

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

SUDAN

MARCH 2, 2026

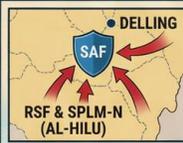
THE G D E L T P R O J E C T

SUDAN: RESILIENCE, REGIONAL REALIGNMENT & THE "NORMALIZATION" NARRATIVE

An Integrated Report on Military, Diplomatic, and Civil Dynamics (March 2, 2026)

THE STRATEGIC PIVOT: DUAL CAMPAIGN

MILITARY RESILIENCE (SOUTH KORDOFAN)



SAF Repels Triple-Axis Assault. Signals Superior Positioning & RSF Coordination Failure. Secure Border Areas.



KHARTOUM "NORMALIZATION" NARRATIVE



HALFAYA BRIDGE REPAIR

Reconstruction, Civil Cleaning ("Son of Loyal Homeland"), Police Resumption ("Saheroon"). Psychological Shift from Survival to Duty.



RETURN TO KHARTOUM CAMPAIGN

STRATEGIC BALANCE

REGIONAL DIPLOMATIC & LEGAL SHIFT



DOMESTIC STABILITY & HYBRID GOVERNANCE

POPULAR RESISTANCE & TRIBAL ROLE



Integrating "Popular Resistance" & "Native Administration" (Tribal) for Order. Secures Immediate Stability, Risks Long-Term Militarization.

ECONOMIC & INFRASTRUCTURE IMPACT



RED SEA SHIPPING RISKS

22% ENERGY PRICE INCREASE



FOOD SECURITY FOCUS (Sennar, River Nile) Agricultural Resilience Amidst War.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT & TRENDS



SHORT TERM (1-4 Weeks):
Major SAF Offensive (Bahri/Khartoum North). "Return" Rhetoric Surge. RSF Desperation Attacks.



MEDIUM TERM (1-6 Months):
RSF Isolation via Red Notices. Khartoum Rebuilding (Turkey/Qatar). Vulnerable Repairs.



LONG TERM (1-5 Years):
Militarized Society, Entrenched Popular/Tribal Militias. Potential "Securocrat" State, Hindering Democracy.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS



INTERNATIONAL POLICY:

- Monitor Civilian Militia Integration (DDR Hurdles).
- Adjust Mediation for Arab/Regional Players.
- Neutral Oversight for "Lawfare" (Interpol).



PRIVATE SECTOR / INVESTORS:

- Reconstruction Opportunities (Khartoum Infrastructure, Turkish/Qatari Backing).
- High Supply Chain Risks (Red Sea).
- Stable Investments in Agriculture (Sennar, River Nile) for Food Security.

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SUDAN ASSERTS MILITARY
RESILIENCE IN SOUTH KORDOFAN
WHILE LEVERAGING REGIONAL
TENSIONS TO SOLIDIFY ARAB
ALLIANCES

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

March 2, 2026, marked a significant pivot for the Sudanese state as it attempted to balance high-intensity combat operations in the peripheries with an aggressive "normalization" narrative in the capital. The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) successfully repelled a massive, coordinated assault on Delling in South Kordofan, purportedly carried out by a tactical alliance between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the SPLM-N (Al-Hilu faction). This victory is being messaged as proof of the SAF's superior strategic positioning after breaking the siege of the city earlier this year. Simultaneously, the state is heavily promoting the "Return to Khartoum" campaign, showcasing civil cleaning initiatives, the resumption of police services, and the repair of critical infrastructure like the Halfaya Bridge to encourage displaced citizens to return during the Ramadan season.

