

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRI

Hello,

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

Friday 4 Feb 2022

BIG STORIES FIRST

- Security forces continue their campaign of arrests and arbitrary detentions. Amiera Osman, a prominent women's rights activist, has been held in incommunicado detention for nearly two weeks. While the UN has intervened in Amiera's case after an [urgent appeal](#) by REDRESS, her family has not been able to confirm her whereabouts, as is true of hundreds of others in Khartoum and across Sudan; bearing this out, Sudanese lawyers submitted a memo to the Public Prosecutor, seeking [information](#) about 45 detainees believed to be in the notorious Soba Prison. Others detained in the past two weeks included nine Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) staff members as they were returning to the MSF office from a hospital where they had been [treating injured protestors](#), the father of a teenager (nicknamed "Tupac") accused of killing a police officer during protests several weeks ago, and a Ministry of Health employee reportedly taken from the streets.
- As the Khartoum State Security Committee [banned](#) demonstrations in parts of central Khartoum, security forces continue to use excessive and lethal force against protestors. At least 79 people have been killed since 25 October, while at least 180 people were injured during protests on [30 January](#) alone. Resistance committees announced that mass demonstrations will be held [every Monday](#) in February.
- US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Molly Phee and USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman testified before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee this week. Senators asked questions about the lack of targeted sanctions thus far, the resumption of US aid to Sudan, and progress on ongoing mediation efforts. The president of the International Crisis Group and a senior USIP expert also testified; all testimonies are available [here](#). The next day,

REDRESS filed a detailed package of evidence with OFAC, [recommending 11 individuals and 4 entities](#) for targeted Magnitsky sanctions.

ACCOUNTABILITY RSF, INVESTIGATIONS, UPR

17 January investigative committee reports steps taken

The committee tasked by al-Burhan with investigating the violence used against protestors on 17 January says that it [has sent weapons](#) for forensics investigations, and has called for witnesses to step forward to provide evidence. As Human Rights Watch [reported](#) in its latest press release, anti-riot police and the Central Reserve Police led a brutal crackdown against protestors on 17 January, killing seven people. It bears reminding that none of the investigative committees created since al-Bashir's ouster from office in 2019 have produced meaningful results for victims.

Sudan's UPR indefinitely postponed

After multiple false starts, Sudan's Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council was postponed indefinitely, amid disagreements over who would represent Sudan. Sudan's embattled ambassador in Geneva (who was dismissed by al-Burhan shortly after the coup) was slated to participate in the review until Sudanese authorities requested a last-minute [change](#) of representative (to either the Deputy Permanent Representative or Howaida Ali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice). The 3rd cycle of the UPR has now technically ended, leaving the next steps for Sudan's review unclear. Before the postponement of Sudan's review, 54 civil society organisations signed [a joint letter](#) urging HRC Member and Observer States to ensure that the UPR does not legitimise the military coup.

RSF member receives death penalty in El Obeid killings case

An appeals court [upheld](#) the conviction and sentencing of Mohamed Ahmed Abdullah Huna (al-Shibli) for his role in the [killing](#) of at least five people, including four high school students, during protests in El Obeid in July 2019. The appeals court annulled the trial court's decision to refer al-Shibli's case to a juvenile court, [finding](#) that he was over the age of 18 at the time of the killings. In total, six RSF members have been sentenced to death in this case.

GOVERNMENT UPR, AFRICAN UNION, EMPOWERMENT REMOVAL

Khartoum court orders reinstatement of Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff

A court in Khartoum issued a ruling [nullifying](#) an Empowerment Removal Committee decision to terminate the service of over 100 administrators, diplomats and others from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Other personnel changes include the return of a number of legal advisers to the Ministry of Justice (all of whom were reappointed after the [overturning](#) of a second Empowerment Removal Committee decision), at least five public prosecutors, and [Bank of Sudan](#) employees. The Sovereign Council has just [formed](#) a committee to look specifically into appeals of employment decisions by the Empowerment Removal Committee.

Pro-NCP protests held in front of UNITAMS office

The Sudan Tribune [reported](#) that “some thousands of Sudanese gathered . . . outside of the UNITAMS headquarters in Khartoum to express their rejection of the mission and called on its chief to leave the country.” The protest was organised by a group calling itself the “Sudanese Initiative for National Sovereignty,” which expressed support for the coup. Uncharacteristically, security forces did not respond with force to disperse the protests. UNITAMS head Volker Perthes [described](#) the Sudan Tribune story as a “fair account of the demonstrations organised by the NCP and their friends.”

Medani resistance committees publish political roadmaps

The Medani resistance committees have published first drafts of their political roadmaps, as resistance committees in Khartoum draw nearer to doing the same. One version of the Medani roadmap was published in [Sudanese Arabic](#), to make it as accessible as possible to the general public.

The African Union’s Peace and Security Council issues Sudan communique

Following a meeting on 25 January, the PSC issued a [communique](#) “welcoming the appointment of the civilian Cabinet of Ministers comprising technocrats on 12 January 2022,” and calling for free, fair and credible elections within the next six to 12 months. The PSC also called for accountability for human rights abuses and urged Sudanese authorities to “refrain from” the use of excessive and lethal force against protestors. The FFC released a [statement](#) rejecting the communique for legitimising the coup. [Elections](#) for the 15 members of the PSC were held on 3 February (with outcomes expected to be announced next week). Meanwhile, UNITAMS-led consultations continue, though some prominent groups, including the Sudanese Professionals Association have [refused](#) to participate, and an IGAD delegation traveled to Sudan, meeting with [Hemedti](#) (and others).

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT

Renewed violence in Darfur displaces at least 15,000 people

The UN OCHA said that more than [15,000 people](#) were displaced after a resurgence of tribal violence near El Geneina, including an estimated 4,500 people who fled to Chad. A personal dispute between two men from the Masalit tribe and an unspecified Arab nomadic group reportedly sparked the conflict. Nine people were also killed, including two children. Separately, in Central Darfur, herdsmen [raped](#) three girls between the ages of 6 to 9, and armed gunmen wearing military uniforms reportedly opened fire on passenger vehicles traveling in Darfur. Al-Burhan and Hemedti visited El Fasher this week to launch a Darfur security program.

weekend read

The UN Security Council's [halting responses](#) to coups; Sudan's plans to expand use of [gold exports](#); the [price of freedom](#) in Sudan; [America's silence](#) on Sudan; why elections in 2023 are a [bad idea](#); and a coup against [justice](#).

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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