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# El Fasher: A Timeline of Violence Following the RSF Takeover

February 2026

# EL FASHER: A TIMELINE OF VIOLENCE FOLLOWING THE RSF TAKEOVER

13 February 2026

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## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a detailed, chronological overview of the human rights interferences committed during the Rapid Support Forces' (RSF) takeover of El Fasher, North Darfur, on 26, 27 and 28 October 2025. Through systematic review and cross-referencing of visual material, the Centre for Information Resilience's (CIR) Sudan Witness project analysed and sequenced key incidents to provide an overall understanding of how events unfolded. CIR also identified the repeated presence of RSF commanders and fighters across pieces of verified footage, linking senior RSF leadership to specific operations, detention sites, and executions.

On 26 October 2025, RSF forces took control of key military installations in El Fasher, including the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base, 271<sup>st</sup> Military Division, and 154<sup>th</sup> Artillery Base. RSF fighters detained hundreds of fleeing individuals in civilian clothing from the western outskirts of the city—including men, women, and children—before forcibly taking them toward Gurnei, northwest of El Fasher. Additional verified footage shows RSF fighters detaining men in civilian clothing at multiple locations in and around El Fasher on 26 and 27 October. CIR also documented degrading treatment and the use of ethnic slurs by RSF fighters against detainees.

On the morning of 27 October, armed clashes occurred at a berm surrounding the city, about 12 kilometres (km) northwest of El Fasher, leading to the destruction of multiple vehicles and over 100 killed. CIR verified multiple videos showing RSF fighters, or armed men accompanied by individuals with RSF insignia, executing unarmed men in civilian clothing on the same day. These incidents occurred primarily near the berm northwest of El Fasher and near El Fasher University.

CIR verified the presence of multiple senior RSF commanders in El Fasher during the takeover and its aftermath. This includes RSF Deputy Commander Abdulrahim Hamdan Dagalo, who was identified on 26 October and 4 November, indicating his presence over an extended period. CIR also identified Elfateh Abdullah Idris Adam (also known as “Abu Lulu”) and others executing individuals in civilian clothing at multiple sites near the berm on 27 October.

CIR verified RSF presence at locations of reported killings and detentions of civilians in El Fasher, including the Saudi Hospital and the former Children's Hospital in the days following the takeover. The United Nations (UN) reported that over 127,00 people were displaced from El Fasher between 26 October and 13 January, while others remain unaccounted for.

Throughout this period, RSF-affiliated social media accounts shared content portraying El Fasher as calm and under RSF control. Meanwhile, other RSF-affiliated accounts shared material glorifying violence committed against civilians.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

This report provides a detailed, reconstructed timeline of human rights interferences committed in and around El Fasher following the RSF takeover of the city on 26 October 2025—including mass detentions, degrading treatment, the use of ethnic slurs against detainees, and executions. Through systematic review and cross-referencing of publicly available footage uploaded to social media, as well as satellite imagery, the Centre for Information Resilience (CIR) identified and sequenced key incidents to provide an overall understanding of how events unfolded, and who was responsible. CIR identified the repeated presence of individual RSF commanders and fighters across pieces of verified footage, linking senior RSF leadership to specific operations, detention sites, and executions.

The report is structured as follows:

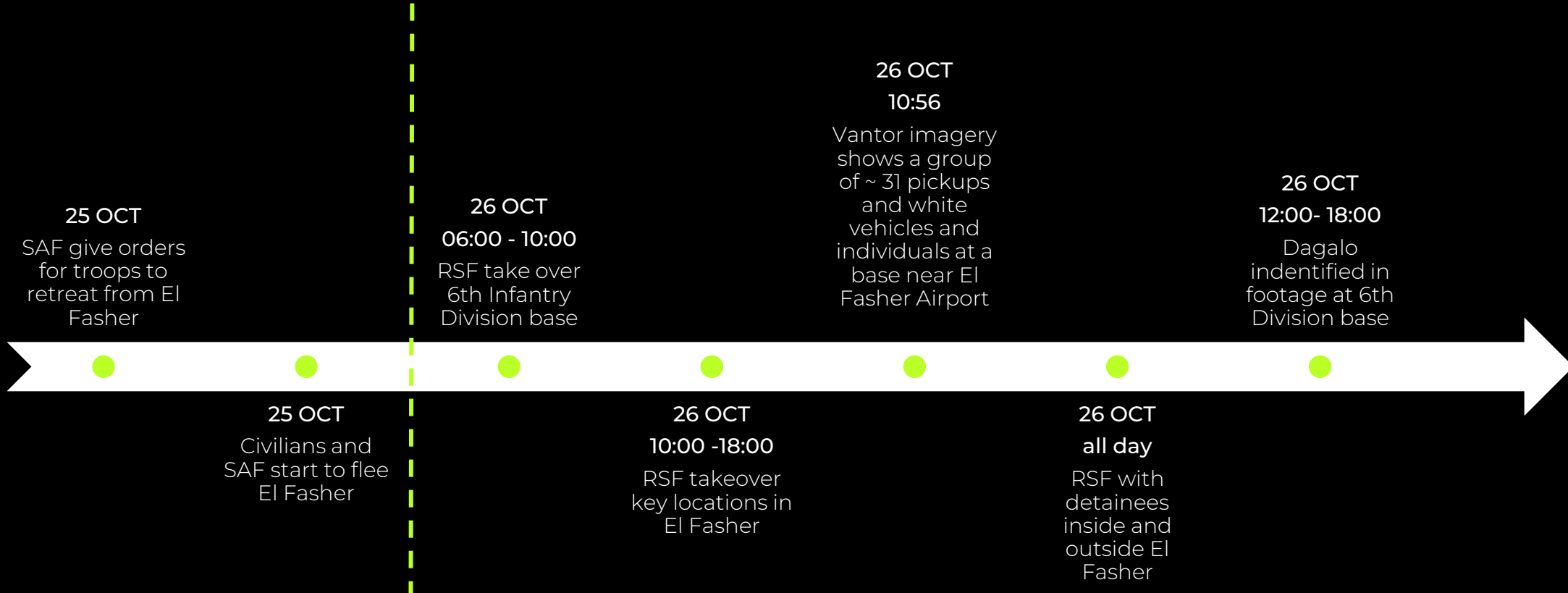
- **Timeline and Map:** This section provides an overarching timeline of key events during and following the RSF takeover of El Fasher, as well as a map showing where events took place.
- **26 October:** This section covers the RSF takeover of key SAF military sites in El Fasher and mass detentions of fleeing civilians, as well as degrading treatment and ethnic slurs used by RSF members against detainees. Finally, it outlines a group of vehicles CIR identified near El Fasher airport on 26 October, which appears to have become involved in armed clashes and executions at the berm surrounding the city the following day.
- **27 October:** This section covers armed clashes between the RSF and a group with vehicles at the berm surrounding the city, as well as the violent aftermath, including multiple executions of unarmed individuals in civilian clothing by RSF fighters.
- **28 October and Beyond:** This section highlights violations committed within the city of El Fasher, including at El Fasher University, as well as further displacement of civilians. It also highlights RSF presence at the former Children's Hospital. Finally, it provides an overview of narratives shared by pro-RSF social media accounts during and following the violent takeover, including the glorification of violence, as well as portrayals of the city as calm afterwards.

Throughout the report, CIR highlights RSF members identified in pieces of verified footage who can be linked to these events, as well as instances where hate speech and ethnic slurs are heard being used against detainees and individuals who are subsequently executed. Together, these lend insights into who was responsible for the violations, and the narratives used by fighters to justify their actions.

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### 3 TIMELINE AND MAP

This section includes an overarching timeline of key events during and following the RSF takeover of El Fasher, as well as a map showing where events took place. Together, these provide context to the incidents analysed in this report and show how individual actions and interactions connect within the broader series of events.





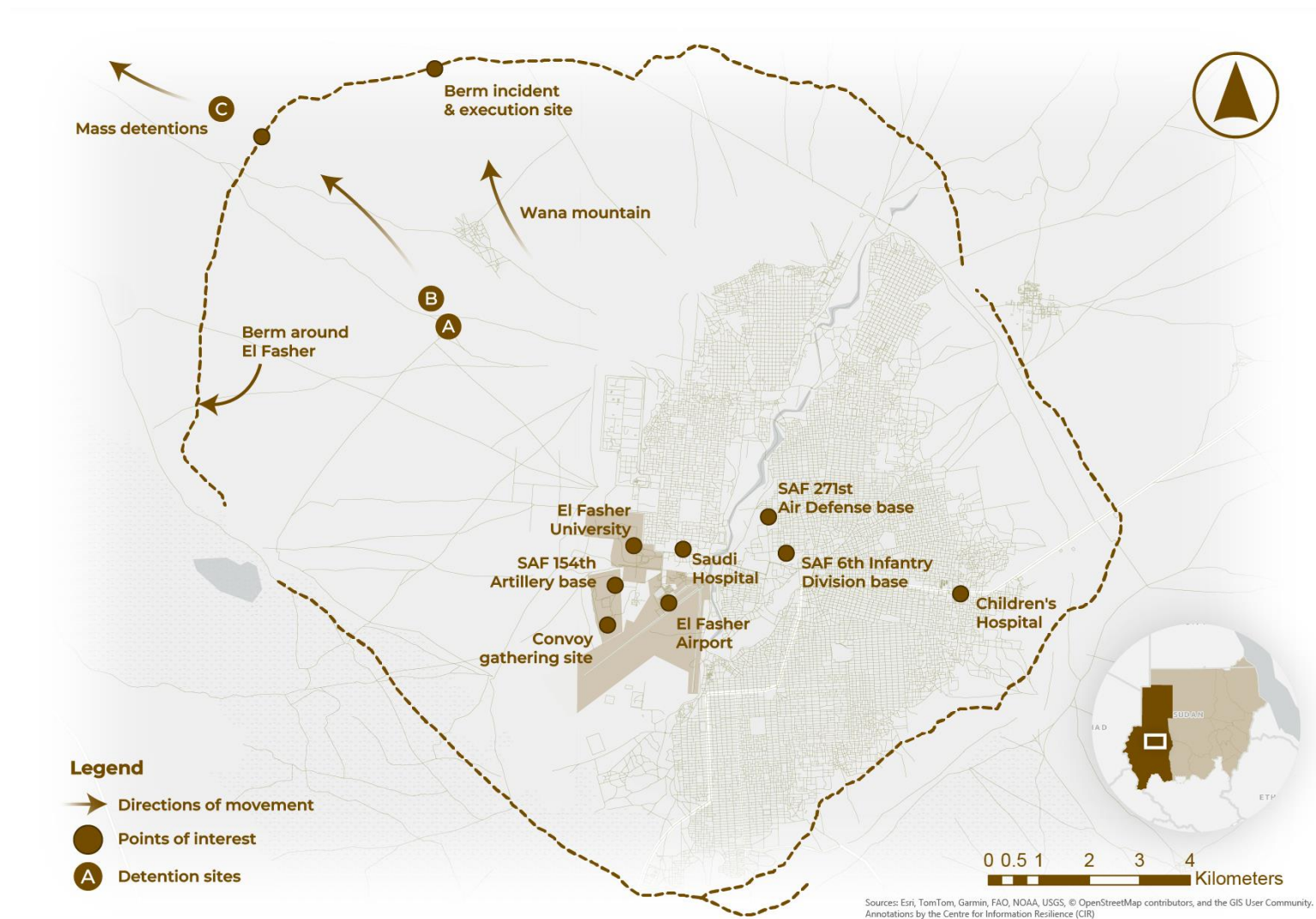


Figure 1: Map of key incident locations, and movements of civilians and armed groups leaving El Fasher. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community. Annotations by CIR.



