

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

Welcome to this fortnightly roundup of news on justice and conflict in Sudan. Hyperlinks are underlined.

Friday 23 July 2021

BIG STORIES FIRST

- The complicated state of affairs in Sudan has featured prominently in various international publications in the past two weeks. [The Economist](#) writes that a “stalwart of the previous regime, a camel-rustler turned warlord, and an avuncular economist, who was once a communist” are “unlikely bedfellows” entrusted with the task of building a democracy in Sudan. CNN writes that [climate change](#) could render Sudan “uninhabitable,” as UNOCHA predicts that [540,000 people](#) will be affected by flooding, disease outbreaks and conflict in 2021.

GOVERNMENT RAILROADS, ETHIOPIA, DEBT

\$643 million railroad revamp planned

Sudan is reportedly planning to restore nearly 1,500 miles of its [long-neglected](#) (and partially destroyed) [rail lines](#), starting with emergency repairs to the lines currently in use. In a second phase of the project, slated for completion by 2024, the government will rehabilitate abandoned lines in the southern part of the country, including a link to South Sudan. There are also plans in the works to connect Sudan to Ethiopia, Chad, Eritrea, and the Central African Republic.

Paris Club creditors cancel \$14 billion in debt

The Paris Club of official creditors agreed to [cancel \\$14 billion](#) in debt owed by Sudan, and to [restructure](#) another \$23 billion. Sudan will not have to make payments on these outstanding debts until at least 2024. See this article for an analysis of the [power dynamics](#) behind debt restructuring. Additionally, Sudan is seeking [debt relief](#) from the non-Paris Club Gulf Arab countries to which it owes at least \$20.3 billion. This news comes as Sudan’s [inflation rate](#) rose to 412.75%, according to Sudan’s state news agency (SUNA).

Sudan may turn next to UN Human Rights Council on GERD

Foreign Minister Mariam al-Sadig has said that experts are [considering](#) approaching the UN HRC in an effort to resolve the ongoing GERD dispute. This follows a largely fruitless meeting at the UN Security Council on the same issue, and as the AU seeks to host a [new round](#) of negotiations. Ethiopia has announced that it [completed](#) a second filing of the dam. Meanwhile, the Sudanese army has [pledged](#) to keep forces in the contested al-Fashaga region to deter Ethiopian attacks. See The Economist on the [border conflict](#).

ACCOUNTABILITY AMPUTATION, SENTENCING, FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS

Civil society organisations condemn cross-amputation case

A coalition of civil society groups condemned a criminal court in Khartoum for sentencing 21-year-old Moaz Abdel Majid Ismael to amputation of a hand and foot from opposite sides. Ismael was convicted of stealing \$48 and a mobile phone. The statement notes that “the justification for cross-amputation is still present in Sudanese law . . . in complete disregard of Sudan’s international obligations to end corporal, degrading, and inhuman punishments.” The organisations also write that the “continued application of corporal punishments . . . confirms that the Sudanese people are still governed by the intimidating laws of September 1983, against which the people revolted twice” (in 1985 and 2019). Statement available on request.

Dec 2018 killer sentenced to hanging

Walid Ahmed Yahya was [convicted](#) under Article 130 (premeditated murder) of the Sudanese criminal code and [sentenced](#) to death by hanging for the killing of twelve-year-old Shawqi al-Sadiq Ishaq. Other cases, including the prosecution of the alleged killer of medical student Mahjoub al-Taj Majhoub in [January 2019](#), also continue to move forward.

Controversy over access to hospital morgue

Some sources reported that a delegation of international experts, including three forensic medicine specialists, was [denied access](#) to the hospital morgue in which the bodies of victims of the 3 June 2019 massacre are allegedly [held](#). In response, the Public Prosecution released a statement denying that it had received [any notification](#) of the arrival of the delegation, and emphasising that any such visits must be coordinated through “official channels.” (Activists have [contested](#) this claim.)

Commission acts published in Official Gazette

Three long-awaited generation-of-commission acts – concerning the Transitional Justice, Peace, and Anti-Corruption Commissions – were [published](#) in the [Official Gazette](#) on 17 July 2021. Commissioners must now be selected for each body.

Empowerment Removal Committee publishes annual report

The embattled Empowerment Removal Committee [published](#) in mid-July a report highlighting its chief functions and competencies.

Coup case continues, slowly

The trial of former president Omar al-Bashir and associates in relation to the 1989 coup has resumed, following a period of several weeks in which the prosecutorial team boycotted the proceedings over procedural disagreements. In part, the prosecution has demanded a [change](#) in presiding judge. Generally, proceedings have been [unruly](#), with protestors chanting on both sides.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION EXPLOSIVES, DARFUR, PORT SUDAN

Continued sporadic conflict in Darfur

Deadly attacks [continue](#) throughout Darfur. At least 17 people were killed and others injured after an artillery attack on an [IDP camp](#) in North Darfur, while gunmen in South Darfur riding camels, horses and motorcycles killed several people in a surprise attack. In [West Darfur](#), a dozen people were killed and

many others injured after four days of clashes in the Azirni area. See also: a story on the “[hijacking of the revolution](#)” in Darfur; a feature on the experiences of [women](#) in West Darfur suffering from depression following recent conflict; and a short (an excellent) documentary on Darfuri rebels in Jebel Marra.

Increased unrest in Port Sudan

A high-level government [delegation](#) was sent to [Port Sudan](#) after fighting in a communal taxi led to a man’s death and shooting in the street—followed by the use of [explosive devices](#) in the city centre. Local media linked the attacks to rejection by the Hadendoa tribe of the October 2019 peace deal. The week prior, it was [reported](#) that civilians in the south of Port Sudan were attacked by Central Reserve Forces and the regular armed forces.

UN report highlights problem of gender-based violence

A comprehensive [new report](#) published by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the government’s Combating Violence Against Women Unit (CVAW) provides the first-ever nationwide qualitative assessment of gender-based violence in Sudan, including domestic violence and female genital mutilation.

The graphic consists of a yellow rectangular background. The words "weekend" and "read" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked vertically and centered within the yellow box.

Considering [peace and peacemaking](#) in Sudan and South Sudan; analysing the neighbourhood [resistance committees](#); Nubian language children’s [books](#) and medieval tombs arranged in a [galactic pattern](#).

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

If this was forwarded to you, please email emma@redress.org to sign up.
