

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 8 July 2022

BIG STORIES FIRST

- The military announced on 4 July that it would no longer participate in the tripartite mediation process. In a televised address (English transcript [here](#)), al-Burhan said that the military withdrew to “allow the political and revolutionary forces and other national components to sit down and form a government of independent national competencies that will complete the requirements of the transitional period.” He also said that, “following the formation of the executive government, the Sovereign Council will be dissolved and a Supreme Council of the Armed Forces and Rapid Support will be formed to assume the supreme command of the regular forces and be responsible for security and defence tasks and related responsibilities.” The precise responsibilities of this “Supreme Council” are not clear, though a leaked memo apparently [said](#) that the council would exercise some foreign policy powers, oversight of the Central Bank of Sudan, and some executive functions. Al-Burhan subsequently [dismissed](#) five remaining civilian members of the Sovereign Council, though JPA signatory representatives remain (Malik Agar, Hadi Idriss, and Tahir Hajar). The announcement has been [met](#) with widespread [skepticism](#) across Sudan. The trilateral mechanism issued a [statement](#) saying that the “basis for this particular format of military-civilian dialogue no longer exist[s] for the time being,” and that it “encourages all civilians to talk to one another to agree on a way out of the crisis.”
- Security forces [killed](#) 9 people during mass protests on 30 June, as hospitals reported being overwhelmed by cases. At least 114 people have been [killed](#) since the coup. An unknown number of protestors were [arrested](#) (estimates placed the figure at several hundred); the emergency lawyers have filed a [memo](#) with the acting attorney general regarding violations which occurred. Once again, authorities implemented a comms [blackout](#), restoring service only after roughly 20 hours, and closed major bridges linking Khartoum to Omdurman and Bahri. Salaries for police officers were also reportedly [increased](#) before the protests. [Protestors](#) are now holding [sit-ins](#) across Sudan, some of which have [dispersed](#) by security forces.

ACCOUNTABILITY TORTURE, APOSTASY, DISCRIMINATION

Health of detained protestor continues to deteriorate

Saif al-Islam was arrested on 5 May 2022 and remains in detention, awaiting trial on charges under Article 182 of the Criminal Code (“criminal mischief”). He has reportedly been subjected to severe torture while in detention. A lawyer told REDRESS that, “after a struggle with the police and the court, we managed to take Saif to the hospital.” A CT scan showed that Saif has not suffered brain damage, but has suffered injuries to his bladder and stomach, requiring follow-up; though doctors said that Saif should be admitted to the hospital, police took him back to prison.

Women hold protest in Khartoum

Decrying discrimination faced within the protest movement, women held a march in Khartoum this week, with one woman [saying](#) that “we are facing two revolutions at the same time, a revolution against a totalitarian dictatorship and an authoritarian patriarchal system.” Protestors chanted [slogans](#) including “bread, freedom, and intersectional justice,” and denounced threats from men who said that they would beat them if they didn’t dress “more properly” and “wear veils” when taking part in protests.

UN Human Rights Council adopts technical resolution on Sudan

Draft resolution A/HRC/50/L.14/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote this week in Geneva, extending reporting by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The High Commissioner must now present an oral update on Sudan at the 52nd session of the UN HRC (in February 2023), to be followed by an interactive dialogue; upon the restoration of the civilian-led government in Sudan and conclusion of the mandate of the designated Expert, the High Commissioner must also present a final report to the Council.

Four men arrested for apostasy in Darfur

Police in Zalingei (Central Darfur) reportedly [arrested](#) four young Christian men, and pursued five others, on charges of apostasy. A defence lawyer said that a complaint was filed against the men under Article 126 of the Criminal Code (apostasy). If correct, the complaint is filed improperly, because July 2020 law reforms [amended](#) Article 126, replacing the crime of apostasy with the crime of, functionally, blasphemy (“[a]nyone who publicly declares the apostasy of a person, sect or group of persons to express their religion or beliefs . . . shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or with a fine, or both.”