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## 4 26 OCTOBER: RSF SECURES CONTROL OF KEY SITES AND CONDUCTS MASS DETENTIONS

This section covers the RSF takeover of key SAF military sites in El Fasher and mass detentions of fleeing civilians, as well as degrading treatment and ethnic slurs used by RSF members against detainees. Finally, it outlines a group of vehicles CIR identified near El Fasher airport on 26 October, which appears to have become involved in armed clashes and executions at the berm surrounding the city the following day.

### 4.1 RSF CAPTURE OF THE SAF 6<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION BASE

On 26 October, the RSF published a video to its official [Telegram](#) channel, featuring its spokesperson, Lieutenant Colonel El Fateh Qurashi Bashir, who claimed that RSF forces had taken control of El Fasher. CIR verified multiple videos published on 26 October confirming RSF control of the SAF 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base.

The official RSF [Telegram](#) channel published a video showing RSF fighters celebrating inside a military base. CIR geolocated this footage to the western side of the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base, confirming that RSF forces had breached the perimeter and were operating within the base.

A second video, posted to [X](#) on 26 October by an account providing updates on the war in Sudan, shows RSF fighters moving freely inside the compound. CIR geolocated this footage to a parking area on the northern end of the base (figure 2).



Figure 2: RSF presence inside the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base. The footage was geolocated to the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base in El Fasher [13.628351, 25.349092]. Source: [X](#)

Overall, CIR verified at least 10 videos filmed inside and around the SAF 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base, identifying recurring individuals and scenes that together demonstrate that the RSF retained control over the base following its capture.

## 4.2 RSF EXPANSION OF CONTROL IN EL FASHER

CIR verified RSF presence over multiple additional sites in El Fasher on 26 October, indicating a coordinated and broader expansion of RSF territorial control across the city. This is further confirmed by videos uploaded in the following days, indicating full RSF control of the city.

Furthermore, CIR geolocated and verified footage posted on [Facebook](#) and [Telegram](#), confirming RSF presence at the SAF 271<sup>st</sup> Air Defence base (figure 3) and the 154<sup>th</sup> Artillery base (figure 4).<sup>1</sup>



Figure 3: RSF commanders positioned in front of the 271st Air Defence Brigade gate in El Fasher [13.634935, 25.346837]. Source: [Facebook](#)

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<sup>1</sup> These installations are SAF military sites that served as bases for command, artillery, and infantry operations in and around El Fasher.





Figure 4: Verified footage confirming RSF presence at the 154th Artillery Base in El Fasher on 26 October [13.622555, 25.319350]. Source: [Telegram](#)

In another video verified by CIR posted on 26 October by a pro-RSF [Facebook](#) account, a RSF fighter is filming while on the back of a vehicle driving through central El Fasher. After the vehicle drives through the gate of the Governor's residence, south of the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base, the footage shows what appears to be a body covered by a mattress, with only bare feet visible, lying by the roadside (figure 5).



Figure 5: Video still from a verified video filmed from a military vehicle showing what appears to be a human body covered by a mattress [13.626751, 25.348108]. Source: Facebook (censored by CIR)

#### 4.3 RSF MEDIA ACTIVITY AND IDENTIFIED RSF FIGHTERS

CIR identified six RSF commanders present at the SAF 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base on 26 October, from a verified video posted to the RSF's official [Telegram](#) channel. The video shows Abdulrahim Hamdan Dagalo, brother of RSF leader Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo ("Hemedti") and serves as the RSF's deputy commander. Dagalo's presence at the SAF 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base on 26 October represents the last confirmed sighting of him in El Fasher prior to footage verified by CIR at the Saudi Hospital on 4 November.

Also in the video, alongside Dagalo, were three commanders: Gedo Hamdan Ahmed Abu Nashuk, the RSF commander for the North Darfur sector, and Waleed

Yusef Wahal and Hussain Abo Jalak (figure 6).<sup>2</sup> Based on their presence at the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base, it is highly likely that they were aware of RSF attacks on civilians in and around El Fasher.

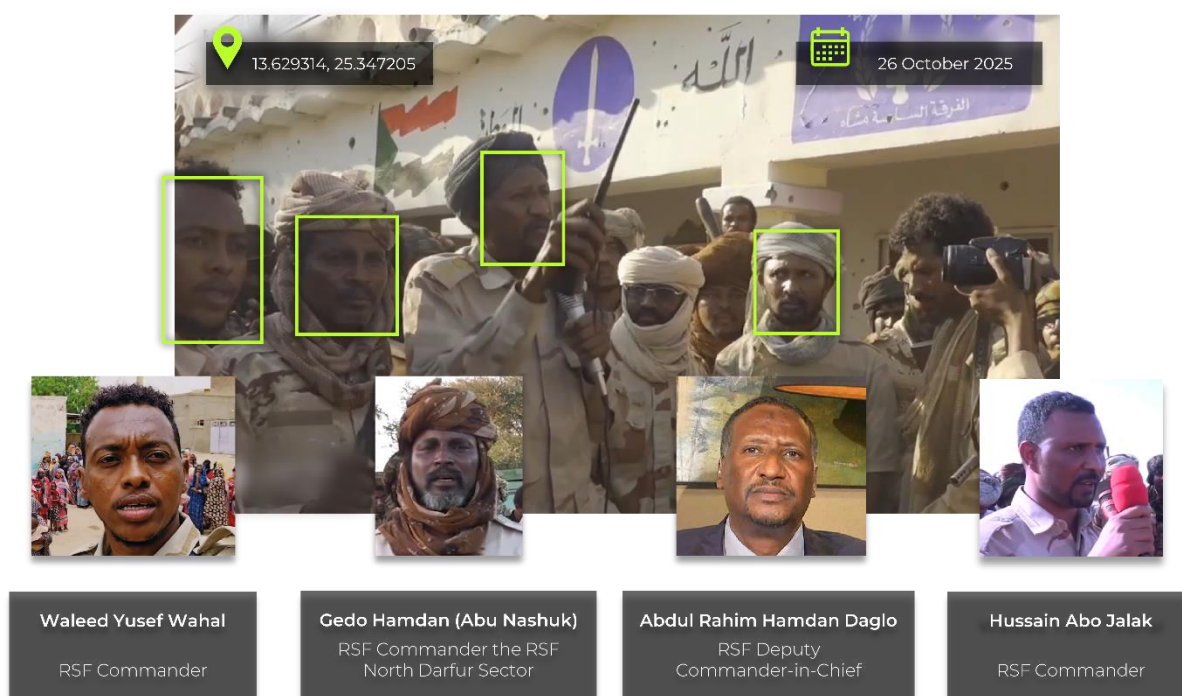


Figure 6: RSF commanders present near the SAF 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base in verified footage posted on 26 October [13.629314, 25.347205]. Source: [Telegram](#)

CIR also identified Yassin Ahmed, an RSF military correspondent, and RSF field commander Tijani Ibrahim Moussa Mohamed (also known as “Al Zeir Salem”) (figure 7), in verified footage filmed just outside the SAF 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base.

<sup>2</sup> In November, the RSF started referring to commander Nashuk as the commander of the RSF 7<sup>th</sup> Division (see, e.g., a post on 11 November 2025 in the RSF [Telegram](#) channel).



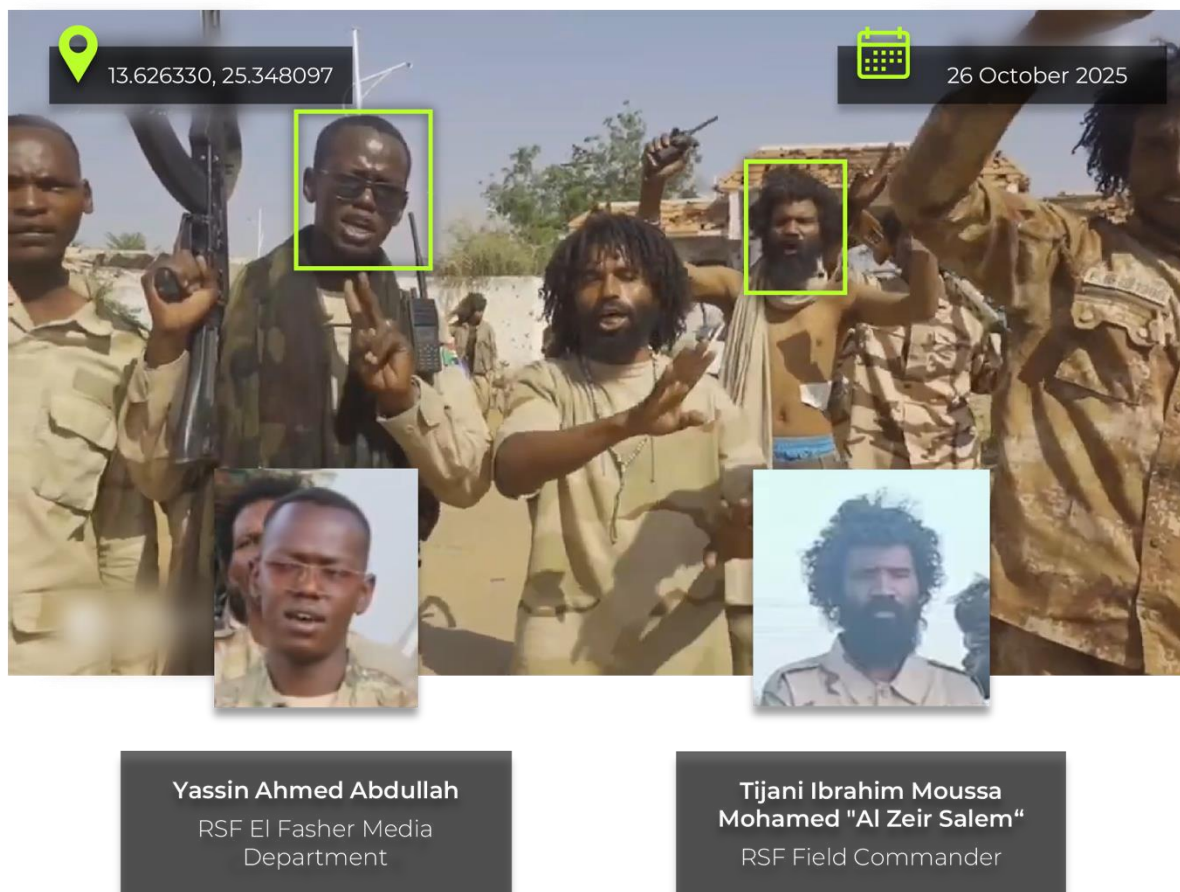


Figure 7: RSF commanders identified in verified footage outside the SAF 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base on 26 October [13.626330,25.348097]. Source: [Telegram](#)

Another verified video, posted on [X](#), from 26 October shows an individual identified as Ibrahim Ali (also known as “Al-Laser”) filming RSF fighters celebrating inside the base (figure 8). Ibrahim Ali appears to be an RSF media team member and has previously published similar RSF-related content on his [TikTok](#) account. His repeated appearance across multiple verified videos filmed at the same location suggests that the footage was recorded after RSF forces secured control of the base.

