

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Hyperlinks are underlined.

Friday 15 Oct 2021

BIG STORIES FIRST

- Facebook [announced](#) in its “September 2021 Coordinated Inauthentic Bad Behavior Report” that it had, for the second time, removed a network in Sudan – comprised of 116 pages, 666 Facebook accounts, 69 Groups and 92 Instagram accounts – that targeted domestic audiences with disinformation and/or misinformation. Facebook further announced that this “suspected coordinated inauthentic behavior” was linked to the Rapid Support Forces. The director of Facebook’s Threat Disruption team [tweeted](#) that many of the removed accounts and pages posed as freelance journalists and students, or news agencies.
 - On the [first anniversary](#) of the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement, the High Council of Beja Nazirs [continued](#) to [demand](#) the cancellation of the Eastern Track agreement; relatedly, [port closures](#) in Eastern Sudan have resulted in [widespread](#) medicine, fuel, and bread [shortages](#). Government officials and rebel leaders, including Jibril Ibrahim (head of JEM and the current Minister of Finance), have [warned](#) that the nullification of the Eastern Track would lead to the collapse of the JPA in its entirety. Several lawyers have [reportedly](#) filed a case against Beja leaders for threatening the transitional period and “sabotaging the national economy.”
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GOVERNMENT TRAVEL BAN, MILITANTS, ISRAEL

New national initiatives launched, reflecting political differences

Rifts between members of the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) coalition continue to [widen](#) following the recent coup attempt. 16 political and armed groups, including JEM and the SLM-Minnawi, have [signed](#) a new political charter. The “splinter” faction of

the FFC has called for mass protests on 16 October; on the other hand, forces opposed to the military and its allies plan to march on 21 October. Another [newly formed group](#), the Jurists Group for the Protection of the Revolution and the Democratic Transition, has also in recent days [presented a memorandum](#) to the Sovereign Council, demanding adherence to the Constitutional Charter and the handover of power to the civilian component of the government. Security forces [prevented](#) the group from reaching the Sovereign Council's office. Unhelpfully, Burhan has also called for the [dissolution](#) of the civilian government.

Civilian government sources report travel ban

Two senior civilian government sources said this week that the General Intelligence Service had imposed a [travel ban](#) on 11 civilian officials, including members of the Empowerment Removal Committee. GIS denied these reports. Other sources said that the Council of Ministers is seeking an investigation into the alleged ban, because the GIS does not have the authority to enact travel bans. The news follows reports that al-Burhan and Hemedti have pushed for the removal of Mohamed al-Faki, deputy head of the Empowerment Removal Committee, from the Sovereign Council.

Human Rights Council discusses situation in Sudan

Under its agenda item on technical assistance and capacity building, the UN Human Rights Council [discussed](#) the human rights situation in Sudan, hearing presentations by Nada al-Nashif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Volker Perthes, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan. Issues highlighted included challenges in implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement and ongoing instability in Darfur following the withdrawal of the UNAMID mission. Ilham Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed, the Assistant Undersecretary of Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also spoke, highlighting the steps the transitional government has taken to strengthen human rights in Sudan, despite significant economic challenges.

Security forces conduct another raid on alleged ISIS cell

Four suspected ISIS-linked individuals and one Sudanese security forces member were [killed](#) during [Khartoum clashes](#) in the first week of October, days after a similar raid. The security forces also announced that eight "foreign elements" were [arrested](#) in Omdurman the day prior.

Sudanese, Israeli leaders meet

Sudanese Minister of Justice Nasredeen Abdulbari [met](#) with Israel's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in the UAE, reportedly to discuss cooperation concerning technology and normalisation of bilateral relations. Following the meeting, Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement emphasising that it was [not responsible](#) for any meetings "outside the foreign policy of the state." At around the same time, reports emerged that a Sudanese security and military delegation [recently visited](#) Israel,

“though the trip was not made public at the time.” The heads of the French and Sudanese intelligence services are also [expected](#) to meet at the end of this week.

ACCOUNTABILITY RSF, EMPOWERMENT REMOVAL

More information revealed during Mahjoub al-Taj Mahjoub trial

A forensic doctor has [testified](#) that medical student Mahjoub al-Taj Mahjoub was killed by blunt force trauma to the head, causing a brain injury and loss of oxygen. The case continues. The Public Prosecutor has also [received](#) the results of the investigation into the killing of Bahaa el-Din Nouri, who was [arrested](#) on 16 December 2020 and allegedly tortured to death while in RSF custody. The investigation’s outcomes have not been publicly released. 6 members of the Sudanese intelligence and Popular Defence Forces have also reportedly been arrested in relation to the killing of [Dr. Babiker Abdelhamid](#) and [Al Fateh Omar al-Namir](#).

Empowerment Removal Committee seeks to confiscate Malaysian oil assets

Sudan’s Empowerment Removal Committee seeks to [confiscate assets](#) belonging to Malaysia’s national oil company, Petronas. The Committee has alleged that the assets in question were [acquired through illegal means](#) during al-Bashir’s regime. Petronas has operated in Sudan for more than 20 years, and has [apparently](#) filed a request for arbitration at the International Centre for Settlement of Dispute. Separately, the Khartoum High Court’s Appeals Chamber has overturned the Empowerment Removal Committee’s decision to dismiss many judges, prosecutors, and other judicial employees; Committee member Wadji Saleh said that the Court lacked the [competence](#) to make this decision.

US District Court dismisses case against Sudan

The US District Court for the District of Columbia dismissed with prejudice a case filed against Sudan by victims of a 2016 Hamas attack in Israel, who had sought \$250 million in compensatory damages (in addition to punitive damages) on the basis of Sudan’s support for Hamas. The Court dismissed the case because it lacked personal and subject matter jurisdiction over Sudan, now that Sudan’s sovereign immunity has been restored. Full decision available [here](#).

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REFUGEES, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, ICC

Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad raped

Twelve Sudanese girls living in a camp for Darfuri refugees, all between the ages of 13 and 17, were reportedly [raped](#) by shepherds while collecting firewood in the Gereida region of Chad. Residents of the camp said such incidents are becoming more common. In Sudan, residents of IDP camps in Darfur said that they [continue to wait](#) for adequate

security arrangements, and that “not even 1%” of the Juba Peace Agreement has been implemented so far, including promises concerning the International Criminal Court. Relatedly, the Darfur Bar Association has [launched](#) a series of seminars as part of an advocacy campaign concerning extradition of Bashir and others to the ICC.

weekend read

Analysing the [implementation](#) of the Juba Peace Agreement; examining Sudanese banking reforms and international [asset recovery](#); the state of Sudan’s [civic space](#); and discussions of security sector reform [here](#) and [here](#).

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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