

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 2 Sept 2022

BIG STORIES FIRST

- Sudanese journalists [voted](#) for the [first time](#) in 33 years to elect a journalists syndicate. [Abdelmoneim Abu Idriss](#) (a journalist working for the Agence France-Press) was elected president, as 659 people of an eligible 1,164 members took part in the election. Votes are being counted for the rest of the union's 40-person leadership. Ahead of the election, journalists [aligned with al-Bashir](#) reportedly attempted to prevent the vote by raising an ongoing legal complaint, saying that the syndicate couldn't replace the pre-existing Bashir-era union. The Cairo-based Union of Arab Journalists has [refused](#) to acknowledge the syndicate and the outcome of the election, and the SAF's official newspaper [published articles](#) attacking the syndicate.
 - Arrests, [injuries](#), and killings of protestors continue. At least 38 people were [arrested](#) during protests on 25 August alone; three days later, 17 protestors were brought before the Omdurman Criminal Court to [face charges](#) under articles 69, 72, and 77 of the Criminal Law Act 1991 (disturbance of public peace, exposing ways and means of transport and communication to danger, and public nuisance). Others were brought to trial in Bahri, also under articles 69 and 77; these cases were [dismissed](#). On 31 August, during protests in which excessive [amounts of teargas](#) were used, a protestor was [killed](#) after being hit in the head by a teargas canister and run over by a vehicle, bringing the total number of [deaths](#) to 117 (as counted by the CCSD).
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ACCOUNTABILITY ICC, AUTOPSIES, COMMUNITY POLICE

ICC Prosecutor visits Darfur region, Khartoum

ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan visited Sudan, including the [Kalma IDP](#) camp and Nyala, as proceedings continue in The Hague in relation to the Ali Kushayb case. His [trip](#) was the third by an ICC prosecutor to Sudan since al-Bashir's ouster from office in April 2019. Sudanese media reported that IDPs in [West Darfur](#) handed "[new evidence](#)" to Khan during closed-door meetings, while Khan [told the UNSC](#) that the "simple truth is that the nightmare for thousands

of Darfuris has not ended . . . in large part because meaningful justice and accountability has not been felt in the manner that is required, or in my respectful view, was anticipated by the Council in 2005.” In his [statement](#), Khan also suggested that the UNSC hold a special session on Sudan, noting that, though some of his team had recently been granted multi-entry visas to Sudan, “by every other metric, a backward step has taken place in terms of cooperation in recent months.” The visit has also resulted in an apparent dispute between the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Prosecutor, concerning the Prosecutor’s request to visit al-Bashir.

Discussion of autopsies and burials reemerges

The director of the Forensic Medicine Authority in Khartoum recently said that the number of bodies in Khartoum’s morgues has risen to over 3,000, and attributed this to the decision to prevent burials of bodies since 2019, following the 3 June massacre; shortly after, the acting Public Prosecutor issued a decision [ordering the autopsies](#) of bodies, many of which are understood to have significantly decomposed.

Trial in killing of Mahjoub al-Taj Mahjoub adjourned

The trial of the alleged killers of Mahjoub al-Taj Mahjoub was adjourned for a week after a procedural mistake. Medical student Mahjoub al-Taj Mahjoub was [killed](#) after allegedly being subjected to torture in a NISS detention centre in January 2019. 11 NISS agents have been [charged](#) under Articles 21 (criminal complicity), 130 (premeditated murder), and 186 (crimes against humanity) of the 1991 Criminal Code. The trial began in August 2021 and [continues slowly](#); 18 of 30 defence witnesses have testified so far.

Sudanese youths shave heads in protest

Following [reports](#) that the police – presumably the new “Community Police” – carried out a “head-shaving” campaign targeting young men in Khartoum, a group of men [shaved](#) their own heads and posted photos on social media using hashtags #shavebald and #leavethepublicorderoutincold. A Sudanese paper also [reported](#) that police chased women in a public market because of their clothing and carried out inspections of tea and food vendors, confiscating some belongings, saying that “concerns emerged during the past two days about the return of the public order law in the face of the community police.”

