

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 28 May 2021

BIG STORIES FIRST

- Hearings to confirm the charges against former *Janjaweed* leader Ali Kushayb began on 24 May at the International Criminal Court (ICC). Kushayb, a senior commander in the *Janjaweed*, faces up to 31 [charges](#) if confirmed, including persecution, murder, torture, and rape. Kushayb has not entered a plea, although his defence lawyers have argued that he is not the man known as Ali Kushayb.
 - A senior officer with the Rapid Support Forces has been [sentenced](#) to death by a Sudanese court for killing a protestor, Hanafi Abdel Shakour, during the dispersal of protests outside of the military headquarters in Khartoum on 3 June 2019. The officer was accused of ramming Shakour with his car. The judgment is the second of its kind in Sudan against members of the security forces. See the new [REDRESS briefing](#) on domestic accountability efforts for more information about the pace of prosecutions in Sudan.
 - A reported [seven](#) army personnel were [handed over](#) to the Public Prosecution in relation to the killing of two protestors on 11 May 2021. The army announced that it had issued an order to lift the immunities of the personnel. See Human Rights Watch's [new briefing](#) on the events of 11 May, and see [here](#) for a statement from the Public Prosecution on its investigation.
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ACCOUNTABILITY ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE, 3 JUNE, AUTOPSY

Enforced disappearance victim's body found in morgue

Mohamed Ismail, known as "[Wad Aker](#)," went missing on 3 April 2021, when he attended a silent vigil in Khartoum. The Investigative Committee of Disappeared Individuals released an [autopsy report](#) confirming that Wad Aker was found among the bodies found in the al-Tamayuz Morgue, and that his death may have been a result of torture.

Technical support coming for Nabil Adib, maybe

Nabil Adib, the head of the 3 June 2019 investigative committee, said in an [interview](#) that Prime Minister Hamdok had pledged support to the committee, including by providing logistical support to help it examine evidence. Adib also stated that the committee had interviewed all members of the now-dissolved Transitional Military Council (TMC), but that there are "people of interest to the committee"

who will be investigated as early as next week. Separately, the head of the December Revolution Martyrs' Families Organisation [denounced](#) a "false" letter circulating in which the Organisation purportedly apologised to Hemedti and his brother, Abdel-Rahim Dagalo, for accusations that they had been involved in dispersing the 3 June sit-in.

GOVERNMENT PARIS, RESIGNATIONS, PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

Resignation of Sovereign Council member welcomed by civil society

Aisha Musa, a civilian member of the Sovereign Council nominated to her position by the FFC, resigned following the killing and wounding of protestors on 11 May in Khartoum (see above). In a [statement](#), Musa stated that she "refused to participate in [the] degradation of the Sudanese people." The Alliance of Civil Society Forces (ACSF) [announced](#) that it "salute[s] the stance of Aisha Musa," as a rejection of "all forms of killing and oppression that our people are facing by the transitional power structures."

Peace talks resume in Juba

Sudan's transitional government has [resumed](#) peace negotiations with SPLM-N al-Hilu in Juba. Al-Hilu's group has again reiterated its calls for a secular state with no religion in lawmaking as well as the disbanding of Bashir-era militias and the consolidation of Sudan's military.

Sudan clears arrears to IMF at Paris Conference

During a conference hosted in the French capital on 17 May, IMF member countries [agreed](#) to clear Sudan's final arrears to the IMF. France agreed to facilitate a \$1.5 billion bridge loan, which would be covered by member state pledges. Sudan is now eligible for the World Bank's Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, which would allow Sudan greater access to international financing.

Sudan's attorney general resigns, and head of judiciary removed

In a reversal of earlier news, Sudan's attorney general has [officially resigned](#), and the head of the judiciary was removed from her position by the Sovereign Council. Mubarak Mahmoud, a deputy in the Public Prosecution, has been temporarily appointed as attorney general while the FFC prepares a list of possible candidates for the office.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION DARFUR, ABYEI, ETHIOPIA

Latest round of violence in Port Sudan killed 5

At least five people were killed, and more wounded, in [clashes](#) between rival tribes in Port Sudan. Elsewhere, Prime Minister Hamdok [ordered](#) police forces to South Darfur to increase security and stability; and other [clashes](#) have taken place near the Chad-Sudan border, as reported by OCHA.

UNISFA deploys forces in Abyei following attack on civilians

Following an attack on civilians in the disputed region of Abyei which left around a [dozen](#) people dead, UNISFA [deployed](#) additional forces in the affected village (Dunguop). South Sudan's president issued a presidential order [forming a committee](#) for talks with Sudan's government to determine the final status of Abyei. On another border, fierce battles have been reported between Sudan and [Ethiopia](#).

weekend read

The [head of UNITAMS](#) on the political mission's role in Sudan; IPI on UNITAMS's [mandate](#); and the New Humanitarian with perspectives on the [UNAMID withdrawal](#) from Darfur.

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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