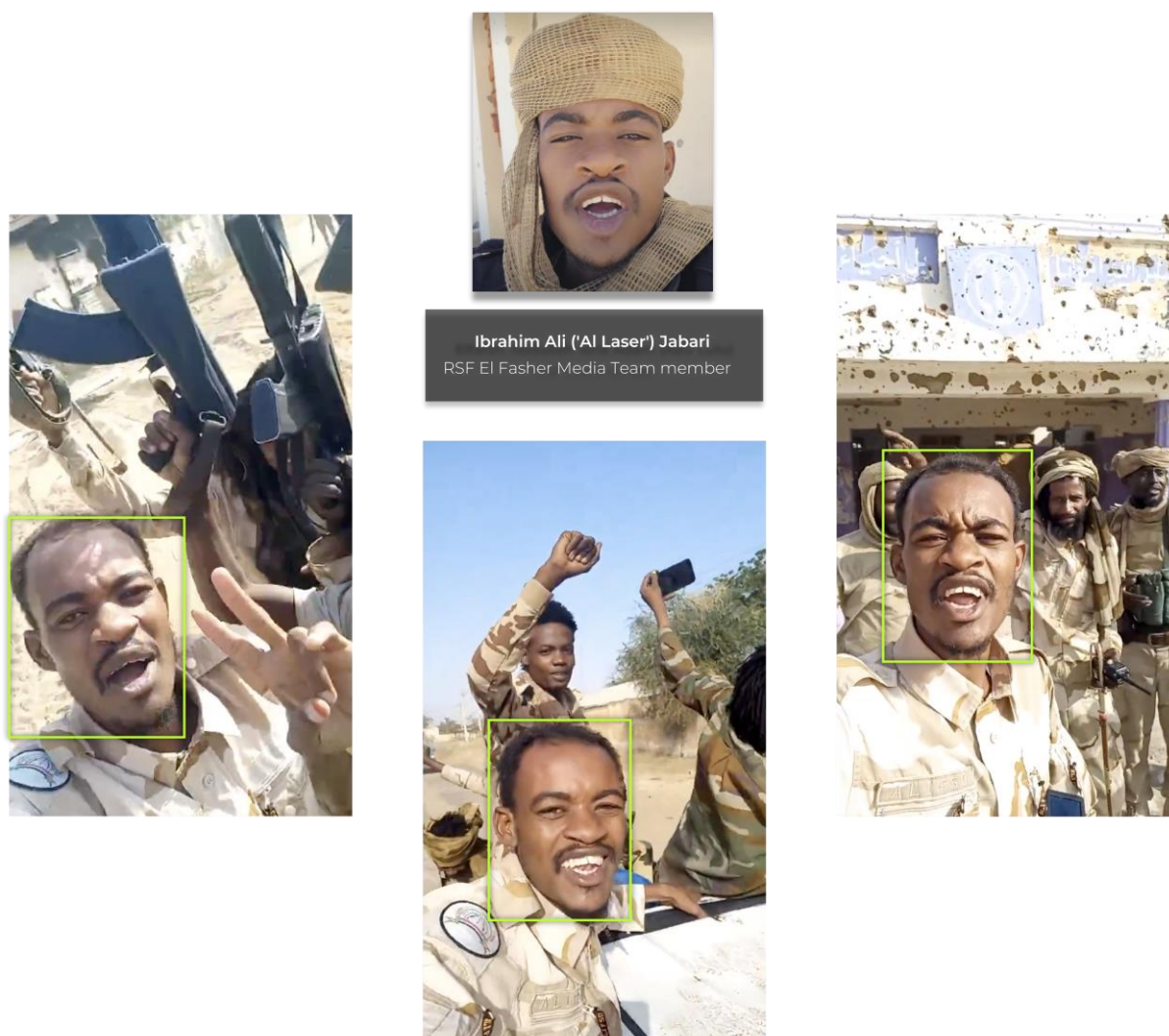


Figure 8: Individual identified as Ibrahim Ali (also known as “Al-Laser”) filming RSF fighters celebrating near the SAF 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base on 26 October [13.625966, 25.348098]. Source: [X](#) and [Telegram](#)

#### 4.4 RSF DETENTIONS OF FLEEING CIVILIANS

This section provides an overview of videos verified by CIR showing hundreds of individuals in civilian clothing detained by RSF members, who are heard and seen using degrading treatment, hate speech, and ethnic slurs against detainees.

##### 4.4.1 GROUP OF DETAINEES MOVING OUT OF EL FASHER

In parallel with RSF forces consolidating control of El Fasher on 26 October, videos began circulating online the same day showing RSF fighters detaining hundreds of individuals in civilian clothing. CIR established a timeline indicating that detainees were moved from a location west of El Fasher towards Gurnei in the northwest, via the checkpoint at the berm surrounding the city commonly referred to as Gurnei Gate.

CIR verified 15 videos (see figure 10 for sources) depicting what appears to be the same group of detainees at three locations (A, B, and C; figure 9), all located along the route between El Fasher and Gurnei. By matching clothing, personal belongings, and physical characteristics of individuals appearing in two or more videos across these locations (figure 10), CIR assessed that the pieces of footage show either the same group, or the merging of closely related groups. In some videos, at least 600 individuals are observed in detention, though CIR estimates the total number of detained individuals exceeds 700. The group is predominantly composed of adult men, though several women and children are also visible across different videos.

Analysis of the sequencing and relative timing of the videos indicates that the detainees were most likely initially held near a settlement west of El Fasher (Location A; figure 9), before being forced by RSF fighters to move through the checkpoint at the berm toward location C and Gurnei.

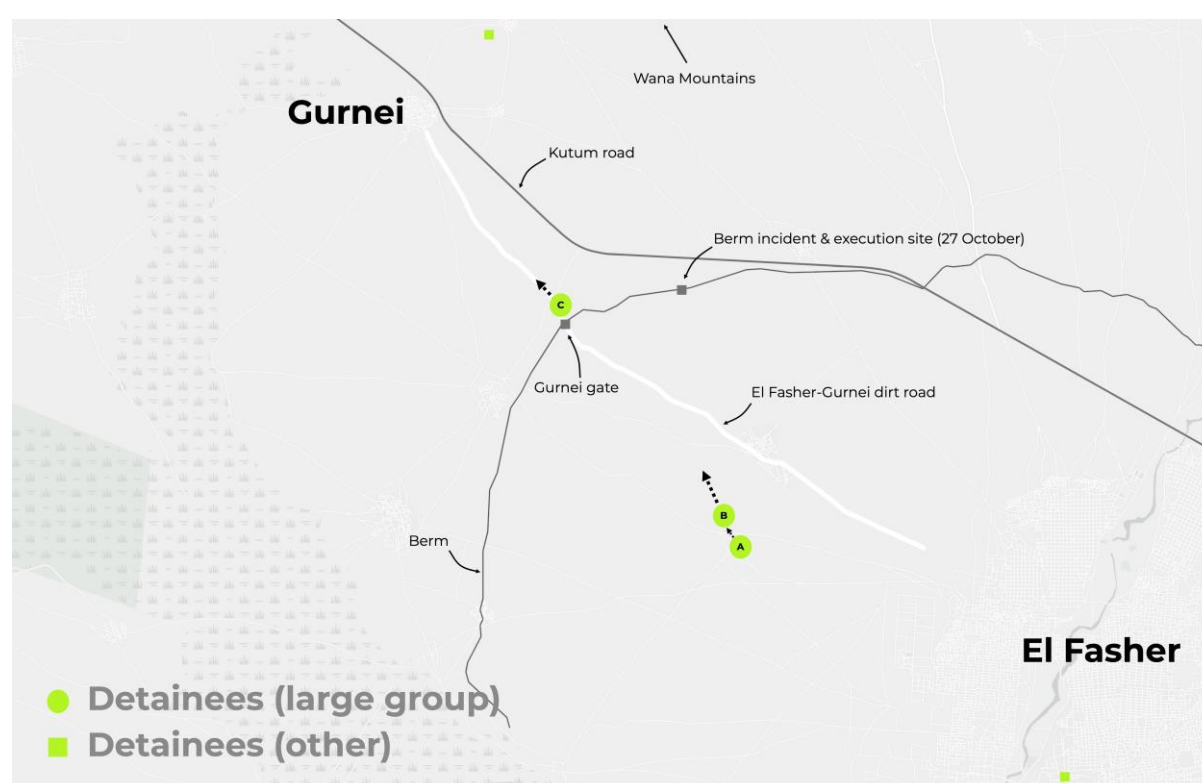


Figure 9: Map of the area between El Fasher and Gurnei with location A, B and C, where CIR geolocated a large group of detained individuals in civilian clothing. The black dotted arrows indicate the direction of movement seen in videos filmed at all three locations. Sources: Esri, © OpenStreetMap contributors, TomTom, Garmin, METI/NASA, USGS



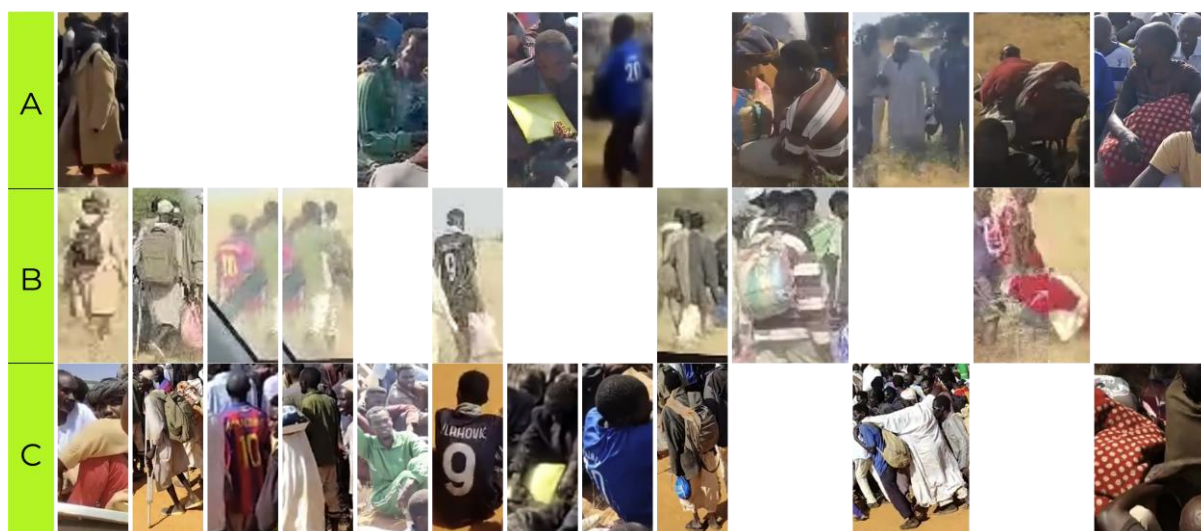


Figure 10: Video stills from videos filmed at Locations A (top) [13.669107, 25.288239], B (centre, [13.672775, 25.286811]) and C (bottom, [13.672775, 25.286811]), showing what appear to be the same individuals on Locations A, B and C on 26 October. Sources: Telegram [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#), [\[3\]](#), [\[4\]](#) Facebook [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#), [\[3\]](#), [\[4\]](#), [\[5\]](#) TikTok [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#), [\[3\]](#), [\[4\]](#), and X [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#)

### Location A: Detention West of El Fasher

At Location A, situated approximately 3km west of El Fasher near a settlement (figure 9), the group is seen seated on the ground (as seen in a video posted to a pro-RSF [Telegram](#) channel on 26 October at 8:25am local time). Analysis of the length of shadows visible in the footage, as well as the post time, indicate that it was filmed in the early morning of 26 October. Additional footage verified by CIR and posted on [Telegram](#) from the same location shows more individuals arriving from the direction of El Fasher and joining the group.

