

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

SUDAN

MARCH 10, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

SUDAN STRATEGIC BRIEF: REGIONAL ALIGNMENT & RECONSTRUCTION AMIDST RSF FRAGMENTATION

MARCH 10, 2026: MILITARY SHIFTS, GEOPOLITICAL PIVOT, & SYSTEMIC RISKS

RSF FRAGMENTATION & SURRENDERS (KORDOFAN & BLUE NILE)



ACCELERATING COLLAPSE:

- Internal RSF "Class Stratification" & Tribal Favoritism (Dagalo vs. Periphery) lead to Mass Surrenders to SAF 5th Division (Hajana) and defections from Joseph Touka Faction.
- "Identity Crisis" & Resource Denial.

GEOPOLITICAL ALIGNMENT: SUDAN & TURKEY AXIS



DECISIVE MOVE TOWARD TURKEY-SUNNI ARAB AXIS.

- Chairman Al-Burhan condemns Iranian "aggression".
- Alignment for Military & Technical Support.
- Distancing from Iran (destabilizing force).
- Solidarity amidst US-Israel-Iran Conflict.

THE "BATTLE OF KARAMA": RECONSTRUCTION & CITIZEN RETURN (KHARTOUM & STABLE ZONES)



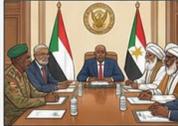
LEVERAGING MILITARY MOMENTUM:

- Focus on Urban Reconstruction & Humanitarian Stabilization.
- Higher Committee for Citizen Return: Restoring Power (High-Voltage), Water Networks, and Markets.
- Road Paving in Rabak & Port Sudan.
- Dam Rehabilitation (Roseires, Sennar, Merowe, Jebel Aulia) by Ministry of Energy.

SYSTEMIC RISKS & CRITICAL CHALLENGES

BROKEN VACCINE COLD CHAIN 	ECONOMIC VOLATILITY & FUEL SHOCKS 
CRITICAL HEALTH COLLAPSE: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Over 150+ cold storage units looted, 1 million+ doses lost.Threat of Preventable Diseases.Hepatitis B Campaign in Kosti.Federal Health focus on "Medical Localization".	REGIONAL CONFLICT IMPACT: <ul style="list-style-type: none">US-Israeli-Iranian conflict triggers "Historic Leap" in oil prices. Threatens Domestic Fuel Stability, Solar Power Transition in Agriculture (Al-Matamma) to Mitigate Costs.

GOVERNANCE & SECURITY DYNAMICS

CONSOLIDATING STATE SOVEREIGNTY 	SOCIETAL RESILIENCE & EMPOWERMENT 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leveraging tribal support in Darfur/N. Kordofan.Amnesty for defecting combatants.Electronic Surveillance (CCTV) Mandate for Markets in Khartoum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">International Women's Day: Economic Empowerment Programs in Four States."Dignity Bags" (Karama) & Long-term Social Welfare Structure.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT (TIMELINE & PROJECTIONS)

- SHORT TERM (1-4 WEEKS):**
 - Increased Citizen Convoys to Omdurman/Khartoum North.
 - RSF Drone Strikes in Civilian Areas (e.g., Kosti).
 - Rising Bread/Transport Prices.
- MEDIUM TERM (1-6 MONTHS):**
 - Major SAF Offensive toward Darfur.
 - Integration of Touka's troops.
 - Turkish investment in Energy/Dams.
- LONG TERM (1-5 YEARS):**
 - RSF Reduced to Scattered Insurgency (Darfur).
 - Reconstruction requires International Capital (Turkish/Qatari Consortiums).
 - Public Health System Collapse Risk.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS (POLICY & INVESTMENT)

FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY:

- Prioritize RESTORATION OF VACCINE COLD CHAIN.
- Monitor Rebel Integration & Human Rights.
- Engage Sovereign Council on Regional Role.

FOR PRIVATE SECTOR/INVESTORS:

- ENERGY SECTOR:** Rebuilding power grid & transformers.
- SUPPLY CHAIN:** Invest in Solar-Powered Agriculture (Hedge against volatility).
- CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:** Growing Market for asphalt, cement, engineering services (Road & Dam projects).

IMPLICATION: Sudan seeks position in Post-Conflict Regional Order, deflecting sanctions, and building sustainable infrastructure.

