



The RSF's Business Network in the UAE

A team of businessmen with ties to Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia set up a network of companies in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) including jewelers, an interior design business, and a management consultancy.

While seven of the firms have already been publicly identified and sanctioned, The Sentry has identified five key individuals behind the corporate structures, as well as hitherto unreported entities they have set up, that merit further scrutiny and investigation.¹

One of these individuals, Mazin Fadlalla, previously bought hundreds of Toyotas for the RSF to convert to "technicals," pickup trucks with mounted machine guns.^{2,3} The involvement of Fadlalla and others in four Dubai-based gold companies provides a glimpse into the conflict gold supply chain: smuggled out of western Sudan, imported into the UAE, and then sold on to international markets.^{4, 5, 6, 7, 8}

In the years before the war in Sudan began in 2023, the RSF and its leaders diversified their business interests into a wide array of economic sectors. As the war has progressed, however, the militia has become more reliant on a narrower business model, with gold mining playing a vital role. Within that model, the RSF needs corporate vehicles and banks to turn smuggled gold into hard currency. Revealing the identities of the men behind these companies will enable banks, gold refineries, and governments to investigate and, if merited, halt future transactions in which Fadlalla and others are involved.

The RSF Corporate Network*

Sudanese warlord Mohammad Hamdan Dagalo Mousa, or "Hemedti," sits at the apex of a "paramilitary-industrial complex," in charge of both the RSF and a multinational business network.⁹ In 2019, that network generated enough revenue for Hemedti to claim he had deposited \$1 billion with Sudan's central bank to help stabilize the economy.¹⁰

During the 2010s, Hemedti's wealth expanded alongside the RSF's grip on Sudan's gold industry and the paramilitary group's increasingly prominent role in the state.¹¹ Later in the decade, the RSF's export of mercenaries to fight in Yemen

*Reports by The Sentry are based on interviews, documentary research, and, where relevant, financial forensic analysis. In some cases, sources speak to The Sentry on the condition that their names not be revealed, out of concern for their safety or other potential retaliatory action. The Sentry establishes the authoritativeness and credibility of information derived from those interviews through independent sources, such as expert commentary, financial data, original documentation, and press reports. The Sentry endeavors to contact the persons and entities discussed in its reports and afford them an opportunity to comment and provide further information.



and its role as border guard at Sudan's frontiers created many opportunities to raise revenue.¹² In 2017, the RSF's take-over of security around the Jebel Amer gold mines in Darfur allowed the Dagalo family to tax artisanal miners and set up companies to reuse the waste from previous excavations.^{13, 14}

From these foundations, the Dagalo family and the RSF then diversified. Along with his elder brother, Abdulrahim Dagalo, Hemedti had established Al Junaid Company for Multi Activities in 2009; the group became a sprawling collection of businesses that eventually encompassed gold mining, the livestock trade, tourism, abattoirs, and construction.^{15, 16, 17} Al Junaid's asset base in the early 2020s was valued at around \$1 billion, with annual revenues of \$160 to \$180 million.¹⁸

In 2017, Hemedti's younger brother, Algoney Dagalo, set up the GSK group in Khartoum, consisting of the parent company, GSK Advanced Business; GSK Contracting, a construction company; GSK IT; and GSK Medical.^{19, 20, 21, 22} At one stage, GSK had between 100 and 150 employees.²³ Algoney also established Tradive General Trading, an RSF procurement front based in Dubai.^{24, 25}

The diversification continued. Businessmen closely linked to the Dagalo family sold baby milk formula in Sudan and set up a private security company in Khartoum, a home furnishings store in Rwanda, an interior design company in the UAE, and a mining company in Mali.^{26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35} In 2019, companies linked to the RSF bought a majority stake in Khartoum's Al Khaleej Bank.^{36, 37, 38} Capital Tap, a Dubai-based group of companies with close links to the RSF, ran a management consultancy; traded soft commodities such as alfalfa, an animal feed; and provided project management support to a wide range of clients.^{39, 40} Capital Tap group's consultancy business had a turnover of about \$5 million per year, while its commodity trading generated revenue of about \$20 million per year.⁴¹

