

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 24 June 2022

BIG STORIES FIRST

- The 50th Session of the Human Rights Council has begun; the HRC met for an Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on 15 June, when the High Commissioner and Adama Dieng presented their [report on the human rights situation](#) in Sudan. In a [briefing](#) published to coincide with the session, REDRESS, the Sudan Human Rights Monitor, and the SOAS Centre for Human Rights Law present testimonies from 35 interviews conducted in Khartoum, highlighting what has become a centrally planned and systematically implemented assault on protestors and HRDs in Sudan. A draft circulated of the resolution under consideration at the HRC appears to extend the mandate of the independent expert, with an oral update to the HRC in the 52nd session and a written report due during the 53rd session. Separately, the EU Foreign Affairs Council [held](#) a “strategic discussion” on the Horn of Africa, including Sudan, on 20 June.
- Violence against protestors continues, with reports from Sudan of an [increased](#) number of injuries from [buckshot](#) (shotgun shells containing small metal pellets). The death [total](#) has risen to at least 102 people, with an estimated 4,700 people [injured](#) in total since the coup. Arrests also [continue](#), with at least 39 detained during 16 June protests alone and transferred to the CID for “search and examination.” Mass demonstrations are planned for 30 June in Sudan.
- Confusion prevails in the political mediation, with a statement – quickly [retracted](#) – indicating the AU’s [withdrawal](#) from the tripartite mediation, and [ongoing](#) “discussions on rules for procedures of the intra-Sudanese talks with stakeholders.” Following an unsuccessful [first meeting](#) on 8 June (hosted by the tripartite mechanism), the US and Saudi Arabia held a meeting between a 4-person FFC delegation and 3 military representatives, in what was described as a complementary effort to the [tripartite](#) mechanism’s process (with a second such [meeting](#) on 19 June). See here for a useful [analysis](#) of the process, and here for a REDRESS research paper highlighting the [importance](#) of taking a human rights-first approach.

ACCOUNTABILITY TUPAC, KUSHAYB, ARREST WARRANTS

“Tupac” trial indefinitely adjourned

The trial against Mohamed Adam (“Tupac”) and four other defendants accused of either killing a police brigadier general or participating in “incitement to violence” has been [indefinitely adjourned](#), according to defence lawyers in the case. The trial had [already been postponed](#) once, after an appeal on behalf of the detainees was submitted by their defence council, requesting access to the original investigation file (and underlying evidence) and a medical examination. Tupac and the other defendants, some of whom were reportedly subjected to torture while in detention, will remain imprisoned.

Ali Kushayb trial continues at the ICC

Meanwhile, in The Hague, witnesses continue to testify in the ongoing proceedings against alleged Janjaweed leader Ali Kushayb, providing evidence regarding the nickname “Ali Kushayb,” meetings between the Janjaweed and Government of Sudan, and specific charged events. Hearings will resume on 30 June and continue through the month of July; after July, no further hearings are currently on the calendar until the end of November 2022. A Darfur paper [reported](#) that ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan is scheduled to travel to Sudan next month.

September 2021 decree circulates on social media

A [photo](#) of a Sovereign Council decree from 27 September 2021 has circulated on social media in recent weeks. While unverified, if real, the decree would [amend](#) the constitutive Armed Forces Act to prevent legal proceedings against anyone with the rank of SAF lieutenant general or higher, with any such proceedings requiring approval by the SAF commander.

Arrest warrants reportedly issued for former Minister of Justice, Sudan TV director

Sudan’s Public Prosecutor has reportedly issued arrest [warrants](#) for former minister of justice Nasredeem Abdulbari and Luqman Ahmed (the former director of the Radio and Television Corporation, and the subject of [racial slurs](#) during the al-Bashir trial several months ago). The warrants were issued under Article 25 of the Information Crimes Law, and follow a complaint filed by legal advisors at the post-coup Ministry of Justice at the Information Crimes Prosecution, on the basis of defamation.

GOVERNMENT PORT DEAL, SALARIES, ELECTRICITY

Salaries reportedly not disbursed to doctors in May

The Central Committee of Sudan Doctors [said](#) that the Ministry of Finance had failed to disburse salaries for the month of May to doctors, [reportedly](#) because it was “reviewing the status of doctors and jobs.” Other government employees are understood to have been paid over this period. Inflation in Sudan [remains](#) at 192%, and an electricity deficit means that traffic lights and [water pumping](#) stations frequently lose power.

Red Sea port deal signed, maybe?