One of the six videos geolocated to this location, posted to [X](#) on 26 October, shows RSF Major Ibrahim Gibril Omer ("Abu Wafi"), deputy to Gedo Hamdan Ahmed Abu Nashuk and RSF commander for the North Darfur sector (figure 11). While none of the men are armed or wearing military fatigues, in one video, Abu Wafi stands in front of the seated group of detainees and states:

*"You're all army [soldiers], we know you, you're all army [soldiers], but I swear if they gather [a group 700,000 times your size] you wouldn't do anything [...] This is Tasis force".<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>3</sup> Tasis, or Tasees, refers to the Sudan Founding Alliance, initiated by the RSF in response to the SAFs' announcement of plans for a transitional government. The Sudan Founding Alliance was established on 23 February 2025 and includes the RSF and other military and political factions such as the Sudan People's Liberation Movement–North (Al Hilu).

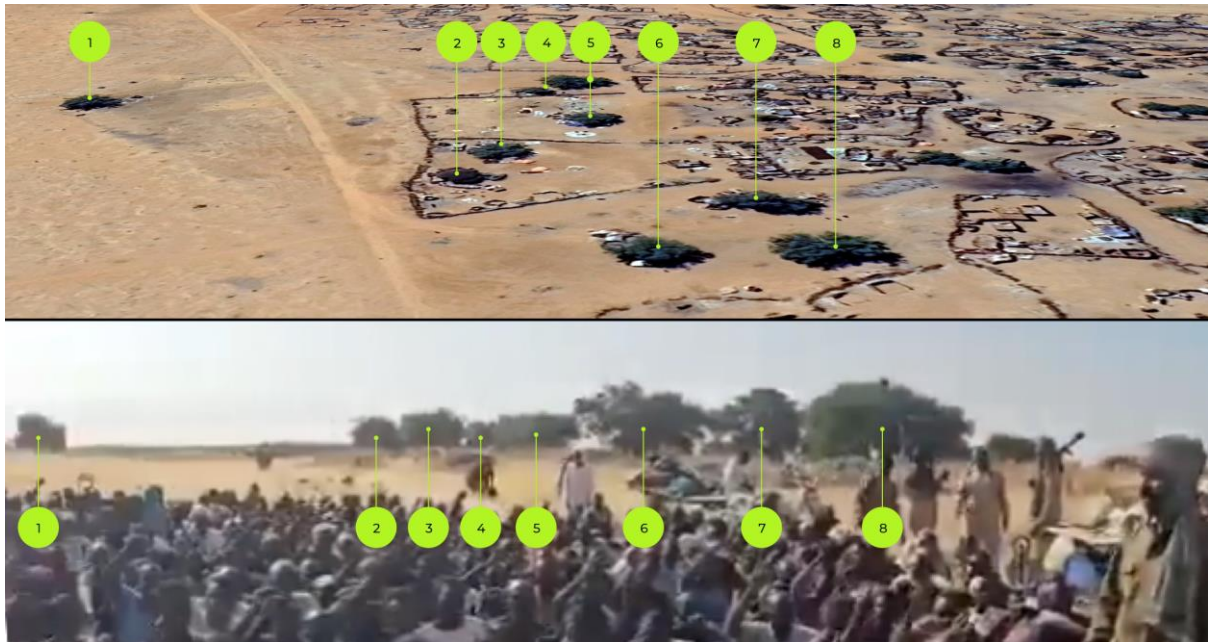


Figure 11: Geolocation of a video of RSF commander Abu Wafi addressing detainees at Location A [13.669107, 25.288239]. Sources: [X](#), Imagery © 2025 Airbus, Google; map data © Google

In what appears to be the final video filmed at Location A, posted to [TikTok](#) on 26 October, RSF fighters are seen herding the group using sticks, and forcing them to start moving in a northwestern direction.

### Location B: Movement towards Gurnei Gate

The second location (Location B) is on a dirt road connecting the settlement at Location A with the main dirt road that links El Fasher to Gurnei via the checkpoint commonly referred to as Gurnei Gate (figure 9). CIR verified one video filmed at this location, posted to [TikTok](#) on 26 October. The video begins approximately 450 metres north of Location A and appears to show the same group walking in a north-westerly direction. The video was filmed from a moving vehicle driven by RSF Major Abu Wafi, the same commander seen at Location A.

New vehicle tracks visible in Vantor satellite imagery between 25 and 30 October corroborate that the video was filmed between 25 and 26 October. Based on video sequencing, shadow analysis, and an audible reference to “Sunday” within the footage, CIR assesses that it was likely recorded on 26 October. The group is seen walking in a long line along the dirt road toward the checkpoint referred to as Gurnei Gate (Location C; figure 9).

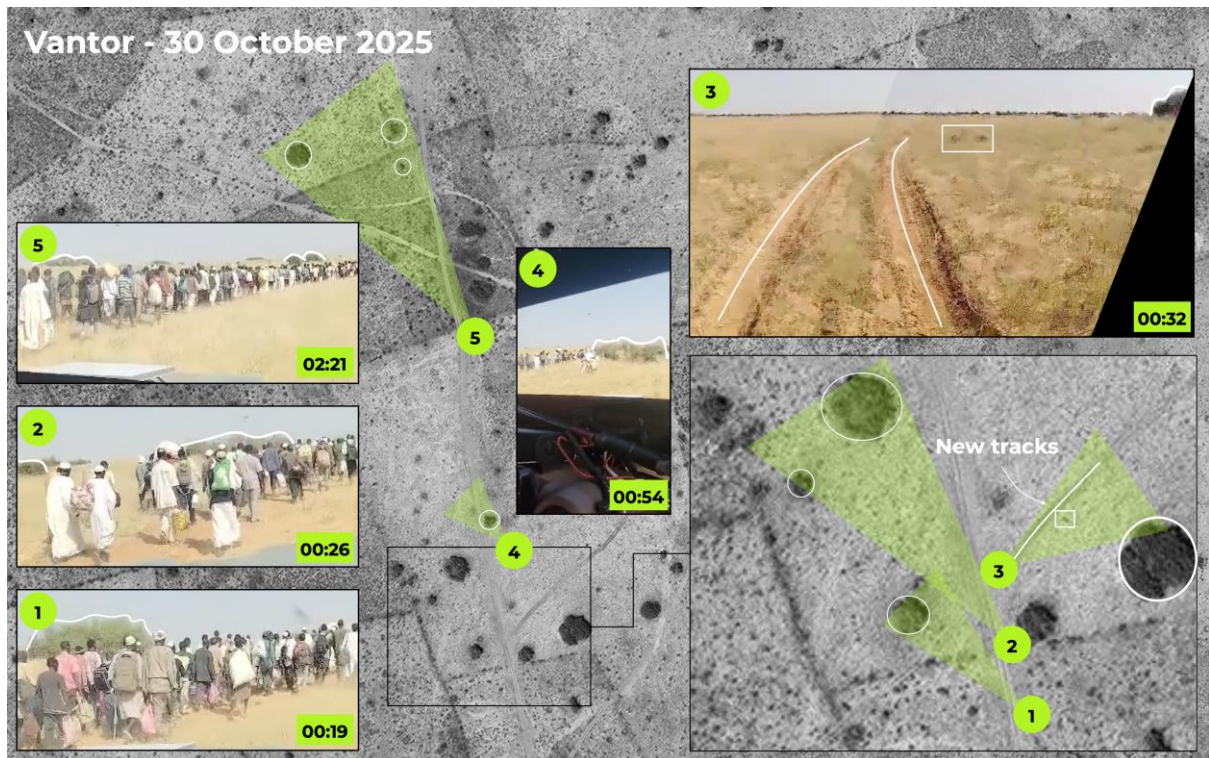


Figure 12: Geolocation of footage showing civilians on a dirt road at Location B (see figure 9). The vehicle tracks marked in the figure are not visible in Vantor satellite imagery captured on 25 October, indicating the video was filmed after that time, likely on 26 October. [13.672775, 25.286811]. Sources: [TikTok](#), Imagery © Vantor (formerly Maxar), 30 October 2025

At the third location (Location C), CIR geolocated eight videos showing the group of detainees, again seated on the ground (figure 13). In some videos, RSF fighters are seen taking selfies with the detainees, while other videos show men detained in the back of trucks parked nearby. Among the armed men present are RSF Field Commanders Edres Kafuti and Tijani Ibrahim Moussa Mohamed (also known as “Al Zeir Salem”) (figure 14). In one video posted on Kafuti’s [TikTok](#) account, him and other RSF fighters are seen mocking two detained men in civilian clothing seated in the back of a pickup truck, one of whom is blindfolded.<sup>4</sup> The group of detainees is also visible on Planet satellite imagery from 26 October (figure 13).

<sup>4</sup> The account was removed or taken down after 26 October. CIR archived the video, which is available upon request.





