

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

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Hello,

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

Friday 26 Nov 2021

SECURITY FORCES CONTINUE TO USE EXCESSIVE/LETHAL FORCE

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

Saturday (20 Nov)

- Resistance committees announced that 20 November was a day of solidarity with internally displaced Sudanese and refugees, as they [prepared for protests](#) scheduled for 21 November.
- Journalists [reported](#) that protestors in the Greater Khartoum area were met with teargas on Saturday, and some were beaten and arrested.

Sunday (21 Nov)

- Four weeks after being placed under house arrest, Abdalla Hamdok signed a 14-point [agreement](#) with al-Burhan. Key provisions include those reinstating Hamdok as prime minister, and providing for the release of all political detainees and restructuring of the Empowerment Removal Committee. Hamdok is now responsible for the creation of a technocratic government, and the Sovereign Council will retain an expansive “oversight” role.
- The Forces of Freedom and Change [said](#) on Sunday that it [does not recognise](#) any political agreement with the military, and announced that protests would continue. The Umma Party also rejected the agreement, and [protestors](#) in Khartoum [chanted](#) “Hamdok has sold the revolution.” On the other hand, Hemedti broke his months-long Twitter silence in a [thread](#) to “congratulate the people of Sudan on today’s historic event.”
- As the agreement was being signed, a 16-year-old was shot and [killed](#) by security forces in Omdurman (bringing the number of confirmed deaths since the coup to 41), while security forces [raided](#) the Khartoum Teaching Hospital.
- The Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors issued a [report](#) documenting more than 100 cases of injuries during the 17 November protests in the Greater Khartoum area,

including more than 40 injuries as a result of live ammunition, a case of paralysis of the lower extremities, and 39 injuries as a result of beatings from batons.

Monday (22 Nov)

- 12 ministers handed in their [resignations](#) to Prime Minister Hamdok, including the ministers of justice, foreign affairs, and education; two ministers could not be reached because they remain in detention, while the Minister of Trade refused to resign.
- Some political detainees are [released](#), including Yassir Arman, Ali al-Rih al-Sanhoury (head of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party), Omar al-Diqir (head of the Sudanese Congress Party), and al-Siddiq al-Sadiq al-Mahdi (a leading member of the Umma Party).
- Sudanese media [reported](#) that at least 21 people were killed in the Jebel Moon, West Darfur region over the past few days. Subsequent reporting from [OCHA](#) found that over 4,300 people were forced to flee their homes, and at least 43 people were killed after 46 villages were burned and looted.
- In an interview with Al-Jazeera, Prime Minister Hamdok [described](#) the events of 25 October as “an unconstitutional seizure of power. By all accounts, that is a coup.” See [here](#) for another interview Hamdok gave to CNN.

Tuesday (23 Nov)

- Arrests of resistance committee members and activists [continued](#) in a number of states, despite the 21 November political agreement. In but one example, at least [three](#) individuals were [arrested](#) in Sinnar and taken to an unknown location. Some activists have estimated that at least 1,000 people were arrested since 25 October (others place the figure at closer to 400).
- A [hearing](#) was held in El Obeid concerning the cases of 19 resistance committee members who were arrested under Sudan's emergency law; the 19 were subsequently acquitted of charges. Other trials in emergency courts were scheduled for later in the week, including Thursday hearings in Zalingei in the cases of five individuals under the age of 17.
- The reconstituted Sovereign Council met again; according to SUNA, the body [discussed](#) a “number of issues” related to the “judicial system, the Public Prosecution, and the establishment of” bodies charged with carrying out key legal tasks.

Wednesday (24 Nov)

- Social media and messaging platforms were [restored](#) on all major Internet providers for the first time since 25 October.
- Lawyers sent a communication to the National Human Rights Commission, informing the commissioners of the “arrests of dozens of civilians” across Sudan since the coup, including minors. The full memorandum is available on request.
- Prime Minister Hamdok [announced](#) that any political appointments or dismissals since the coup would be “placed under study, evaluation, and review.” Hamdok also [announced](#) that he met with the deputy director of the Sudanese police force and the director of the Khartoum police in advance of protests planned for Thursday 25 November.

- A 21-year-old man [died](#) from injuries sustained during the 21 November protests, when he was shot twice in the head. This brings the total number of individuals killed since 25 October 2021 to [42](#).
- After being released on Monday, Faisal Saleh, an advisor to Prime Minister Hamdok who was arrested on 25 October, detailed in an interview the conditions in which he was detained for the past month. Saleh said he was held in [solitary confinement](#) in a military facility, with no access to outside information.

Thursday (25 Nov)

- [Thousands of people](#) took to the streets in another round of [mass protests](#), in Khartoum as well as Port Sudan, Kassala, Wad Madani, and El Geneina. For the first time since the military takeover on 25 October, security forces are not reported to have killed any protestors, though some protestors sustained [injuries](#) from [teargas](#), including after security forces shot protestors with teargas canisters at close range.
- Outside of Khartoum, there were reports of use of excessive force and live ammunition against protestors in [Nyala](#) and El Obeid, and of continued arrests (for example, in [North Kordofan](#)).
- Abdulaziz Fath al-Rahman Abdeen was sworn in as Chief Justice (although he has been serving as acting Chief Justice for some time). Abdeen also served in this role under former president al-Bashir.
- A new commission has reportedly been created to solve the crisis in eastern Sudan, to be chaired by Hemedti.

Friday (26 Nov)

- After Nour Saleh, a leading member of the Sudanese Congress Party, was released from detention late on Thursday evening, he [tweeted](#) on Friday that his “detained comrades went on a hunger strike that will continue until their release.” Minister of Cabinet Affairs Khalid Omer Yousif, FFC spokesman Jaafar Hassan and journalist Maher Abu al Joukh are thought to be among those carrying out a [hunger strike](#).
- Hemedti gave a (long) [interview](#) on Al Jazeera, defending the military’s actions.

weekend read

Good reporting on recent events: Human Rights Watch on the [17 Nov. protests](#); GIS [mapping](#) of the major protests; ACJPS on [detentions](#) and disappearances; and a podcast on the [Swedish case](#) against Lundin Energy.

Thanks for reading.

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