At times, these business activities provided cover for direct support to the RSF. In 2019, Tradive was used as a procurement front to purchase vehicles for the militia.^{42, 43} In the same year, GSK Advanced Business was used to buy unmanned drone parts and supplies for the RSF.⁴⁴ In 2024, the US described Al Khaleej Bank as "an essential part of the RSF's efforts to finance its operations," and it accused Capital Tap Holding of providing money and weapons to the RSF.^{45, 46}

Today, after two years of war, the RSF has been pushed out of much of Khartoum's hinterland.⁴⁷ The Dagalo family's diversified business model is also under pressure. Company failures and sanctions have led to the closure of several firms: The US has sanctioned Al Junaid, Al Khaleej Bank, GSK Advanced Business, Tradive, and the Capital Tap group, as well as Hemedti himself, while parts of this network were also sanctioned by the EU and UK.^{48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53}

As a result, the RSF is being forced back to its core business: exporting gold from Darfur to Dubai.

The men behind the corporate structures

The RSF's business network is ultimately controlled by the Dagalo family. Initially, Hemedti and his brothers took key positions in these companies: Hemedti and Abdulrahim were the directors of Al Junaid, and Algoney owned Tradive.^{54, 55} ⁵⁶ As their presence on the international stage grew, however, the Dagalo family and, perhaps, the RSF apparently came to rely on a small team of loyal lieutenants to run their business empire.

One such lieutenant, Abozer Habib, also known as Abu Dharr, has already been sanctioned as the owner and manager of Capital Tap Holding, which was itself sanctioned for providing money and weapons to the RSF.⁵⁷ The Sentry has also identified another individual, Mazin Fadlalla, for whom there are reasonable grounds to suspect that he has established companies on behalf of the militia.⁵⁸ A leaked internal RSF accounting spreadsheet identifies both "Abozer" and "Mazin,"



suggesting that the two may have been part of the RSF's Dubai support team since at least 2019.⁵⁹ The Sentry has also identified three other individuals whose ties to established RSF individuals and companies are significant enough to merit further investigation to determine whether they act on behalf of the Dagalo family or the RSF: Sudanese national Ahmed Hashim and Emirati businessmen Naser Alhammadi and Essa Almarri.^{60, 61, 62}



Abozer Habib, aka Abu Dharr (left), Mazin Fadlalla (right). Photo: OSINT Industries (left), The Sentry (right).

Abo Zer Abdelnabi Habiballa Ahmmed (aka Abozer Habib, Abu Dharr)

From 2020 to 2024, Capital Tap Holding had been owned and run by Alhammadi, at which point Habib was reported to be a mid-ranking staff member, responsible for tasks such as arranging visas.⁶³ Habib took over the ownership of Capital Tap Holding and some of its related companies in January 2024, after the first media revelations about the Capital Tap group's links to the RSF.^{64, 65, 66, 67} A year later, Habib, Capital Tap Holding, and six other UAE firms were sanctioned by the United States, with Capital Tap Holding being accused of supplying the RSF with money and military equipment.^{68, 69}

The leaked RSF spreadsheet identifies an “Abozer” receiving \$10,000 in 2019.⁷⁰

When contacted, Habib declined to comment and said that matters were subject to legal proceedings.⁷¹

