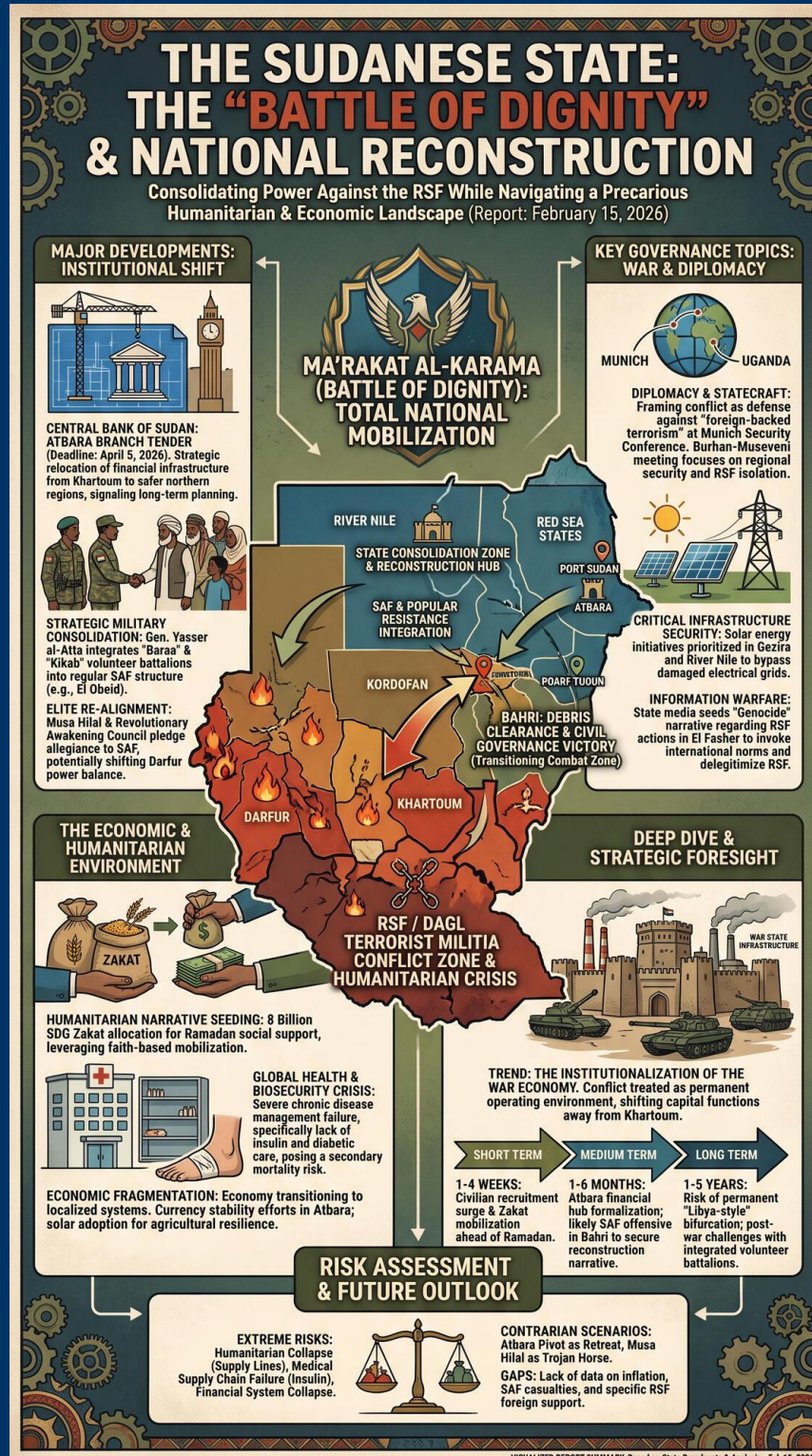


TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

SUDAN

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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THE SUDANESE STATE IS ORCHESTRATING A MASSIVE NATIONAL MOBILIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION CAMPAIGN CENTERED ON THE "BATTLE OF DIGNITY" TO CONSOLIDATE POWER AGAINST THE RSF WHILE NAVIGATING A PRECARIOUS HUMANITARIAN AND ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