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SUDAN STRATEGIC BRIEF: REGIONAL ALIGNMENT AMIDST RAPID SUPPORT FORCES FRAGMENTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION

On March 10, 2026, Sudanese state narratives focused on the accelerating collapse of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) through mass surrenders in the Kordofan and Blue Nile regions, while simultaneously aligning the nation with Turkey against Iranian regional "aggression." As the "Battle of Karama" enters a phase of urban reconstruction and humanitarian stabilization, the Sovereign Council is leveraging military momentum to initiate the return of citizens to Khartoum. However, severe systemic risks remain, particularly regarding the destruction of the national medical "cold chain" and the economic volatility triggered by a burgeoning conflict between Iran and a US-Israeli coalition.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) are reporting a significant strategic shift in the interior, characterized by [increasing surrenders of RSF groups](#) in North Kordofan

and the defection of units formerly allied with Joseph Touka in the Blue Nile region. This fragmentation is being attributed to internal RSF "class stratification," where resources and pay are reportedly prioritized for those with direct kinship to the Dagalo family, leaving peripheral units undersupplied. This internal decay coincides with the first anniversary of the [liberation of the Republican Palace](#) (21 Ramadan), a date being used to solidify national identity and honor media "martyrs" who fell during the conflict.

In the geopolitical sphere, Sudan has made a decisive move toward the Turkey-Sunni Arab axis. Chairman of the Sovereign Council, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, explicitly [condemned Iranian aggression](#) against Turkey and signaled support for regional stability amidst reports of [US and Israeli strikes](#) on Iranian infrastructure. This alignment is likely an effort to secure continued Turkish military and technical support while distancing the government from Iranian influence, which is increasingly portrayed as a destabilizing force across the Arab world.

Domestically, the government is transitioning from pure combat operations to "reconstruction and development." High-level committees are now [planning the return of citizens](#) to Khartoum, focusing on the restoration of high-voltage electricity and water networks. Despite these strides, the humanitarian situation remains precarious; health officials have warned of a [collapse in the vaccine cold chain](#) due to the looting of over 150 refrigeration units, threatening a resurgence of preventable diseases even as the state launches new Hepatitis B vaccination campaigns in stable areas like White Nile.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **RSF Structural Fragmentation in Kordofan:** Analysts report that the RSF is suffering from an [internal "identity crisis"](#) and tribal favoritism that has led to mass surrenders to the SAF 5th Infantry Division (Hajana). Peripheral units are reportedly denied the advanced weaponry and logistics reserved for the Dagalo inner circle.
- **Defections from the Joseph Touka Faction:** Military leaders in the Blue Nile region welcomed [returning commanders from the Touka faction](#), citing the amnesty offered by the Commander-in-Chief as a primary driver for these desertions.
- **Khartoum Return-to-Normalcy Initiatives:** The Higher Committee for the Return of Citizens, led by Dr. Kamel Idris, has initiated [rehabilitation of power transformers](#) and water stations in the capital to facilitate the repatriation of displaced residents.
- **Sudanese-Turkish Strategic Alignment:** Al-Burhan's [phone call to President Erdogan](#) emphasized Sudan's solidarity with Turkey following Iranian attacks, marking a significant pivot in Sudan's foreign policy during the current Middle East crisis.
- **Economic Impact of Regional Conflict:** Global oil prices have spiked significantly, with [crude oil jumping 30%](#) to over \$115 per barrel, a "historic leap" attributed to the US-Israeli-Iranian conflict, which threatens to undermine Sudan's domestic fuel price stability.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Critical Infrastructure & Energy Security

- The Ministry of Energy is focusing on [rehabilitating major dams](#), including Roseires, Sennar, Merowe, and Jebel Aulia, to increase hydroelectric output.
- Road paving projects have [commenced in Rabak](#) (White Nile) and Port Sudan, signaling a shift toward long-term civil engineering projects in secure zones.
- Petroleum Minister Moataz Ibrahim assured the public that [fuel supplies remain stable](#) despite the regional war's impact on global markets.

Biosurveillance & Public Health

- The national immunization program has suffered a massive setback with the [loss of over one million](#) vaccine doses and 150+ cold storage units during the war.
- A new [Hepatitis B vaccination campaign](#) was launched in Kosti to address emerging health gaps among displaced populations.
- The Federal Ministry of Health is emphasizing "medical localization" to [reduce the foreign treatment bill](#), specifically in cardiac surgery for children.

Geopolitical Power Dynamics

- Sudan's condemnation of [Iranian aggression on Arab states](#) signals an effort to integrate more closely with the Saudi-led regional security architecture.
- The Sovereign Council is leveraging the [meeting with Musa Hilal](#) of the Revolutionary Awakening Council to consolidate tribal support in Darfur and North Kordofan against the RSF.

