

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 25 Nov 2022

BIG STORIES FIRST

- An appeals court in Kosti (White Nile State) issued a decision yesterday reversing a lower court decision sentencing a 20-year-old women to [death by stoning](#) for the crime of adultery. The appeals court noted that the defendant had not been provided adequate notice about the grave nature of the charges against her at the time of her arrest or of her right to legal representation. The appeals court also found that the criminal court did not make an effort to establish the marital status of the defendant, who testified that she was separated from and divorcing her husband. (Under Article 146 of the Criminal Law Act 1991, only married men and women can be subjected to a punishment of death by stoning for the crime of adultery; unmarried individuals can “only” be subjected to flogging.) A retrial has been ordered.
 - A protestor was [killed yesterday](#) after being shot in the abdomen, bringing the total number of people killed since the coup to at least 120. This news comes days after the FFC said that it was seeking to [sign](#) a “framework agreement” with the military, which would in principle be [followed](#) by a final agreement (after discussions about four key issues – transitional justice, security sector reform, the JPA, and the dismantling of the Bashir regime – are concluded). The announcement of a possible framework agreement has been [rejected](#) by many [groups](#), including the resistance committees, and preceded the [return](#) of Al-Sayid Mohamed Othman al-Mirghani from Egypt to Sudan. Mirghani, the leader of the main faction of the DUP, released a statement rejecting a “hasty agreement,” saying that “hasty steps in the wrong direction and the rush to offer solutions before their time can bring about great harm.”
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ACCOUNTABILITY DETAINEES, TRIALS

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights concludes Sudan visit

In his first official country visit as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk met with a number of high-level figures, including al-Burhan and Hemedti and the acting ministers

of justice and the interior (among others) as well as civil society actors in Khartoum and El Fasher. Turk noted that “a key thread through almost every interaction I had . . . was the need for accountability and justice,” and that “the struggle for justice of survivors and families of victims is crucial for the future of the country—in addition to being their fundamental right in their individual cases.” His full remarks are [available here](#).

Hearings continue in MI sergeant case

Police colonel Hamid Shandina has begun [testifying](#) in the [ongoing trial](#) of eight young men charged with killing a MI sergeant. Shandina is the Criminal Investigations Directorate investigator who is understood to have ordered the arrest and interrogation of all eight defendants. In his [testimony](#), Shandina seems to have confirmed that some of the defendants were asked to act as the chief or king witness against the others, because of their knowledge of the funders behind the Angry without Borders group. This testimony is consistent with the statements provided to REDRESS by the detainees. Shandina also testified about the “failure” of four surveillance cameras at the scene of the alleged crime, and the apparent deletion of a key video clip. The trial of Mohamed Adam (“Tupac”) and three other young men charged with killing a police brigadier general has also resumed after being adjourned for months, although the first session was very brief and [substantive](#) hearings [postponed](#) for a week. Separately, trial hearings in the case against the alleged killers of student Mahjoub al-Taj Mahjoub [continue](#). The trial began in August 2021; 11 NISS agents have been [charged](#) with criminal complicity, murder and crimes against humanity.

31 Darfur detainees released on bail after months

The Darfur Bar Association and Defence Team for Detainees in West and North Darfur reported that 11 detainees were released on bail in El Fasher, while another 20 North Darfuri detainees were released from Al-Huda Prison in Omdurman (with the understanding that they would be transferred to police in El Fasher to face criminal allegations). The lawyers [described](#) pending criminal cases against all of the detainees as “fabricated,” and accused West and North Darfur authorities of “hiding detainees” held in the Shala Prison and El Fasher police stations during Volker Turk’s visit because they feared that he would attempt to visit and speak to prisoners. While Turk did not visit prisons in Darfur, he reportedly [met](#) with Wajdi Salih and Lt. Col. Abdullah Suliman in detention.

GOVERNMENT SECURITY SERVICES, ISLAMISTS

Islamists gather again to protest UN presence in Sudan

For the second time in two weeks, Islamists protested UN “interference” in Sudan, with some protestors holding signs reading “the people refuse guardianship.” A protestor [told AFP](#) that “we protest against interference in our country [and] we will not accept the secular constitution of the Sudanese Bar Association.” The following day, al-Burhan said in a [speech](#) at an army base in Omdurman that “we’ll cut out the tongue of anyone who interferes in army affairs . . . we warned the Islamists, as they have started interfering with the military, we told them to stay away from the military.” He also [added](#) that “if the civilian government deviates from its path, [it should be aware that] you’re here with your weapons.”

Committee formed to study establishment of new security agency

The acting Minister of the Interior has reportedly ordered the formation of a committee to study the establishment of a new Internal Security Agency. Sudan Tribune [reported](#) that the committee has the power to draft an internal security law and design the “functional structures.” Sources told Sudan Tribune that the “military wants to exert control over the apparatus by infusing elements from the army, Rapid Support Forces, and intelligence services,” and that the “plan is overseen by Shams El-Din Kabbashi, the acting minister of the interior, the director of Intelligence, the chief of Military Intelligence, and the director of police.”

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT

Sporadic violence continues across Sudan

In the Blue Nile state, five people were [killed](#) and another five missing after an “ethnically-motivated attack.” 10 passengers on a bus were reportedly forced to disembark on the “basis of their ethnic identity . . . five of them managed to escape but five others were stabbed to death with knives and other sharp tools.” In Central Darfur, at least 13 people were [killed](#) and 5,600 people displaced after clashes between two factions of the SLA-AW. UN OCHA also reported that about 32,000 people may have lost access to their crops and farms. This violence comes less than two weeks after at least 48 people were killed in Central Darfur. OCHA noted that “there are reports of both parties mobilising their forces for more conflict.” Other isolated attacks by [armed gunmen](#) were also reported across other parts of Darfur. In West Kordofan, at least six people were reportedly [killed](#) and dozens injured last weekend.

Dengue fever sweeps across Sudan

More than 1,400 people have been diagnosed with [dengue fever](#) so far this year, in the worst outbreak in Sudan for more than a decade. Cases have been recorded in at least half of Sudan’s 18 states, and the true number of cases is expected to be much higher than reported. The director of emergencies within Sudan’s Ministry of Health said that heavy rains and a lack of preventive measures like bed nets and insect repellants are behind the outbreak. Sudanese hospitals, already understaffed and under-resourced, are struggling to cope; in North Kordofan, photos circulated of patients lying on the ground after all available beds were filled.

**weekend
read**

[Mobilising](#) the expertise of the Sudanese diaspora; Sudan, Iran, and the [sovereignty](#) of women; [military entrenchment](#) in Sudan; restrictions on [African artists](#), including in Sudan; and an analysis of [improvements](#) needed to the SBA draft transitional constitution.

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

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