

## Sudanese Civil War Flares up again

September 19, 2023

Please see Appeals by [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) for help to the people of Sudan.

Please see on pages 2-3 a BRIEF Note on Darfur on pages 2-3.

Please see on pages 3-7, a Brief History of Sudan from 2019 to 2023.

Please see on pages 7-9, a Brief Note on Omar al-Bashir, dictatorial ruler for 26 years.

September 18, 2023: **Khartoum's** landmark tower, the Headquarter of the **Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company (GNPOC)** was burnt out badly during the renewed fighting between **Sudan's army** and the **paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**. It was a glass-sided tower, with curved sides and topped by a coil of metal was situated near the confluence of the Blue Nile and the White Nile. (Reference: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/> dt. 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023)

RSF has blamed the Army of targeting the tower, while trying to dislodge RSF from its positions in the city. Sudan's Foreign Ministry, which is aligned with the Army, blamed RSF for setting fire to a number of commercial buildings over the last two days.



*Khartoum, Sudan: The GNPOC Tower*

The war between RSF and the Army broke out on April 15, 2023 due to differences over how a civilian government was to be installed. The Chief of the Army, **General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan** and the Commander of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), commanded by **General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo**, better known as **Hemedti**.

Earlier on **Sunday, September 10**, a drone attack on an open market, in Khartoum's May neighbourhood, killed at least 43 people. More than 55 others were wounded in the attack in Khartoum's May neighbourhood, where

paramilitary forces battling the military were heavily deployed, the Sudan Doctors' Union said in a statement.

As was the case of the attack on the (GNPOC) Tower on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, RSF blamed the Air Force for Sunday's attack.

It is not possible for [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) to verify the statement from RSF.

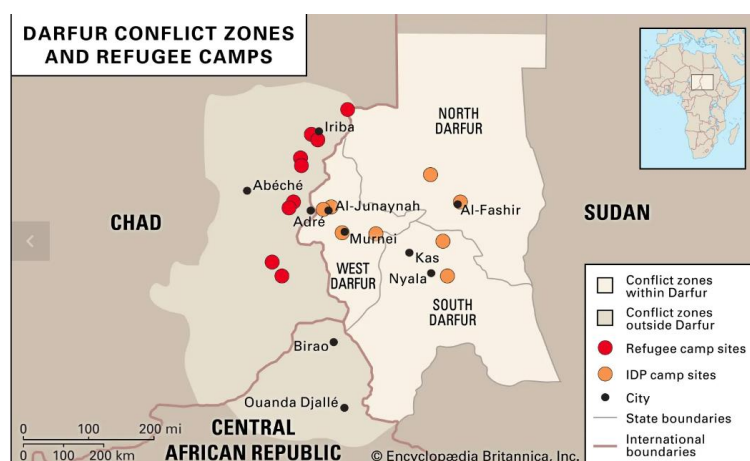
The continuing war in the city has reduced parts of the cities of Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri to rubble.

The military justifies its attacks on the residential areas by blaming the RSF for using residential areas as its bases for operations against military.

HUMAN SUFFERING on a MASSIVE SCALE: The conflict has killed more than 4,000 people, according to August figures from the UN. However, the real toll is almost certainly much higher, doctors and activists say.

The number of internally displaced persons has nearly doubled since mid-April to reach at least 7.1 million people, according to the UN refugee agency. Another 1.1 million are refugees in neighboring countries since April 2023.

It is reported by the Globe and Mail that **in the western Darfur region** – the civil war has morphed into ethnic violence, with the RSF, born out of the Janjaweed and allied Arab militias attacking ethnic African groups.



---- A Brief OLDER HISTROY of CONFLICT in DARFUR----

The RSF was created out of the **Janjaweed's Arab fighters**, who were used by the former dictator (from October 1993 to April 2019) **Omar al-Bashir** to control Darfur. The cruel methods of the Janjaweed led to widespread distress and as many as 2 million persons migrated to neighboring countries. Under

International pressure, Bashir agreed to the placement of a small African Union peacekeeping force. It was later replaced **in 2008** by a **joint UN-AU mission**.

RSF was set up by the then President Omar al-Bashir in 2013 for bringing Darfur region under control and for eliminating minority armed groups.

----A Brief NOTE on SUDAN after removal of 30-year dictatorship in 2019----  
After the overthrow of the dictatorial regime of Omar al-Bashir and his **National Congress Party** (NCP) in April 2019, Sudan underwent a significant political transition. The transitional period that followed saw the establishment of a joint civilian-military government to govern the country until national elections could be held.



*April 21, 2019: People's Demonstration at Military HQ in Khartoum, Sudan*  
The **Sovereignty Council of Sudan**, which included both civilian and military leaders, was responsible for overseeing the transition to democracy. It was chaired by **General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan**. Under the deal struck in July 2019, the military council would be in charge of the country's leadership for the first 21 months. A civilian administration would then rule the council over the following 18 months. However, the system **could not continue for the entire period of 39 months**.

