

UN refugee agency warns 800,000 could flee fighting in Sudan

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United Nations, May 3 (RHC)-- Medical workers in Sudan are warning of a mounting catastrophe as airstrikes continue to rock Khartoum despite a declared ceasefire between Sudan's army and a rival paramilitary group.

Eighteen days into the fighting, Sudan's healthcare system has largely collapsed, and aid workers are describing increasingly desperate scenes with bodies piled in the streets of the capital amid critical shortages of water, food and fuel.

The United Nations Refugee Agency has warned that the crisis could push more than 800,000 people out of Sudan. The UN assistant high commissioner for refugees, Raouf Mazou, told reporters: "Without a quick resolution of this crisis, we will continue to see more people forced to flee in search of safety and basic assistance. ... Thus far, about 73,000 people have arrived in neighboring countries."

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