

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 7 Jan 2022

BIG STORIES FIRST

- After threatening to do so for several weeks, Prime Minister Hamdok officially stepped down from his position in a [televised public address](#) on 2 January 2022. Hamdok's resignation leaves Sudan in a moment of constitutional crisis. The Constitutional Charter 2019 grants the FFC the power to choose the prime minister in the event the position becomes vacant; however, the FFC remains in a state of disarray and is unlikely to participate in a selection process as the crackdown on protestors continues. The Constitutional Charter also leaves open the possibility of selection of a new prime minister by the Transitional Legislative Council. This body has not been created.
- Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan [issued](#) a decree on 26 December authorising General Intelligence Service agents to conduct home searches, surveillance, arrests and detentions. The decree also grants immunity from prosecution to GIS agents while carrying out these activities. In July 2020, the pre-coup transitional government had abolished these immunities and stripped GIS of its arrest powers. Following the announcement, Sudanese media reported that [GIS agents](#) had begun conducting a "campaign of detentions in Khartoum, Omdurman, and Khartoum North (Bahri)," and raided the homes of resistance committee members in other states across Sudan.
- Security forces continue to use excessive, including lethal, force against protestors. As of the time of writing, at least [60 protestors](#) have been killed since 25 October 2021, largely as a result of direct gunshots to the head or torso. In protests held yesterday (6 January), at least [239 injuries](#) were recorded by the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors, including injuries from teargas canisters, sound bombs, and live ammunition. Sources have reported the use of anti-aircraft guns and other prohibited weapons against protestors, and the increased use of "skunk water" during recent demonstrations.
- In addition to violence against protestors, security forces have consistently targeted medical facilities and medical professionals in recent weeks. In but one example, the

Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors issued a statement on 3 January 2022 noting that security forces had fired teargas in the Khartoum Hospital's Emergency & Trauma Center and ICU, and that [snipers](#) had occupied the roof of Al-Arbaeen Hospital. On 6 January, other videos emerged of security forces preventing the transfer of injured protestors into Al-Arbaeen Hospital.

GOVERNMENT RESISTANCE COMMITTEES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UNSC

Resistance committees draw nearer to releasing political roadmap

Sudan's resistance committees are expected to release a political charter by the end of the month, if not sooner. [The first draft](#) of the document reveals several key priorities, including concerning security sector reform (the integration of the RSF and armed groups into the army within a year), and justice (the ratification of the Rome Statute and an international investigation into the 3 June 2019 massacre, among other items). Proposed additions to a Bill of Rights including articles providing for the death penalty in relation to crimes against humanity or "coup crimes," and prohibiting telecommunications shutdowns. (Second draft available [here](#).)

Al-Burhan maintains that elections will be held in July 2023

In a 31 December 2021 address, al-Burhan [reiterated](#) his commitment to "building all the institutions of the transitional government and holding free, fair, and transparent elections at their scheduled time" (July 2023). These comments followed a week of protests in which at least [five people](#) were killed and hundreds were injured. See this [Twitter thread](#) for a discussion of just some of the obstacles to holding elections in 2023, including the absence of a legal framework for an election management body.

Military continues to impose regular telecommunications shutdowns

Despite repeated [calls](#) from international governments and Sudanese activists to stop imposing Internet blackouts, telecommunications networks continue to be cut by the military in the lead-up to and during major protests, including on [25 December](#), [30 December](#), [2 January](#), and [6 January](#). Telecommunications blackouts unjustifiably disrupt freedoms of expression and assembly, and limit the ability of human rights activists to document evidence of human rights abuses.

Closed-door meeting of UN Security Council expected next week

The UN Security Council is expected to meet next week in a [closed session](#) to discuss the situation in Sudan, following a request by the United States, UK, France, Norway, Ireland and Albania. Sudanese media reported that a [US contingent](#), including a diplomatic and security delegation, was also meant to hold a series of meetings with military leaders in Sudan this past week. This news comes as the Sudan Tribune [reported](#) that al-Burhan had rejected Troika and EU [calls](#) for the appointment of a new prime minister in accordance with the Constitutional Declaration.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION DARFUR, KORDOFAN, LOOTING

Armed individuals raid UNAMID site

A former UNAMID site in El-Fashir, which was handed over to local authorities on 21 December, was [raided](#) by armed robbers on 24 December. While the UN did not say what had been removed from the site, Volker Perthes [tweeted](#) that he was “extremely disappointed over the looting . . . the equipment stolen was for protection of civilians by Darfur authorities.” 10 of the 14 sites handed over to local authorities thus far have reportedly been raided. The humanitarian situation in the Darfur and Kordofan regions remains [unstable](#).

World Food Programme commodities stolen in North Darfur

Less than a week after looting was reported at the former UNAMID site in El-Fashir, the World Food Programme [announced](#) that more than 1,900 metric tonnes of food commodities were stolen from a warehouse in El-Fashir on 28 December. A [second statement](#) revealed that all three WFP warehouses in the state were raided, with perpetrators making out with more than 5,000 metric tonnes of food, enough to feed two million people. The WFP subsequently announced the suspension of its operations in North Darfur. One in three people in Sudan currently require humanitarian assistance (an estimated 14.3 million individuals).

Gold mine collapse kills 38 miners

A [closed gold mine](#) in West Kordofan collapsed, killing 38 miners. Analysts noted that “dire economic conditions are pushing people, like villagers in Fuja, located in West Kordofan, to dig in mines without adequate safety conditions in place.” [Gold smuggling](#) continues to be a major problem in Sudan, an issue which the coup can only be expected to exacerbate.

weekend read

Volker Perthes on “stopping Sudan’s descent into [darkness](#)”; The Economist on [instability](#) in Sudan; and why Hamdok’s resignation was only a [matter of time](#).

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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