

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 16 Sept 2022

BIG STORIES FIRST

- Arrests of protestors and human rights defenders continue across Sudan. Illustrating this pattern, in a [briefing](#) published this week the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies highlighted the arrest and torture of a human rights defender in early August. Saif Eldien Adam Ahmed was reportedly arrested outside of Zalengei University in West Darfur, beaten and made to stand in the sun for several hours, and verbally harassed before being charged with defamation in relation to a social media post. Elsewhere, in [Khartoum](#) and [River Nile](#), several groups of protestors have recently been cleared of criminal charges; on the other hand, security forces have again been [photographed](#) shaving the heads of young men on the streets, and several [journalists](#) face open criminal complaints for their recent news coverage. Other individuals remain detained while [lengthy investigations](#) or legal proceedings continue, including Mohamed Adam (“Tupac”) and three other young men accused of killing a police officer. In a new report, REDRESS highlighted the urgent need for specific forms to [prevent the use of torture-tainted evidence](#) in criminal proceedings, including in relation to Tupac’s case.
 - The Sudanese Bar Association has [presented](#) its draft transitional constitution (available here in [English](#)) to the [Trilateral Mechanism](#), as resistance committees prepare to finalise a similar charter in the next few weeks. Though the document has been welcomed by international actors, including a number of [foreign embassies](#) in Khartoum and the US [House Foreign Affairs Committee](#), some Sudanese groups have criticised the initiative. The Communist Party, for example, said in a statement that the SBA does not have the authority to issue a draft constitution.
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ACCOUNTABILITY RSF, SENTENCING, EMPOWERMENT REMOVAL

Court acquits RSF officer accused of killing protestor in 2019

The Supreme Court in Khartoum [overturned](#) the death sentence handed down against a senior RSF officer who was previously [convicted in May 2021](#) for killing Hanafi Abdel Shakour during

the 3 June 2019 sit-in dispersal. The officer was accused of ramming Shakour with his car; at the time, the judgment was the second of its kind in Sudan against members of the security forces. In addition to overturning the sentence, the Supreme Court also ordered the immediate release of the officer. In a [statement](#), Shakour's family said they were "shocked by the news of the release of the killer," and that the Supreme Court had informed lawyers that the "decision had not been printed for official signature," raising questions as to how the accused was released.

Empowerment Removal Committee decision shuttering organisations reversed

Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission, under the leadership of Najmeldin Musa Abdelkarim (who is reportedly affiliated with the JEM), issued a decision allowing 23 organisations to [resume activities](#) after having been shut down by the pre-coup Empowerment Removal Committee. Among the re-registered organisations are the Maarij Organisation for Peace and Development (whose board of directors is chaired by al-Bashir's brother); the Sanad Charitable Organisation and Anna Sudan Organisation (run by al-Bashir's wife); and several organisations affiliated with the Islamic Dawa Organisation, Ali Othman Muhammad Taha, al-Bashir's son-in-law, and a number of other groups affiliated with the NCP or the military.

UN Security Council receives reports on situation in Sudan

Several interesting items were included in the UN Secretary-General's [latest report](#) to the UN Security Council (covering developments in Sudan from 6 May to 20 August 2022). Among these were statistics regarding injuries in protests (21 civilian deaths and 2,073 injuries from live ammunition, tear gas, water cannons and rubber bullets, with another 63 injuries caused by protestors being hit by security forces vehicles) and confirmation that the emergency decrees issued by al-Burhan under the declared state of emergency remain in force. This includes Emergency Order No. 3, which re-extended powers of search, arrest, and detention to the GIS (see this [report](#) by REDRESS, PLACE, the Darfur Bar Association, and the emergency lawyers group for more information). Controversially, al-Burhan is reportedly slated to [travel](#) to the UN headquarters in NYC for the 77th session of the UN General Assembly (he is also rumoured to be traveling to the UK for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II). See [here](#) for a transcript of Volker Perthes' statement to the UNSC.

Committee for prisoners and missing persons begins its work

A committee [established](#) by the Public Prosecution tasked with identifying those who went missing or were captured during fighting between the Sudanese government and armed rebel movements from 2002 – 2020 (before the signing of the Juba Peace Agreement) has begun its work. The committee includes [representatives](#) from the Public Prosecution, SAF, police, GIS, RSF, and the armed movements (JEM, SLM-MM, SLM-TC, the Sudanese Alliance, and the Sudan Liberation Forces Gathering).

GOVERNMENT MILITARY, COLONIAL CRIMES

Al-Burhan cautions against interfering with military affairs

In remarks made during a function to commemorate the 1898 Battle of Omdurman, al-Burhan [warned political forces](#) against trying to drive a wedge between the SAF and RSF, saying that "we will never raise arms against each other," and that "we would like to assure those who

want to dismantle the military institution that no one can do that.” In comments apparently directed towards civilian groups, al-Burhan also instructed them to “form your government and rule the country as you sit fit away from the military.” These remarks followed a recent statement made by [Yassir Arman](#), who highlighted the need for the unification of the RSF and SAF into a single national army. Directing his ire at Britain, in the same speech al-Burhan also asked for an official apology for “colonial crimes” committed by British forces, saying that “what the colonial army did was a [crime against humanity](#) whose perpetrators deserved to be accounted for.” (Omar al-Bashir made a similar call while president. They evidently share the same sense of humor.)

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT

Sudanese authorities urge evacuation of facility on Ethiopian border

In the first week of September, Sudanese authorities urged humanitarian aid organisations to [evacuate](#) the Hamdayet border reception centre for Ethiopian refugees, apparently out of concern for safety as clashes intensified along the border. Sudanese military reinforcements have also been deployed to the area as fighting escalates in northern Ethiopia. Separately, two planes from Libya and Niger have arrived in Sudan carrying Sudanese citizens [voluntarily returning](#) to the country. The flights were reportedly organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration.

Zanzam IDP camp sit-in lifted after more than two weeks

Leaders lifted the Zanzam camp sit-in after 17 days, following an [agreement](#) made with the Darfur regional government. Among other items, the government has reportedly pledged to deploy sufficient forces to protect the camp and to upgrade the police post in the camp to a police station. A committee with members drawn from the North Darfur government, regional government, and the Zamzam camp administration will also be formed to review basic services in the camp (e.g., drinking water and educational services). Camp leaders have given the government one month to implement the agreement. Following this development, a 15-year-old girl was reportedly gang-raped [near the camp](#), with other reports of armed gunmen roaming the area near Zanzam; camp leaders have threatened to begin the sit-in again.

weekend read

A Sudanese art [exhibition](#) in London; the [spoilers](#) of Darfur; [apologising](#) for the past in Sudan; and [children dying](#) from hunger.

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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