

# justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 5 Aug 2022

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## BIG STORIES FIRST

- Security forces continue to use [excessive violence](#) against protestors, including during mass demonstrations on [31 July](#), when at least 11 people were run over by vehicles driven by security forces and dozens others injured by teargas. This week, several Sudanese organisations released investigations into violations committed during protests, including on [30 June](#) and [30 December 2021](#).
  - The Darfur Bar Association and partners reported that at least 197 people have been [detained](#) in West Darfur, including tribal leaders who have [refused](#) to partake in RSF-led reconciliation efforts, teachers, students and other activists. In a statement, the DBA said that the RSF is continuing its “malicious pursuits of the native administrations leaders who refused to sign their agreements” (brokered by Hemedti).
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## ACCOUNTABILITY ARRESTS, PROSECUTIONS, JOURNALISTS

### For every detainee released, a new person is arrested

Saif al-Islam, a young man arrested near a protest in Khartoum and reportedly tortured in detention, was [released](#) from prison and the charges against him (related to the vandalization of a police car) were dropped. On the other hand, emergency lawyer Saleh Bushra was arrested and charged under Article 130 of the [Criminal Law Act 1991](#) (murder), in relation to the death of protestor Abu Bakr Ismail (who was [shot in the chest](#) during protests in Omdurman on 21 July). Bushra was reportedly working on Ismail’s case, [monitoring](#) the autopsy of Ismail’s body as part of the process needed to initiate a legal complaint. The Emergency Lawyers [condemned](#) his arrest and the “fabricated charges” against him. Others have also been arrested in the past two weeks, including [five minors](#) yesterday (4 August), [Musab Ahmed](#) (“Sanjo”) (location [unknown](#)), and [Husam al-Sayyad](#), who is reportedly being detained by the Criminal Investigations Directorate and requires medical attention.

### Court rejects prosecution appeal in Tupac case

The Khartoum High Court has upheld a lower court's decision [permitting](#) a medical examination to move forward in the case of Mohamed Ahmed (Tupac), Mohamed El Fateh, Ahmed al-Fatih, and Musaab al-Sherif. The defence team in the case has sought the medical examinations to determine whether the defendants were subjected to torture in detention, and has also contested the prosecution's refusal to grant them access to the investigation files.

### **Journalists draft constitution for syndicate**

For the first time in 33 years, Sudanese journalists have [drafted](#) a constitution for their syndicate. A vote will be conducted in the next few days to elect a syndicate chief and a 40-member council, following the recent selection of a committee to oversee the [elections](#) (chaired by Faisal Mohamed Salih, the former Minister of Information under Hamdok).

### **Red notice issued against Salah Gosh (maybe)**

Sudanese authorities said that they have issued an Interpol Red Notice request for Salah Gosh, the former NISS director who is now thought to be in Cairo, in relation to [corruption charges](#). Gosh is apparently accused of having forced the head of Tarco Airlines to pay a \$50 million bribe and relinquish ownership of the company before authorising his release from detention. In September 2021, Sudanese media also [reported](#) that a Red Notice was issued for Gosh. If a Red Notice has been issued, it has not been [made public](#). The news comes as Gosh is [rumoured](#) to be in Sudan for his son's wedding.

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## **GOVERNMENT CHAD, EASTERN SUDAN, SMUGGLING**

### **Hemedti makes late night speech about transition**

In a [public statement](#) delivered at around midnight on 22 July, Hemedti said that, "no matter what concessions it may cost us, we will not cling to a power that will lead to spilling the blood of our people and storming the stability of our country." In the same statement, he called "upon the revolutionary forces and the national political forces to expedite urgent solutions" and indicated his interest in the "provision of security arrangements for a single professional army that reflects Sudan's plurality and diversity" – possibly referring to the integration of the RSF into the SAF, a call which he has previously [rejected](#) on multiple occasions. Rumors continue to [circulate](#) about a widening split between Hemedti and Burhan, as Hemedti gave an [interview](#) to BBC Arabic in which he said that the coup has failed.

### **Another new political alliance is announced**

The "Forces of Radical Change" alliance was formally [announced](#) in the last week of July. The alliance reportedly includes 12 political and activist groups, including the Communist Party, Sudanese Professionals Association, and the Sudanese Women's Union. Among the alliance's demands is a call for the creation of legislative councils at the federal, regional and local levels, and the equitable participation of women, youth and other marginalised groups in political life. The new alliance was announced at around the same time that the FFC made its first [call for protests](#) since the 25 October 2021 coup, and as Sudanese media reported that al-Burhan is preparing to announce a caretaker cabinet.

### **Ministry of Minerals refutes CNN reporting on gold smuggling**

Recent investigative reporting by CNN discovered at least “16 known Russian [gold smuggling flights](#) out of Sudan” in the last year and a half, describing the situation as “an elaborate Russian scheme to plunder Sudan’s riches in a bid to fortify Russia against increasingly robust Western sanctions and to buttress Moscow’s war effort in Ukraine.” In a [public response](#), Minister of Minerals Mubarak Ardol said that “the governmental mining sector continued to be exposed to many deliberate risks and distortions by some to slow our resolve, and limit the progress and development of this vital and important sector in Sudan. There is no evidence for this more than the allegations made by CNN.” The statement also details measures taken by the Ministry to combat gold smuggling.

### **Political turbulence in eastern Sudan (and elsewhere)**

In eastern Sudan, the High Council of Beja Nazirs [announced](#) that they would “withdraw the file” of the Eastern Sudan Track protocol of the Juba Peace Agreement, giving authorities four months before declaring self-determination for eastern Sudan. Shortly after, Sudanese tribal chiefs from eastern Sudan were prevented by Sudanese authorities from entering Eritrea to participate in a forum on eastern Sudanese issues. Border officials reportedly [claimed](#) that they had not received permission from Khartoum authorising the delegation to cross into Eritrea without visas. Separately, Minni Minawi met this [week in Chad](#) with Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno, the head of Chad’s transitional government. Hemedti also [traveled](#) to Chad, returning just before it was reported that he [requested](#) an urgent meeting of the Security and Defence Council due to “Chad’s attacks on our borders.”

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## **HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IDPS, CONFLICT**

### **Security situation remains unstable as IDPs encouraged to return**

The West Darfur government has reportedly begun making [preparations](#) for the return of IDPs to the Krindig, Abu Dhar and Sharg Al Jebel camps (to facilitate their departure from makeshift shelters in government institutions in El Geneina). Hemedti, accompanied by Al-Tahir Hajar, recently visited Krindig, where he was received by booing and calls for his prosecution at the ICC. An arrest warrant has also reportedly been [issued](#) for an RSF commander involved in recent violence in the state. In South Darfur, a measles [outbreak](#) in Kalma camp is compounding challenges posed by acute food shortages, and a farmer was killed by armed men [near Nyala](#). In North Kordofan, RSF personnel have reportedly [assaulted](#) civilians shopping at local markets in multiple incidents.

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# weekend read

[Strengthening](#) Sudan's "fragile peace";  
and scuba diving under  
Sudan's [pyramids](#).

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

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