Diplomatically, the Sovereignty Council is capitalizing on regional instability to redefine its international standing. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan's outreach to Jordan, Qatar, and Oman—framed as solidarity against "Iranian aggression"—suggests a strategic alignment with the Arab bloc to isolate the RSF's alleged regional backers. This shift is accompanied by a heightened focus on international legal warfare, highlighted by the issuance of Interpol Red Notices for RSF leaders. However, the domestic situation remains fragile, with the state increasingly relying on "Popular Resistance" groups and tribal "Native Administration" to maintain order, a move that secures immediate stability but creates long-term risks regarding the centralization of state power and the proliferation of armed civilian actors.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **High-Intensity Conflict in South Kordofan**
 - The SAF repelled a [triple-axis attack](#) on the defenses of Delling, involving forces from the RSF and the SPLM-N Al-Hilu faction.
 - Military analysts claim the failure of this attack demonstrates a [loss of leadership and coordination](#) within the RSF/rebel ranks, particularly after the SAF successfully opened the road between Delling and Kadugli.
 - The 4th Infantry Division in the Blue Nile region reported successes in clearing pockets of resistance and securing [sensitive border areas](#).

• Khartoum Normalization and Reconstruction

- The "Son of the Loyal Homeland" initiative has launched massive [cleaning and demining](#) operations in Omdurman and Khartoum to facilitate the voluntary return of citizens.
- The strategic [Halfaya Bridge](#) is undergoing repairs after sustaining damage during the conflict, as it serves as a vital artery for the SAF's control over Northern Khartoum and Bahri.
- The Ministry of Interior has officially resumed operations from Khartoum, re-launching the ["Saheroon" security program](#) to improve the "mental image" of the police and restore public trust.

• Regional Diplomatic Realignment

- Sudanese leadership held high-level calls with [Jordan, Qatar, and Oman](#), declaring full solidarity against Iranian interference, a move intended to integrate Sudan into the broader Arab security architecture.
- Turkey has signaled its intent to lead the [reconstruction of the Republican Palace](#) and other historic sites in Khartoum, marking a deepening of the Ankara-Khartoum bilateral ties.

• Legal and Civil Mobilization

- Interpol has issued a [Red Notice](#) for RSF leader Abdelrahim Dagalo, a major development in the state's efforts to criminalize the militia leadership globally.
- The "Popular Resistance" continues to expand, with new conferences in [Abyei and other regions](#) focusing on youth recruitment and tribal support for the "Battle of Dignity."

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

International Relations & Foreign Policy

Sudan is pivoting toward a "solidarity" doctrine with Arab monarchies. By condemning "Iranian aggression" against Jordan and Qatar, the Sovereignty Council is positioning itself as a [bulwark of regional stability](#), likely seeking to leverage this for military and financial support. This alignment is a direct counter to the RSF's perceived international support networks.

- Sudan's participation in [UN Security Council sessions](#) is being used to present data on external interference and war crimes.

Domestic Stability & Social Order

Ramadan is being used as a governance tool to project stability. State-sponsored "Iftar" events, such as [General Burhan's public appearances](#) with police forces, aim to demonstrate that the leadership is present and the security forces are cohesive. However, the reliance on the "Native Administration" (tribal leaders) to mediate [internal disputes and blood feuds](#) highlights the limits of formal state judicial capacity in the current environment.

Economic Security & Critical Infrastructure

The conflict in the Red Sea is having a direct impact on the Sudanese economy, with reports indicating a [22% increase in energy prices](#) due to shipping and insurance risks. Internally, the state is focusing on agricultural resilience in regions like [Sennar and River Nile](#), aiming to secure the food supply chain despite the war.

National Security & Security Architecture

The integration of civilian "Popular Resistance" into the military framework is accelerating. While this provides a surge in

manpower, the [recruitment of youth](#) from disputed areas like Abyei indicates a broadening of the conflict's social base, which may complicate future disarmament and demobilization efforts.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Governance activity focused on administrative decrees and the reactivation of existing legal frameworks to manage the transition back to urban centers. The Ministry of Interior is prioritizing the re-establishment of civil registries and traffic laws in liberated areas.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**
 - **Tribal Mediation Protocols (Al-Qala):** Discussion on formalizing the [role of Omdas and Sheikhs](#) in judicial processes to resolve conflicts without relying on the strained federal court system.
- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**
 - **Popular Resistance Conference:** A major event held to coordinate the [mobilization of Abyei youth](#) and formalize their role in the national defense strategy.
 - **Interior Ministry Press Briefing:** Announcement of the return of police services to [Khartoum and Omdurman](#) and the launch of the "Saheroon" media initiative.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The "Normalization" Narrative as a Strategic Weapon The state is deploying a sophisticated media campaign to convince the public and the international community that the war is entering its final phase. By focusing on [cleaning streets with "Dettol"](#) and

