

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 13 May 2022

BIG STORIES FIRST

- Violence against protestors continues in Khartoum. A protestor, Mujtaba Abdel Salam, was [killed](#) after being rammed by a police vehicle, bringing the death total since October 2021 to at least [95 people](#). The police announced an [investigation](#) into the “reckless” conduct of the police patrol driver. Separately, the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors said on [Twitter](#) that it observed “a number of cases of closed fracture of the right humerus, and since the injured did not specify the source of the injury, we are considering the presence of a new weapon that causes this.” The CCSD appealed to the emergency lawyers to document these cases.
 - Some political detainees and [activists](#) have been [released](#), yet many protestors remain in prison, some of whom are still held incommunicado. Others have reportedly been [subjected](#) to [torture](#) or other forms of ill-treatment. In response, the Emergency Lawyers have organised a series of sit-ins outside of Khartoum-area prisons (several of which have been broken up by security forces), and [submitted](#) a memorandum requesting the creation of an independent investigative commission by OHCHR. Three participants in a protest outside of the Khartoum North Police station were reportedly [arrested](#) and criminal complaints opened against them under [Article 57](#) of the 1991 Criminal Code (“entering and photographing military areas and works”).
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ACCOUNTABILITY TELECOMS, ICC

Sudanese court finds telecoms companies in breach of contract

A judge in Khartoum [found](#) that 4 telecommunications companies in Sudan breached their contractual obligations to the plaintiffs in the case (including the Sudanese Consumer Protection Society) after shutting down the Internet and telecoms services on 25 October 2021. The plaintiffs may now seek compensation from the companies.

Hearings continue at the ICC

A number of Prosecution witnesses testified at the ICC during the course of the past two weeks, covering evidence about Ali Kushayb's alleged presence during the charged incidents (eg, his visits to several alleged execution sites), his identity, and the structure and functions of the National Security Council and visits by Sudanese officials to Darfur. The trial has adjourned and will resume on 6 June with the testimony of the 12th witness.

International, Sudanese actors urge Biden administration to impose sanctions

In a letter to US president Joe Biden, 108 organisations and individuals [urged the US](#) to impose additional targeted sanctions on the key perpetrators of human rights violations since the coup, noting that the "coup and subsequent state of emergency violate the right and will of the Sudanese people to form a civilian government with no military partnership, negotiations and legitimacy." To date, the only targeted sanctions since the coup by any country are those imposed by the US [against](#) the Central Reserve Police. Relatedly, yesterday the US Senate passed a concurrent resolution condemning the coup; Senators Risch and Menendez, the ranking member and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, issued a [statement](#) calling on the US Secretary of State to "immediately identify coup leaders, their accomplices, and enablers for consideration for targeted sanctions."

GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS, RESISTANCE COMMITTEES

Joint UNITAMS-AU-IGAD consultations begin after delay

The national dialogue mediated jointly by UNITAMS, the AU, and IGAD has [begun](#) after a several-day [delay](#), reportedly [caused](#) by a "divergence of views . . . over who is eligible to take part in the intra-Sudanese dialogue." In the [first sessions](#), mediators met with representatives from the FFC-National Consensus Charter, FFC-Central Committee, and the Democratic Unionist Party. Sudanese media reported that AU Special Envoy Mohammed el-Hassan Labat said that he hoped the dialogue would be [completed](#) in 10 days. The consultations began even as schisms within the military have begun to appear; for example, two weeks ago, Yassir al-Atta [said](#) in an interview that the members of the Empowerment Removal Committee and other actors are the "ones who have made the people safe and secure," while Al-Taher Abu Haja called for the protection of the independence of judicial bodies. (These and [other statements](#) should be viewed with skepticism.)

Coordination committees sign political charter

Khartoum resistance committees signed the Charter for the Establishment of the People's Authority, various [drafts](#) of which have circulated for public comment and debate over the past few months. The Charter stipulates the need for adherence to constitutional order, prioritisation of accountability initiatives, and the principle of transitional justice as a prerequisite for an enduring political and social transition.

Minerals minister signs concession agreements

The acting minerals minister [reportedly](#) signed concession agreements with three mining companies in relation to gold and minerals exploration in northern Sudan. One company, "Opal Mining," has "many investments" in Turkey, Qatar and Dubai, while the other two companies are from China and Sudan.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION DARFUR, CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT

Sporadic violence continues in Darfur

Armed clashes continue in parts of Darfur (as well as in [Kassala](#)), including two attacks on the [Otash](#) and [Kalma](#) IDP camps in South Darfur. Human rights monitors [said](#) that armed gunmen in Land Cruiser vehicles were responsible for both incidents. Separately, UNOCHA reported that about 98,000 people were [displaced](#) from [Kereneik](#) and Geneina in the late April attacks; four children were [injured](#) last week after an unexploded ordnance detonated in Kereneik. UNFPA [noted](#) that the attacks in West Darfur have severely limited access to “life-saving sexual and reproductive health, and prevention and response to gender-based violence . . . is diminishing.” A UNITAMS [delegation](#) arrived in North Darfur this week to assess the overall security situation. Finally, see this [excellent analysis](#) of the causes and consequences of instability in Darfur.

weekend read

How the [UN and West failed](#) Sudan; Russia’s [meddling](#) in Africa; the Horn of Africa at the [brink](#); Sudanese [literature](#) in focus; on [interference](#) or assistance in Sudan?; Sudan’s [food economy](#); the resistance committees, [music, and art](#); and Burhan’s [Islamist](#) opening.

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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