

# justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 27 May 2022

---

## BIG STORIES FIRST

- Arrests and [unlawful detentions](#) continue across Sudan, including the detention of Youssef Mohamed Youssef, a 21-year-old disabled activist who was arrested in Khartoum last week; emergency lawyers said to REDRESS today that he remains detained at the Omdurman Central Police Station after Soba Prison authorities refused to receive him, reportedly because he may have been subjected to torture. Separately, emergency lawyers [reported](#) that they completed the necessary personal guarantees for 40 detainees in Khartoum, but that the “duty officer refused to carry out the procedures on the pretext that they were waiting for higher orders” – apparently from a representative of the state security committee. In his recent [statement](#) to the UN Security Council, UNITAMS Volker Perthes said that at least 111 people remain detained, though 86 high-profile detainees were released since his last briefing in March. See here for reporting on detentions from [REDRESS](#) and [HRW](#).
  - Security forces continue to use excessive and lethal force [against protestors](#). The death total has risen to 96 people, and at least [148 people](#) were injured during protests on 26 May alone, including when security forces fired [teargas directly](#) in front of the El Jawda Hospital.
- 

## ACCOUNTABILITY TORTURE, JUDICIAL PROCESSES

### **Trial concerning police brigadier killing scheduled to open on Sunday**

Defence lawyers for those accused of killing police brigadier Ali Bereima said that the [first court session](#) is scheduled to begin on Sunday 29 May. 17-year-old Mohamed Adam (“Tupac”), 18-year-old Mohamed al-Fatih, Musab al-Sharif, and Ahmed al-Fatih (“Nana”) will stand trial in the Khartoum North Court. All have been detained for months and reportedly subjected to torture, [solitary confinement](#), and other forms of ill-treatment.

### **Judge's reported attempt to commute death sentences fails**

A rumoured [attempt](#) by the head of the Appeals Department at the Supreme Court, Mohammed Babiker Abu Sbeiha, to commute death sentences for 29 intelligence officers found guilty in the February 2019 torture and custodial death of Ahmed al-Khair failed after other judges refused to go along. The Supreme Court has previously rejected appeals regarding this case (see the judgment [here](#)). Abu Sbeiha is one of the individuals [responsible](#) for overturning a number of Empowerment Removal Committee decisions.

### **Work of the 3 June investigation committee once again suspended**

In a recent interview, Nabil Adib [said](#)—again—that the work of the 3 June investigation committee has been suspended, saying that it is impossible to continue given the political situation, particularly without access to independent foreign experts. In any case, it isn't clear whether the committee has been working over the past few months.

---

## **GOVERNMENT MEDIATION, GENEVA, RSF**

### **Tripartite political mediation continues**

Political negotiations are ongoing as various international delegations have traveled to Khartoum over the past two weeks, including from the EU and US. In a recent [statement](#), the EU reiterated its support for the political process but noted that “promised confidence-building measures, including lifting the state of emergency and the release of the remaining political detainees, need to be implemented.” A [communiqué](#) from the G7 Foreign Ministers meeting made similar calls. A [delegation](#) from South Sudan was in Khartoum this past week, including president Salva Kiir's security advisor and Bashir associate Tutkew Gatluak. In a series of public statements, UNITAMS [said](#) that the tripartite mechanism had held “positive and fruitful” meetings with SRF movements and the parties to the JPA, as well as some representatives from several resistance committees.

### **New Sudanese ambassador to UN presents his credentials**

Al-Harith Idriss al-Harith Mohamed has presented his [credentials](#) to UN Secretary-General António Guterres. Mohamed is expected to take a hardline pro-military position at the UN. In his first statement before the UN Security Council, he [said](#) that “[w]e continue working in Sudan to complete the political transition and move towards democracy, freedom, peace, and justice,” and that the military would “cede power to the government” when political negotiations have led to a national consensus.

### **Communist Party officials arrested after Juba visit**

Several Communist Party leaders, including political secretary Mohamed Mukhtar al-Khatib and Central Committee member Saleh Mahmoud Osman, were [detained](#) after a [visit](#) to Juba and South Kordofan, where they met with SPLM-N al-Hilu and SLM al-Nur leaders. Both were reportedly [held](#) for a day in a hotel in South Sudan, and subsequently [arrested](#) upon arrival in Khartoum. The Communist Party had earlier rejected an invitation to participate in the ongoing political talks, drawing a [rebuke](#) from UNITAMS, which rejected the party's accusation that UNITAMS supports impunity in the wake of the coup.