Figure 13: Geolocation of detainees at Location C (left) and discoloration visible at the same location in Planet satellite imagery on 26 October (right) [13.672775, 25.286811]. Sources: [TikTok](#), Imagery © Planet Labs PBC, 29 October 2025

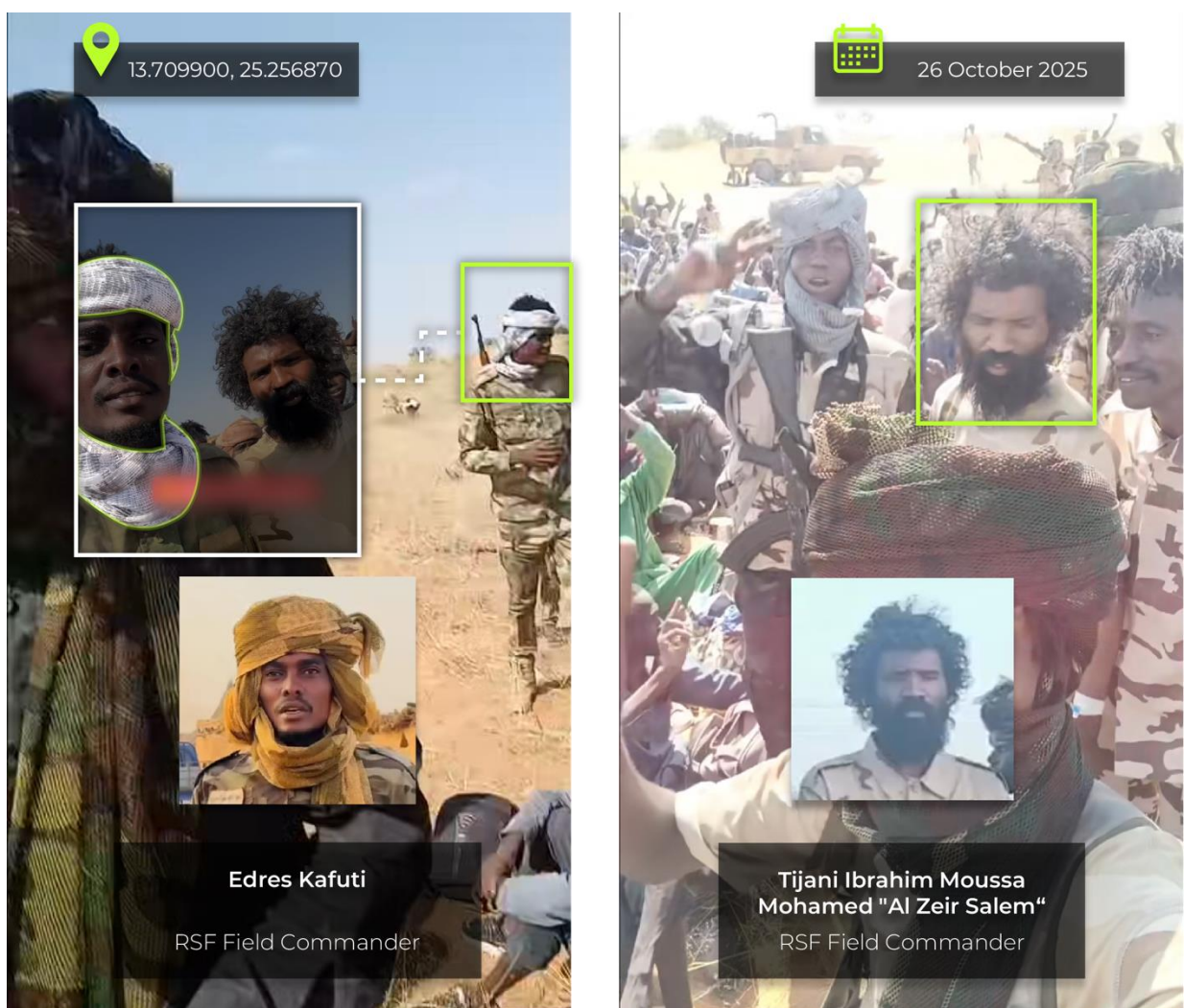


Figure 14: RSF commanders Edres Kafuti and Al Zeir Salem with detained men in civilian clothing at Location C, with reference inset from a separate video filmed at the same location [13.709900, 25.256870]. Source: [Facebook](#), inset [TikTok](#).

In the final video CIR identified of the large group, posted on [TikTok](#) on 26 October, the detainees are seen queuing on the dirt road linking El Fasher and Gurnei,

moving northwest towards Gurnei.<sup>5</sup> Several technical vehicles are visibly parked next to the detainees. In a video filmed from a moving vehicle, someone can be heard saying that this is “*the harvest of today from El Fasher*”, while another voice says “*26, month of October*”. CIR was unable to determine the fate of the detainees following this video.

#### 4.4.2 OTHER VIDEOS SHOWING PATTERNS OF DETENTION AND ABUSE

In addition to the videos of the large group of detainees at Locations A, B, and C, CIR collected a significant volume of separate videos, most of which remain unverified, showing similar patterns of mass detention and abuse. CIR verified two of these videos:

- The first verified video was posted to the [TikTok](#) account of RSF commander Waleed Yusef Wahal, and was filmed in front of a gate at the SAF 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. It shows him addressing the camera while standing in front of a pickup truck carrying at least seven detained men in its cargo bed.
- The second verified video was posted to a pro-SAF [Telegram](#) channel and shows RSF fighters with at least 100 men seated on the ground approximately 1.75km northeast of Gurnei (figure 15).

Of the unverified videos, 12 are filmed by likely RSF-affiliates, and 11 show fleeing or detained men in civilian clothing near El Fasher on 26 or 27 October.<sup>6</sup> Four videos show the presence of armed men, in some cases including RSF fighters, with unarmed male detainees in civilian clothing. Several other videos depict fighters pursuing, searching, or detaining men in open fields. Two videos show dead bodies lying in the field.

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<sup>5</sup> The video was removed or taken down after 26 October. CIR archived the video, which is available upon request.

<sup>6</sup> In several videos, the individual filming is not identifiable, and some armed men visible in the footage do not display clear or consistent insignia. While contextual indicators link these acts to RSF-controlled areas or RSF-aligned forces, CIR was unable to confirm their affiliation given these limitations in the footage.



Figure 15: RSF fighters with detained men approximately 1.75km northeast of Gurnei. The video was posted on 1 November 2025. Visible smoke seen to the northeast may indicate the video was filmed on 27 October [13.758302, 25.244090]. Source: [Telegram](#)

In three unverified videos, CIR identified RSF individuals who also appear in verified videos filmed at the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on 26 or 27 October (figure 16). One of these videos, posted to [X](#) on 27 October, shows RSF fighters, including a commander being called “Zalzal”, celebrating over bodies. The re-appearance of the same RSF fighters across verified and unverified footage corroborates the authenticity of the unverified videos. It also indicates that some RSF fighters documented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base were also in the field or involved in the detention of civilians outside of El Fasher.





Figure 16: Fighters that appear in footage captured on what appear to be locations outside El Fasher (bottom) and at the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base (top [13.627905, 25.347916]) on 26 October. The man on the lower left is an RSF commander who is being called “Zalzal” in the video. Sources (from left to right, top to bottom): [TikTok](#), [Telegram](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [Facebook](#)

#### 4.4.3 HATE SPEECH, DEGRADING TREATMENT, AND ETHNIC SLURS

CIR observed instances of humiliating treatment and ethnic slurs by the RSF towards detained individuals in multiple videos. In some videos illustrating humiliating treatment, RSF fighters issued accusations that all men captured by the RSF are collaborators with, or supportive of, the SAF—a common allegation used to justify their detention and execution. For example, in one video posted to

Facebook on 27 October, an RSF fighter coerces detainees at gunpoint to state “we’re all militants” before executing them.<sup>7</sup>

In other videos, men are made to praise the RSF. On 29 October, a video posted to a pro-SAF Facebook group shows fighters coercing three detained individuals in civilian clothing to praise the RSF, make animal sounds, and recite, “Abu Lulu is my master” and “[Unit] 145 rise” before shooting them. The humiliation of detainees, as observed in these instances, can also serve as an early warning indicator of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), according to [Bellingcat](#)’s guidance on red flags.

CIR also observed the use of ethnic slurs directed at individuals in civilian clothing fleeing from El Fasher. On 27 October, a pro-SAF Telegram channel posted a video showing individuals being shot at from the back by RSF fighters in a moving vehicle. The man filming can be heard shouting:

*“[Shoot] them (x4), [shoot] them man, [shoot] them. (unintelligible) f\*ck their mothers those people. [...] Just [shoot] them, beat them, Nuba sons of b\*tches.”*

While the term ‘Nuba’ refers to ethnic groups from the Nuba Mountains, CIR observed it being widely used by RSF fighters as a derogatory term for non-Arabs in Darfur.

In another video posted to [Facebook](#) on 26 October, CIR observed an unidentified RSF commander mocking detained men while using ethnic slurs.<sup>8</sup> The commander referred to the group of detainees as “slaves”, “donkeys”, and other derogatory terms, describing them as fools manipulated by the SAF and Joint Force leadership.<sup>9</sup> The commander labelled Joint Force leaders Mini Minawi, Gibril Ibrahim, and Abdullah Jana as slaves of money, and claimed that they viewed the detained men as slaves, who were sold out by their leadership, leaving them vulnerable to capture and death by the RSF.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> CIR can share an archived version of this hyperlink on request

<sup>8</sup> CIR can share an archived version of this hyperlink on request.

<sup>9</sup> The Darfur Joint Protection Force (DJPF), or Joint Force, was established as part of the Darfur Track of the Juba Peace Agreement. The DJPF consists of five Darfur armed movements. Three factions of the force sided with the SAF and abandoned their neutrality, including the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM - Gibril Ibrahim), Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A-Mini Minawi), and the Sudanese Alliance. The two remaining factions, the SLM/A-TC (Al Hadi Idris), and the Gathering of Sudan Liberation Forces (Al Tahir Hajar) both joined the Sudan Founding Alliance (Tasis), an RSF-led alliance of anti-government political and armed groups, while smaller factions of the two groups remained SAF-allied.

<sup>10</sup> Abdullah Jana is the leader of the SAF-allied faction of the Gathering of Sudan Liberation Forces (GSLF), and the commander of the DJPF’s operations.



*"Minawi [is a] slave, [...] Gibril [is a] slave, Abdullah Jana [is a] slave, they are all the slaves of money, they sold you, [...] Since you [were brought into life] you were slaves, and you die for them as slaves. [...] You donkeys, you filthy. I swear you'll die donkeys just like this. [...] [Minawi] sold you for money you donkeys. You'll die slaves you disgrace."*

CIR observed similar slurs in another video posted to [X](#) on 28 October. The video shows a group of detained individuals running as a man behind the camera directs ethnic slurs, such as “Falangayat” at them and orders RSF fighters to beat them. Similar to the previous video, the person filming questioned how the group could be manipulated by the SAF and Joint Force commanders:

*"[Oh] Falanga, go ahead you Falangayat, you fools. [...] [Beat] him, [beat] them! [beat] them! move! Run after them! Beat them! [...] Beat them! beat them Falangayat! Beat them! [...] cows! look at these cows, fools. Move! move you sons of dog! [...] Beat them! beat them, fuck their mothers too. Falangayat, tired and filthy, [mercenaries]. You Falangayat! Filth! [...] Burhan and Minawi used you, [how come] Burhan deceive you? and Minawi deceive you? you sons of bitches! Go, damn your father too! For God's sake, [how come] Minawi deceive you? "*

CIR has documented the use of the term “Falangay” since the beginning of the RSF attacks and the subsequent siege on El Fasher in March 2024. The term refers to someone perceived as a slave or sycophant who prioritises their leader’s benefit over their own or their people’s interests. During this period, the RSF employed the term primarily to refer to SAF-allied forces from the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A-Mini Minawi) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), whose fighters are predominantly Zaghawa and other non-Arab groups native to Darfur—groups that have historically faced systemic racism in Sudan.

