

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 16 April 2021

BIG STORIES FIRST

- Women [gathered](#) in Khartoum to [protest](#) ongoing gender-based violence and discrimination in Sudan. Protestors delivered a [statement of demands](#) to the Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior, and the Attorney General; several protestors were [injured](#) in an assault by a vehicle driver.
 - Violence has again [erupted](#) in West Darfur after gunmen killed two men of the Massalit tribe. More than 1,800 people have [fled](#) to Chad, and the West Darfur Doctors Committee [announced](#) that at least 144 people were killed and another 232 wounded. The *wali* (governor) of West Darfur [stated](#) that many of the attackers belonged to militias recruited by, and loyal to, al-Bashir. Residents in IDP camps also accused the RSF of participating in the conflict.
 - In response to the conflict in West Darfur Sovereign Council chairman al-Burhan visited al-Geneina. Burhan called for the establishment of five committees to organise security arrangements, to include the digging of a [ditch](#) around al-Geneina to limit movement and the [deployment](#) of a rapidly-established joint force. Burhan was [criticised](#) for neglecting to meet with West Darfur's wali. Separately, the Minister of Interior announced his [commitment](#) to ensuring the safety of [humanitarian organisations](#) in West Darfur, which halted operations in recent weeks.
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ACCOUNTABILITY PROTESTS, TORTURE, NISS

Sudanese torture victim files suit in US federal court

Mariam Yahia Ibrahim has filed a [lawsuit](#) against Sudan's government in the District Court for the District of Columbia (DC). Her suit is brought under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, which provides for the waiver of state immunities in certain cases. In 2014, Mariam was sentenced to death for apostasy and corporal punishment of 100 lashes for adultery, and forced to give birth while shackled in Omdurman's Women Prison. See [here](#) for more information on Mariam's case.

Prosecutors seek arrest of ex-intelligence official

The Anti-Corruption and Financial Investigations Prosecution Office [ordered](#) the arrest or self-surrender of Major General Abdul Ghaffar al-Sharif, a former senior-ranking member of NISS. The office has also

reopened a 2018 file regarding al-Sharif, which was referred to it by the NISS military court that previously [sentenced](#) al-Sharif to prison for disciplinary infractions under NISS regulations. (During his tenure as GIS director, General Abu Bakr Dumbab issued a decision, No. 72, voiding all decisions and sentences rendered by the former-NISS courts.)

Protests calling for ratification of the Rome Statute in Khartoum

Members of the December Revolution Martyrs' Families Organisation [protested](#) outside of the Ministry of Justice as part of a campaign calling for the ratification of the Rome Statute and transfer of wanted individuals, including al-Bashir, to the ICC. In a recent interview with a French news channel, Sudan's prime minister [confirmed](#) that al-Bashir's handover to the ICC was part of ongoing discussions with the ICC (but did not provide further details).

Defendants charged with selling military ranks

Nine men have been [referred](#) for prosecution for participation in organised crime, impersonation of public servants, and forgery of official documents, among other charges. The men are accused of falsifying and selling military (SPLA) badges, and were [reportedly](#) found in possession of photocopiers, printers, and military uniforms.

Second anniversary of sit-in, al-Bashir's removal marked by demonstrations

[Demonstrations](#) were held in Khartoum, Atbara, Wad Madani, Port Sudan, Kassala and El Gedaref to commemorate the second anniversary of the 2019 sit-in outside of the army headquarters in Khartoum which led to al-Bashir's ouster from office. Security forces used tear gas to disperse the protests in Khartoum.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS, ISRAEL, MILITIAS

'False' recruitment by militias prohibited

Following reports of widespread militia recruitment in Sudan, including by the signatories to the Juba Peace Agreement, Hemedti [announced](#) the enactment of a new law prohibiting "false recruitment" by the armed movements. In a meeting with the Head of Libya's High Council of State, Hemedti also [emphasised](#) that any Sudanese fighters remaining in Libya must return to Sudan, or would otherwise be considered mercenaries.

Israel boycott law repealed by Council of Ministers

Sudan's Council of Ministers [voted](#) to repeal a 1958 law that banned the establishment of diplomatic or business relations with Israel. The law's repeal must now be approved in a joint meeting with the Sovereign Council. It was [reported](#) that Sudan would send a first [delegation](#) to Israel next week; other sources have [cited](#) the Sudanese Security and Defence Council, which has denied this story.

Armed groups reportedly to gather outside Khartoum

A mediation committee for the Juba Peace Agreement has reportedly arrived at an agreement between the government and the armed movements, under which all armed groups will gather in [designated camps](#) outside of Khartoum. The agreement is intended to prevent incidents like the recent [occupation](#) of Sudan's Olympic Committee headquarters.

Peace negotiations to continue in Juba

Following the signing of a declaration of principles at the end of March between the transitional government and the SPLM-N (el-Hilu), official negotiations on a peace agreement are [scheduled](#) to start

in late April. Outreach continues to the SLM-AW. The SPLM-N/Revolutionary Front released a [statement](#) on 7 April, commenting on the declaration of principles.

NEIGHBORS ETHIOPIA, EGYPT, DAM, MEDIATION

Dam negotiations remain at standstill

Talks in Kinshasa between Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia [failed](#) to produce a breakthrough on GERD negotiations. Egypt and Sudan [rejected](#) an Ethiopian proposal for data sharing on the dam, as Ethiopia reiterated that it would move ahead with a second filling of the dam reservoir. As [rhetoric](#) over the issue continues to [escalate](#), Egypt and Sudan are [expected](#) to turn to the UN Security Council.

Sudan calls for dismissal of Ethiopian peacekeepers in Abyei

In an interview, foreign minister Mariam al-Mahdi [called](#) on the UN to replace all Ethiopian peacekeepers in Abyei with other forces, saying that “it is not conceivable to accept Ethiopian forces deployed in the strategic depth of Sudan.” It is not clear that Sudan has the authority to make this request; a formal demand may be sent to the UN in coming weeks. UN Secretary General António Guterres has [said](#) that any drawdown of the UNISFA mission in Abyei would likely lead the security situation in the region to deteriorate.

Border crossing between Sudan, Ethiopia closed after attacks

In early April, Sudanese authorities [closed](#) the al-Galabat border crossing (in al-Gedaref), after several attacks by Ethiopian gunmen on Sudanese government forces and a Sudanese customs office. A week later at the Galabat border crossing, Sudan’s armed forces [handed over](#) at least 61 captive soldiers to Ethiopia.

weekend read

The New Humanitarian [analyzes](#) drivers of rising violence in Darfur; Rights for Peace on the role of [hate speech](#) in perpetuating conflict; and a [forecast](#) for Sudan’s transition, two years post-Bashir.

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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