### **Decision on RSF training camp reversed**

Red Sea regional authorities have [reversed](#) a previous decision to grant RSF land along the coast, slated for an RSF training camp. The decision comes after protests by residents. The High Council of Beja Nazirs [said](#) in a statement that the “Red Sea coast is not for sale or setting up camps,” and that the people of eastern Sudan are prepared to protect the state from “all kinds of colonisation.” Over in West Darfur, the governor reportedly [said](#) that “there is a defect in the RSF for allowing 6 months of permits and vacations for individuals and officers carrying their weapons, despite the failure to abide by the instructions of their higher command.” He went on to say that “as soon as any conflicts or clashes occur, the RSF elements go to participate, and this does not mean that its leader is the one who directs them [to do so].”

### **Ali Karti makes first media appearance since al-Bashir’s ouster**

Close al-Bashir ally and former foreign minister made his first media appearance since 2019, giving a televised interview on the NCP-funded Tayba channel. In a Twitter thread, Khalid Omer Yousif (the pre-coup minister of cabinet affairs) [thanked Karti](#) for his comments, saying that they “clarified the fact that cannot be hidden, which is that the former regime was a major partner in the 25 October coup,” and that Karti “has alerted the forces of the revolution that their mission has not yet been completed.” This week, Sudanese media reported that al-Burhan promoted Lt. Col. Mudathir Osman as his office secretary in the army headquarters; Osman is Karti’s son-in-law (exact timing of this promotion unknown).

### **US government issues business advisory for Sudan**

The US Departments of State, Treasury, Commerce, and Labor issued a [business advisory](#) to “highlight growing risks to American businesses and individuals associated with conducting business with Sudanese State-Owned Enterprises,” including those under military control. The advisory specifies that “these risks arise from recent actions undertaken by Sudan’s Sovereign Council and security forces under the military’s control”—and that the advisory is “explanatory only and does not have the force of law.” The US also imposed sanctions on two Hamas-affiliated Sudanese businesses, Agrogate Holding and Al Rowad Real Estate.

---

## **HUMANITARIAN SITUATION** DARFUR, ABYEI, DISPLACEMENT

### **56,000 people displaced due to conflict in April**

In its April 2022 humanitarian update, UN OCHA [reported](#) that over 56,000 people were displaced due to inter-communal conflict in West Darfur, South Darfur and South Kordofan, while another 400 were displaced in Kassala following a dispute over land ownership. Relatedly, see here for a [primer](#) on the Native Administration system and land management, and additional [reporting](#) on the five-fold increase in displacements across Sudan in 2021. Sporadic violence [continues](#) in Darfur. UNITAMS head Volker Perthes said in his statement to the UNSC that “a first batch of 2,000 signatory armed movements personnel will complete their 90-days training at the end of this month and be deployed,” including 50 commanders of the planned Joint Security Keeping Force who are currently receiving [training](#) on human rights, humanitarian law and the protection of civilians. Perthes also said that “the government has agreed to give them a regular salary at par with SAF soldiers once they graduate.”

### **Inter-tribal attacks continue in the Abyei region**

The African Center for Justice and Peace Studies, a Sudanese human rights organisation, said in a press release that it had [documented](#) the killing of 21 people and injury of 12 others in four separate incidents in Abyei between April and May 2022, and called on the UN peacekeeping mission (UNISFA) to conduct “impartial and independent investigations into the circumstances of the killings and injuries. Sudan and South Sudan have [agreed](#) to re-establish the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, as UNISFA apparently [urged](#) traditional leaders to “peacefully co-exist.”

---

## **weekend read**

Preventing the spread of [renewed atrocities](#) in Sudan; a new [film](#) about a Sudanese bricklayer debuts at Cannes; exploring the [pyramids](#) of Meroë; the UK seeks the [removal](#) of Sudanese asylum-seekers to Rwanda; and Sudan’s [Spiderman](#).

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

*If this was forwarded to you, please email [emma@redress.org](mailto:emma@redress.org) to sign up.*

---