A **Forces of Freedom and Change** (FFC) coalition was formed under the Transitional Sovereignty Council and it was installed in power on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

**TENSIONS: October 2021:** In keeping with the Transitional Agreement, Prime Minister Hamdok pushed for a full transition to civilian rule by November 17, 2021. Failed Military Coup: The situation had escalated in August 2021, when

a military coup d'état was attempted by about 40 Army Officers. They tried to take over the State Broadcaster's Television buildings and the military General Command. The attempt failed and most of the officers involved were arrested.

In the weeks since, military leaders had been demanding reforms to the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) coalition and the replacement of the cabinet. Civilian leaders accused them of a power grab.

Throng of Sudanese protesters took to the streets, demanding that the 2019 transition deal be honored and calling for an elected government. There were also pro-military protests opposing the civilian government.

Over the weekend, on 23-24 October 2021, the US sent its top regional envoy, **Jeffrey Feltman**, to Khartoum to discuss the democratic transition with **Prime Minister Hamdok**, **Gen. Burhan** and **Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo**, known as **Hemedti**, urging "all actors to recommit to working together" to implement the agreement of July 2019.

According to the July 2019 Agreement, **General al-Burhan** was supposed to relinquish chairmanship the **Sovereignty Council** to a civilian leader on November 17, 2021.

Instead, on Monday, 25th October 2021, **General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan** dissolved the Council, saying in a televised statement that he would hold elections in July 2023 and hand over to an "independent and fair representative government" then. **Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok** refused to declare support for the coup of Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021. PM Hamdok and his wife, as well as many government ministers and officials, were detained on Monday, and later returned to their residence on Tuesday.



*October 26, 2021: Public Demonstrations against the Coup of Oct 25*

The public demonstrations continued and within 17 days, **General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan**, the perpetrator of the coup of October 25, 2021, set up another Governing Sovereign Council on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

State Television reported on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021, that al-Burhan would remain the head of the council, while Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemeti), the leader of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, would keep his post as deputy. some members replaced<sup>1</sup>.

The 14-member Council included army commanders, former rebel leaders and new civilian members. It included **Lt Gen Shamseldin Kabashi**, **Lt Gen Yasir El Ata** and **Lt Gen Ibrahim Jabe**.

The civilian members included:

1. former member, **Rajaa Nikola Abdelmaseeh**,
2. former Member of Parliament, **Aboulgasim Mohamed Burtum**,
3. **Yousef Jad Karim**,
4. **Abdelbagi El Zubeir** and
5. **Salma Abdeljabbar**.

A civilian representative for the Eastern Sudan region was kept pending, since this appointment was particularly sensitive. In early October 2021, demonstrators from the **Beja tribe** in the country's east had **blocked roads around Port Sudan and forced Red Sea ports to close, disrupting oil and food supplies directed to Khartoum**. The High Council of Beja Nazirs and Independent Chieftains had rejected the Eastern Sudan Track discussed at the Juba peace negotiations (*Please see below for details of Juba Peace Agreement*).

The new appointees also include ex-rebel leaders **Malik Agar**, **El Hadi Idris**, and **El Taher Hajar**, who signed the **Juba Peace Agreement**, a deal with the transitional government aimed at ending Sudan's decades-old internal conflicts.

The Juba Peace Agreement was signed on 31 August 2020 in Juba, South Sudan<sup>1</sup>. The agreement was signed by the Sudanese government, headed by **Abdallah Hamdok**, and representatives of the **Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF)**.

The SRF is composed of five main Sudanese rebel groups. From Darfur, region, it includes the **Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)** and the **Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM)**. It also includes the **Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N)**, which led a rebellion against the Sudanese government in **South Kordofan** and **Blue Nile**<sup>1</sup>.



Sudan's multiple civil conflicts have resulted in the loss of more than 300,000 lives and the displacement of over 2.5 million people, a large part of which were in Darfur since 2003. The Juba Agreement covers various areas, including governance, security, transitional justice, and economic reform.

The final stage of the peace agreement was signed on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 in Juba, South Sudan. The signing ceremony was attended by several heads of state and representatives from various countries, including **Chad, Djibouti, Somalia, Egypt, Ethiopia**, and the **United Arab Emirates**.

The civilian representatives of the FFC, the umbrella alliance which spearheaded the anti-Bashir protests and who were close to Hamdok, were dropped from the Council. **El Watheg El Bereir**, Secretary-General of Sudan's the National Umma Party (NUP) and official spokesperson for FFC said that the human rights activist **Mudawi Ibrahim**, NUP interim chairman **Fadlallah Burma**, and prominent lawyer **Nabil Adib** in their personal capacities had proposed that Hamdok might be appointed as the 15<sup>th</sup> Member of the Council.

The pro-democracy movement **Sudanese Professionals Association** (SPA) led a two-day civil disobedience in November 2021 and promised to continue protesting until a civilian government was established.