Finance Minister Gibril Ibrahim said that Sudan has recently signed an MoU with the UAE for a large [agricultural project](#) linked by a road to a new port to be built on the Red Sea. The project

is reportedly part of a \$6 billion investment [package](#), including a free trade zone and a \$300 million deposit to Sudan's central bank, and will be undertaken jointly by the DAL group and Abu Dhabi Ports—though in a disclosure to the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange, Abu Dhabi Ports said it had not signed an agreement. This news comes as the Paris Club said in its latest [report](#) that its members have “collectively assessed that the bilateral agreements cannot be signed until the situation [in Sudan] improves and the implementation of the IMF program resumes,” and as Sudan has reportedly [asked](#) the Arab Monetary Fund for financial assistance.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION WEST DARFUR, SOUTH KORDOFAN, DISPLACEMENT

Armed conflict continues in West Darfur

Attacks in the town of Kulbus and neighbouring villages in [West Darfur](#) between June 6 – 11 have left at least 125 people dead, over 100 injured, and somewhere between 33,000 and [50,000 people displaced](#) (for a total of 84,000 people [this month](#) alone). At least 6 cases of rape were [reported](#) during this period. Victims were primarily from the non-Arab Gimir community; [UN OCHA](#) reported that 25 Gimir villages were attacked, looted, and burnt. 77 children have reportedly gone missing since the clashes began. At the same time, parties to the Permanent Ceasefire Committee of the JPA [finalised and signed](#) the first set of Standard Operating Procedures in El-Fasher (North Darfur), theoretically to facilitate the implementation of long-promised security arrangements. A Sudanese paper also reported that Hemedti said that he would [look](#) into “activating compulsory service” into the RSF (presumably) to “benefit and train young people.”

Conflict in South Kordofan affects 18,300 people

According to UN OCHA, [armed conflict](#) in Abu Jubayhah (South Kordofan) erupted between the Hawazma and Kenana tribes following the armed robbery of a vehicle, leading to the death of a Kenana tribesman. An estimated 406 homes were burned to the ground, with reports of 19 people killed and 54 others injured. An estimated 15,150 people were displaced with another 3,000 affected but not displaced; Unexploded Ordnances were reportedly discovered in the surrounding area. Meanwhile, in Kassala, at least 5 people were [killed](#) and others injured during clashes.

UN Security Council discusses Sudan sanctions regime

The head of the [1591 sanctions committee](#) told the UN Security Council that the training of 2,000 members of signatory armed movements in El Fasher was a significant development in the implementation of the JPA, and noted that the existing sanctions regime was “established for the sole purpose of helping to bring peace to Darfur, not punish Sudan.” Some delegations, including Russia and China, said that sanctions must be adjusted; the Russian delegate said that “sanctions no longer contribute to the political purpose and are obstructing attempts by Sudanese authorities to establish and equip necessary security forces.” Similarly, the new Sudanese ambassador said that the sanctions imposed under res. 1591 no longer “reflect the situation on the ground in Darfur,” and that the “few intercommunal clashes in Darfur do not detract from an improved situation overall.”

UN Special Rapporteur on Eritrea highlights situation for Eritrean refugees

In his June [report](#) to the UN Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on Eritrea noted

that Sudan hosts the second largest number of Eritrean refugees globally, and that “since early February 2022, law enforcement and security forces in the Sudan have targeted Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers, rounding up and arbitrarily detaining hundreds in the capital . . . and in Kassala near the border with Eritrea.” The report also notes that, though Sudan’s 2015 Refugee Act recognises refugees’ right to work, refugees were arrested at their workplaces and prosecuted under the 1997 Labour Law for working without a permit, or fined for lack of permits to move outside of refugee camps. Immigration authorities have suspended the renewal of these documents since the beginning of the pandemic.

WFP assessment “confirms alarming rise in hunger”

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) said in its Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability [Assessment](#) that a “record 15 million people in Sudan – one-third of the population” are currently facing acute food insecurity, and projects that the situation is likely to worsen; by September, the WFP found that up to 40% of the population (18 million people) may slip into food insecurity. Factors contributing to the crisis include a poor harvest in the past agricultural season, the effect of the conflict in Ukraine on food and fuel prices, climate change, and the ongoing political crisis in Sudan.

weekend read

Examining digital [humanitarian access](#) in White Nile State; [peacemaking](#) in Sudan; the [future](#) of the JPA in eastern Sudan; Sudanese museums [seek return](#) of artifacts taken by British; the continued [detention](#) of Sudanese trafficking victims in the UK; and additional [reporting](#) on Wagner Group attacks on the Sudan-CAR border.

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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