

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

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

Friday 19 Nov 2021

SECURITY FORCES CONTINUE TO USE EXCESSIVE AND/OR LETHAL FORCE

This edition of the Justice + Conflict newsletter provides a day-by-day picture of key events over the past week; as before, this is not a comprehensive account.

Saturday (13 Nov)

- At least five protestors were killed during Saturday's protests in Khartoum, according to the [Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors](#) (CCSD), with hundreds others injured. Unlike during previous demonstrations, [security forces](#) began using tear gas and live fire against protestors early in the afternoon, seemingly to prevent their convergence at central meeting points. The CCSD also reported that security forces stormed a [hospital](#) in Omdurman, beating staff and arresting injured protestors.
- The Sudan Doctors Union said that some protestors were injured by [expanding bullets](#), which are prohibited under international law. Ambulances were also reportedly [prevented](#) from reaching hospitals. Sudanese police gave a statement denying that they used [live fire](#) during the protests.
- Outside of Khartoum and Omdurman, protests were held in many other cities across Sudan, including Dongola and Kareema, Atbara, Madani, El Fasher, Nyala, Zalengei, Kostj, and Port Sudan. Protests were also reported in all IDP camps in Darfur.
- Activists said that some protestors were [arrested](#) by plainclothes security forces driving unmarked vehicles in Khartoum, posing as transport vehicles arranged by the resistance committees.
- Some media sources reported that the newly appointed Sovereign Council plans to hold [elections](#) within 8 months, even earlier than previously announced.

Sunday (14 Nov)

- Al-Jazeera bureau chief, El Musalmi El Kabbashi, was [arrested](#) by security forces at his home in Khartoum and detained. Al Jazeera's office in Sudan was shut down in 2019 amidst the protests which led to al-Bashir's ouster from office.
- On Sunday morning, a 15-year-old boy [died](#) of gunshot wounds to his stomach and thigh sustained during the Saturday protests. Later in the day, a 13-year-old girl died

after sustaining a bullet wound in the head while standing at the door of [her home](#) on Saturday, raising the [death total](#) from the 13 November protests to at least 7.

- Sources [reported](#) that ex-rebel leaders Malik Agar (SPLM-N), al-Hadi Idriss (head of the Sudan Revolutionary Front), and al-Taher Hagar (Sudan Liberation Forces Movement), all of whom signed the Juba Peace Agreement, had come out in support of the coup.
- A Khartoum District Court [rejected](#) the reasons provided by telecommunications company Zain for its non-compliance with orders to restore Internet service immediately.
- The post-coup Sovereign Council met for the [first time](#) with its “full membership.”

Monday (15 Nov)

- Security forces used tear gas and live fire [against mourners](#) gathered at the funeral of Remaz Hatim, the 13-year-old girl who passed away on Sunday from a gunshot wound.
- The Darfur Bar Association issued a report documenting the detention of 71 activists across all Darfur. In Nyala, 40 detainees are reportedly held in a single room without ventilation; among these detainees is a Dutch citizen, thought to be detained on the basis of suspected collaboration with the ICC. Lawyers from the Democratic Alliance of Sudanese Lawyers have submitted [requests](#) to the state security committee in Nyala, seeking the release of all detainees, without response.
- Mohamed El Hadi, a prominent member of the Empowerment Removal Committee in Sinnar State, has reportedly been [subjected to torture](#) in a Military Intelligence prison since his detention on 26 October, according to a Facebook post from the Democratic Alliance of Sudanese Lawyers.
- Masked men reportedly [harassed](#) and chased the editor-in-chief of Al-Sudani newspaper outside of his office.
- Al Jazeera bureau chief El Musalmi El Kabbashi was [transferred](#) to “Soba” prison near Khartoum, despite a decision from the Public Prosecution ordering his release. The Public Prosecution Office for Crimes Against the State in Sudan reportedly interrogated El Kabbashi for his network’s coverage of the coup.
- In anticipation of protests scheduled for 15 November at the Kassala Teaching Hospital, security forces stormed the hospital and prevented doctors and other medical staff from entering the building.
- Hemedti reportedly apologized to al-Burhan for taking the position of chairman of the committee established to review the work of the Empowerment Removal Committee; exact details concerning this situation are unclear.
- A Kassala emergency court reportedly [sentenced](#) three individuals to a 50,000 SDG fine (or two months in prison, if the fine isn’t paid) for their participation in the 30 October protests; six others await sentencing under Article 77 of the Criminal Law Act 1991.