Mazin Gamareldin Mohamed Fadlalla

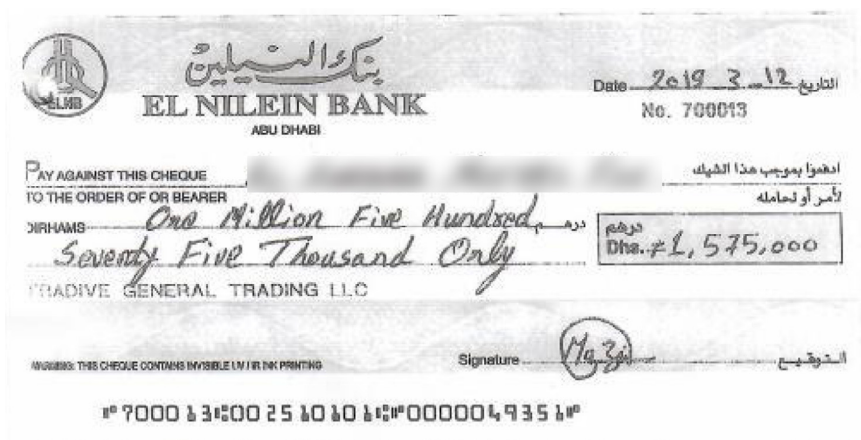
Fadlalla was a core part of the RSF's procurement team in 2019. Acting on behalf of Tradive, he bought almost 200 Toyota Land Cruiser pickup trucks, which have frequently been converted by the militia into the “technicals” used in desert warfare.^{72, 73} The leaked RSF spreadsheet describes payments to Fadlalla in early 2019 as “incentives,” and he is named as delivering “special amounts” to a man who appears to be related to Hemedti.⁷⁴

Fadlalla also played a key role in RSF corporate structures. He was a director at GSK Advanced Business in Sudan, and, after Tradive was revealed to be an RSF front company, he took over Algoney's shares in Tradive and became the firm's managing director.^{75, 76, 77}

Fadlalla, alongside Habib, served as director and shareholder of the now-sanctioned Al Jil Alqadem General Trading,⁷⁸ a Dubai-based firm that held shares in Al Khaleej Bank.^{79, 80} Al Jil Alqadem had been owned by Abdulrahim Dagalo, but by late 2024, ownership had been transferred to Fadlalla and Habib.⁸¹

In 2020, Fadlalla was also a part-owner of Natwest Logistics, a customs broker and cargo company formed in 2019.⁸²





A check from Tradive, signed by Mazin Fadlalla, to buy Toyotas. Photo: The Sentry.

Natwest Logistics' website was hosted on the GSK server in 2020, alongside those of Al Jil Alqadem and Tradive and, at one time, the RSF's own website.^{83, 84, 85}

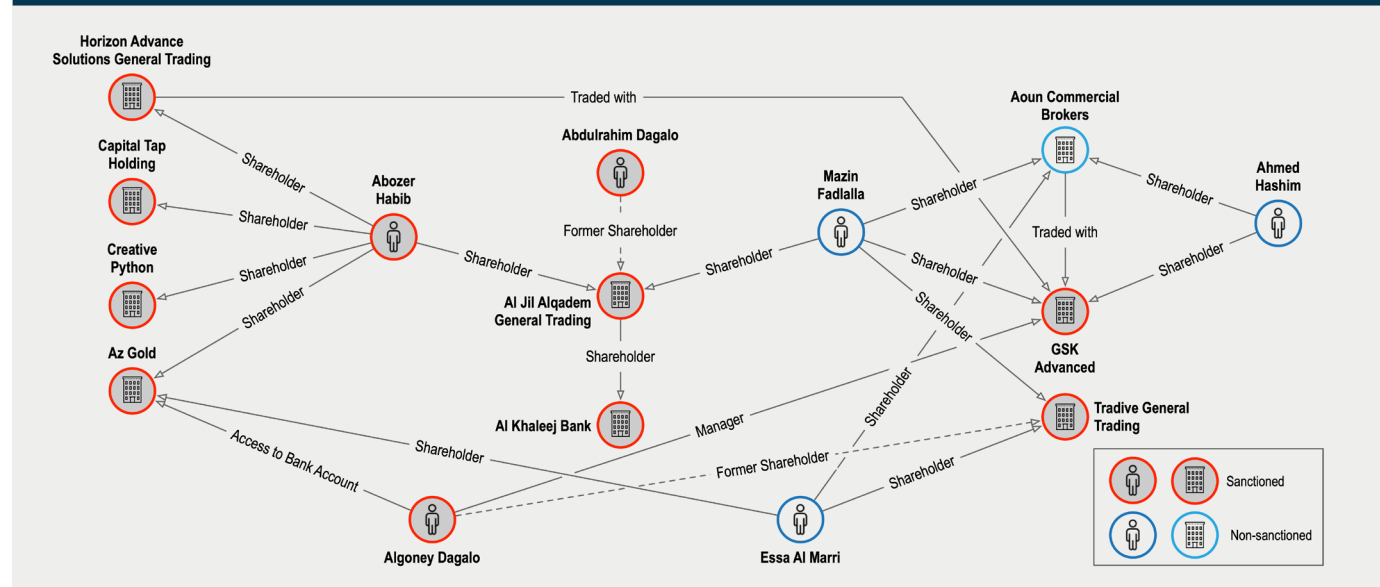
Fadlalla and Natwest Logistics did not respond to The Sentry's requests for comment.

