

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 30 April 2021

BIG STORIES FIRST

- Sudanese civil society organisations have widely condemned a new draft internal security bill. The bill would create a new security apparatus with broad powers of arrest, detention, searches and surveillance, while granting members immunity from prosecution. Sound familiar? PLACE, a Sudanese legal organisation, has outlined the [primary concerns](#) with the bill; the Minister of Justice has [stated publicly](#) that the document is merely a draft, and that his office is fully committed to the protection of human rights. Find the draft bill here in [English](#) (translation by REDRESS) and [Arabic](#).
 - The Council of Ministers [approved](#) the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as well as the [Maputo Protocol](#). Prime Minister Hamdok announced that the Council of Ministers had approved the ratification of CEDAW with reservations on articles 2, 16 and 29(1) (details unknown); it is important that any reservations entered do not defeat the object and purpose of the treaty. The Sovereign Council must now consider the ratification of both instruments.
 - Idriss Déby, the leader of Chad since 1990, died on 19 April, reportedly as a result of wounds inflicted during a visit to troops fighting rebels in northern Chad. Déby had a close relationship with Hemedti, and was seen by many [analysts](#) as a stabilising force in Darfur. The [implications](#) of Déby's death remain to be seen, both for [Sudan](#) and the greater region.
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ACCOUNTABILITY ICC, NCP, PUBLIC PROSECUTION

Empowerment removal committee orders arrest of NCP members

A political event for members of the dissolved National Congress Party was [reportedly held](#) under cover of a Ramadan iftar in Khartoum's Freedom Square. Attendees allegedly include individuals from the General Intelligence Service, police and armed forces. In response, the empowerment removal committee has [initiated legal proceedings](#) against known participants for violations of the Act on Dismantling the Regime of 30th June 1989.

Public Prosecution forms committee to investigate al-Gedaref killings

Sudan's attorney general ordered the [creation](#) of another specialised committee, this one tasked with

investigating the [killing](#) of protestors in December 2018 (at the start of Sudan's revolution) in the eastern town of al-Gedaref. Separately, the commission investigating the killing of protestors in Omdurman has [requested](#) testimonial or photographic evidence from members of the public with relevant information.

Martyrs' families organisation request involvement of ICC

The head of the Organisation of the December Revolution Martyrs' Families [announced](#) that the organisation has been in contact with international lawyers, seeking to transfer the case of the 3 June 2019 massacre to the ICC. The ICC currently only has jurisdiction to investigate crimes committed in Darfur, on the basis of a 2005 UN Security Council [referral](#).

Speaking of the ICC ... al-Burhan discusses the prosecution of al-Bashir

Lt. Gen. al-Burhan, the Chairman of the Sovereign Council, sparked rumours that al-Bashir's transfer to The Hague was imminent after giving a lengthy televised [interview](#) two weeks ago. In fact, al-Burhan merely reiterated the transitional government's position that al-Bashir should be prosecuted for serious international crimes, without providing details as to "where" and "by whom." Subsequently, the Darfur Bar Association reportedly asked the ICC for [clarification](#) on al-Burhan's statement that the ICC had not requested al-Bashir's extradition.

Hearings in 1989 coup case continue

Proceedings against al-Bashir and 27 other defendants accused of orchestrating the 1989 coup continue. Prosecutors outlined the statements of Faisal Madani Mukhtar, including testimony about the killing of [Majdi Mahjoub](#), who was accused of being a currency dealer by the "Salvation Government." In particular, Mukhtar reportedly [stated](#) that Ali Osman Mohammed Taha (former First Vice President of Sudan, among other prominent positions) ordered Mahjoub's execution with the approval of al-Bashir.

Bashir-era Islamist leader sentenced to prison

Abdul Basit Hamza, a prominent Islamist businessman, was [sentenced](#) by a Sudanese court to 10 years in prison for money laundering, terrorist financing, trading in foreign currency, and suspicious enrichment. The empowerment enrichment committee had previously [seized](#) significant assets from Hamza.

GOVERNMENT KAJBAR, TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, DARFUR

West Darfur wali speaks about recent violence

In a recent interview, the governor of West Darfur [accused](#) political parties of using militias to advance their political objectives, and cited preliminary estimates suggesting that 1,000 armed forces [attacked](#) al-Geneina in a coordinated fashion. The latest [reports from UN OCHA](#) indicate that the security situation in al-Geneina is stable but tense; 2,000 troops from the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Central Reserve Police have arrived in the city and surrounding area in recent days. Meanwhile, sporadic violence has been reported in [South Darfur](#) and [South Kordofan](#).

Transitional justice commission bill approved

Sudan's Minister of Justice [announced](#) that the transitional justice commission bill, as well as the anti-corruption commission and peace commission bills, were approved in a joint meeting of the Sovereign Council and Council of Ministers. The next step will be selection of commissioners, which has been a point of significant discussion amongst Sudanese civil society in relation to the transitional justice commission in particular. See here for translations of the [TJ](#) and [peace](#) bills.

More decomposing bodies found in second Khartoum morgue

Nearly 200 unidentified bodies were recently [found](#) in various stages of decomposition in the morgue of a government hospital. It is believed that some of the bodies may be those of victims still missing after the events of 3 June 2019; the Public Prosecution has [ordered](#) autopsies of the bodies. Protestors have staged a sit-in outside of the hospital, demanding a thorough inspection of all morgues in Khartoum.

Controversial Kajbar and Dal dam projects cancelled

In a visit to Kadentkar, Prime Minister Hamdok announced the [cancellation](#) of two dam projects in northern Sudan, both of which have been at the centre of protests for over a decade, including a protest on 13 June 2007 in which four people were [killed](#) by security forces. In a second visit, to Atbara, Hamdok received a chillier reception, as [protestors](#) from the local resistance committee lined the streets.

NEIGHBORS ETHIOPIA, EGYPT, DAM

Still no progress made on GERD negotiations

No news can be good news, but perhaps not in this case: Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia remain at a [stalemate](#) in GERD negotiations. Sudan has emphasised its [adherence](#) to its original negotiating position—namely, that Sudan has a right to protect its water security interests. A new US special envoy for the Horn of Africa has just been [appointed](#). Top of his list will be [managing](#) the GERD dispute.

A graphic consisting of a yellow rectangular background with the words "weekend read" written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The word "weekend" is on the top line and "read" is on the bottom line, both centered horizontally within the yellow box.

weekend
read

Analysis of the [Juba Peace Agreement](#); an interview with [rebels](#) in Darfur's Jebel Marra; [gold mining](#) on Sudan's border; and a project on [Sudanese food and drink](#).

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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