Broadcasts from February 15, 2026, characterize a nation in a state of total mobilization, attempting to project institutional stability amidst an existential conflict. The state media narrative is dominated by the "Battle of Dignity" (Ma'rakat al-Karama), a term used to frame the ongoing war against the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)—consistently labeled as the "Dagl/RSF Terrorist Militia"—as a unified national struggle. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and senior military leadership, including Yasser al-Atta, are depicted in a series of high-profile field visits to "liberated" and stable regions, specifically in River Nile State, Northern State, and North Kordofan. These visits serve

as both recruitment drives and attempts to demonstrate government control over critical territory, emphasizing the integration of popular mobilization forces with the regular army [at sites like Kadabas](#).

Simultaneously, the Sudanese government is signaling a pivot toward reconstruction and economic continuity. A significant portion of the day's coverage was dedicated to the Central Bank of Sudan's formal tender for a [new branch in Atbara](#), a move that suggests a strategic relocation of financial hubs away from the embattled capital. In Khartoum North (Bahri), state-led efforts to clear war debris and restore basic services are being framed as a victory for civil governance, even as health officials warn of a secondary crisis involving chronic diseases, specifically diabetes, which has been exacerbated by [broken medical supply chains](#). The convergence of these events suggests a regime attempting to build a "war state" infrastructure that can survive a prolonged conflict while seeking external legitimacy through diplomatic engagement in Munich and regional outreach to Uganda.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Institutional Relocation and Continuity:** The Central Bank of Sudan (CBoS) issued a major tender for the design and supervision of a [new branch in Atbara](#), signaling a permanent shift in financial infrastructure to safer northern regions. The deadline for bids is set for April 5, 2026, indicating long-term planning despite active hostilities.

- **Strategic Military Consolidation:** General Yasser al-Atta conducted a morale-boosting visit to the 5th Division in North Kordofan (El Obeid), emphasizing the [integration of diverse paramilitary units](#) including the "Baraa" and "Kikab" battalions into the regular SAF structure.
- **Elite Re-Alignment:** The state successfully secured the public allegiance of Musa Hilal, a powerful tribal figure and leader of the Revolutionary Awakening Council, who pledged his forces to [defend the state](#) against the RSF, potentially shifting the balance of power in Darfur.
- **Khartoum North Reconstruction:** Authorities announced the commencement of debris removal and infrastructure restoration in Bahri, portraying the city as transitioning from a [combat zone to a governed space](#), despite ongoing proximity to RSF-held areas.
- **Humanitarian Narrative Seeding:** The government is heavily promoting its Zakat (charity) programs ahead of Ramadan, allocating [8 billion SDG](#) for social support, likely as a mechanism to maintain domestic loyalty amidst severe economic hardship.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- Senior leadership is promoting a "Popular Resistance" model, actively training civilians in [Northern and River Nile states](#) to supplement regular forces.
- Reports from El Fasher highlight alleged RSF atrocities, which the state media characterizes as [genocide and massacres](#) to justify continued total war.

Critical Infrastructure Security

- The restoration of the [Sheikh Azraq Taiba](#) region is highlighted as a model for returning civil order to contested areas.
- Solar energy initiatives are being prioritized in Gezira to [bypass damaged electrical grids](#), particularly for agricultural and medical use.

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Sudanese officials are utilizing the [Munich Security Conference](#) to frame the conflict as a defense against foreign-backed terrorism, specifically targeting western policy circles.
- General Burhan's meeting with Ugandan President Museveni focuses on [regional security and bilateral ties](#), attempting to isolate the RSF from regional support.

Global Health & Biosecurity

- A significant public health crisis is emerging around chronic disease management. Detailed reporting on [diabetic foot complications](#) reveals a system struggling with lack of specialized surgical capacity and essential medications like insulin.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Institutionalization of the War Economy

The state is no longer treating the conflict as a temporary disruption but as a permanent operating environment. The Bank of Sudan's tender for the Atbara branch is a bellwether for this trend, showing a shift of capital and administrative function [away from Khartoum](#).