Naser Helal Abdulla Helal Al Hammadi

Alhammadi was the owner of Capital Tap Holding and some of its related companies from its formation in 2021 until January 2024, when ownership transferred to Habib.^{86, 87, 88, 89} It is clear that Alhammadi, in his role at the Capital Tap group, had a close commercial relationship with RSF-linked companies by at least 2023. What is less clear is whether RSF leadership exercised any closer forms of control or ownership over the Capital Tap group during Alhammadi's reign.

A Web of RSF Connections

Selected companies owned by Mazin Fadlalla and Abozer Habib.



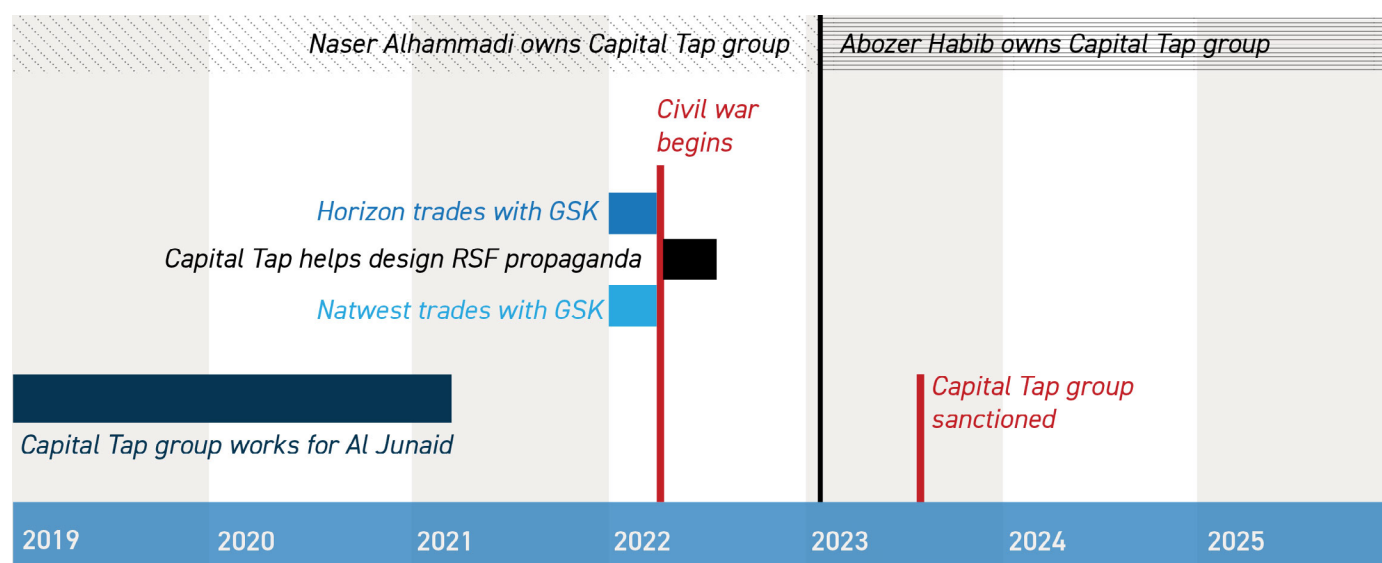
The US Treasury Department alleges that Capital Tap Holding provided military equipment and money to the RSF.⁹⁰ However, the Treasury Department press release, published in January 2025, does not specify whether this occurred before or after January 2024, when Alhammadi relinquished ownership of the company to Habib.⁹¹