Sudanese Bar Association to announce transitional constitution

Following its workshop on constitution making, the Sudanese Bar Association announced that it would release its proposed transitional constitution next week. The FFC-Central Council has expressed its support for the initiative, even as a [group of political parties](#), former rebel leaders, and FFC-FC dissidents are [working](#) on forming a new political coalition and programme that would give the army broad powers in any future transitional arrangement.

GOVERNMENT RUSSIA, ARMED FORCES, SPLM

New interim chairman of the SPLM- Revolutionary Democratic Current selected

Yasir Arman was [selected](#) as the interim chairman of the newly established SPLM-Revolutionary Democratic Current (SPLM-RDC) chairman three days after his announcement of a split with Malik Agar. In his [statement of acceptance](#), Arman reiterated his opposition to the coup, saying “[w]e are working side by side with the daughters and sons of our people to overthrow and

defeat the coup d'état, using all means of peaceful and democratic mass action. . . our revolution needs to maintain this effort to . . . consolidate the foundations of democratic civilian rule so that military coups become a thing of the past.”

Mubarak Ardol returns to Sudan after signing new agreements with Russia

Following his visit to Russia, Mubarak Ardol, the head of the Sudanese Mineral Resources Company, announced the signing of a [new protocol](#) for cooperation between the two countries in the “economic, financial, banking, energy, mining and other fields.” As part of the new agreement, Sudan has reportedly provided [additional oil blocks](#) for development to Zarubezhneft, a Russian state-controlled oil company.

Al-Burhan announces army leadership changes

Al-Burhan announced a [reshuffling of leadership](#) within the army’s land forces, operations, and supply heads as well as its general inspector. The chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, General Mohamed Osman al-Hussein, has retained his position.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION FLOODING, CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT

More than 250,000 people affected by flooding

As of 31 August, UN OCHA [reported](#) that more 258,429 people have been affected by [flooding](#) across Sudan, with more than 39,000 houses damaged and another 15,403 destroyed. Heavy rainfall is expected to continue. Al-Burhan [visited](#) affected areas in White Nile State, while officials from Saudi Arabia have [provided relief](#) in El Gezira State. Minni Minawi (governor of Darfur) said that flooding in El Gezira was the now-defunct Empowerment Removal Committee’s [fault](#), because the committee confiscated tools and machinery [needed](#) to maintain irrigation canals. Members of the ERC rejected these accusations, as the work of the Appeals Committee has [reportedly begun](#). Separately, a delegation of businessmen from Saudi Arabia has also recently visited the Jebal Marra area in Darfur to assess future investment projects; the visit was condemned by the SLA-AW, which said in a [statement](#) that “we consider (these projects) a provocation and an insult to the victims and displaced persons and legitimizing their lands to impose a fait accompli policy.”

Displaced people in Zanzam Camp hold sit-in

IDPs in the Zamzam Camp (one of the largest IDP camps in Darfur) have staged a [sit-in](#) along the main road linking Nyala to El-Fasher, following the kidnapping of at least 9 people from the camp as part of a dispute over stolen camps in early August. After authorities were unable to find the perpetrators of the kidnapping (and killings of camp residents during subsequent confrontations), the sit-in [began](#) on 20 August. Convoys from nearby camps and resistance committees have also [joined](#) in solidarity.

Ethiopian refugees flee to Sudan

Around 80 refugees have reportedly [crossed](#) from Ethiopia into Sudan after Ethiopian and Eritrean forces launched a [new offensive](#) in Tigray, near the Sudanese border. More people are [expected to cross](#) the border in the coming days and weeks. At the same time, Ethiopia [announced](#) that it had shot down a plane traveling via Sudanese airspace carrying weapons for TPLF rebels. The Sudanese authorities [have not responded](#) to this claim. On

Sudan's other borders, 7 Chadian soldiers were reportedly killed by [armed men](#) believed to be Sudanese. Meanwhile, 7 people were also killed in [renewed clashes](#) in the Blue Nile state, and Red Sea State security announced that it would [enforce](#) articles of the Criminal Law Act 1991 preventing civilians from organising themselves in a military system and carrying weapons.

weekend read

High-tech [humanitarianism](#);
Russian [mercenaries](#); the "[lost paradise](#)" of Sanganeb; Middle Eastern nations should stand with Sudan's [democratic forces](#); analysing the [stumbling mediation initiatives](#); and the [Sudan Tapes Archive](#).

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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