Economic Security & Agriculture

- Local agricultural sectors in Al-Matamma are [transitioning to solar power](#) to mitigate fuel shortages and high input costs.
- Commodity markets in Um Rawaba and North Kordofan show [fluctuating crop prices](#), with hibiscus prices dropping while sesame remains stable, indicating a fragile resumption of trade.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Governance activity has centered on executive decrees and the activation of military amnesty policies to facilitate the reintegration of defecting combatants and the management of humanitarian aid.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS

- **Sovereign Council Meeting with Musa Hilal:** Team Engineer Ibrahim Jaber [emphasized national unity](#) and the role of tribal leaders in maintaining state sovereignty in Darfur.
- **Khartoum Security Committee Briefing:** Authorities [mandated electronic surveillance](#) (CCTV) for all commercial shops in markets to prevent looting and manage security as civilians return.
- **International Women's Day Celebration:** The "Betgedri" (You Can) organization [launched programs in four states](#) to empower women economically, highlighting the "Strong Woman, Strong Sudan" initiative.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Weaponization of Tribal Stratification within the RSF

A recurring theme in military intelligence reports is the **tribalization of the RSF leadership**. Evidence suggests a growing rift between the "Al-Dagalo" inner core and recruited elements from the Kordofan tribes. This stratification is being exploited by the SAF, which has [intensified its media outreach](#) to these neglected factions, promising amnesty and better treatment. The result is a **cascading series of surrenders** that may eventually leave the RSF as a localized militia rather than a national paramilitary force.

The "New Normal" in Humanitarian Crisis Management

The state is moving beyond temporary aid to "sustainable" support for the displaced. The [President's initiative for martyr families](#) and the distribution of "dignity bags" (Karama bags) suggests a long-term social welfare structure is being built around the conflict. However, the [destruction of civil infrastructure](#) in cities like Um Rawaba shows that "liberation" is only the first step; the subsequent challenge is restoring the basic trust in state services like water and power, which were systematically dismantled by the RSF.

Strategic Pivot to Turkey amidst Iranian Regional Decline

Sudan's explicit support for Turkey following [Iranian attacks](#) is a calculated move. By siding with Ankara, Khartoum seeks to secure its position in a post-conflict regional order where Iran is being squeezed by US-Israeli kinetic operations. This also serves to **deflect potential international sanctions** by positioning Sudan as a partner in the "fight against extremism and terrorism," as reiterated in the government's [formal statement on international law](#).

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect an increase in "returning citizen" convoys to specific neighborhoods in Omdurman and Khartoum North as the Higher Committee clears debris and restores water. However, [RSF drone strikes](#) on civilian areas like Kosti may increase as the group attempts to project power despite territorial losses. The price of bread and transport will likely rise due to the [global oil shock](#).

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The SAF will likely launch a major offensive toward Darfur, leveraging the [surrendered personnel](#) for local intelligence. In Blue Nile, the integration of Joseph Touka's former troops into the SAF could secure the border with Ethiopia. Sudan will likely seek [direct Turkish investment](#) in its electrical grid and dam infrastructure as a reward for its diplomatic support.

Long Term (1-5 Years): If the SAF maintains its current trajectory, the RSF will likely be reduced to a **scattered insurgency** in remote Darfur. The reconstruction phase will require massive international capital, potentially leading to **Turkish or Qatari-led consortiums** dominating the energy and transport sectors. The primary long-term risk remains the [collapse of the public health system](#), which could lead to endemic outbreaks if the vaccine infrastructure is not rebuilt from scratch.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- Support the **restoration of the vaccine cold chain** as a non-political humanitarian priority to prevent regional disease outbreaks.
- Monitor the [integration of former rebels](#) into the state security apparatus to ensure compliance with human rights standards.
- Engage with the **Sudanese Sovereign Council** on its emerging role as a regional partner against Iranian influence.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Energy Sector Opportunity:** Significant demand for [rebuilding power transformers](#) and high-voltage networks in Khartoum and the Gezira region.
- **Supply Chain Risk:** Global oil volatility will continue to impact **Sudanese logistics costs**; investments in [solar-powered agriculture](#) offer a hedge against fuel instability.
- **Construction Materials:** Road paving and dam rehabilitation projects [underway in stable states](#) indicate a growing market for asphalt, cement, and engineering services.

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.

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