Unlike other Emirati businessmen such as Almarri, who sometimes act as nominee directors and shareholders, Alhammadi was the hands-on boss of the Capital Tap group.^{92, 93} Under Alhammadi's leadership, the Capital Tap group started in 2019-2020 as Creative Python, a management consultancy, and MINS General Trading, a commodity firm trading alfalfa.^{94, 95, 96} The businesses expanded rapidly, at one point employing about forty people including financial analysts, project management specialists, and investment managers.⁹⁷ The companies, which later rebranded under the Capital Tap umbrella, provided project management support for an Arabic gum factory and a slaughterhouse and helped a new mobile telecommunications network set up in South Sudan.^{98, 99, 100}

During Alhammadi's time at the helm of the group, his firms worked for the Dagalo family's GSK Advanced Business and for their gold mining company, Al Junaid, providing financial and management advice.¹⁰¹ The website for Creative Python, archived in 2022, also raises the possibility that the group helped the RSF directly: "Creative Python has worked with Government organizations in the African region to setup encrypted communication channels for military use."¹⁰²

Later, just after the outbreak of the war in April 2023, document metadata in a briefing paper written by the RSF to lobby UK parliamentarians revealed that it had been designed by Capital Tap. The RSF's reported explanation was: "A relative of the RSF management reached out to a close friend, who [works] at Capital Tap, asking for design support to create a new letterhead and logo. The services were rendered at no cost. There is no working relationship between Capital Tap and the RSF."¹⁰³

Some of Capital Tap Holding's related companies, however, appear to have had dealings with the RSF's front company GSK Advanced Business during Alhammadi's period of ownership. In 2021, Capital Tap's website claimed that Natwest Logistics was one of "Our Companies."¹⁰⁴ Formed in 2019, it was owned in mid-2020 by Fadlalla and Almarri.¹⁰⁵ In 2020,



Timeline indicating Alhammadi's role in supporting other Dagalo family businesses.



Natwest Logistics' website was hosted on the GSK server, alongside those of Al Jil Alqadem and Tradive and, at one time, the RSF's own website.^{106, 107, 108} At some point between 2020 and 2025, Alhammadi became owner of Natwest Logistics.¹⁰⁹ In April 2023, just before the outbreak of the war, Natwest Logistics exported hundreds of tires and vehicle spare parts to GSK Advanced Business.¹¹⁰

Similarly, in May 2022, Capital Tap Holding became the owner of Horizon Advanced Solutions General Trading.¹¹¹ In late 2022 and early 2023, Horizon imported thousands of boots, including desert boots; it then shipped unspecified cargo to GSK Advanced Business at the outbreak of the war.^{112, 113} In 2024, ownership was transferred to Habib, and Horizon—under this new ownership—was sanctioned by the US Treasury.¹¹⁴

Alhammadi did not respond to The Sentry's request for comment.

Ahmed Hashim Hamad El Basher

Like Fadlalla, Hashim was a director of GSK Advanced Business, according to corporate records.¹¹⁵ In 2020, Aoun Commercial Brokers was formed, owned by Hashim (24%), Fadlalla (25%), and Almarri (51%).¹¹⁶ In the four months before the war broke out in April 2023, Aoun sold vehicle tires and spare parts to GSK Advanced Business.¹¹⁷ Hashim is also the owner of a home furnishing store in Rwanda, the website for which was once hosted on GSK's server.^{118, 119}

