpoints.

## HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Prime Minister's Post-Egypt Briefing:** Held at Khartoum Airport, detailing the [outcomes of the Cairo visit](#), Nile water negotiations, and the status of the Sudanese diaspora.
- **AU Peace and Security Council Consultations:** Ambassador Zein Ibrahim presented evidence of RSF attacks on [Mistariha and Al-Tina](#) and lobbied for the AU to visit Khartoum.
- **OIC Extraordinary Meeting (Jeddah):** Sudan's representative, Dafallah al-Haj Ali, addressed [Israeli settlement expansion](#) while using the platform to seek support for Sudan's territorial integrity.

## DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

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**State Narcissism and the "Projected Normalcy" Narrative** There is a profound disconnect between the "Dignity" programs broadcasting [nationalistic poetry and song](#) and the tactical reality of Darfur and Kordofan. The state is utilizing media to construct a reality where the war is essentially won and "reconstruction" has begun [opening of new factories](#), even as major cities remain under siege. This suggests an information operation aimed at convincing the diaspora to return and investors to maintain interest, while masking the severity of the humanitarian crisis in the west.

**The Transformation of Regional Conflict into Diplomatic "Lawfare"** Sudan is no longer just fighting on the ground; it is engaging in sophisticated legal and diplomatic warfare. The focus on [fake Kenyan passports](#) and Ugandan diplomatic breaches is designed to create a "dossier of conspiracy" that can be used at the UN and AU to delegitimize any peace process brokered by IGAD. By shifting the blame to regional actors and "evil mini-states" (referring to the UAE/Abu Dhabi), the Sudanese government is attempting to frame its domestic war as an [external invasion](#).

**The "Social Healing" Buffer** The repeated mention of "Social Healing" and "istishfa' al-watani" [social healing initiatives](#) suggests that the government is aware of the massive trauma and ethnic polarization caused by the war. This theme is being used as a prerequisite for elections, essentially moving the goalposts for a return to civilian rule by stating that "social recovery" must precede the [political process](#).

## **STRATEGIC FORESIGHT**

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### **Short Term (1-4 Weeks)**

- Expect an uptick in returnee numbers from Egypt as the "optional return" mechanisms are publicized, which may strain resources in "safe" zones like River Nile State and Port Sudan.
- Intensified RSF drone strikes on provincial airports and infrastructure [North Kordofan drone strikes](#) as the militia attempts to disrupt the narrative of "returning normalcy."

### **Medium Term (1-6 Months)**

- A significant diplomatic push to lift the AU suspension is likely to gain momentum with Egyptian and Saudi backing, potentially leading to a [high-level AU visit](#) to Khartoum.
- The humanitarian crisis in South Kordofan (Kadugli/Dilling) will likely deteriorate further unless the "broken siege" mentioned in transcripts leads to [consistent aid corridors](#).

### **Long Term (1-5 Years)**

- The systematic destruction of universities [targeting academia](#) will result in a generational "brain drain" and a severe shortage of skilled professionals, necessitating a long-term dependence on foreign technical assistance for reconstruction.
- Structural changes to the Nile Basin politics: Sudan's intensified [coordination with Egypt](#) on GERD will likely harden the bloc against Ethiopia, potentially leading to increased regional tensions over water security.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS**

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### **For International Policy:**

- **Security:** Monitoring the [proliferation of identity documents](#) (passports) is critical, as the "Kenya scandal" suggests RSF leadership could easily evade sanctions and travel internationally under aliases.

- **Diplomatic:** The AU should condition any lifting of suspension on a verifiable [national dialogue](#) that includes genuine civilian representation, rather than just state-vetted "symbols of society."
- **Humanitarian:** Priority must be given to [medical supply chains](#) to Darfur, specifically El Fasher, where surgeons are utilizing "mosquito nets" as substitutes for surgical gauze.

#### **For Private Sector/Investors:**

- **Risk:** The "reopening" of factories in Khartoum carries high operational risk; any shift in the frontline could lead to the [total loss of newly installed capital](#).
- **Supply Chain:** The wheat production in River Nile State [presents an opportunity](#) for logistics and processing firms, provided the government maintains control over the transit routes to Port Sudan.
- **Regulatory:** Investors should be wary of "fake passports" and KYC (Know Your Customer) challenges in the region, given the reported [corruption in immigration departments](#) in neighboring states.

## **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

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**Today's Media Trends** is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching

trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

### **No data is used to train or tune any AI model.**

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

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