

justice + conflict

UPDATES FROM SUDAN

REDRESS

Hello,

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

Friday 9 Dec 2022

BIG STORIES FIRST

- A “framework agreement” was [signed](#) by more than [40 groups](#) on 5 December 2022 in a televised [ceremony](#). The agreement, available [here](#) in English, stipulates that civilian groups will appoint a prime minister to oversee a two-year transitional period, and that the military’s participation in governance would be limited to membership in a security and defence council headed by the prime minister. Five “final agreement” issues are also set out: accountability and transitional justice; security sector reform; the future of the JPA; the dismantling of the 30 June regime; and issues in the [east of Sudan](#). No timeline has been established for the resolution of these issues, which are meant to be discussed in consultations supported by the Tripartite Mechanism. While the [Friends of Sudan](#), [Quad and Troika](#), UNITAMS and other [UN officials](#) have released cautiously optimistic statements – UNITAMS, for [example](#), described the agreement as a “critical first step towards the restoration of a sustainable transitional period – Sudanese [activists](#), particularly the resistance committees, have [largely rejected](#) the agreement. In [comments](#) made after the agreement was concluded, Hemedti described the coup as a “political mistake” and offered an apology for crimes committed since Sudan’s independence; al-Burhan’s public statements were focused mostly on the process for the military’s exit from politics.
 - At least 43 people were [injured during protests](#) on the day that the framework agreement was signed, including at least one person who was run over by a vehicle, and the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors [reported](#) that another 54 people were injured during [protests](#) on 8 December. Lawyers have [called](#) for the creation of a committee to investigate the use of prohibited weapons against protestors, and particularly the use of rocks and broken glass as makeshift bullets.
-

ACCOUNTABILITY TUPAC, DEATH PENALTY, UN

Tupac case adjourned after police “can’t” unshackle him

The most recent court session in the [ongoing case](#) of four young men accused of killing a police brigadier general was quickly adjourned after police officers refused to produce a key to unshackle Mohamed Adam (better known as “Tupac”), saying they had left it at Kober Prison. Adam reportedly [showed](#) “severe signs of beating on his head and legs, and his mouth was bleeding.” One journalist [reported](#) that Tupac was missing teeth. The presiding judge ordered the completion of Form 8, the form used to document physical injuries (including torture) for legal proceedings. The next trial session was scheduled for this coming Sunday. Separately, [Wajdi Salih](#) was released on bail from detention, and Omar al-Bashir is rumored to have been [transferred](#) back to the hospital. The case against the eight young men accused of killing a Military Intelligence sergeant also [continues](#).

Sudanese lawyers represent death row prisoners before regional mechanism

Lawyers acting on behalf of [three young men](#) convicted of capital crimes as children and sentenced to death appeared before the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in a virtual hearing. Though Sudan has since amended its laws to prevent the imposition of the death penalty in cases concerning children, Sudanese courts have not commuted the sentences of the three men, who have been in detention for nearly a decade. Lawyers in the case have appealed to the ACERWC in the hopes that the Committee will intervene with the Sudanese government; Sudanese officials participating in the hearing advocated for a re-trial of the men.

UNITAMS head presents update to the UN Security Council

In his most [recent report](#) to the UN Security Council, UNITAMS head Volker Perthes set out the timeline leading to the signing of the framework agreement on 5 December 2022, noting that, “encouragingly, both civilian and military stakeholders have become more transparent about preliminary understandings and have increased their efforts to reach out to other actors and the public.” On the other hand, Perthes also noted that more than 260,000 people have been displaced in Sudan due to conflict, and that about 15.8 million people (roughly a third of Sudan’s population) will require humanitarian assistance next year.

GOVERNMENT UNIONS, SPYWARE, SANCTIONS

Al-Burhan freezes trade unions

In the last week of November, al-Burhan [issued decrees](#) to freeze the activities of trade unions, control their finances, and take over their leadership, apparently to reduce the [influence](#) of Islamists in the wake of a Supreme Court [decision](#) restoring key NCP-controlled unions (previously dissolved by the Empowerment Removal Committee). Al-Burhan also ordered the formation of a committee responsible for establishing steering committees for the trade unions until general assemblies for the groups could be held.

Report shows RSF has received Israeli spyware

Haaretz reporting shows that the RSF has [received](#) “high-end surveillance technology, made in the European Union, with the potential to tip the balance of power in Sudan thanks to its capacity to turn smartphones into audio-visual informants on their owners.” Haaretz also reported that “when news of its arrival reached Hemedti’s rivals the equipment was seen as so

dangerous that an RSF commander speaking on condition of anonymity said it was smuggled out of Khartoum to the militia's stronghold in Darfur to prevent its seizure by the army." Companies linked to Tal Dilian, a former commander within a top-secret Israeli intel unit, are understood to be behind the transfer of the surveillance tools. Other reporting shows that the RSF continues to engage in "coordinated inauthentic behavior" on [Facebook](#).

US announces expanded visa restriction policy

Two days after the signing of the framework agreement, the US Department of State announced the [expansion](#) of its existing visa restriction policy under the Immigration and Nationality Act to "cover any current or former Sudanese officials or other individuals believed to be responsible for, or complicit in, undermining the democratic transition in Sudan, including through suppressing human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the immediate family members of such persons." The US Department of State described this move as reflecting its "continued resolve to support the people of Sudan in their manifest desire for a responsive and responsible civilian-led government."

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION FLOODING, CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT

Continued armed attacks in different parts of Sudan

Human rights monitoring organisations have documented sporadic attacks in various parts of Sudan, including in Darfur and West Kordofan. The Darfur Network for Monitoring and Documentation [reported](#) that at least two IDPs were wounded by armed attackers in North Darfur, while two people were killed and nine others wounded in an attack east of Bindisi in Central Darfur. Dabanga [reported](#) that 150 armed men on horses and motorcycles also attacked a neighborhood in Dambar, Central Darfur, resulting in the torching of several houses and injury of at least three people. Several others were reportedly kidnapped in North Darfur, while in [West Kordofan](#) a Military Intelligence officer and a woman were killed by unknown attackers. Masked men also stormed a hospital in West Kordofan, severely beating a doctor; one witness said that the attackers were "affiliated" with the ousted al-Bashir regime.

**weekend
read**

"[Ethnic enclaves](#)" across Sudan's cities; musical [resistance](#) from the Red Sea; the "challenges of eliminating the [alliance](#) of corruption and tyranny"; and [mapping](#) the political scene in Sudan.

Thanks for reading, and see you in two weeks.

If this was forwarded to you, please email emma@redress.org to sign up.