When contacted, Hashim denied being an owner of GSK Advanced Business and said instead he was the manager of GSK Contracting, a separate entity.¹²⁰ He noted that, before the war, GSK Contracting worked for both the RSF and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) as official government agencies. He stated that Aoun Commercial Brokers supplied various spare parts to Sudan long before the conflict and could not recall any direct transaction with GSK Advanced Business. Hashim “categorically den[ies] being a front for the RSF, whether as a manager of GSK Contracting or as the owner of Aoun and [the furniture store in Rwanda].” He told The Sentry, “I am simply a businessman who has found himself caught in the middle of this situation. I appreciate you publishing my response and clarifying that I have had no involvement in any activities since the war began.”¹²¹ Aoun Commercial Brokers did not respond to The Sentry's request for comment.

Essa Mohammed Rashed Saif Al Marri

Almarri is an Emirati businessman. He has been an owner or director of two companies sanctioned for their links to the RSF: Tradive and Al Zumoroud and Al Yaqoot Gold & Jewellers Trading.^{122, 123, 124, 125, 126} He was also an owner or director of numerous companies set up by Fadlalla, including Natwest Logistics, Aoun Commercial Brokers, Mamlaket Kush Jewellery Trading, Gatoraa General Trading, Members Project Management Services, and a Dubai-based interior design company.^{127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133}

There is no evidence that Almarri plays an active part in running any of the companies, but his presence as a director or shareholder is a risk factor in considering whether a particular company may have links to the RSF.

Almarri did not respond to The Sentry's request for comment.



UAE-registered firms owned by Habib, Fadlalla, Alhammadi, Algoney Dagalo, or Abdulrahim Dagalo¹³⁴

Name	Currently licensed?	License No.	Past shareholders	Shareholders when dissolved	Present shareholders
Sanctioned					
Capital Tap Holding ¹³⁵	No	947727 ¹³⁶	Naser Alhammadi ¹³⁷	Abozer Habib ¹³⁸	
Creative Python ¹³⁹	No	882080 ¹⁴⁰	Naser Alhammadi, Harib Al Ali ¹⁴¹	Abozer Habib ¹⁴²	
Horizon Advance Solutions General Trading ¹⁴³	No	CN-2994419 ¹⁴⁴	Capital Tap Holding, Sultan Al Shamsi ¹⁴⁵	Abozer Habib ¹⁴⁶	
Capital Tap General Trading ¹⁴⁷	No	826794 ¹⁴⁸	Naser Alhammadi, Islam Abdalla ¹⁴⁹	Abozer Habib ¹⁵⁰	
Capital Tap Management and Consultancies ¹⁵¹	No	865796 ¹⁵²	Naser Alhammadi ¹⁵³	Abozer Habib ¹⁵⁴	
Al Jil Alqadem General Trading ¹⁵⁵	No	767427 ¹⁵⁶	Abdulrahim Dagalo, Adnan Amiri ¹⁵⁷	Mazin Fadlalla, Abozer Habib ¹⁵⁸	
Al Zumoroud and Al Yaqoot Gold & Jewellers Trading ¹⁵⁹	No	880169 ¹⁶⁰	Naser Alhammadi, Mohamed Abdulla, Essa Almarri Group ¹⁶¹	Sultan Al Shamsi ¹⁶²	
Tradive General Trading ¹⁶³	No	818826 ¹⁶⁴	Algoney Dagalo ¹⁶⁵	Mazin Fadlalla, Essa Al Marri ¹⁶⁶	
Not sanctioned					
Algunade Algaded General Trading	No	786313 ¹⁶⁷	Adnan Amiri ¹⁶⁸	Abdulrahim Dagalo ¹⁶⁹	
Mamlaket Kush Jewellery Trading	No	947221 ¹⁷⁰	Mazin Fadlalla, Essa Al Marri ¹⁷¹		
Blaze Gold & Jewellers Trading	No	1041138 ¹⁷²	Abozer Habib, Naser Alhammadi ¹⁷³	Suleyman Abdelaziz ¹⁷⁴	
Glow Gold & Jewellers Trading	No	1041147 ¹⁷⁵	Abozer Habib, Naser Alhammadi ¹⁷⁶	Suleyman Abdelaziz ¹⁷⁷	
Gatoraa General Trading	No	862547 ¹⁷⁸	Mazin Fadlalla, Mohamed Abdulla, Essa Almarri Group ¹⁷⁹		
Natwest Logistics	Yes	851091 ¹⁸⁰	Mazin Fadlalla, Essa Al Marri, Naser Alhammadi ¹⁸¹		Shabilal Mayin Veettil ¹⁸²
[Name withheld]	Yes	[Number withheld] ¹⁸³	Mazin Fadlalla, Essa Al Marri, Naser Alhammadi ¹⁸⁴		[Name withheld] ¹⁸⁵
Members Project Management Services	Yes	974829 ¹⁸⁶			Mazin Fadlalla, Essa Al Marri ¹⁸⁷
Aoun Commercial Brokers	Yes	883721 ¹⁸⁸			Mazin Fadlalla, Ahmed Hashim, Essa Al Marri ¹⁸⁹



