

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 11 June 2021

BIG STORIES FIRST

- In one of her last official acts as ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda [visited](#) Darfur—marking the first such visit since the UN Security Council referral in 2005. The ICC delegation was [met](#) with large, welcoming [crowds](#) in Darfur. Bensouda called for the urgent surrender of Ahmed Harun to the ICC to facilitate the rejoining of the Ali Kushayb and Harun cases at trial (as well as for the transfer of all other [wanted individuals](#) currently in Sudanese custody). Find the Prosecutor’s full remarks at the UN Security Council [here](#), and see here for an analysis of [gender-based crimes](#) in the Kushayb case.
 - Protestors [gathered](#) in Khartoum to commemorate the second anniversary of the 3 June 2019 massacre. Marching to the Council of Ministers’ and Public Prosecution’s offices, protestors called for justice for those killed two years ago. At least 20 public prosecutors were [detailed](#) to accompany protestors throughout the day; the protests remained largely peaceful, though a [police officer](#) was killed by an unknown assailant. In a statement, Prime Minister Hamdok admitted that “complicated ties” with security agencies has “sometimes slowed down justice and delayed the submission of information” needed by prosecutors. See also Huqouq’s new [analysis](#) of sexual- and gender-based violence on 3 June 2019.
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GOVERNMENT PEACE AGREEMENT, UNITAMS, ECONOMY

UNITAMS mandate extended for another year

On 3 June, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted [Resolution 2579](#) (2021), extending the UNITAMS mandate for a year. The Security Council highlighted as ‘priorities’ for UNITAMS continued ceasefire monitoring in Darfur, implementation of the government’s National Plan for Civilian Protection, and ongoing/future peace negotiations.

Progress made in peace negotiations with SPLM-N al-Hilu

The transitional government’s delegation in Juba [announced](#) its “general acceptance” of the draft framework agreement submitted by SPLM-N al-Hilu. The draft framework reportedly sets out general issues and principles for negotiation, and includes the Declaration of Principles signed in March. Several specialised committees from both delegations have been [created](#) to discuss disputed issues. Separately,

the United Kingdom, Norway, and the United States (the Troika) [signed](#) the Juba Peace Agreement as witnesses.

Hemedti reportedly rejects integration of RSF into army

Sudanese news outlets [reported](#) that Hemedti publicly [rejected](#) the integration of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) into the armed forces, while other sources reported that the relationship between Hemedti and al-Burhan (head of the army) has [deteriorated](#). (Hemedti and al-Burhan have issued [statements](#) denying that there is any tension between them.) Integration of Sudan's various armed groups is a key component of the Juba Peace Agreement.

Sudan ends subsidies for gasoline and diesel

Sudan has fully [liberalised](#) gasoline and diesel prices, cancelling old prices and introducing new prices in line with import costs. Sudan's finance minister has [acknowledged](#) that these reforms will increase costs for the average Sudanese consumer. Sudan continues to subsidize cooking gas and furnace oil, as well as wheat and medicines.

Sudan, Egypt reject (again) unilateral filling of GERD

Khartoum claims Ethiopia has begun a second [filling](#) of the GERD, a claim that has been denied by Ethiopia. As AU-sponsored talks falter, Sudan and Egypt have agreed to [coordinate](#) efforts to push Ethiopia to negotiate "seriously" on the dam. Down at the Sudan-Ethiopia border, Sudanese military sources said that the Ethiopian army deployed [extra troops](#) as Ethiopian militiamen continue to attack Sudanese farmers.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION DARFUR, FOOD INSECURITY, UNAMID

OCHA forecasts high food insecurity for nearly 10 million people

In its latest 'humanitarian snapshot,' OCHA forecasts that from June – September 2021 (the "lean season"), 9.8 million people in Sudan will be [severely food insecure](#), and noted that cereal prices are "exceptionally high" due to currency weakness and the costs of agricultural inputs. Prices are more than 200 percent higher than in January 2020 (and over 600 percent higher than the five-year average).

Clashes continue in Darfur

In a recent resurgence of violence, 36 people were killed and dozens more wounded in clashes in [South Darfur](#). A resident reported that the clashes were in response to a land dispute between members of the Fellata and Taisha groups. See this Foreign Affairs article for more [context](#) on the situation in Darfur.

Another UNAMID site looted in North Darfur

Two people were killed and eight others were injured when a former UNAMID site was [looted](#) in North Darfur (south of El Fasher). The site was the last of 14 deep field sites handed over to the Sudanese government.

ACCOUNTABILITY ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE, EMPOWERMENT REMOVAL

Committee on Enforced Disappearance asks for responses to 'loss form'

The Investigative Committee on the Disappearance of Persons has [requested](#) that the families of those disappeared or killed on 3 June 2019 fill out a "loss form," to be completed at a hospital in Khartoum (بمستشفى التمير).

Committee established to investigate killing of Wad Akair

The acting Attorney General [announced](#) the creation of a specialised committee to examine the killing, and possible torture of, activist Wad Akair. On 25 April, the Forensic Dental Committee and Committee on the Disappearance of Persons [found](#) Akair's body at El Tamiz Hospital; Akair was identified by the clothes he was wearing when he went missing after a protest.

Family of Osman Ahmed calls for justice

The family of 18-year-old Sudanese-British citizen Osman Ahmed, who was killed by Sudan's armed forces on 11 May during a protest, has launched a [campaign](#) – #justiceforOsman – to put pressure on both the Sudanese and UK government to secure justice.

Empowerment Removal Committee issues decision to vacate property

The Empowerment Removal Committee [announced](#) that it had, with the cooperation of the police, carried out an operation to vacate a property previously owned by former First Vice President Ali Othman Taha, after Ali Othman's son refused to comply with an eviction notice. Earlier in May, the committee had [issued](#) an order to recover the property and other assets.

FFC legal committee finalises list of nominees for chief justice

Following the removal of the chief justice several weeks ago, the FFC's legal committee has nominated candidates for the empty position. A member of the committee reportedly said that among those identified are Mohamed al-Hafiz (who was previously excluded from the position of attorney general after a security examination), and Abdullah Abdelrahman and Salah sir al-Khatim, who currently serve in the judiciary.

The graphic consists of the words "weekend read" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The word "weekend" is on the top line and "read" is on the bottom line. Both words are centered within a solid yellow rectangular background.

[Watermelons](#) are thought to originate in Darfur; a just-discovered Nubian [cathedral](#) in Sudan; and a new London Review of Books essay on [Darfur](#).

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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