repairing bridges, the SAF is attempting to shift the public mindset from survival to reconstruction. This serves two purposes: it undermines RSF claims of control over the capital and creates a psychological environment where the "Return to Khartoum" becomes a patriotic duty. However, the reality of [unfolding battles in South Kordofan](#) suggests that this normalization is geographically uneven and highly fragile.

Strategic Convergence of State and Tribal Governance A recurring theme across the transcripts is the rehabilitation of the "Native Administration." Tribal leaders are being called upon not just for recruitment, but as the [primary arbiters of justice](#) and social order. This suggests that the central state is unable to function without these traditional power brokers, leading to a hybrid governance model where the rule of law is superseded by tribal custom (A'raf) to prevent [internal social collapse](#). While effective for immediate stabilization, this trend risks further fragmenting Sudanese national identity.

The Geopolitical Pivot Toward the Arab Bloc Sudan's vocal condemnation of Iran is a calculated move. By siding with Jordan and Qatar in their disputes with Tehran, the Sovereignty Council is [buying into the Arab security umbrella](#). This is a stark reversal of previous eras of Sudanese foreign policy and indicates that the current leadership sees its survival as inextricably linked to the anti-Iran, pro-stability axis of the Middle East. This alignment likely aims to secure advanced military hardware and diplomatic protection at the UN.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a continued surge in "return" rhetoric as Ramadan progresses. The SAF will likely launch a major offensive in Bahri or Khartoum North, utilizing the newly repaired [Halfaya Bridge](#) to consolidate control. In the peripheries, the RSF may attempt "desperation attacks" on soft targets to counter the narrative of their declining leadership.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The issuance of [Interpol Red Notices](#) will begin to restrict the movements of RSF leadership, potentially forcing them into more isolated or radicalized positions. Rebuilding efforts in Khartoum, backed by Turkey and potentially Qatar, will move from cleaning to structural repairs, though these will be vulnerable to sporadic shelling or guerrilla-style attacks.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Sudan is moving toward a highly militarized society where the "Popular Resistance" and tribal militias are entrenched in the social fabric. The [lack of partisan politics](#) in tribal administration, while touted as a stabilizing factor now, may prevent the development of a modern, democratic political system, leading to a long-term "securocrat" state modeled after regional neighbors.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- The international community should monitor the [integration of civilian militias](#) into the state military, as this creates significant hurdles for future peace negotiations and DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration) programs.
- The pivot toward Arab security alliances suggests that traditional Western mediation efforts may lose relevance unless they account for the interests of [regional players like Jordan and Turkey](#).
- The use of [international legal mechanisms](#) (Interpol) by the Sudanese state indicates a shift toward "lawfare" that will require neutral international oversight to ensure it is not used purely for political purging.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Investment opportunities are emerging in the [reconstruction of Khartoum's infrastructure](#), particularly for firms specializing in civil engineering, demining, and urban planning, likely backed by Turkish or Qatari capital.
- Supply chain risks remain high due to the [instability in Red Sea shipping](#) and the resulting spike in energy and insurance costs.
- Agricultural projects in Sennar and River Nile states represent the most [stable investment options](#) currently, as the state is prioritizing food security and export capacity (e.g., mangoes and livestock) to sustain the economy during the conflict.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

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.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

For questions or suggestions, please contact kalev.leetaru5@gmail.com. You can also learn more about the GDEL T Project at <https://blog.gdel tproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.