This is mirrored in the aggressive promotion of Zakat as a primary social safety net, replacing traditional tax-and-spend welfare with a [faith-based mobilization of resources](#) to manage a population under extreme stress.

Tribal Alignment as State Survival

The public embrace of Musa Hilal marks a critical strategic shift. By aligning with Hilal, the SAF is attempting to exploit internal fractures within the Arab tribes of Darfur that have historically formed the backbone of the RSF's predecessor groups. Hilal's statement that his forces ["will not leave their areas"](#) while fighting for the state suggests a decentralization of the conflict, where local tribal militias are given state blessing to hold territory against RSF incursions.

Information Warfare: The "Genocide" Narrative

There is a concerted effort to link current RSF actions to past atrocities, specifically using the term "genocide" in relation to [El Fasher and North Kordofan](#). This is not merely descriptive but is a strategic attempt to invoke international legal mechanisms and "Responsibility to Protect" norms, while simultaneously delegitimizing any diplomatic path that includes the RSF leadership in a future government.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

The Sudanese state is currently navigating a fragile equilibrium where elite infighting appears to have been temporarily suppressed by the existential threat of the RSF. The broadcasts show a high degree of coordination between military and civilian administrators, particularly in "safe" states like River Nile and Northern State. However,

the heavy reliance on "Popular Resistance" and civilian volunteer battalions—such as the [Baraa battalions](#)—carries long-term risks of warlordism and the fragmentation of the state's monopoly on violence once the immediate RSF threat recedes.

Public sentiment is being managed through highly emotional coverage of reconstruction and religious charity. The focus on [cleaning Bahri](#) is designed to counter narratives of state failure, but the underlying vulnerability remains extreme. The detailed segments on medical crises, such as the [lack of insulin and diabetic care](#), reveal that the state's mandate is being tested by its inability to provide basic biological security to its citizens. The loss of Khartoum as a functional capital has forced a makeshift governance structure in Port Sudan and Atbara that lacks historical institutional weight.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Sudan is framing its external operating environment as a hostile matrix where the RSF is a proxy for unspecified foreign interests. The government is reacting defensively to external shocks by attempting to forge a new regional axis, primarily through Uganda and potentially Egypt. The broadcasts portray the "outside world" at the Munich Security Conference as a [zone of competition](#) where Sudanese diplomats must aggressively sell the narrative of the SAF as the sole legitimate representative of the state.

The state is weaponizing economic statecraft by highlighting the central bank's stability and the Zakat distributions as evidence that the Sudanese state is still a viable partner for international aid and trade. There is a clear attempt to move away from international

isolationism by projecting an image of a state that is [principled and stable](#), even as it is reacting to the anarchic system created by the RSF rebellion. The posture is one of a "strong" state in a "weak" situation, using the language of sovereignty to resist international pressure for a negotiated settlement that would compromise its military dominance.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Sudan's economy is transitioning into a fragmented, localized system where stability is found only in the northern and eastern corridors. The central government is focusing on agricultural resilience and local energy independence to survive the blockade of Khartoum.

- **Central Bank Tender:** Major infrastructure project announced for [Atbara branch](#), reflecting a strategic relocation of financial services.
- **Zakat Allocation:** [8 billion SDG](#) allocated for Ramadan social support, a significant expenditure aimed at poverty alleviation.
- **Solar Energy Transition:** Rapid adoption of [solar power in Gezira and River Nile states](#) to compensate for the total failure of the national grid.
- **Currency Stability Efforts:** The CBoS is attempting to maintain a digital and paper presence [in Atbara](#) to prevent a total collapse of the pound in liberated zones.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The current military leadership is consolidating around a core group of commanders who have survived the initial RSF onslaught, with a notable shift toward

rewarding frontline success and tribal alignment.

