

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 19 Aug 2022

BIG STORIES FIRST

- Human rights activists have expressed concern over the [creation](#) of a “community police unit” to “reaffirm the relationships between people and the police” and ensure security. A prior version of this unit, which was responsible for enforcing the “public order” regime, was known for disproportionately targeted women and other marginalised groups for a range of morality offences. (See REDRESS and SIHA [reporting](#) on these laws, some of which were formally abolished in November 2019.) While the exact mandate of this new police force is not known, the Ministry of Interior recently confirmed that the unit had raided a home in Khartoum and arrested 18 people for allegedly drinking alcohol and prostitution. While these arrests seem to run contrary to a statement by the police director-general, in which he said that “any policeman who seeks to enforce the rules of the abolished Public Order law will be held accountable and punished,” as a matter of technicality, the provisions related to the consumption of alcohol and prostitution have not been stripped from the Criminal Law Act 1991.
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ACCOUNTABILITY GIS, DETENTIONS, KILLINGS

Detentions of activists, lawyers continue

Arrests – and ill-treatment of those detained – continue across Sudan, including at least [35 protesters](#) last week. In Central Darfur, Ali Hamdan, a prominent member of the Arab Socialist Ba’ath Party, was arrested, while activist Musab Ahmed (“Sanjo”) remains in detention. In a visit this week, Sanjo told his family that he has been beaten on a daily basis, including for over an hour on one occasion. In a statement, the Emergency Lawyers accused Sudanese authorities of [fabricating charges](#) against Sanjo and two others, Sabir Ismail and Atef Osman Kamal, all of whom were brought to court for the first time on 7 August. Elsewhere, a member of the Sennar resistance committees told Radio Dabanga that he was assaulted and detained by intelligence service members, after the bus he was traveling on was stopped at a checkpoint; El Tayeb Aratmeily said that he was taken to the local GIS office and [repeatedly hit](#) on the head with the butt of a rifle until he lost consciousness.

Sudanese MIT student killed in Khartoum

Mohamed Majdi Taha, a Sudanese MIT student who was visiting Sudan on his summer break, was killed outside of Khartoum's Nile Club, which is owned and operated by the GIS. The circumstances of his killing remain unclear, although some sources reported that Taha was attempting to leave the club after he was beaten. Taha is the son of Majdi Mohamed Abdallah Taha, the CEO of Sudanese telecoms company Sudani.

GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION, DIALOGUE(S)

Sudanese Bar Associations holds constitutional conference

The Sudanese Bar Association hosted a three-day [workshop](#) on arrangements for a transitional constitutional framework. Participants included FFC representatives and members of the Democratic Unionist Party. Recommendations from the workshop, which were panned by some as being "much of the same," included the need to distance the military from politics and the importance of transitional justice processes in Sudan. Men in civilian clothes, carrying metal pipes and stones, attacked the workshop premises on its final day, shouting things like "out Volker" (referring to UNITAMS head Volker Perthes, who said [on Twitter](#) that "[a]ttacks on the workshop at the Sudanese Bar Association are unacceptable. People using violent means to prevent a peaceful meeting certainly don't seek national consensus").

Military-supported dialogue begins

The "People of Sudan" initiative, [launched](#) by religious leader al-Tayeb Aljid, began this week with a two-day meeting in Khartoum. The meeting, which was attended by several prominent al-Bashir allies, including former Darfur governor Tijani al-Sisi, former Minister of Health Bahr Abu Garda, former Interior and Information Minister Ahmed Balal Osman, and former presidential assistant Musa Mohamed Ahmed, was intended to discuss the appointment of a prime minister. Musa Hilal and several other prominent tribal leaders also attended along with diplomats from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the AU and IGAD. At around the same time, UNITAMS head Volker Perthes published an [op-ed](#) noting that "[a]lmost all Sudanese now agree that the situation produced by the coup of 25 October needs to change . . . [and that] time is not on Sudan's side. The continuation of the political impasse will lead to more losses of recent national gains."

High-level delegation visits Russia

A high-level ministerial delegation has [reportedly visited](#) Russia this week, including "a number of officials in various ministries, companies and the private sector, to participate in the meetings of the seventh session of the Sudanese-Russian Joint Committee." Specific participants are unknown, beyond Mubarak Ardol and several other officials from the Ministry of Minerals. The visit comes as reporting emerged indicating that Azerbaijan has supplied weapons to Ukraine [via Sudan](#).

"Amicable" split between SPLM-N leaders

Malik Agar and Yasir Arman (two leaders of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North) have [announced](#) an "amicable split" between their two factions in the wake of the 25 October 2021 military coup. In a joint statement, the leaders said that "[a]fter a thorough and in-depth

discussion characterized by transparency and frankness, the two parties concluded that issues of disagreement are fundamental and deep, and it is difficult to agree on them.” The statement continued, “[t]he two sides agreed not to consume their energy in unproductive disputes . . . and to separate amicably.”

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION FLOODING, CONFLICT

Flooding across Sudan continues

More than 136,000 people have been [affected by floods](#) since May in Sudan, including at least 77 people [killed](#). This number is [likely to rise](#), as it doesn't account for floods and possible death tolls in more remote areas of Sudan. The floods have also caused severe damage to health facilities, agricultural land, and livestock. Sudan's rainy season runs from June to September. The flooding comes as the humanitarian situation has deteriorated across Sudan's IDP camps. In Kalma camp alone, 6 children have reportedly [died of malnutrition](#) and another 2,322 are reported as “malnourished.”

Migrants found dead on way from Sudan to Libya

Libyan authorities said that they found the [bodies](#) of at least 15 people in the desert on Libya's border with Sudan. It appeared that the migrants were on the way from Sudan to Libya when their vehicle broke down due to a lack of fuel. 9 people reportedly survived, and another two remained missing in the desert. All of the migrants were Sudanese.

Isolated attacks in Darfur, West and South Kordofan kill several people

Gunmen killed at least [nine people](#) across several villages in North Darfur, apparently in retaliation for two killings which occurred earlier in the week. At least two villages were burned to the ground during the attacks, and nine people were kidnapped. RSF forces were apparently present but did not intervene during the attacks. The week before (in the first week of August), followers of Musa Hilal reportedly [killed two policemen](#) in an attack on a SAF, police, and RSF convoy in Jebel Marra. Separately, two people were killed in West and South Kordofan in attacks.

South Sudan executes men deported by Sudan

South Sudan has [reportedly executed](#) rebel officers who were “forcefully deported by authorities in Sudan” after being arrested in West Kordofan. The three men were handed over to Unity State governor Joseph Nguen Monytuil, who ordered their execution. In a statement, the leader of the rebel South Sudan People's Movement/Army confirmed the execution of the men, who were “arrested in al-Fula where they were visiting family members by members of Sudan's Rapid Support Forces.” Sudanese and South Sudanese officials have not commented on this news.

River Nile sit-in regarding mining practices lifted

A sit-in to protest [toxic and harmful mining practices](#) in the River Nile state has recently ended, after having reportedly succeeded in halting all mining operations in the area, including those of Russia-owned company Meroe Gold. Mubarak Ardol, the head of the Sudanese Mineral Resources Company, said on [Twitter](#) that an agreement was reached “according to which the

sit-in issues were addressed.” He ended his short Twitter statement with a “[l]et’s get to work guys . . .”

weekend read

A [breakthrough](#) in Sudan’s political impasse?

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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