

# justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 17 Sep 2021

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## BIG STORIES FIRST

- Civil society organisations have [called on the UN Human Rights Council](#) to adopt a resolution extending technical assistance and capacity-building to the transitional government. The Sudanese government is thought to be set against any further resolutions, but it is important that the HRC continues to provide technical advice to Sudan, and to monitor human rights developments in the country.
  - Two protestors waiting outside of a mosque for the arrival of Hemedti were [arrested](#) and detained for three days before their release, beyond the legal period of detention by the police. Criminal reports were [registered](#) against the two under Articles 69 and 77 of the Criminal Code (disturbing public safety and public nuisance). Activists have demanded an investigation into whether the protestors, Musab Zakaria and Suleiman Jamal, were mistreated or tortured while in detention.
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## ACCOUNTABILITY ICC, PROTESTORS, EMPOWERMENT REMOVAL

### ICC sets opening trial date for Ali Kushayb

Trial Chamber I has scheduled the opening of the trial against Ali Kushayb for 5 April 2022. Separately, ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan has [appointed](#) a slate of 17 special advisers; Amal Clooney has been appointed Special Adviser on Darfur.

### Empowerment Removal Committee dismisses SUNA employees, seizes land

The Empowerment Removal Committee [dismissed](#) 79 employees of the Sudan News Agency, and issued a decision to recover 2,376 acres of land in the White Nile state, including land owned by former Vice President Ali Osman Taha and Ahmed Haroun. The committee also cancelled a contract with Rakaz International Investment Company (“composed of a group of elements belonging to the ousted regime”).

### Egypt and Sudan agree on Salah Gosh extradition

Sources have reported that Egyptian and Sudanese authorities have [agreed](#) on the handover of former NISS director Salah Gosh, who is thought to be in Cairo after fleeing Sudan following al-Bashir’s ouster in 2019. No timeline was set for Gosh’s extradition – Gosh is not known to be in Egyptian custody at this point.

## Ministry of Justice seeking nominations for Anti-Corruption Commission

The Ministry of Justice has issued an invitation to submit nominations for members of the Anti-Corruption Commission; see [here](#) for the “terms and conditions” of nomination. The Ministry has also opened the draft law on constitution-making to [public comments](#), available for download [here](#) (along with the electoral commission [bill](#)).

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## GOVERNMENT WEAPONS SMUGGLING, ETHIOPIA, INFLATION

### Weapons were (or were not?) smuggled into Sudan

Just after [Ethiopia](#) accused Sudan of [backing Tigrayan rebels](#) seeking to damage the GERD, some Sudanese officials claimed that Ethiopia helped [smuggle weapons](#) into Sudan. A source in the Empowerment Removal Committee said that large quantities of weapons coming from Russia were sent to Sudan via Ethiopia; on the other hand, the Sudanese [interior minister](#) denied that the weapons were [confiscated](#) or entered the country illegally. Ethiopian Airlines chimed in with a [statement](#), and the Empowerment Removal Committee publicly [stated](#) it disagreed with the interior minister’s decision to close its investigation. Also, see [here](#) for a statement from the Public Prosecution and here for reporting on [seized weapons](#) in the Red Sea state.

### UN Security Council urges resumption of GERD negotiations

In a presidential statement (presented by Ireland), the UN Security Council [encouraged](#) Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan to resume GERD negotiations under the auspice of the AU. Unrelatedly, Sudan [summoned Ethiopia’s ambassador](#) to inform him that at least 29 Tigrayan bodies were found in the Nile between 26 July and 8 August.

### Inflation slows, trade deficit dropped

Inflation in Sudan [decreased](#) for the first time under the transitional government, from 422.78% in July to 387.56% in August. Sudan’s [central bank](#) also reported that [exports grew](#) 68% in the first half of 2021, as compared with the same period in 2020. See also reporting on Sudanese [oil production](#) and the [gold mining](#) industry.

### Forces for Freedom and Change sign new political declaration

43 parties and movements under the umbrella of the Central Council for Freedom and Change, the Sudan Revolutionary Front, and the National Umma Party [signed](#) a [political declaration](#) affirming support of the [transitional government](#) and highlighting priorities for the transition, including establishing the Transitional Legislative Council and transferring wanted suspects to the International Criminal Court. JEM [did not sign](#) the declaration, and neither did SLM-Minnawi.

### Progress made, challenges remaining highlighted before UN Security Council

Head of UNITAMS Volker Perthes [briefed](#) the UNSC on the situation in Sudan, noting that the transitional government has taken some important steps to address challenges (eg, Hamdok’s [Way Forward](#) Initiative). He also highlighted that steps have been taken to operationalise the [Permanent Ceasefire Committee](#), which recently [met](#) for technical consultations. The National Mechanism for the Protection of Civilians has also met for the [first time](#) with international partners.

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## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION FLOODING, CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT

### Armed conflict and insecurity continues across Darfur

UN OCHA estimated that 410,00 people have been displaced this year as a result of conflict, primarily in Darfur, but also in Kordofan and Blue Nile – more than [six times](#) the number of displaced people over the same time period last year. Women and girls, in particular, continue to face gender-based and [sexual violence](#), as [Hala al-Karib](#), the Regional Director of the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa, reported recently to the UNSC. The governor of Darfur, Minni Minnawi, announced the [launch](#) of a joint force for security in Darfur; Minnawi has also pledged to [demilitarise](#) all IDP camps.

### SLM-AW transfers prisoner to ICRC

It was reported this week that the Sudan Liberation Movement led by Abdel Wahid al-Nur (SLM-AW) [released](#) a captured government militiaman, Abdel Rahim Mohammed Hussain Muqaddam Sabon. Sabon was [captured](#) in the Jebel Marra region on 4 February 2021 after armed clashes, and was reportedly released to the International Committee of the Red Cross due to health reasons.

### More flooding reported across Sudan

UNOCHA reports that, since the beginning of the rainy season in July, 288,000 people have been [affected by flooding](#). Moderate rainfall is expected over the next week, according to the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC).

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## weekend read

[Gum arabic](#) harvests; Sudanese [rappers](#) and comic book [superheroes](#); analysing Sudan's [peace agreements](#), opportunities for [diaspora engagement](#), and [fiscal transparency](#); and children [“awaiting execution or a miracle.”](#)

*Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.*

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