#### 4.5 VEHICLES AND PEOPLE NEAR THE AIRPORT

CIR identified a temporary concentration of vehicles and personnel at a site located between El Fasher airport and the El Fasher University campus [13.615150, 25.316998] on 26 October.<sup>11</sup> CIR assesses this may have been a Joint Forces convoy that attempted to flee El Fasher the next day, possibly with civilians who were still trapped. Analysis of events on 27 October suggests the same group clashed with RSF forces at the berm surrounding the city the next day while attempting to flee (see section [5.2](#)).

A comparison of three satellite images dated 19, 26, and 31 October shows a pattern of activity at the site suggestive of the vehicles being a convoy. Imagery

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<sup>11</sup> CIR’s analysis suggests the group of people are affiliated to the Joint Forces, potentially including civilians, however CIR was unable to confirm identity or affiliation.

captured on 26 October at 10:56 am local time shows a group of vehicles consisting of a mix of pickup trucks and white vehicles, accompanied by a large gathering of people (figure 17). This activity is absent in the image from 19 October, indicating that the vehicles and personnel were not permanently stationed at the site. By 31 October, satellite imagery shows the area largely cleared, with the vehicles and personnel no longer present.



Figure 17: Comparison of three satellite images dated 19, 26, and 31 October respectively, with the imagery from 26 October showing a group of vehicles and individuals gathered at a site near El Fasher airport [13.615150, 25.316998]. Imagery: © Vantor (formerly Maxar), 19, 26, and 31 October 2025

The presence of the vehicles and personnel exclusively on 26 October, combined with their absence both before and after this date, suggests a short-term, deliberate assembly, or convoy, rather than routine or civilian activity. The composition of the group, particularly the multiple pickup trucks commonly associated with armed mobility, further suggests that the site functioned as a temporary staging or assembly area. The short-term nature of the activity is consistent with a temporary staging function and may be linked to subsequent withdrawal or redeployment activity observed the following day near the berm.

Separate videos analysed by CIR suggest that the area where the group was seen was not fully under RSF control on 26 October. The RSF was already present in the northern end of the compound on 26 October, namely at the 154<sup>th</sup> Artillery base (see section 4.2), about 800 meters northeast from the location of the group with pickup trucks. However, burn scars appeared in Planet satellite imagery captured on 26 October at 14:42 local time between the group and the 154<sup>th</sup> Artillery Base, indicating recent fighting in the area and suggesting that the site was under contested control at the time.

In addition, videos posted on 27 October further indicate the RSF only took full control of the compound—including the airport and El Fasher University—on 27 October. The RSF itself did not claim control over the airport until 27 October, in a video posted to [Telegram](#). In a video, shared on [Facebook](#) on 27 October, showing RSF near El Fasher University (see section [6.1](#)) a man is heard saying:

*"A view of the celebrations of the Ashawis in the second day of victory at El Fasher University. In front of the university, and more specifically, at the roundabout. [...] A view of the Ashawis's celebration of the grand victory today."*

In another video posted on 27 October to [Facebook](#), and filmed at the El Fasher University compound, an unidentified commander speaking stated:

*"Those who sold the land, the falangay Minawi, and falangay Gibril: this [was] the last [base] for their people."*

The temporary concentration of vehicles at an area apparently not fully under RSF control on 26 October, together with the speech by the unidentified commander on 27 October directly addressing Joint Force leaders (Minawi and Gibril), suggests that the grouping observed may have consisted of Joint Forces, potentially accompanied by civilians who had been unable to flee El Fasher on that day.

## 5 27 OCTOBER: ARMED CLASHES AND EXECUTIONS

This section covers armed clashes between the RSF and a group with vehicles at the berm surrounding the city, which CIR assessed to likely be the same group identified on 26 October near El Fasher airport. It also outlines footage showing the aftermath of these clashes, as well as executions of unarmed individuals in civilian clothing by RSF fighters, and the online glorification of perpetrators.

### 5.1 ARMED CLASHES AT THE BERM AROUND THE CITY

CIR verified a video posted by a pro-SAF [Facebook](#) account on 12 November showing a group of armed men wearing a mix of military and civilian clothing, in both military and mixed-use vehicles, exchanging fire with an opposing force while positioned behind a berm approximately 12 km northwest of the SAF 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base (figure 18).

CIR verified the video by matching vegetation patterns visible beyond the berm with footage of the incident's aftermath posted on 27 October to Telegram channel. CIR also matched peaks visible in the footage to Jebel Wana using PeakVisor (figure 18).

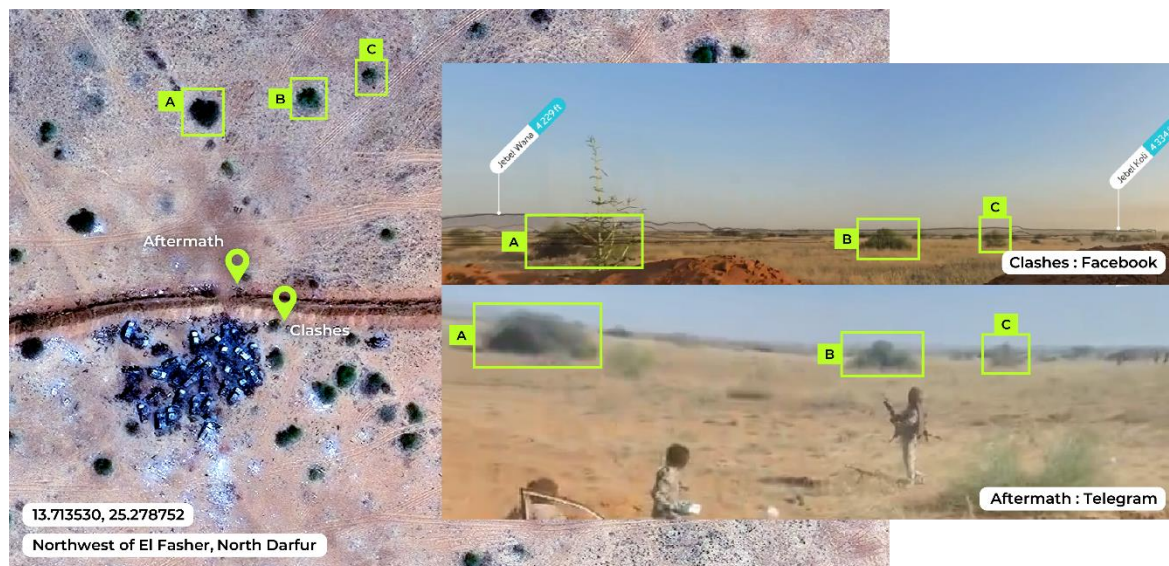


Figure 18: Geolocation of a video showing clashes between armed men at the berm site, with panorama generated from both the clashes and aftermath videos, showing vegetation matches with satellite imagery [13.713530, 25.278752]. Clashes video contains overlay of Jebel Wana outline from PeakVisor. Sources: [Facebook](#) (top-right), [Telegram](#) (bottom-right), [PeakVisor](#)

While the video was posted on 12 November, CIR determined that it was filmed in the early hours of the morning on 27 October. In the video, the individual filming can be heard stating: “Monday, 27 October, a decisive battle [...] between us and



*the Janjaweed.*"<sup>12</sup> CIR also conducted shadow analysis of the footage by comparing shadow length to object height using [SunCalc](#), and determined that it was filmed between approximately 06:30 and 07:30 local time on 27 October (figure 19). This timing is consistent with the statement heard in the footage.



Figure 19: Comparison of shadow to tree length ratio against results from SunCalc at the same location, resulting into an approximate time of 07:09 am local time [13.713530, 25.278752]. Source: [Facebook, SunCalc](#)

The clashes at the berm are further corroborated by drone footage shared on 1 November by a pro-RSF [TikTok](#) account. The footage, recorded using a commercially available reconnaissance drone, shows a group of vehicles gathered at the berm, with multiple flashes consistent with gunfire visible from at least two vehicles. CIR verified that the video was filmed at the same location by matching vegetation, berm configuration, and vehicle positioning. The spatial layout of the vehicles closely resembles that observed in aftermath satellite imagery (figure 20).

The drone footage also shows several individuals dispersing in a north-westerly direction away from the location of the aftermath footage, some in vehicles. The location of the vehicles and bodies seen in the aftermath footage and satellite imagery are almost the same, suggesting that the vehicles were destroyed and remaining individuals killed shortly after the drone footage was recorded.

<sup>12</sup> The Janjaweed was an Arab militia in the Darfur region of Sudan during the early 2000s. The RSF, a paramilitary group, was formed as a successor to the Janjaweed under the government of Omar al-Bashir in 2013 and codified by Sudan's parliament in 2017 through the Rapid Support Forces Act.

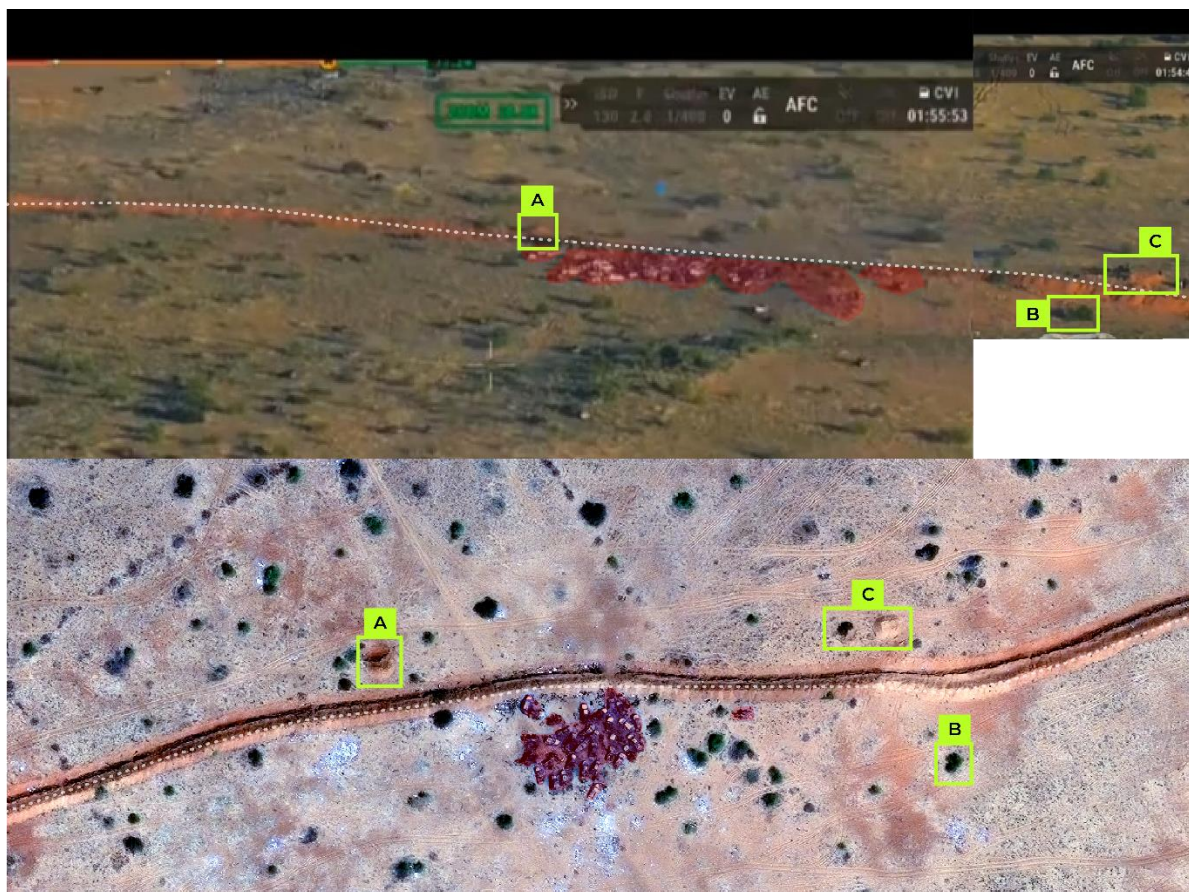


Figure 20: Panoramic view from drone footage showing a group of vehicles gathered at the berm opening, with satellite imagery from the aftermath dated 30 October 2025 [13.713530, 25.278752].  
Sources: [TikTok](#). Imagery: © Vantor (formerly Maxar), 30 October 2025.

