

# 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 March 2022

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## BIG STORIES FIRST

- UNITAMS has released a summary [report](#) on its first round of “consultations for a political process in Sudan.” UNITAMS noted in a statement that it had held 110 meetings with over 800 participants to inform the report. Egypt has also [reportedly kicked](#) off a series of mediation meetings with Sudanese political parties and leaders. A few days ago, the Khartoum State resistance committees issued their proposed political charter for review and comments (available in English [here](#)).
- Even as Russia launched an invasion of Ukraine, Hemedti [traveled to Moscow](#) in an [official visit](#), accompanied by a number of other officials, including minister of finance Gibril Ibrahim. Hemedti said the visit was intended to strengthen the [friendship](#) between Russia and Sudan, and had [nothing to do](#) with the situation in Ukraine. Russia seeks to [build a naval base](#) on Sudan’s Red Sea coast, a move that would have major strategic implications; on the other hand, recent reporting suggests that [Sudanese gold](#) smuggled to Russia has “prepared Putin for sanctions.” While Hemedti was in Russia, RSF guards around the presidential palace and Kober Prison were [reportedly replaced](#) with SAF forces, as al-Burhan is [said to have informed](#) Egyptian leaders of his fears of a potential RSF-led coup.
- Despite news that many detainees were [released](#) on the first day of the UN designated expert’s visit to Sudan, arrests and judicial harassment continue. For example, Taha Othman Ishaq, a former member of the Empowerment Removal Committee and member of the Central Council for the FFC, was [arrested](#) for a second time since the coup. Similarly, on 21 February, the Al-Kalakla resistance committee reported that [114 detainees](#) were released from Soba Prison and transferred to 3 police stations, where public nuisance complaints were opened against them. Separately, Sudanese military and security forces continue to use excessive and lethal force against protestors; at least [85 people](#) have been killed

during protests since the coup. The Sudan's Doctors for Human Rights group [identified](#) some "riot control" weapons used against protestors.

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#### ACCOUNTABILITY RSF, UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT

##### **UN designated expert highlights ongoing rights violations after visit**

In a [press conference](#) organised at the end of his visit to Sudan, UN human rights expert for Sudan Adama Dieng noted that he had met with a number of Sudanese authorities—including the Public Prosecutor, acting ministers of foreign affairs and justice, and representatives from the RSF, police, and head of the joint security committee—as well as civil society representatives and human rights defenders. Dieng called on the military to lift the state of emergency, end the use of excessive force against protestors, and to release all protestors and activists still in detention, in accordance with Sudan's obligations under international human rights law.

##### **RSF personnel found guilty of murder in Kassala case**

Two RSF personnel were [found guilty](#) of premeditated murder for their participation in the violent crackdown on protestors in Kassala on 15 October 2020, which left 6 people dead and 20 others injured. The crime of murder carries the death penalty in Sudan. A lawyer said that three other defendants from the RSF were convicted of a "criminal cover-up" while a 6<sup>th</sup> defendant was acquitted.

##### **Former vice president released from prison after acquittal**

Osman Mohamed Yousif Kibir, who served as second vice president under al-Bashir and as a longtime former governor of North Darfur, was [released](#) from prison after his acquittal on corruption charges by a court in January. The case against al-Bashir [continues](#), slowly; in a recent session, the court adjourned the case for a week "due to the large number of videos shown in the case."

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#### GOVERNMENT EMPOWERMENT REMOVAL COMMITTEE, ECONOMY

##### **More Empowerment Removal Committee decisions reversed**

The Ministry of Education [announced](#) the reinstatement of all teachers and Ministry employees dismissed by the Empowerment Removal Committee, while more than [100 employees](#) from the National Radio and Television Corporation were also reinstated. Reports also indicated that former employees of the Council of Ministers were returned to their positions, as well as more than [130 employees](#) in the oil sector.

##### **The economic situation in Sudan continues to deteriorate**

As the Sudanese pound continues to weaken, Sudan's central bank has [frozen the accounts](#) of more than 200 exporters for failing to deposit revenues locally, and protestors [opposed](#) to the coup continue to [block the main trade artery](#) between Sudan and [Egypt](#). The deteriorating [economic situation](#) has had knock-on effects on Sudan's [already-struggling healthcare sector](#). Relatedly, Al-Burhan [appointed](#) a new central bank director, Hussein Yahya Jangol; Jangol was previously appointed to this

position [by al-Bashir](#) in March 2019. Al-Burhan has also appointed a new [acting governor](#) of Khartoum State, Ahmed Othman Hamza, who is rumoured to be affiliated with Sudan’s “popular security” service.

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## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION DARFUR, DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS

### Sudanese development organisation suspended in South Darfur

As armed conflict continues throughout the Darfur region, the Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission has suspended the Sudan Social Development Organisation (SUDO), on the basis that planned community dialogues aimed at engaging members of the Nyala resistance committees, women’s groups, and nomadic groups were political in nature. The Commission reportedly summoned SUDO’s state director and project manager to the local GIS office for investigation.

### Violence continues in Darfur

Spokespeople from various IDP and refugee camps across Darfur have documented continued [attacks](#) by armed men on horseback, with several deaths reported in the past two weeks. Armed [robberies](#) have also been reported. The spokesperson for the General Coordination of IDPs and Refugee Camps also warned that the [military plans to appoint emirs](#)—individuals theoretically responsible for overseeing [land administration systems](#)—in Darfur. The group said that this would be a “new mechanism to legitimise demographic change after the implementation of genocide [and] forced displacement.”

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## weekend read

A “coup cannot [serve two masters](#)”; calling a coup a [coup](#); a [podcast](#) on Sudan’s history and current situation; and increasing [pressure](#) on Sudan’s coup leaders.

*Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.*

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