Military court orders release of Islamist officers

A military court of appeal ordered the release of several Islamist officers accused of a [coup attempt](#) in July 2019, led by former SAF Chief of Staff Hashim Abdel Muttalib. In March 2022, Muttalib and the other men were sentenced to serve between 5-9 years in prison; these sentences have now been reduced to time served. The court reportedly reduced Muttalib’s sentence to 2.5 years, but al-Burhan intervened, securing his [release](#) with the others.

Sudanese army says Ethiopia executed 8 people

The SAF announced that the Ethiopian army [executed](#) seven soldiers and a civilian, after seizing them on Sudanese territory and taking them into Ethiopia. Ethiopia [denied](#) the allegations, saying that the eight were killed as a result of clashes between the SAF and a local militia on 22 June (a week before Sudan's announcement). Sudan's foreign ministry subsequently accused Ethiopia of publicly displaying the bodies, and summoned the Ethiopian ambassador in Khartoum and the Sudanese ambassador in Ethiopia for discussions. Sudan has also said that it will file a formal [complaint](#) with the UN Security Council over the incident. Al-Burhan has since [visited](#) the al-Fashaga area, as the SAF launched an [offensive](#) against Ethiopian troops. This week, al-Burhan and Abiy Ahmed Ali [met](#), with the Ethiopian prime minister saying that "we both made a commitment for dialogue & peaceful resolution to outstanding issues."

Darfur Bar Association documents presence of Wagner Group in South Darfur

In a statement, the Darfur Bar Association [said](#) that it had documented Wagner Group mercenaries in Um Dafuq, South Darfur, and that it had taken testimonies from family members of those allegedly [killed](#) by Wagner Group affiliates along the border with CAR. In the statement, the DBA said that responsibility for these violations lies with "everyone involved in granting concessions to companies and the Rapid Support Forces for gold mining in the Sengo area in exchange for a shared supply by the Central Bank of Sudan." Relatedly, investigative group C4ADS has published an [extensive report](#) – and underlying data, based on information gathered by the Ministry of Finance and Empowerment Removal Committee – on Sudan's state-controlled enterprises and the Sudanese "deep state."

Sudan extradites Muslim Brotherhood affiliates to Egypt

A reported 27 men have been [extradited](#) to Egypt, including Egyptians suspected of membership in a terrorist cell that killed five Sudanese intelligence officers in September 2021. Neither country has announced the names of those extradited. Another 32 people are also reportedly slated for extradition from Sudan to Egypt.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION MOROCCO, LIBYA

Some migrants killed in Melilla incident may be Sudanese

At least 23 migrants were killed and many others injured during an [attempted crossing](#) into the Spanish enclave of Melilla in North Africa. Footage shows Moroccan security officers beating visibly injured individuals, while others were denied medical treatment for hours. At least some of these individuals are [believed](#) to be Sudanese, and the Sudanese government has [asked](#) the Moroccan government for information about those who were killed.

Sudanese rebel groups agree to withdraw forces from Libya

Seven Sudanese rebel movements reportedly [agreed](#) to withdraw their forces – an estimated 30,000 men - from Libya in a meeting held last month in Niger. The meeting, which included representatives from the UN, US, EU, Norway, Turkey, and Egypt, is the second such meeting held this year. A participant said that seven non-JPA signatory groups attended the meeting (the "Coalition for Transitional Path"), but that they faced opposition from the RSF, the JPA signatory groups, and the FFC. Meanwhile, in Sudan, a batch of soldiers [graduated](#) from their training for participation in the Darfur Joint Security Keeping Force.

Tribal leaders in West Darfur sign reconciliation agreement

Leaders of the Gimir tribe and several Arab tribes [signed](#) a final reconciliation agreement, witnessed by Hemedti. Addressing the participants, Hemedti said this was the fifth peace agreement to be signed in the state, and described it as the best one so far.

weekend read

A [podcast](#) on US efforts in Sudan; [music](#) as resistance on the Red Coast; navigating a [participatory](#) political process; seven [months](#) of hope in Sudan; and a narrow [opportunity](#) to get the democratic transition back on track.

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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