

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 22 July 2022

BIG STORIES FIRST

- Violence has erupted in [Blue Nile](#) State between the Hausa and Berti communities, displacing more than 15,000 people and killing at least [97 people](#). Some [accounts](#) indicate that armed conflict broke out after the killing of a farmer, while others have stated that the fighting comes after Berti leaders [refused](#) a Hausa request to create a “[native administration](#)” to supervise access to land. The RSF and SAF were reportedly [deployed](#) to the area, after the Blue Nile governor banned gatherings and protests for one month and instituted a curfew. Kassala State has also [banned](#) public gatherings and rallies indefinitely following [Hausa protests](#) “to express their discontent with the Sudanese authorities who allow violent clashes to happen by being lax and not interfering.” Blaming the spread of hate speech for the difficult security situation in Sudan, the Technical Committee of the Security and Defence Council has [reportedly ordered](#) telecommunications companies to immediately stop issuing SIM cards that are not registered to a specific national number.
 - Another protestor has been [killed](#) in Sudan by security forces, bringing the total number of deaths since the coup to 115. Information about other violations across Sudan continues to emerge, including reports that more than 70 protestors were arrested during the 30 June protests in Al-Hasahisa (El Gezira State), which the Emergency Lawyers [described](#) as the “island of isolated violations”; among those arrested were several children, including some with special needs, who were beaten.
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ACCOUNTABILITY STONING, FUR, DETENTIONS

Woman sentenced to death by stoning for adultery

Sudanese organisation ACJPS [reported](#) that a criminal court in White Nile State has sentenced a 20-year-old woman to death by stoning after being found guilty of adultery (art. 146(2) of the [Criminal Law Act 1991](#)). The sentence has yet to be approved by the High Court (where it is likely to be overturned). Corporal punishments – though rarely stoning – have long been used

in Sudan, since the 1880s under the Mahdi regime and continuing under the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium. 1983 "September laws" added shari'a law provisions to the then-Criminal Code, including flogging and stoning; the replacement 1991 Criminal Code under al-Bashir retained these punishments. Limited amendments under the pre-coup transitional government removed some forms of corporal punishment, but the legal framework still provides for corporal punishments for hudud (eg, adultery), qisas, and ta'zir offences (three categories of shari'a crimes). All such punishments are [incompatible](#) with the prohibition against torture – and even the threat of corporal punishment, which causes great anguish, can by itself constitute torture.

Emergency lawyers visit detainees from Darfur held in Omdurman

Representatives from the [Emergency Lawyers](#) group as well as the Darfur Bar Association visited 21 detainees held in Al-Huda Prison in Omdurman. The detained [group](#), all of whom were transferred from El Geneina to Omdurman and have reportedly been held for 16 months, includes at least 8 minors. According to the Emergency Lawyers, none of the detainees have been charged with a crime. Saif al-Islam, who has allegedly been subjected to torture in Al-Huda Prison, continues to face serious health problems, though he was admitted to the hospital for treatment this past week (under the custody of the court police). Because he was in the hospital, al-Islam [did not attend](#) a recent court session on 19 July; the next court session is scheduled for 26 July. Separately, the Emergency Lawyers said that protestors arrested and detained were subjected to [drug tests](#) in Khartoum, while – in a peculiar case – [communications](#) against four individuals were dismissed by the Khartoum North Court, including a protestor who was killed.

Historic day at the ICC in Kushayb case

In a historic occasion, the 12 July session in the Ali Kushayb case marked the first time Fur-speaking witnesses participated in an international trial. The 28th Prosecution witness has begun testifying today; the trial will then resume on 25 August, after the court's judicial recess.

GOVERNMENT AMBASSADORS

Five new ambassadors appointed by al-Burhan

Al-Burhan has reportedly [appointed](#) five retired army and police generals (including former GIS head Jamal Abdul Majeed, who was [replaced](#) by al-Burhan in late November 2021 following the short-lived deal with Hamdok) as ambassadors to five neighbouring countries: South Sudan, Chad, CAR, Eritrea, and Libya. Sudan Tribune, a Sudanese paper, reported that "al-Burhan, who spent most of his military career in the border army, plans to expand his control to the diplomatic relations with the neighbouring countries as the Military Intelligence monitors non-signatory armed groups in anticipation of the resumption of the rebellion in Darfur and South Kordofan." In a statement, the FFC-Central Council [condemned](#) the announcement, saying that the decision "reveal[s] the real intentions of the junta, namely to dominate all aspects of life and to militarise civil functions, including foreign relations." The US has also [confirmed](#) its first ambassador to Sudan in over two decades, as finance minister Gibril Ibrahim traveled to the US for [meetings](#) at the UN.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION FLOODING, FOOD INSECURITY

Limited cash transfer programme restarted in Sudan

Though its disbursements to the Government of Sudan remain paused since the coup, the World Bank has signed an [agreement](#) with the UN World Food Programme to provide \$100 million to the WFP for a new [Sudan Emergency Safety Nets Project](#). The project is aimed at providing cash transfers and food to more than two million food insecure beneficiaries in 11 states in Sudan (9.8 million people in Sudan are currently [classified](#) as food insecure by the WFP, with the number expected to rise). This announcement comes as [flash flooding](#) continues to displace hundreds, including in [Kassala](#), and as new reporting indicates that humanitarian access in Sudan has [deteriorated](#).

**weekend
read**

Will the military [step aside](#)?; the African Union's 20th [anniversary](#); US [announces](#) Temporary Protected Status for Sudan; Russia's deferred [dreams](#) of a Red Sea naval base; the 2022 US Trafficking in Persons [report](#) (Sudan on page 514); and the West's [struggle](#) in Sudan.

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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