Trading precious metals

The leadership of the RSF owns a major gold producing company, and there have been persistent reports that conflict gold is smuggled out of Sudan for sale in the UAE.^{190, 191, 192} Habib, Alhammadi, and Fadlalla set up four precious metal trading companies among them.^{193, 194, 195, 196} Although these four companies are no longer active, identifying the individuals behind the corporate veil should help banks and commercial counterparties in the gold supply chain exercise caution if they establish new firms.

Mamlaket Kush Jewellery Trading

In April 2021, Fadlalla set up Mamlaket Kush Jewellery Trading, a company registered to trade precious metals that rented out premises near Dubai's main airport.^{197, 198} As managing director, Fadlalla owned 49% of the company, with Almarri (likely as a nominee shareholder) holding 51% of the shares.^{199, 200} Mamlaket Kush's business license expired in April 2023.²⁰¹

Al Zumoroud and Al Yaqoot Gold & Jewellers Trading

In February 2020, Al Zumoroud and Al Yaqoot Gold & Jewellers Trading (AZ Gold) was established.²⁰² In 2025, the US Treasury Department sanctioned AZ Gold, "a UAE-based gold purchasing company managed by Abu Dharr."²⁰³ The Treasury Department went on to state, "AZ Gold has purchased gold from Sudan, presumably for the benefit of the RSF, and subsequently transported it to Dubai. Algoney maintained access to AZ Gold's bank account in the UAE, which held millions of dollars."²⁰⁴

The US Treasury Department press release does not state whether Algoney always had access to AZ Gold's bank accounts or only had access during a specific period. Because the ownership of the company—and therefore the legal responsibility for letting Algoney access the bank accounts—changed over time, the timing of Algoney's access to the account has potentially significant implications. Almarri's eponymous Essa Almarri Group LLC owned 100% of AZ Gold until August 2022, when it transferred ownership to Sultan Abdulla Mohammed Sultan Al Shamsi.^{205, 206} Al Shamsi and Habib are listed as the managing director and general manager of AZ Gold in corporate records, and at one stage—it isn't clear when—Alhammadi is listed as an owner.²⁰⁷ Al Shamsi was also an owner of Horizon Advanced Solutions General Trading from 2020 until May 2022, when ownership transferred to Capital Tap Holding.²⁰⁸ The Sentry could not reach Al Shamsi for comment.

Blaze Gold & Jewellers Trading and Glow Gold & Jewellers Trading

AZ Gold shared staff with two other gold buying companies, Blaze Gold & Jewellers Trading and Glow Gold & Jewellers Trading.²⁰⁹ Both Blaze and Glow were registered on March 25, 2022, with Habib and Alhammadi as owners and managers; they were based in the same office building as Creative Python.^{210, 211, 212} In February 2024, ownership of both Glow and Blaze transferred from Habib to Suleyman Abdelaziz. Abdelaziz and Modawi Mohamed Modawi Khogali were listed as both firms' managing director and general manager, respectively, until the entities were dissolved in January 2025.^{213, 214} Abdelaziz was also a director and owner of S&E Investment, which had previously been a subsidiary of Capital Tap Holding.²¹⁵ The Sentry could not reach Khogali for comment. Abdelaziz did not respond to The Sentry's request for comment.



