

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 21 Jan 2022

BIG STORIES FIRST

- On 17 January, in the [deadliest day](#) of 2022 so far, more than [167 protestors](#) were injured (including 52 injuries from live ammunition) and at least [7 people](#) were killed by Sudanese security forces. [73 people](#) have been killed since 25 October 2021. A two-day general strike and civil disobedience campaign was announced after the 17th protests, with protestors erecting [barricades](#) across Khartoum-area roads. Al-Burhan announced the creation of a fact-finding [committee](#) on the events of the 17th; none of the other committees created after similar protests have yielded results. Separately – and disappointingly – the first mission to Sudan by the UN Expert on Human Rights in the Sudan, which was due to take place from 22 – 27 January, was [postponed](#) at the request of Sudanese authorities.
 - UNITAMS announced that it would host a series of [consultations](#) “to support Sudanese stakeholders in building consensus on the way forward for the country,” stating that “the UN has no position on the outcome of this process, which will be guided by the views of the Sudanese themselves.” Other international actors, including the Quad (Saudi Arabia, UAE, UK and US) have [welcomed](#) the initiative, but prominent Sudanese groups, including the [Sudanese Professionals Association](#) and resistance committees, have rejected the initiative. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) also [proposed](#) a second initiative to “facilitate dialogue between the Sudanese parties.”
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ACCOUNTABILITY ICC, CORRUPTION, POLICE

ICC Prosecutor briefs the UN Security Council

ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan made his [first report](#) to the UN Security Council under UNSC Resolution 1593 (referring the situation in Darfur to the ICC). The Prosecutor reiterated his position that UNSC referrals must be given greater prioritisation by the Court, but noted that recent political developments have complicated investigative initiatives in Sudan. Khan also said

that progress has been made in relation to only two of seven Requests for Assistance sent to Sudanese authorities, and that full cooperation is needed.

Corruption court acquits former vice-president

The Court of Corruption and Public Funds Violations has [acquitted](#) Osman Mohamed Yousif Kibir, who served as second vice president under al-Bashir and as a longtime former governor of North Darfur. Kibir and his officer manager, Al-Tijani Hassan, were accused of syphoning nearly \$100,000 from Sudanese government accounts. Separately, al-Bashir [appeared](#) in court on 11 January in relation to the ongoing 1989 coup case, and Ibrahim Ghandour, the head of the dissolved NCP, reportedly began a [hunger strike](#) to protest his detention (along with at least 10 other NCP detainees). Ghandour was released on 1 November, following the military takeover, but was rapidly rearrested.

Confusion abounds in case of killed police officer

Police announced on 13 January the [arrest](#) of an individual accused of killing Police Brigadier General Ali Brima Hammad during protests in Khartoum (during which at least one protestor was killed). Despite reports that the individual “confessed,” on 15 January a wounded protestor was [arrested](#) from the Royal Care Hospital for the same crime. Some [sources](#) said that the officer’s family believe he was killed by another officer of a lower rank. Al-Taher Abu Haja, an adviser to al-Burhan, said in a subsequent [statement](#) that to target the regular forces is to “target the national security and unity of Sudan”; several days later, the Security and Defense Council announced the creation of a [special force](#) to “combat terrorism,” fueling suspicion that the death of the police officer will be used to authorize more extreme force against protestors.

Ironically, September 2021 coup case goes to court

Major-General Abdel-Baqi Bakwari, a commander in the SAF armored coup who is accused of leading the September 2021 coup attempt along with several other army officers, [appeared](#) for the first time before a full military court. The court indicated that all future sessions will be closed to the public and media.

GOVERNMENT CABINET, PROSECUTORS, PRESS FREEDOM

Al-Burhan appoints caretaker ministers

Al-Burhan formed a [caretaker government](#), promoting some deputy ministers to acting ministerial roles. Acting ministers now [include](#) Osman Hussein (Minister of Cabinet Affairs) and Ali Sadig Ali (Minister of Foreign Affairs, who served as MFA spokesperson under al-Bashir); the cabinet, chaired by Hussein, approved the 2022 budget. Under the Constitutional Document 2019, ministers are to be selected by the prime minister from a list provided by the FFC (excepting the ministers of interior and defence).

Sudanese prosecutors announce strike

Nearly 100 prosecutors announced a general strike, demanding the abolition of immunities afforded to Sudan’s security forces and the lifting of the ongoing state of emergency. The head of the judiciary and 55 judges also issued a [statement](#) saying military leaders had “violated [international] agreements and covenants since the October 25 coup, as they have carried out the most heinous violations against defenceless protestors.”

Authorities revoke Al Jazeera Mubasher's license

Sudanese authorities [announced](#) that they had withdrawn the broadcast license for Al Jazeera Mubasher as well as revoked the accreditation of two of the network's journalists. The minister of culture and information said that the decision was made in response to the channel's "unprofessional conduct," which threatened the "social fabric of the country by airing content contrary to the ethics of the profession and the mores and customs of Sudanese people." Al Jazeera has previously had its license revoked, including [just before](#) the 3 June 2019 sit-in dispersal. Relatedly, Sudanese paper Al Hadatha announced that it would [cease publication](#) because of the increasing suppression of the media, saying that the "coup put an end to the press and media freedoms brought by the glorious December revolution."

Highway to Egypt remains blocked by protestors

Protestors in Sudan's Northern State have [shut down](#) the highway between Sudan and Egypt, demanding that Sudanese authorities follow through on the announced nationwide cancellation of electricity tariffs. Farmers have argued that increased electricity tariffs disproportionately impact the agricultural sector. Protestors have also demanded compensation for lost property as a result of the Meroe Dam, among other asks.

Sudan loses – and then regains – right to vote at UN over unpaid dues

On 10 January, the UN Secretary General announced that Sudan was one of 8 countries to lose its voting rights in the UN General Assembly as a result of unpaid dues. Under the UN Charter, a member country's right to vote is suspended when its arrears equal or exceed the amount of dues it should have paid over the preceding two years. Subsequently, however, Sudan made its necessary payments, according to a follow-up [letter](#) from the Secretary General. Elsewhere at the UN, Sudan's rescheduled Universal Periodic Review is [planned](#) for 1 February.

weekend read

The [second phase](#) of Sudan's revolution; analysing state-sanctioned [sexual violence](#) in Sudan; and Sudan's resistance committees as [alternative organs](#) of political power.

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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