This timing of the clashes at the berm in the early hours of 27 October closely follows the temporary concentration of vehicles and personnel identified on 26 October between El Fasher airport and El Fasher University (see section 4.5). Further, the convoy observed near the airport consisted of a mix of approximately 31 pickup trucks and white vehicles and was present only briefly. The composition of the convoy at the airport, particularly the presence of multiple pickup trucks commonly associated with armed mobility, as well as the number of vehicles (31) is almost identical to that at the berm (with 31 vehicles visible on satellite imagery).

Taken together, the timing, geographic proximity, vehicle count, composition (see section 4.5), and transient nature of the vehicle concentration identified near El Fasher airport on 26 October strongly support the assessment that this same convoy was subsequently redeployed toward the berm northwest of the city, where it became involved in armed clashes leading to destruction on 27 October.

On 27 October, videos began circulating online showing RSF forces closing in on the location where clashes were documented earlier that morning. The footage shows RSF fighters with military vehicles positioned on both sides of the berm. In the initial videos, several vehicles belonging to the opposing group are already on fire, before nearby vehicles are also seen on fire. For example, in one video verified by CIR and posted by a pro-RSF [Facebook](#) account on 15 November, a fighter is seen firing at what appears to be an individual at the base of the berm, who is waving his hands in the air.

## 5.2 AFTERMATH OF BERM CLASHES

CIR verified multiple videos showing the aftermath of the berm clashes depicting numerous bodies and several vehicles that were still burning or had been burned out (for example in a video posted by a pro-SAF X account and videos posted to a pro-RSF (1) Telegram (2) channel) (figure 21).



*Figure 21: Panorama from video stills showing burning vehicles on the inside of the berm about 12 km northwest of El Fasher (left) and a vehicle stuck in the ditch on the opposite side of the berm at the same location (right). CIR censored the scattered bodies around the vehicles 13.713530, 25.278752]. Sources: Telegram and Telegram*

In some videos, RSF fighters are seen celebrating around and between the burning vehicles. More than 100 bodies are seen scattered around the berm and the vehicles (figure 22). The majority of victims visible in verified footage are dressed in civilian clothing, and CIR identified several female bodies among them, indicating that the victims likely included civilians. However footage also shows burned weapons between the vehicles, suggesting armed men were amongst the victims.





Figure 22: Satellite image of the berm site captured on 1 November 2025, with burnt vehicles and bodies seen in the centre of the image. CIR verified five videos showing executions near the berm. [13.713400, 25.278490]. Sources: Imagery © Vantor (formerly Maxar), 30 October 2025

CIR assessed that the videos of the bodies and burned vehicles showed the same group involved in clashes at the berm earlier that day, based on their matching location, their proximity in time, and the similarities between materials and vehicles visible in the footage of the clashes, posted on [Facebook](#), with the burned vehicles documented in subsequent aftermath imagery, shared for example on Telegram. At least two vehicles were matched across the two timeframes. The first is a dual-cab Toyota Land Cruiser pickup truck with several distinctive modifications, including widened wheels, a push-bar bumper, and a raised engine air-intake hose (figure 23). The second vehicle is an older-model Toyota Hilux; faint outlines of decals visible in the aftermath imagery match elements of the decals seen in the earlier video, as well as reference imagery of the same make and model (figure 24). These matches support the assessment that some of the vehicles involved in the clashes were later destroyed at the same location.





Figure 23: Comparison screenshots of the first vehicle between the video of clashes at the berm and aftermath footage at the same location. Identifying markers consistent between the two images [13.713530, 25.278752]. Sources: [Facebook](#) (left), Telegram (right)



Figure 24: Comparison screenshots of the second vehicle between the video of clashes at the berm and aftermath footage at the same location, with a reference image of the same make and model. Identifying markers such as the highlighted decal outline and front end appear consistent between the two images and the reference image [13.713530, 25.278752]. Sources: [Facebook](#) (left), Telegram (lower-right), [Dubi Cars](#) (top-right)

### 5.3 EXECUTIONS AND IDENTIFIED RSF PERPETRATORS

From 27 October onwards, several videos depicting killings in and around El Fasher began circulating online. CIR identified 10 videos (including one covered in section 6.1) showing armed fighters shooting unarmed men in civilian clothing. Of the six videos CIR verified, five show RSF fighters—or armed men accompanied by individuals displaying RSF insignia—executing unarmed men in civilian clothing. One additional unverified video can be linked to the RSF due to the presence of men displaying RSF insignia. While the majority of execution videos verified by CIR

took place outside of the city, one was filmed at the El Fasher University, which was likely under RSF control at the time of filming (see section 6.1).

Five of the 10 execution videos depict RSF fighters shooting a total of 16 unarmed men, some injured, in civilian clothing near the location of the berm clashes (see section 5.2) northwest of El Fasher (figure 22). RSF commander Elfateh Abdullah Idris Adam (also known as “Abu Lulu”) is seen participating in the executions in four of these videos, firing at unarmed men (figure 25).

In three verified videos, Abu Lulu is seen addressing unarmed men in civilian clothing who are lying or sitting on the ground (14 men in total), before he and other men wearing RSF uniforms fire their rifles at them (for example, in a video posted to pro-RSF Telegram channel).

In the fourth verified video, posted by a pro-SAF X account, Abu Lulu is seen firing from the berm at a body that is still moving while lying in a bush. This video was filmed by an individual who also appears in a fifth video posted by a pro-SAF X account, in which a man is executed while lying on the ground.

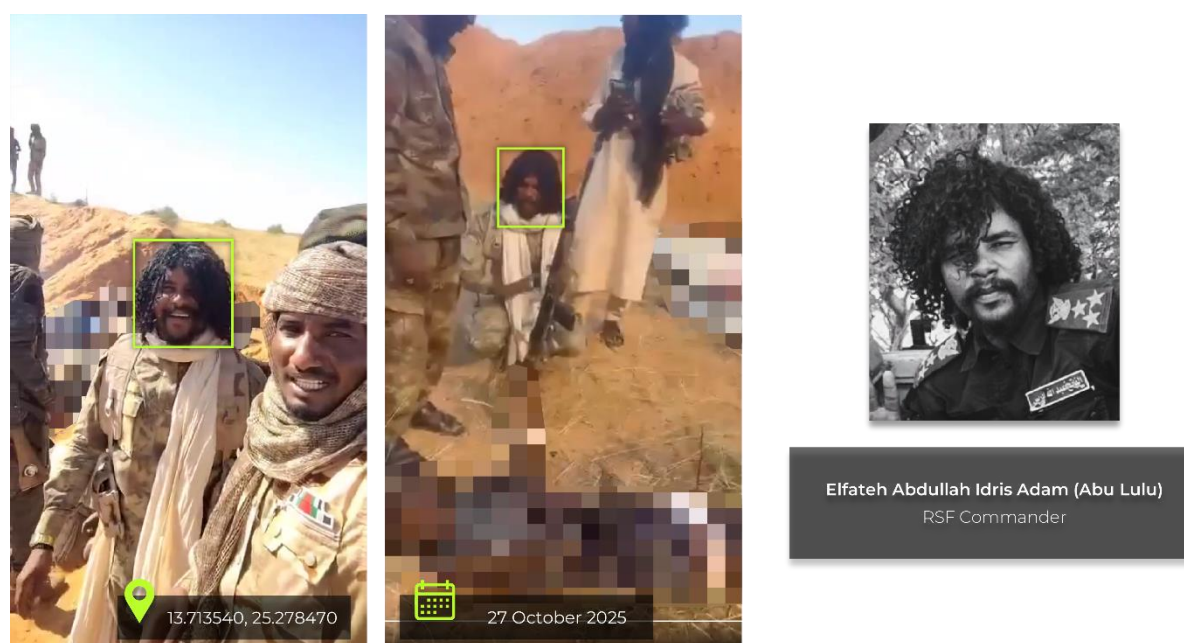


Figure 25: Identified RSF commander Elfateh Abdullah Idris Adam (Abu Lulu) at the berm site [13.713540, 25.278470]. Source: Telegram, X

## 5.4 ONLINE GLORIFICATION OF PERPETRATORS

In the days following the publication of these videos, CIR observed RSF supporters glorifying violent acts committed by Abu Lulu online.

