

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

Welcome to this fortnightly roundup of news on justice and conflict in Sudan. Hyperlinks are underlined. This is the final newsletter of the year – thank you for reading, and see you in 2022! A reminder that all newsletters from 2021 are [available here](#).

Thursday 23 Dec 2021

BIG STORIES FIRST

- Hundreds of thousands of people [marched](#) to the presidential palace in Khartoum on 19 December to protest the 25 October military coup, and to commemorate the 3-year anniversary of the mass protests which led to al-Bashir's ouster. Protests were also held in at least [30 other cities](#) across Sudan. Once again, demonstrators in Khartoum were met with live fire and teargas; the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors [reported](#) that more than 300 injuries had been recorded, and at least two protestors were [killed](#) after being shot with live ammunition. Security forces also fired teargas directly at [hospitals](#) and medics. Another protest is planned for 25 December.
 - Several days after the 19 December protests, the UN OHCHR in Sudan said that it had received [13 allegations](#) of rape and gang rape by security forces, as well as reports of women being sexually harassed by security forces as they attempted to flee the protests. International actors, including the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, issued statements of concern about these reports; the [Special Representative](#) noted that, “while some of the survivors of sexual violence have filed judicial complaints and have sought immediate medical assistance . . . others have opted not to report and/or seek medical and other assistance, owing to social stigma, fear of persecution and reprisals.” Under international human rights law, Sudan must investigate and prosecute rape and other forms of sexual violence.
 - On 23 December, women organised rallies [across Sudan](#) to [protest](#) sexual violence, as part of a larger “Khoshi al Lajna” (“Join the Committee”) [campaign](#) to encourage women’s participation in political actions and decision-making committees.
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GOVERNMENT RED SEA, RESIGNATIONS

Prime minister to resign?

Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok reportedly said on Tuesday (21 December) that he would resign by the evening, after issuing a statement over the weekend in which he said that Sudan was drawing closer “to the abyss.” Reuters [reported](#) that the group of political figures Hamdok spoke to about his resignation urged him to remain in office. As of the time of writing, Hamdok had not yet tendered his resignation. On Twitter, Hamdok also [defended](#) his signing of the 21 November agreement last weekend, saying that he does not find it “embarrassing to say that preserving the blood and dignity of [Sudan’s] young people remains my supreme duty.”

No news on Eastern Track agreement, as impacts of Port Sudan blockade become clearer

Reuters reported on Thursday that the use of [Port Sudan](#) as a political bargaining chip could have lasting economic impacts, threatening needed foreign investments and pushing trade flows to other regional routes, including Egypt. Though Hemedti has temporarily suspended the Eastern Track of the Juba Peace Agreement in an attempt to resolve ongoing political disputes with the High Council of Beja Nazirs, the possibility of future port blockades remains. (Not to mention that the suspension of the Eastern Track has other knock-on effects, including by increasing tensions with other signatories to the JPA.)

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION DARFUR, KORDOFAN

Security situation in Darfur and Kordofan remains unstable

UN OCHA said in its latest [Sudan Situation Report](#) that the situation in parts of Darfur and the Kordofan region remains volatile, leaving many of those who fled their homes in the past few weeks still unable to return. The West Darfur State Doctors Committee issued a [press release](#) this week, finding that the total number of documented victims in the state had risen to 148, with another 123 wounded.

weekend read

Media [repression](#) in Sudan; the “[labyrinth](#)” of Sudan’s democratic transition; and an [analysis](#) of the 21 November agreement.

Thanks for reading, and see you in 2022.

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