

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 1 April 2022

BIG STORIES FIRST

- Security forces continue to arrest and detain [protestors](#) and activists, political party [members](#), and [journalists](#) across Sudan, many of whom are subjected to ill-treatment. REDRESS, with the Darfur Bar Association, PLACE, and Emergency Lawyers Group, has published a [new report](#) on patterns of arrests and arbitrary detentions conducted under Sudan's emergency laws, and particularly Emergency Order No. 3/2021, which restored powers of arrest and detention to the GIS.
 - On Tuesday (5 April), Ali Kushayb will stand trial at the International Criminal Court, where he is charged with 31 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The trial is the [first prosecution](#) to move forward in either an international or Sudanese court against high-level perpetrators of atrocities in Darfur. For more information about the opening of the trial, including how to watch online, see [here](#). REDRESS and Project Expedite Justice have prepared a Q&A on the case, available [here](#) in English and Arabic.
 - The US announced the first sanctions against perpetrators of human rights violations since the coup in Sudan, [designating](#) the Central Reserve Police for "serious human rights abuse." In March 2022, REDRESS provided a [briefing](#) on the CRP to sanctions authorities, highlighting the militarised police unit's close operational ties to the GIS. Shortly after the sanctions announcement, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved a [resolution](#) condemning the coup, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee [tweeted](#) that the Biden "admin must take similar measures against the senior leaders of the junta who ordered these atrocious acts."
 - Security forces, including the CRP, continue to use excessive and lethal force against protestors. The total death count since the coup has risen to [93 people](#), including a [13-year-old](#) who was shot in the head and a [17-year-old](#) shot in the chest.
-

ACCOUNTABILITY AL-BASHIR, EMPOWERMENT REMOVAL, BNP PARIBAS

Victims provide evidence in BNP Paribas judicial investigation

Two weeks ago, four Sudanese victims [provided evidence](#) as civil parties to the French war crimes unit, as part of an ongoing judicial investigation into French bank BNP Paribas' [alleged role](#) in crimes against humanity, genocide, and torture committed in Sudan between 2002 and 2008. BNP Paribas has admitted to acting as the primary foreign bank of Sudan during this time period, when the Sudanese government committed widespread atrocities in Darfur.

Egyptian dissident reportedly disappeared in Khartoum

Wadah Hisham Nour El-Din Abdullah al-Oden, an Egyptian dissident who has held an official residence permit in Sudan for two years, was [reportedly detained](#) on 16 March after requesting official permission to travel to Turkey from the Sudanese foreign ministry. His whereabouts remain unconfirmed, though his family told reporters that they had heard from some sources that is being held in the "headquarters of the Sudanese security apparatus." His family has said it fears his deportation to and torture in Egypt.

Prosecution in al-Bashir corruption case reportedly withdraws

As al-Bashir's defence team requested that he be [transferred](#) to house arrest for medical reasons (or kept in the hospital), the prosecution team has reportedly [withdrawn](#) in protest of some court procedures. Next steps remain unclear. The prosecution has not appeared in court for several weeks.

Empowerment Removal Committee publishes some case details

Former members of the Empowerment Removal Committee have begun [publishing](#) details of major cases of corruption, beginning with some documentation concerning the Kanaf Abu Naama project and the Abu Naama Food Production Company Ltd. in Sennar state. The committee has said that it will continue to publish case details on an ongoing basis. This week, Sudan's Supreme Court [reversed](#) some additional Empowerment Removal Committee decisions concerning Mamoun Homeida, the former minister of health under al-Bashir who has been in prison awaiting trial for corruption, while the bank accounts of Ali Karti (foreign minister under al-Bashir and former commander of the Popular Defence Forces) have reportedly been unfrozen.

GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITIES, WAGNER GROUP, UNITAMS

UNITAMS head briefs UN Security Council

In his latest [statement](#) to the UNSC, UNITAMS head Volker Perthes said that "[t]ime is not on Sudan's side, and I speak to you today with a sense of urgency which is also increasingly felt by Sudanese stakeholders concerned about the stability and the very existence of their country." Highlighting the new collaboration between the [UN, AU and IGAD](#), Perthes said that immediate priorities include discussion of (i) interim constitutional arrangements; (ii) the criteria and mechanisms to appoint a prime minister and cabinet; and (iii) a roadmap for the transitional period, including (iv) the type, timing, and necessary conditions for elections at the end of this transitional period. Sudan's foreign ministry [said](#) in a statement that UNITAMS should "focus on the other basic aspects of its mandate," other than politics, as the editor-in-chief of the SAF newspaper called for the [termination](#) of the UNITAMS mandate. Separately, UNITAMS head

Volker Perthes recently traveled to Cairo for [meetings](#) with the Egyptian foreign minister, arriving on the same day that al-Burhan [arrived in Cairo](#) to [meet](#) with Egyptian president Abdel Fattah el-Sissi.

Resistance committees criticise UNITAMS for “exceeding its scope of work”

The Al-Ma’moura resistance committees published a [paper](#) arguing that UNITAMS has “lost its neutral role” and has a “bias in favor of a certain political path.” The paper also “attribute[s] the failure that the mission witnessed as a result of its mistake . . . in present[ing] the military and the groups benefiting from the current situation as equal stakeholders with the revolutionaries and the impoverished.” In its [response](#), UNITAMS said it welcomed “the critical reading” but that it was important to clarify that the UN “is not a party to any internal political conflict,” and that the mission’s role is to “provide the maximum possible assistance to the Sudanese in order to achieve their aspirations and goals of their revolution.”

Academics, civil servants and administrators removed from positions

In an apparent bid to tighten control over Sudan’s education sector, Burhan [fired](#) and [replaced](#) the board members and deputy directors of 30 public universities as well as high-level employees in the Ministry of Higher Education and General Education. In response, professors (and teachers) across Sudan have declared an [open strike](#), while the deans at the University of Khartoum offered their collective resignations.

Al-Burhan says prime minister won’t be appointed before political talks

In an interview with a Saudi-owned newspaper, Asharq al-Awsat, al-Burhan said that a prime minister [would not be appointed](#) before talks with political forces, stating that “[w]hen all the civilian forces sit together and come to a consensus between them, we are ready to sit and come to an understanding with them or to present them with whatever they need from the military side.”

Troika countries implicate Wagner Group in illegal gold mining activities

The Troika – US, UK, and Norway – said in a [public statement](#) that the Wagner Group (a private Russian mercenary organisation) “spreads disinformation on social media and engages in illicit activities connected to gold-mining” in Sudan, activities which “undermine the good governance and respect for rule of law that the Sudanese people have been fighting for since the revolution.” Sudan’s foreign ministry [denied](#) these allegations, accusing Troika diplomats of trying to interfere in Sudanese affairs and dragging the country “arbitrarily” into the conflict in Ukraine.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION CONFLICT, MINING

Miners in South Darfur report harassment, blackmail

The head of a steering committee for mine owners told a newspaper in Darfur that miners in South Darfur are being [blackmailed](#) by the Al-Junaid Company (owned by Abdelrahim Hamdan Dagalo, Hemedti’s brother and deputy head of the RSF). At least one miner was reportedly arrested, for unclear reasons. In the Red Sea state, RSF personnel also reportedly [wounded five people](#) who were protesting the operations of a gold mining company in the area.

Ongoing violence in Darfur kills several dozen people

At least 30 people were reportedly [killed](#) and 56 people [wounded](#) in renewed clashes between Fallata and Rizeigat tribesmen in South Darfur this week, after an RSF officer who belonged to the Rizeigat tribe was killed (despite [efforts](#) to arrive at a customary law settlement).

Separately, while two people were reportedly killed and seven others wounded in a tribal conflict over a [water project](#) in Kassala state.

weekend read

Sudan's economy in [free fall](#); reporting on the [gang rape](#) of protestors; the [motorbike drivers](#) saving protestors; a bitter [political game](#); and [rising hunger](#) in Sudan.

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

If this was forwarded to you, please email emma@redress.org to sign up.