Recommendations

European Union, United States, and United Kingdom

Sanctions authorities should investigate Mazin Gamareldin Mohamed Fadlalla and his companies, including Aoun Commercial Brokers, and, if appropriate, designate them for sanctions under the Sudan country or other appropriate programs. It is unclear whether Fadlalla currently provides support to the RSF, but there are reasonable grounds to suspect that he has supported the RSF's operations in the recent past. First, in 2019, he helped buy hundreds of Toyota vehicles commonly used by the militia—a procurement effort that was carried out through Tradive General Trading, which was exposed in the media that same year as being a front for the RSF. Fadlalla was also the shareholder of three companies that were subsequently sanctioned for their links to the RSF: Tradive, GSK Advanced Business, and Al Jil Alqadem General Trading. Finally, Fadlalla owned a significant stake in Aoun, which sold car parts to GSK Advanced Business just before the war broke out in 2023.

Sanctions authorities should investigate companies with active business licenses that have Ahmed Hashim Hamad El Basher, Naser Helal Abdulla Helal Al Hammadi, or Essa Mohammed Rashed Saif Al Marri listed as either a director or a shareholder in order to ascertain whether the RSF exercises any control over these entities or if they are owned or controlled by sanctioned persons. Given Hashim, Alhammadi, and Almarri's past links to RSF-supporting companies, there are grounds to investigate the companies they run. Hashim denies any current involvement with the RSF. However, in the past he was linked to GSK Advanced Business, and he is a current shareholder in Aoun Commercial Brokers. While Almarri is a frequent nominee director and shareholder for a range of clients, his status as owner of Tradive and Al Zumoroud and Al Yaqoot Gold & Jewellers Trading, both of which were subsequently sanctioned for their links to the RSF, and his role as co-owner of several companies with Fadlalla mean that his presence on the board of an entity is a risk factor that may indicate RSF links. Alhammadi owned Capital Tap Holding and its related companies for several years until January 2024. During that period, his firms had a close commercial relationship with RSF-linked companies such as Al Junaid and GSK Advanced Business.

Sanctions authorities in the EU, US, and UK should review their current designations related to RSF individuals and entities and consider whether there are any gaps in sanctioning between jurisdictions that should be addressed to ensure maximum impact.

Banks and commercial counterparts in the gold supply chain

Banks should conduct enhanced due diligence when handling transactions for companies set up by Fadlalla, Hashim, Alhammadi, or Almarri to guard against the possibility that the RSF may be involved in these companies via proxy directors.

Banks and companies in the gold supply chain should conduct enhanced due diligence when handling transactions involving Fadlalla, Hashim, Alhammadi, and Almarri to ascertain whether they are providing material support to the RSF or any sanctioned person and whether the RSF or any sanctioned person still exercises any control over entities related to them.



Endnotes

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- 3 Global Witness, "Exposing the RSF's Secret Financial Network," December 9, 2019, available at: <https://globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/conflict-resources/exposing-rsf-secret-financial-network/>
- 4 Darfur 24 and Ayin, "The Sungu Mines — Gold That Fuels RSF's War," January 20, 2025, available at: <https://www.darfur24.com/en/2025/01/20/the-sungu-mines-gold-that-fuels-rsf-war/>
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- 13 Joshua Craze and Raga Makawi, "The Republic of Kadamol: A Portrait of the Rapid Support Forces at War," January 2025, available at: <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-HSBA-Briefing-Paper-2025-RSF-EN.pdf>
- 14 The rubble left over from earlier mining, called "karta" in Arabic, can be reprocessed using new techniques to extract gold that was not possible to separate from the surrounding material the first time. See:
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