

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 9 July 2021

BIG STORIES FIRST

- Today, the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II confirmed the Prosecutor's charges against Ali Kushayb, who will now face trial for 31 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity (committed between August 2003 – April 2004). The full decision is available [here](#). The Council of Ministers has [announced](#) that the other wanted individuals currently in Sudanese custody would be transferred to the ICC—it remains to be seen whether the military component of the government will agree.
 - Sudan has officially [completed](#) the necessary steps to begin receiving [debt relief](#) under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. This means that Sudan's external public debt will be irrevocably [reduced](#) by more than \$50 billion (representing over 90 percent of Sudan's total external debt) if it reaches the HIPC Completion Point in about 3 years. Sudan will now be eligible for \$2.5 billion in new [IMF funding](#).
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ACCOUNTABILITY NISS, SALAH GOSH, TERROR

NISS agent sentenced to hang for student's Dec 2018 death

The Special Court convened to prosecute perpetrators of crimes related to the Sudanese revolution has [convicted](#) former NISS agent Ashraf el-Tayyib ("Abjiga") of premeditated murder and crimes against humanity. This is the first conviction of its kind by the Court; watch the sentencing [here](#). The victim's family has requested retribution in this case.

Sentencing of second Dec 2018 killer scheduled for 12 July

Walid Ahmed Yahya, a member of the security forces, will be [sentenced](#) on 12 July for the killing of twelve-year-old Shawqi al-Sadiq Ishaq, who was shot on 21 December 2018. Ishaq is thought to be one of the youngest victims of the Sudanese revolution.

Salah Gosh allegedly implicated in foiled terror plot

24 individuals were reportedly [arrested](#) and charged by the Public Prosecution for their involvement in a terror plot aimed at toppling the transitional government. Former NISS director Salah Gosh has been accused of masterminding the planned attacks. Around the same time, it was [rumoured](#) that Salah Gosh had been seen in Khartoum; these reports have not been confirmed. Separately, some [protestors](#) in the

lead-up to 30 June also called for the [overthrow](#) of the transitional government, and many (perhaps up to 200) former [NCP members](#) were reportedly [arrested](#).

Journalist arrested, detained while reporting on protests

An Al Jazeera reporter was, in the [words of the network](#), “kidnapped” in Khartoum while covering anti-government protests. Ali Abou Shaleh was [taken](#) by Sudanese security forces to an “undisclosed location,” and [released](#) late at night on the same day. In another challenge to press freedom, the website of newspaper *El Sudani* was [blocked](#), along with 30 other websites. After an [outcry](#) by human rights defenders and journalists, access to the paper’s website was restored, and the editors of the paper have threatened legal action against the head of the Information Crimes and Digital Investigations Prosecution.

Mass graves confirmed in Central Darfur

The *wali* (governor) of Central Darfur State has confirmed the discovery of three [mass graves](#) containing at least 76 bodies (with one of the graves awaiting exhumation). Back in Khartoum, the bodies found decomposing in a [morgue refrigerator](#) have still not been identified.

Citizen reportedly detained and tortured by Military Intelligence

HUDO, a Sudanese human rights organisation, said that [Muaaz Hassan Daoud](#) was arrested by a group of SAF Military Intelligence forces. He was reportedly imprisoned in an underground cell, had his head shaved, and was beaten for 4 days before his release. In its statement, HUDO said Daoud was arrested after criticising the Military Intelligence for confiscating food commodities from civilians (on the grounds that they were transferring the goods to SPLA-N territory).

GOVERNMENT ETHIOPIA, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, POWER CUTS

Still no resolution in sight to dam and border disputes with Ethiopia

The UN Security Council met on the GERD issue, but does not seem likely to take independent action after [backing](#) the African Union’s mediation efforts. Watch the UNSC session [here](#) (Sudanese Foreign Minister Mariam al-Sadiq speaks at 2:02). Ethiopia has notified Sudan of its [intention](#) to begin a second filling of the dam. See [here](#) and [here](#) for interesting reporting on the dispute. Unrelatedly, Ethiopia has said it is “building up its [defenses](#)” on its [border](#) with Sudan, and Sudan and Egypt have signed another military cooperation [agreement](#).

Legislative Council (possibly) convening in August

The transitional government has [announced](#) that the long-delayed Transitional Legislative Council will be created by 17 August. The planned establishment of the Council was also announced in [January](#) of this year. Women are meant to occupy 40% of seats in the new body; see this [gender assessment](#) of women’s participation in Sudanese political parties. Also, the appointment of a new attorney general has been [delayed](#) after it was decided that the pool of candidates needs widening.

Frequent power cuts, deteriorating living conditions lead to protests

Power blackouts in Khartoum (and across Sudan) are compounding already [difficult living conditions](#) for many residents. An unnamed official has said that the government cannot afford to import enough fuel or pay for necessary maintenance of power stations. The government has said it will cut government spending while [increasing social spending](#), including through the expansion of the Thamarat (Family Support) programme and the doubling of the budget for a programme meant to provide cheap food commodities. According to the FAO, high fuel prices are also likely to affect the [2021 cropping season](#).

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION UNAMID, CLASHES

UNAMID completes its drawdown activities

On 30 June, as mandated by UN Security Council resolution 2559 (2020), UNAMID completed its final [drawdown activities](#). UNAMID has handed 14 sites to the transitional government, which are to be used for the provision of health care, education, and other social services. The transitional government is now responsible for [security and peacekeeping](#) in the region. In recent weeks, [clashes](#) in [Darfur](#) have continued, with at least 20 killed in the first week of July. (And farmers have also been killed in [South Kordofan](#).)

weekend read

The role of [Sudanese artists](#) in the revolution; the experience of Sudanese [asylum seekers](#) in the UK; an examination of Sudan's [prison complexes and privatization](#).

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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