The **National Consensus Forces** (NCF) alliance of progressive political parties affirmed that it had not and would not be part of any initiative that seeks to mediate.

Sudanese people continued their protest on the streets against the military takeover, which upended the country's fragile transition to democracy. The doctors said at least 15 people were killed by live fire during the anti-coup demonstrations.

**21<sup>st</sup> November 2021:** On Sunday, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan signed a deal with Hamdok to restore the transition to civilian rule nearly a month after a military coup. The 14-point deal, signed in the presidential palace in Khartoum, provides for the release of all political prisoners detained during the coup and stipulates that a 2019 constitutional declaration be the basis for a political transition, according to details read out on State TV. Abdalla Hamdok, a British-educated economist, was re-instated as the Interim Prime Minister.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022, Hamdok announced his resignation as Prime Minister in a televised speech, saying that the country was at a dangerous turning point and roundtable discussion was needed to come to a new agreement for Sudan's political transition to democracy.



*Dr. Abdalla Hamdok Al-Kinani*

Following Hamdok's departure, the ruling military took control of the government in a military coup d'état led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

The military's control of the government has been met with widespread protests, strikes, and civil disobedience as citizens resist the military's monopolization of power.

Despite these challenges, Sudan's military ruler has continued to say that the power would be transferred to a democratically elected government by 2023, according to the 2019 constitutional document governing the transitional period.

----A BRIEF NOTE on **Omar al-Bashir** ----

Omar al-Bashir led a successful coup in 1989 against Sudan's democratically elected government. He became chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation. During his rule, Omar al-Bashir dissolved the parliament, banned political parties, and strictly controlled the press.

He was supported by **Hasan al-Turabi**, a Muslim extremist and leader of the **National Islamic Front** (NIF), a political party (est. 1985) of Sudan, inspired by Muslim Brotherhood. Together, they began to Islamize the country, and in March 1991, **Islamic law (Sharī'ah)** was introduced.

This move further emphasized **the division between the north and the mainly animist and Christian south.**

In **October 1993** the Revolutionary Council was disbanded, and Bashir became **President of Sudan**. He was confirmed as President by an election held in 1996. Bashir's ally **Turabi** was **unanimously elected President of the National**

**Assembly.** On June 30, 1998, Bashir signed a new constitution, which lifted the ban on political parties. In December of that year, however, he used military force to oust Turabi, who, he believed, was plotting against him. On **March 12, 2000, Bashir declared a three-month state of emergency**, which, by stages, he thereafter extended indefinitely. After the December 2000 elections in which he was once again confirmed as president, he dismissed the cabinet.

**SOUTH SUDAN:** Throughout the period from 1989, the war with the rebels of the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) continued. **In 1998, oil production started in the border regions of the North and south Sudan and the war became fiercer.**

**Under international pressure, Bashir signed a Peace Pact with SPLA in 2005. Under the terms of the Peace Pact,** a referendum for citizens of southern Sudan was held in January 2011. The results indicated an overwhelming preference to secede.

So, a new country **South Sudan** was formed on July 9, 2011.

**PUBLIC PROTESTS** against Bashir: In December 2018, began small protests against worsening living conditions. Soon these transformed into organized demonstrations and marches. In February 2019, in the face of continuing protests, Bashir banned unauthorized demonstrations and changed his Prime Minister. On April 6, 2019, a large number of demonstrators marched into the Military Headquarter in Khartoum. However, the Military was prevented from taking harsh steps against the demonstrators by some of the Military Officers. **On April 11, 2019, Bashir was overthrown by a military coup.**



***Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir***  
*ruled over Sudan from October 1993 until April 2019.*



[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) calls for an immediate establishment of a civilian government, for peace in Sudan and for fair and peaceful elections so that a democratic government can be set up and the army and the militia can be brought firmly under the control of the civilian government.

[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) has been drawing the attention of the world towards the need for immediate help to the people in Sudan to alleviate shortage of food, medicines and other necessities to the large number of vulnerable people in Sudan.



[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) has also requested Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** and the Minister of IRCC **Sean Fraser** to come forward to provide help to the people, who are caught in the middle of the fratricidal war in Sudan.

[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) thanks the Prime Minister for the facilities, provided to the relatives of Canadian citizens.

**Note:** Please see:

1. "Sudanese Community in Windsor: Denounces the War" of May 13, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/sudanese-community-in-windsor-denounces-the-war/>

2. "Sudan: 7-days Truce, mediated by South Sudan" of May 4, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/sudan-7-days-truce-mediated-by-south-sudan/>

3. "Eid in Sudan: Ferocious Civil War continues" of April 21, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/eid-in-sudan-ferocious-civil-war-continues/>

4. "Sudan Civil War: IGAD Calls for Immediate CEASEFIRE" of April 18, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/sudan-civil-war-igad-calls-for-immediate-ceasefire/>

5. "UN SecGen: 'Immediate' Ceasefire in Sudan" of April 17, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/un-secgen-immediate-ceasefire-in-sudan/>