- **General Yasser al-Atta:** His status is elevated as he tours [North Kordofan](#), signaling him as the primary architect of the integrated SAF-Volunteer forces.
- **Musa Hilal:** Emerges as a [major winner](#) in the political environment; his public pledge of loyalty likely earns him significant autonomy and resources in Darfur.
- **Governor of Central Bank:** Depicted as a [competent technocrat](#) managing a wartime transition, solidifying their role in the Port Sudan/Atbara administration.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's editorial hierarchy is strictly nationalistic and reassuring, with a heavy emphasis on military progress and institutional resilience. The "Lead Stories" are consistently focused on military visits to the front and the "Battle of Dignity" narrative. Reconstruction in Bahri and the Bank of Sudan tender are given high prominence to project a sense of normalcy and state victory. "Buried Stories" include any mention of SAF casualties or specific RSF territorial gains, which are entirely omitted. The emotional tone is one of resilient determination, frequently punctuated by religious imagery and calls to "Dignity." A conspicuous omission is any mention of the actual price of essential goods or the specific status of the currency, which logically should be central to an economic report during a civil war.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The subtext of the day's coverage is a stark friend/foe dichotomy, with the SAF and its

allies portrayed as the sole guardians of civilization against a chaotic, genocidal "militia."

- **Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF):** Framed as "strong," "principled," and "the soul of the nation." Quotes emphasize their role as ["protectors of sovereignty"](#) and the only barrier to anarchy.
- **Rapid Support Forces (RSF):** Characterized as "chaotic," "corrupt," and "foreign proxies." Descriptions consistently include terms like ["genocidal militia"](#) and "terrorist."
- **Uganda:** Framed as a "stable friend" and a ["strategic partner"](#) in regional security, signaling a diplomatic thaw or reinforcement.
- **Germany/Munich Conference:** Portrayed as a "critical arena" for [diplomatic struggle](#), where the state must convince a skeptical West of its legitimacy.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The term "Battle of Dignity" is used universally to overwrite the complexities of the civil war with a simple binary of [state vs. terror](#).
- **Psychological Operations:** The broadcast uses extensive footage of [reconstruction in Bahri](#) to create a perception of security that may not be fully reflected by the tactical situation on the ground.
- **Propaganda:** The Zakat office reports serve as domestic propaganda, framing the military-led government as a [provider of religious and social welfare](#) amidst economic ruin.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Hypothesis 1:** The relocation of the Central Bank to Atbara indicates that the SAF does not expect to retake full control of central Khartoum in the near term, preparing for a [prolonged divided state](#).
- **Hypothesis 2:** The alliance with Musa Hilal will lead to a new, even more violent phase of tribal conflict in Darfur as Hilal's forces [clash with RSF-aligned tribes](#).
- **Hypothesis 3:** The focus on diabetes and chronic health crises suggests an [imminent wave of non-combat deaths](#) that could destabilize pro-SAF regions if insulin and medical supplies are not secured.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a surge in civilian recruitment and paramilitary activity as Ramadan approaches, using the [Zakat distributions](#) to mobilize the poor. Social unrest is unlikely in pro-SAF areas due to the high degree of militarization, but humanitarian conditions will continue to deteriorate.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The construction of the [Atbara Bank of Sudan branch](#) will begin to formalize a "northern capital" infrastructure. The military will likely attempt a major offensive in Bahri to secure the debris-cleared zones and justify the reconstruction narrative.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Sudan is at risk of a permanent "Libya-style" bifurcation, with a SAF-led state in the north/east and an RSF-dominated west. The integration of [volunteer battalions](#) will likely lead to a crisis of military command and control in the post-war era.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Humanitarian Collapse:** Triggers: Severing of supply lines to Atbara/Port Sudan. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Extreme. Mitigations: International aid corridors through Northern State.
- **Paramilitary Fragmentation:** Triggers: Dispute over resources between SAF and [Baraa battalions](#). Likelihood: High. Impact: High. Mitigations: Strict hierarchical integration into SAF.
- **Medical Supply Chain Failure:** Triggers: Total depletion of [insulin and dialysis supplies](#). Likelihood: Extreme. Impact: Moderate (high mortality among vulnerable). Mitigations: Targeted medical airlifts.
- **RSF Breakthrough in El Fasher:** Triggers: Failure of the [Musa Hilal alliance](#) to hold territory. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Extreme (potential mass killings). Mitigations: Rapid SAF air reinforcement.
- **Financial System Collapse:** Triggers: Rejection of digital SDG or failure of [Central Bank tender process](#). Likelihood: Low. Impact: Extreme. Mitigations: Foreign currency stabilization through regional partners.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The transcripts provide no information on the status of the [Sudanese Pound's exchange rate](#) or inflation, leaving a massive gap in economic risk assessment.
- There is a total lack of reporting on SAF military losses, which is necessary to gauge the sustainability of the "Battle of Dignity" [mobilization](#).