For instance, on 27 October, a pro-RSF [Facebook](#) account shared an AI-generated image of Abu Lulu in pilot uniform with the caption “Abu Lulu for Travel and Tourism” (figure 26). Other users shared the same image with captions referencing him sending people to “Ali Karti’s heaven”.<sup>13</sup>

Another pro-RSF account on [Facebook](#) shared an AI-generated image on 27 October depicting Abu Lulu as a copper statue (figure 26), with the caption reading:

*“Soon, a statue of Abu Lulu. To remind our children about the championships of Abu Lulu against the Toroboro<sup>14</sup> of armed looting, the Shawayga<sup>15</sup> the remnants of the Egyptian colonialism, and the Shukriya<sup>16</sup>.”*

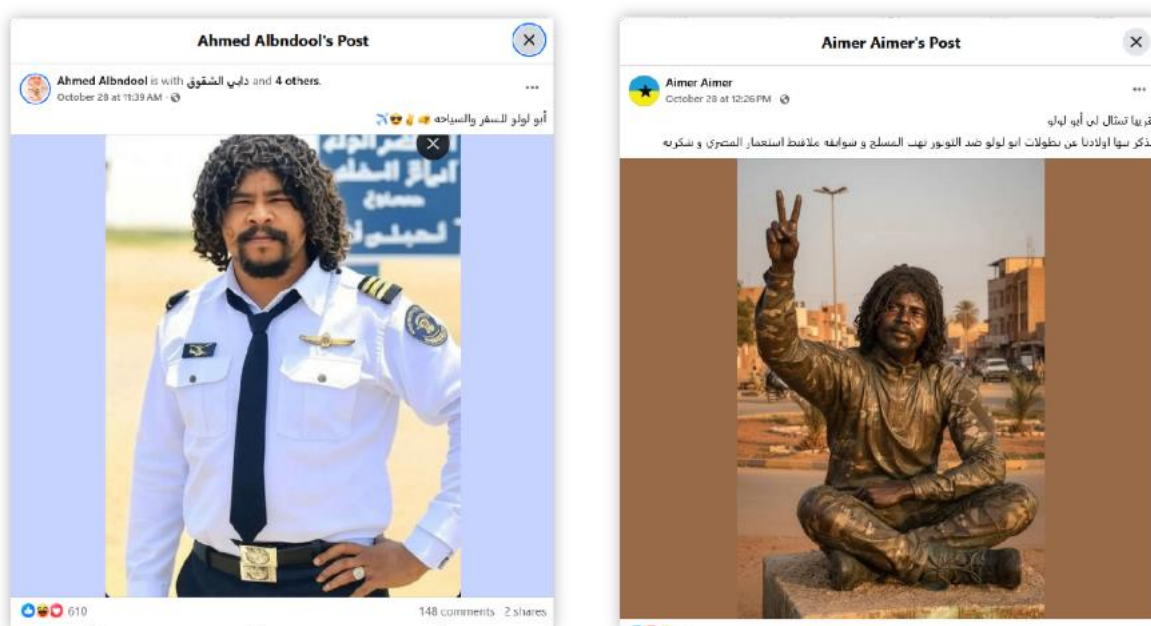


Figure 26: Screenshots from posts glorifying Abu Lulu and his violence online. Sources: [Facebook](#), [Facebook](#).

These images were widely circulated on platforms including X, Facebook, and TikTok, often accompanied by captions celebrating Abu Lulu’s violent acts as acts of heroism.

<sup>13</sup> Ali Ahmed Karti is a Sudanese politician who served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs between 2010 and 2015 under ousted president Omar al-Bashir. Karti is now serving as the leader of the Sudanese Islamic Movement and has been accused by RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo of pulling the strings in the SAF.

<sup>14</sup> Toroboro is a slang term used to refer to non-Arab rebel groups in Darfur.

<sup>15</sup> Shawayga (plural), or Shaygiya is a tribe based in the Northern state.

<sup>16</sup> Shukriya is a tribe based in eastern Sudan in the wider Butana region located across Gezira, Kassala, and Gedaref states.

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## 6 28 OCTOBER AND BEYOND

### 6.1 KILLINGS AT EL FASHER UNIVERSITY

On 28 October, several accounts, including a pro-SAF Telegram channel, shared a video showing an execution inside a building located within the El Fasher University campus. Some accounts claimed that the footage showed RSF fighters inside the Saudi Hospital in El Fasher. The video shows the ground floor of a building and outside near the entrance filled with at least a dozen bodies, including an elderly man, being shot by an armed individual carrying an assault rifle. The camera then moves outside, where additional bodies dressed in civilian clothing are visible.

CIR geolocated the footage to the Faculty of Medical Laboratory Science building at El Fasher University, rather than the Saudi Hospital. CIR also verified two separate videos taken at the University posted by a [pro-RSF](#) (1) [Facebook](#) (2) channel on 27 October. The first shows RSF fighters inside the University campus in front of a El Fasher University sign. The second video shows a large presence of RSF celebrating in front of the Faculty of Medical Laboratory Science building, with the caption claiming control of the University (figure 27). These two videos make it likely that RSF forces controlled the University premises at the time of the killings and puts them in a time window near the building at the time of the killings.





*Figure 27: RSF fighters celebrating in front of the El Fasher University Faculty of Medical Laboratory Science building on 27 October. A smoke plume is seen in the video coming from the direction where a burn scar appears in PlanetScope between 27 and 29 October, suggest the video was filmed on 27 October [13.628867, 25.328079]. Source: [Facebook](#)*

Analysis of satellite imagery captured on 28 October by the [Yale School of Public Health](#) highlights discolouration and new clusters of objects around El Fasher University, further corroborating that killings occurred at that location. While CIR did not independently verify footage filmed at the Saudi Hospital or other locations within the city, Yale's analysis shows that it is highly plausible that killings occurred at multiple sites across El Fasher during this period.

## 6.2 RSF AT THE FORMER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Following the takeover of the city, videos emerged showing alleged detentions of individuals inside the city of El Fasher. CIR verified two videos posted on 28 October and 4 November showing a large gathering of men in civilian clothing inside the former Children's Hospital in El Fasher (figure 28). In the video posted on 28 October on [Facebook](#), an individual wearing camouflage and accompanied by armed men displaying RSF insignia is seen addressing a group of detained men (figure 29). The caption of the post claims that the man speaking in the footage is the RSF legal counsellor Adam Dwalbit. The presence of exclusively males, the existence of footage filmed on different days, and what appear to be makeshift installations visible in one of the videos supports reporting from the [African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies](#) (ACJPS) that the site has been used as a temporary detention centre following the RSF takeover of the city.

In the video, the alleged legal counsellor states that the men will be provided with what they need, a narrative that aligns with other content published by RSF-affiliated media channels portraying RSF detention practices as orderly or humane.



Figure 28: RSF members seen inside the former Children's Hospital in El Fasher. The footage shows a large gathering of men in civilian clothing at the facility. The video was posted on 28 October [13.621858, 25.382612]. Source: [Facebook](#)



Figure 29: Stills from videos showing RSF fighters addressing a crowd of men at the former Children's Hospital, posted on 28 October (left) and 4 November (right) [13.621858, 25.382612]. Source: [Facebook](#) (left) and [TikTok](#) (right)

### 6.3 DISPLACED CIVILIANS

The UN [International Organization for Migration](#) (IOM) estimated that over 127,000 individuals were displaced from the El Fasher town and surrounding villages between 26 October 2025 and 13 January 2026. IOM data indicates that the majority of those displaced (70%) remained within North Darfur state, including significant numbers within El Fasher locality itself.

In a statement issued on 26 November, [Medecins Sans Frontières](#) (MSF) reported that an estimated 10,000 people had reached Tawila since 26 October. This aligns with IOM's estimate of approximately 9,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from El Fasher in Tawila as of 13 January.

The relatively small number of people reported to have arrived in Tawila suggests that large numbers of civilians either were unable to flee El Fasher, remain unaccounted for, or attempted to escape via alternative routes, including toward Gurnei or Korma. On 2 November, the [Sudan Doctors Network](#) reported that RSF forces were holding thousands of civilians inside the city. In addition, CIR verified



footage showing hundreds of detained individuals in civilian clothing along the route toward Gurnei, with subsequent evidence indicating that some were killed (see section [4.4](#)).

## 6.4 RSF PROPAGANDA

Following the takeover of El Fasher, RSF-affiliated social media accounts disseminated a wave of propaganda content portraying the city as calm and firmly under RSF control. Several videos circulated shortly after the takeover conveyed a sense of normalcy and legitimacy, in contrast to widespread reports of violence, civilian harm, and mass displacement.

One such video, circulating via the official RSF [Telegram](#) channel, features purported testimonies from El Fasher civilians praising RSF conduct or describing improved security conditions. Given the broader context of reported abuses, mass displacement, and restrictions on civilian movement, these portrayals raise concerns about coercion, selective representation, or staging, and appear intended to counter international reporting on RSF actions following the takeover. This includes a video posted on 12 November to the RSF [Telegram](#) channel showing RSF providing aid in Gurnei and a video posted by RSF commander Waleed Yusef Wahal on his [TikTok](#) account on 28 October, showing him in Gurnei with internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Additionally, the RSF published a statement on [Telegram](#) on 30 October claiming that Abu Lulu had been arrested following an investigation into attacks on civilians, after videos showing him executing civilians circulated widely online and generated significant attention. The statement was accompanied by an image showing Abu Lulu in handcuffs, dressed in a clean uniform, and surrounded by masked RSF fighters. CIR has not been able to independently verify this claim or determine whether Abu Lulu remains in detention or has since been released.

## 6.5 RSF COMMANDER PRESENCE

CIR verified footage showing RSF Deputy Commander Abdulrahim Hamdan Dagalo at the Saudi Hospital in El Fasher, posted on [Facebook](#) 4 November (figure 30). Vehicles visible in the video match those seen in Planet satellite imagery captured on the same day. Planet satellite imagery also shows vehicles positioned outside the hospital gate toward which Dagalo is seen heading at the end of the footage, strongly indicating that the video was filmed on 4 November.

Dagalo was previously identified at the SAF 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division base in El Fasher on 26 October. Taken together, these verified sightings establish that a senior RSF commander was present in El Fasher across an extended period during and following the violent RSF takeover of the city.





Figure 30: Geolocation of footage showing RSF Deputy Commander Dagalo at the Saudi Hospital in El Fasher, North Darfur [13.630773, 25.329871]. Sources: [Facebook](#) Imagery © 2025 Airbus; map data © Google

Two days later, on 6 November, a video was posted to [TikTok](#) showing an RSF delegation at the Saudi Hospital, including Head of the Media Department Lieutenant Colonel Eltayeb Khalil Eltayeb.

The presence of high-ranking commanders at the Saudi Hospital is notable, as the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) reported that 460 civilians were killed at the hospital on 28 October.

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## 7 CONCLUSION

CIR analysis demonstrates that the RSF takeover of El Fasher on 26 October 2025 was accompanied by widespread and extreme violence—including mass detentions and executions. RSF forces rapidly secured key military installations across the city while senior commanders were present. On the day of the takeover, hundreds of civilians fleeing El Fasher were detained, forcibly moved, and subjected to abuse along routes leading toward Gurnei, with their subsequent fate remaining largely unknown. In several videos, CIR documented the use of ethnic slurs by RSF fighters and commanders towards detained unarmed men they accuse of being affiliated with SAF-allied armed groups. These slurs are used consistently by RSF commanders to justify the detention, physical violence, and killing of these men.

Likely on the same day, and certainly in the days immediately following, fighters, including armed men displaying RSF insignia, were involved in multiple executions of unarmed men in civilian clothing, particularly at a berm northwest of El Fasher and at El Fasher University. The identification of several of the same RSF commanders and fighters across footage from military headquarters, apparent detention sites, and execution locations establishes a clear linkage between RSF units controlling the city and the documented atrocities. Satellite imagery analysis and vehicle matching further corroborate the sequence of events and movements of armed groups.

The scale of displacement, combined with verified mass detentions and killings, indicates that large segments of El Fasher's civilian population were exposed to severe harm or remained trapped following the RSF takeover.

Since the events covered in this report, very little open-source information has emerged to shed light on additional and more recent developments in El Fasher. The current situation remains unclear at the time of writing, however CIR will continue to monitor for and verify additional information as and when it becomes available.