Tuesday (16 Nov)

- Al Jazeera bureau chief El Musalmi El Kabbashi was [released](#) two days after security forces raided his home and arrested him.
- In an interview with Al Jazeera, Malik Agar (SPLM-N Agar) justified his participation in the post-coup Sovereign Council by saying he joined to prevent the “crumbling of the Sudanese state,” and said that all detainees, including Hamdok and his cabinet, would be [released](#) within the next two days.

- Protestors prepared for demonstrations planned for Wednesday 17 November. At the same time, journalists, medical staff, and employees of a power station in Khartoum held protests.
- Court proceedings in the ongoing case against al-Bashir and 27 other leaders of the 1989 coup have been postponed until at least 30 November.
- Across Sudan, local and regional government officials continue to be removed from their positions and quickly replaced. For example, the central government issued a decision dismissing the governor of Kassala State (Al-Tayeb Mohamed al-Sheikh), replacing him with Adel Alloub, formerly the director of the Local Government Bureau in Kassala. A new governor has also been appointed in Darfur.
- Journalists continue to be arrested by Military Intelligence, including Shawgi Abdelazim, who was [released](#) after several hours and told to stop “spreading hate speech against the army.”
- Nouredien Salah, a member of the Sudanese Congress Party, was [arrested](#) after a television appearance in which he said that there is a difference between civilian institutions representing the FFC and those appointed by the coup government.
- Nimat Jamaa, the head of the Empowerment Removal Committee in White Nile State, was [arrested](#) by Military Intelligence forces while on the street near a local hospital.

Wednesday (17 Nov)

- In the deadliest day of protests so far, security forces killed [at least 15 people](#) and wounded [more than 100 others](#) (80 of whom sustained gunshot wounds to their upper bodies and heads).
- By the early hours of 17 November, at least four bridges crossing the River Nile in Khartoum were closed. The communications blackout was even tighter on Wednesday, with mobile phone communications cut across Sudan (preventing calls within the country).
- Security forces began using [live ammunition](#) against protestors in Khartoum, Bahri, and Omdurman early in the day; citing a Sudanese source, a journalist [speculated](#) that “they don’t have much tear gas reserve left – more ammunition than canisters used [at the moment].”
- Some protestors were [arrested](#) and held in the central police station in Omdurman, including several medics; the commanding officer responsible reportedly refused to release them.
- As during the 30 October and 13 November protests, security forces [stopped ambulances](#) carrying wounded protestors, reportedly beating the doctors and drivers. The United Office of Sudanese Doctors issued an [urgent call](#) to the international community, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, to “immediately intervene and rescue the wounded and provide the required equipment, medicines and supplies in response to the brutal ongoing attacks by the military in Sudan.”
- The CCSD said in a statement that security forces had also tried to [raid one hospital](#) in Omdurman and were surrounding another, shooting tear gas; similar reports [emerged](#) from hospitals in Bahri.
- Other protests were held outside of the Greater Khartoum area, with some reports of [tear gas](#) being used against protestors as well as tactics of [intimidation](#) (eg, shaving

heads of pedestrians); accessing information about possible violations and/or casualties remains difficult in light of the Internet blackout.

- Journalist Ali Farsab was [shot and detained](#) while covering the protests in Bahri; the Sudanese Journalists Network said that Farsab was brutally beaten when detained after being shot in the head. His lawyer's requests to transfer him from the police station to a hospital have been rejected.

Thursday (18 Nov)

- Security forces continued to use tear gas and live fire as they removed barricades erected by protestors in Bahri and Omdurman.
- Police said that they recorded only [one civilian death](#) during Wednesday's protests, and that 89 officers were injured.
- Partial Internet services were back [online](#) after a Sudanese court [threatened](#) to arrest the CEOs of Sudan's telecommunications companies, according to a lawyer in the case. Social media platforms continue to be [restricted](#), though VPN services are now effective and can be used to circumvent these restrictions.
- A group of neighbourhood resistance committees in east Khartoum [announced](#) an "open escalation" against the coup until its overthrow.

Friday (19 Nov)

- The Darfur Bar Association (with partners) announced the establishment of a committee to investigate crimes committed since 25 October. The DBA said that it would report the outcome of its investigations within two weeks, and that it seeks the cooperation of all those who may have any information related to past and ongoing violations.

Thanks for reading.

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