

Table 4 Estimated firearms inventories in Sudan, December 2009

Category	Strength	Ratio of weapons to members	Estimated small arms	Notes
GNU forces				
SAF (not including JIUs)	225,000	Various ¹	310,000	Infantry and reserves do not seem to lack arms (mostly Kalashnikovs). Popular Defence Forces not included (see below).
SAF Joint Integrated Units (JIUs)	17,000	1.1/soldier	19,000	GNU pays salaries, SAF provides arms.
National Police Service (NPS)	100,000	Various ²	110,000	Central Reserve Police are well armed.
Popular Defence Forces	20,000	0.5/personnel	10,000	Strength may once have been 100,000 men.
National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) (armed units)	7,500	2.5/official	19,000	NISS armed personnel comparatively well equipped and stocked. Separate NISS force to protect oil fields.
GoSS forces				
SPLA (not including JIUs)	125,000	1.4/combatant	175,000	SPLA arms Southern police.
SPLA JIUs	16,000	1.1/combatant	17,500	GNU pays salaries, SPLA provides arms.
Southern Sudan Police Service	28,000	0.3/policeman	8,400	Budget includes 5,000 more police, but no weapons.
GoSS Prison Service	17,000	0.08/staff member	1,300	Prison staff reported to possess 1,300 AKM rifles.
GoSS Wildlife Service	13,000	0.08/staff member	1,000	Assume no better armed than Prison Service.
Armed groups				
Eastern Front	2,000	0.5/combatant	1,000	Roughly half of estimated 4,000 ex-rebels have joined the SAF or reintegrated into civilian life.
SAF-aligned Arab militias ³	5,000	1.2/combatant	6,000	Believed to possess some 250 Landcruisers.
Ex-SAF-aligned Arab militias ⁴	2,000	1.2/combatant	2,400	Believed to possess some 120 Landcruisers.
Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) – Minni Minawi	1,500	1.2/combatant	1,800	Weakening, but benefits from sporadic SAF support. Believed to possess some 80 Landcruisers.
SLA – Abdul Wahid	2,500	1.2/combatant	3,000	Believed to possess some 40 Landcruisers.
'Addis Ababa Group' ⁵	1,000	1.2/combatant	1,200	Alliance believed to possess 20-25 Landcruisers.
Sudan's Liberation Revolutionary Forces (SLRF) ⁶	500	1.0/combatant	500	SLRF believed to possess perhaps 5-10 Landcruisers, most held by SLA field leadership's Ali Mukhtar.
Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) ⁷	5,000	1.5/combatant	7,500	JEM believed to possess some 325 Landcruisers.
National Movement for Reform and Development (NMRD)	500	1.2/combatant	600	NMRD believed to possess around 30 Landcruisers.
Chadian groups ⁸	4,000	1.5/combatant	6,000	Believed to possess some 150 Landcruisers.
Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)	500	0.8/combatant	400	Recent clashes with UPDF have resulted in LRA losing men/access to arms caches. Many LRA now in Central African Republic.
Foreign UN and state forces				
UN Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) (military units)	8,800	1.4/military personnel	12,500	UNMIS police, military observers, and civilian staff are unarmed. No formed (armed) police units.
AU/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) (military units and formed police units)	15,250	1.3/military and police personnel	20,000	UNAMID like UNMIS, except (1) higher percentage of troop contributors provided with fewer weapons than requested and (2) formed police units are armed.
Uganda Peoples Defence Force (UPDF)	2,000	1.5/soldier	3,000	UPDF Battle Group operates in Southern Sudan to counter and pursue the LRA (sometimes outside Sudan).
Additional weapons held by civilians⁹				
Among those residing in the North	31 million	4 per 100	1.24 million	State security forces and urban settings suggest low ratio.
Among those residing in the South	9 million	8 per 100	720,000	Prevalence of armed violence among pastoralist groups and lack of law and order suggest ratio could be higher.
Total	n/a	n/a	2.7 million	

All figures have been rounded.

¹ Calculation assumes the SAF comprised of 20,000 officers (ratio of 1 weapon per officer), 120,000 infantry (1.5/soldier), 70,000 'reserves' (1.2/reservist), 10,000 air defence units (1.2/serviceman), 10,000 border guards (1.0/guard), and 1,200 navy and 3,500 air force personnel (0.5/serviceman).

² Calculation assumes NPS has for many years consisted of the Central Reserve Police (CRP), Emergency Police, Immigration Police, Petroleum Police, and Popular Police. Recently, the Prison, Customs, and Wildlife services have been incorporated into the NPS. The strengths and comparative levels of equipment among these various components are extremely difficult to ascertain. It is understood that the CRP is the largest and best-armed force among these various units and that personnel possess light weapons and riot-control equipment in addition to their personal firearms. A ratio of 1.5:1 is used for the CRP, which is believed to represent perhaps 20 per cent of the 100,000-strong NPS. Members of the rest of the units are believed to receive one weapon each (which they may or may not have on their person, depending on the assignment).

³ The militias are frequently referred to as 'Janjaweed', which is often defined as 'devil on horseback'. The label was originally used to describe bandits. The international media have seized on this term to refer more generally to pro-Khartoum militias responsible for attacks on people in Darfur. While this is not a monolithic group with a unified command structure, the term here is used to denote militias in Darfur, drawn mostly from nomadic Arab tribes, which were armed by Sudanese Military Intelligence and the SAF in 2003-04. Many have since been given army IDs and salaries and remain by and large loyal to the SAF. The militias mostly comprise nomadic camel herders (Abbala), including the Mahamid (e.g. the Um Jalul tribe of Musa Hilal) and the Maharia of 'Hemeti'. This said, three points need to be underscored: (1) many Arabs have remained outside the conflict; (2) some Arabs have sided with the rebels; and (3) 'alignments'—even long-standing ones—can be fluid.

⁴ Many militias in Darfur, previously supported with arms from Khartoum, have since turned against the government. Some have joined pre-existing Darfur rebel movements or their offshoots. Many have formed armed groups of their own, but have not generated significant popular support among Arab communities.

⁵ The Addis Ababa Group owes its genesis to the efforts of US envoy Scott Gration to unite the SLA. In the short term, Gration has united only one faction of SLA Unity with a handful of commanders briefly aligned with Abdel Wahid.

⁶ The SLRF was established in Tripoli, by Libyan diktat, in September 2009 as Libya challenged Qatar's new central role in peacemaking in Darfur. It is an artificial construct designed as a political asset for Col. Gaddhafi. Its membership is unclear. What seems clear is that its creation increased the fragmentation of the rebel movements, splitting, for example, SLA Unity.

⁷ This refers to the movement headed by Khalil Ibrahim, militarily the strongest and politically the most coherent in Darfur. There have been several offshoots of the JEM since it was established in 2003 (e.g. the NMRD and Democratic JEM)—but the JEM has remained relatively stable compared to the SLA.

⁸ The term 'Chadian rebel groups' refers to numerous Darfur-based 'Chadian armed insurgent groups'. As of September 2009, by some accounts there were as many as ten distinct groups.

⁹ In the absence of reliable data, the population figures used here are rough estimates. According to disputed 2008 census results, the population of the North is 30.89 million, with 8.26 million in the South. The GoSS rejected the results on the basis that various populations, including in the south and the west, were deliberately under-counted. The Central Bureau of Statistics refused to share raw data with the Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation.