

## MILITARY COUP IN SUDAN Briefing for UK Parliament, October 2021

### Questions to ask the Minister:

- In light of the [long history of torture](#) in Sudan, what is the UK doing to ensure the safety of the detained civilian government leaders?
- Will the UK impose targeted sanctions on the military officials responsible for the overthrow of the civilian government?
- Will the UK call for a special session of the UN Human Rights Council concerning the situation in Sudan?

### SUMMARY

On Monday 25 October Sudan's military detained key civilian government leaders, including the prime minister, and announced the dissolution of the joint civilian-military transitional government. The people of Sudan took to the streets in protest, despite the risk of violence from authorities.

### The UK Government should:

1. Demand the Sudanese military ends the arbitrary detention of the civilian government leaders and guarantees their protection from torture and ill-treatment.
2. Call on the Sudanese authorities to respect the right to peaceful protest by avoiding the use of force against protestors, preventing arbitrary detentions or torture of individuals, and by restoring all communications networks.
3. Impose [targeted sanctions](#) on those responsible for the coup.
4. Call for a special session of the UN Human Rights Council on Sudan to ensure coordination across international governmental responses.

### DETAIL

#### Military seizes power, dissolves Sudan's transitional government

In the early hours of 25 October 2021, military forces detained Sudan's prime minister, Abdalla Hamdok, and several other prominent civilian members of the transitional government. Sudan's Ministry of Culture and Information said in a Facebook [post](#) that Hamdok was placed under house arrest and pressured to release a "pro-coup" statement; after his refusal, the Ministry stated that Hamdok had been moved to an undisclosed location. The whereabouts of all detained individuals are unknown. Unconfirmed reports suggest that some civilian government leaders have been subjected to ill-treatment.

Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the head of the Armed Forces and chairman of the Sovereign Council, made a televised statement, announcing the following: the imposition of a state of emergency; the dissolution of the Sovereign Council and removal of all *walis* (regional governors); the dissolution of the Empowerment Removal Committee, a body established to seize the assets of Bashir-era regime leaders; and the repeal of all articles of the Constitutional Charter 2019 providing for a joint civilian-military government. Al-Burhan also stated that all treaties signed since 2019 are still in force, including the Juba Peace Agreement, and said that a technocratic government would be rapidly formed.

#### Sudanese population responds in protest

Protestors gathered in Khartoum and throughout Sudan on 25 October. A partial Internet blackout has been imposed, and there are reports of live fire being used against protestors gathered outside of the army headquarters.

### ABOUT REDRESS

[REDRESS](#) is an international human rights NGO based in the United Kingdom. REDRESS has [worked in Sudan](#) for over two decades to combat violations of human rights and seek justice for victims of torture and other abuses.

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