

# justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 19 Mar 2021

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## BIG STORIES FIRST

- *Janjaweed* leader [Musa Hilal](#) has been [released](#) from military detention after a pardon from the Sovereign Council. Hilal was subsequently visited by various government and political leaders, including [Hemedti](#) and Minni Minnawi. Is Hilal's case emblematic of broader impunity for crimes committed under Bashir? See an analysis by REDRESS and PLACE of the [looming challenges](#) to accountability for Hilal (and others).
  - A committee from the [Public Prosecution](#) visited Darfur this week to [investigate](#) the January events in El Geneina and the Kerending camps which left at least 163 people dead and 123,000 people displaced. The committee has requested the lifting of the necessary immunities for implicated RSF forces and the issuance of arrest warrants. Separately, in early March, a [bomb](#) was reportedly detonated in an El Geneina prison as part of an escape attempt by several alleged perpetrators.
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## ACCOUNTABILITY TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, KAJBAR, ICC

### Council of Minister approves draft commission bills

Sudan's Council of Ministers reportedly approved draft versions of the Transitional Justice, Peace, and Anti-Corruption Commission bills. Consultations on the National Human Rights Commission draft law continue. REDRESS translations of the Transitional Justice and Peace Commissions bills are available [here](#) and [here](#).

### Autopsy completed at Kajbar Dam gravesite

The Public Prosecution [announced](#) on 10 March the forensic results of its autopsy of the four bodies [exhumed](#) in relation to the killing of individuals protesting the construction of the Kajbar Dam in [June 2007](#). Sudan's attorney general has ordered the formation of a committee to investigate the events at Kajbar Dam, which will [refer](#) criminal cases as necessary.

### ICC prepares for first investigative mission

Following the signing of an MoU with the ICC, members of the transitional government, including the Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior, Attorney General, and Director General of the Police Forces, have met with a [delegation](#) from the ICC in advance of its initial investigative mission in April. Human rights organisations continue to call for complete [cooperation](#) with the ICC, including the [transfer](#) of all ICC suspects in Sudanese custody to The Hague.

### **Poet summoned before the Press and Publications Prosecution Office**

[Yousif al-Dosh](#), a poet who wrote about the violent dispersal of protestors on 3 June 2019, [appeared](#) before the Press and Publications Prosecution Office after receiving a communication from the Sovereign Council. He was released from prison shortly after his testimony. Six members of the Sovereign Council [signed](#) a statement clarifying that they did not play a role in recording a communication against the poet.

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## **NEIGHBORS** ETHIOPIA, EGYPT, DAM, MEDIATION

### **Still no end in sight to dam and border disputes with Ethiopia**

Sudan has lodged a [formal request](#) for quadripartite mediation of the GERD dispute, but [Ethiopia](#) maintains that the African Union's mediation mechanisms will be sufficient to resolve the ongoing disagreement. Similarly, [no progress](#) has been made regarding border disputes between Sudan and Ethiopia. Otherwise, a week after signing a joint military cooperation agreement with Sudan, Egyptian president al-Sisi [visited](#) Khartoum to discuss the dam and other issues.

### **Rumours swirling that Ethiopia has funded a militia group in the Blue Nile**

The Sudan News Agency (SUNA) [reported](#) that the Ethiopian government provided weapons, ammunition and other support to the SPLM-North al-Hilu, in an effort to "disperse the efforts of the Sudanese army on the eastern front." Ethiopia has not responded to these claims.

### **Egyptian hospitals begin treatment of Sudanese injured in revolution**

Several months after the Egyptian and Sudanese health ministers [met in Khartoum](#), the first group of individuals injured during Sudan's revolution have [arrived for treatment](#) in Egypt. The Egyptian government has said that it will provide support to the Sudanese health sector on a variety of fronts.

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## **GOVERNMENT** CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE, OLYMPIC HEADQUARTERS

### **Women seek increased representation in government**

A group of activists have [lodged](#) a constitutional challenge (despite the lack of a Constitutional Court) protesting the weak representation of women in the transitional government. A memo has been submitted to Prime Minister Hamdok and leaders of other political groups, including the National Umma Party and the Forces for Freedom and Change. The memo is available [here](#).

### **Armed groups make themselves comfortable in Khartoum**

Large numbers of forces affiliated with armed movements have moved into civilian spaces in Khartoum in recent weeks. Among these were SLM-MM fighters who [occupied](#) ([temporarily](#)) the headquarters of the Sudanese Olympic Committee.

### Government to develop gold mines linked to Hemedti

Nearly a year after it was first [announced](#) that a construction and trading firm owned by Hemedti's family planned to turn its gold mines over to the transitional government, a government research team has reportedly been [dispatched](#) to restart mining operations. Hemedti, and the Rapid Support Forces which he leads, have long exercised significant control over Sudan's [lucrative](#) gold industry.

### Restrictions governing Sudanese organisations frozen, for now

[New regulations](#) governing civil society organisations have been [suspended](#) by the new Minister of Social Development. Promulgated by the outgoing Minister of Social Development, the regulations have been heavily criticised as an effort to suppress Sudanese civil society.

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# weekend read

Sudan has abruptly [ended](#) visa-free travel for Syrians, and the RSF is capitalizing on the pandemic to conduct "[damage control](#)."

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

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