- The exact nature of the RSF's foreign support is never specified, preventing a clear analysis of potential [diplomatic levers](#) to end the conflict.
- The status of the Gezira Scheme, Sudan's agricultural heartland, is minimized despite its [critical importance to food security](#).

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The Atbara Pivot as Retreat:** The move to Atbara and the clearing of Bahri are not signs of strength, but a [desperate consolidation](#) into a smaller "rump state" as the military realizes it cannot retake Khartoum.
- **Musa Hilal as a Trojan Horse:** Hilal's pledge of loyalty is a [tactical pause](#) to secure SAF weapons and funding, with the intent of later declaring an independent Darfur state once the SAF and RSF have exhausted each other.
- **"Black Swan" - Regional Spillover:** A mass casualty event in El Fasher triggers a [direct military intervention](#) by a regional power, turning the civil war into a full-scale regional conflict.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Security: Increase monitoring of the [Musa Hilal/SAF nexus](#) to detect signs of tribal friction before it leads to local conflict.
- Economic: Support the formalization of the [Atbara financial hub](#) as a mechanism to channel humanitarian aid through regulated channels.

- **Diplomatic:** Pressure for a ceasefire during Ramadan, leveraging the [Zakat distribution window](#) to allow for aid delivery.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Pivot logistics to [solar-powered cold chains](#) to mitigate the collapse of the national electrical grid for perishables and medicine.
- **Regulatory:** Prepare for a bifurcated regulatory environment, where [Atbara/Port Sudan-based licenses](#) may be required to operate in SAF zones.
- **Risk:** Divest from assets in central Khartoum, as the [Bahri cleanup](#) is likely a prelude to intensified urban warfare, not a return to commerce.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The current governance is characterized by executive decree and military council decisions rather than formal legislative sessions. Major policy shifts are announced via ministerial broadcasts.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:** Tender for the [Central Bank of Sudan Atbara Branch](#); strategic plan to decentralize financial institutions to River Nile State.
- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:** Ministerial briefing on [Zakat allocations](#) for the 2026 fiscal year; Health Ministry update on [diabetic foot management](#) and chronic disease protocols.

KEY STORIES

- **CBoS Atbara Tender:** A formal announcement of a tender process for a new Central Bank building in Atbara, with a deadline of [April 5, 2026](#).

- **Bahri Cleanup Campaign:** A major initiative to remove war debris and RSF wreckage from Khartoum North to [restore civil services](#).
- **Musa Hilal Allegiance:** The leader of the Revolutionary Awakening Council pledges his forces to the SAF to [defend the state](#).
- **Diabetic Health Crisis:** Public health reporting on the lack of medical supplies for [chronic disease management](#).
- **Zakat Social Fund:** The government allocates [8 billion SDG](#) for social support programs during Ramadan.
- **Yasser al-Atta El Obeid Visit:** A high-profile visit to the 5th Division to boost morale and [integrate volunteer forces](#).
- **Munich Security Conference Participation:** Sudanese officials lobby for [international support](#) against the RSF.
- **Solar Energy in Gezira:** A strategic shift to solar power for [agricultural irrigation](#) and hospitals.
- **Popular Resistance Training:** Military-led training for [civilian volunteers](#) in northern states.
- **El Fasher Atrocity Reports:** Allegations of [genocidal acts](#) by the RSF in North Darfur.
- **Burhan-Museveni Meeting:** A diplomatic meeting in Entebbe to discuss [regional security](#).

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.

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