

# justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 29 Oct 2021

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## MILITARY STAGES COUP ON MONDAY 25 OCTOBER

All eyes have been on Sudan since the early hours of Monday 25 October, when the military arrested Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and several other civilian leaders. To better reflect the highly dynamic situation, this edition of the Justice + Conflict will deviate from the usual format and provide a day-by-day picture of key events over the past week; this is not a comprehensive account.

### MONDAY

- At around 3:30 am Khartoum time, Prime Minister Hamdok and several other civilian leaders (eg, the Minister of Culture, the Minister of Industry, and the head of the Empowerment Removal Committee) are [arrested](#). At this point, the whereabouts of all is unknown.
- An Internet shutdown is [imposed](#). The airport is closed.
- [Protests](#) begin almost immediately. Despite limited network connectivity, accounts of live gunfire being used against protestors emerged on social media; casualties and injuries were [reported](#).
- Just after midday, Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan made a [televised statement](#), announcing a nationwide state of emergency and the dissolution of the Empowerment Removal Committee. Despite announcing that all treaties signed since 2019 are still in force, including the Juba Peace Agreement, Burhan repealed the following articles of the [Constitutional Charter 2019](#), effectively dissolving the transitional government and seemingly reinstating the Transitional Military Council (TMC):
  - Article 11, setting out the competencies of the Sovereign Council
  - Article 12, setting out requirements for “confirmation” of decisions by the Sovereign Council
  - Article 15, setting out the competencies of the Council of Ministers
  - Article 16, providing conditions for members in the Council of Ministers
  - Article 24.3, concerning competencies of the (unformed) Transitional Legislative Council
  - Article 71, establishing that the provisions of the Constitutional Charter prevail if there is any conflict between the Charter and the agreement between the TMC and Forces of Freedom and Change
  - Article 72, dissolving the TMC upon swearing-in of the Sovereign Council
- Activists and journalists are arrested. Unverified running list available [here](#).

### TUESDAY

- Al-Burhan gives a second press conference, announcing that Prime Minister Hamdok had spent the night in his guest house, for Hamdok's own safety. He says that a new governmental structure would quickly be established, with "independent" members, and that some arrested civilian ministers may be prosecuted.
- All professional associations and trade unions are dissolved.
- A civil disobedience campaign launches across Sudan.
- The UN Security Council [meets](#) in a closed-door session.
- The US [freezes \\$700 million](#) in direct assistance.
- The Sudanese Professionals Association [writes formally](#) to the African Union's Peace & Security Committee, calling for Sudan's suspension from the AU.
- In the evening, Prime Minister Hamdok is [returned](#) to his home under heavy guard, as confirmed by his office. The whereabouts of the other detained ministers remains unknown. Others are arrested, including Siddiq al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, an Umma party leader, journalist Fayez Selik, and Ismael al-Taj, a member of the Sudanese Professionals Association.

### WEDNESDAY

- Internet disruptions continue.
- The head of UNITAMS and representatives from several foreign embassies visit [Prime Minister Hamdok](#) in his home.
- Omar al-Najib (Minister of Health), Yasser Abbas (Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources), and Hassan Nasrallah (Adviser to Prime Minister Hamdok) are all arrested.
- Sudan's permanent mission in Geneva requests a deferment of Sudan's Universal Periodic Review, slated for 3 November.
- The EU delegation to Sudan, the Troika countries, and Switzerland issue a [statement](#) calling for the release of the remaining political detainees, and recognising the Prime Minister as constitutional leader of the transitional government.
- The World Bank suspends [disbursement](#) of all funds to Sudan.
- After making its decision on Tuesday, the [AU announces Sudan's suspension](#) from participating in all AU activities until the "effective restoration of the civilian-led transitional authority."
- Al-Burhan [fires](#) several ambassadors, including those to the US, Belgium, France, Switzerland, China and Qatar. Around 60 other ambassadors condemn the coup.
- News of additional arrests continues, including in South Darfur, where members of the lawyers' association and teachers' association are arrested.
- Khartoum resistance committees [call on people](#) to maintain the campaign of civil disobedience; closures and barricades of many streets in Khartoum and across Sudan continue.
- Preparations are underway for a "march of millions" on 30 October. Despite an ongoing Internet blackout, neighbourhood resistance committees organise through distribution of [paper leaflets](#) and widespread graffiti.
- An arrest warrant for 16 members of the Empowerment Removal Committee is reportedly issued in Gedaref State, and the Gedaraf Prosecution is ordered to arrest 21 activists from the neighbourhood resistance committees.

### THURSDAY

- More activists are arrested on Thursday night, including in Nyala, Khartoum, and Kordofan. Many protestors are reported [injured or killed](#). Military forces reportedly [storm the SUNA office](#) (Sudan's state media agency).
- Sudanese, regional and international NGOs call for [a special \(emergency\) session](#) of the UN Human Rights Council.

- The UN Security Council issues a [statement](#), “expressing concern about the military takeover” and calling for the immediate release of all political detainees. The UNSC also calls for the restoration of the “civilian-led transitional government on the basis of the Constitutional Document.”

## FRIDAY

- Al-Burhan says that a [new prime minister](#) and Sovereign Council will be established within a few days, or “within a week at the latest.”
  - Activists prepare for the 30 October protests. Social media is flooded with reports of additional injuries to protestors, as security forces continue to use excessive and lethal force.
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# Saturday Protests

The heavy presence of RSF vehicles and army forces on the streets, continuous dismantling of blockades erected by protestors, and ongoing human rights violations since Monday suggest that protestors on 30 October will be met with significant force. REDRESS offers [possible responses to violations](#).

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

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