

## Sudan Civil War: Peace Talks, Hamdok & the Civil Front

November 11, 2023

*ANALYSIS by [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com): There seems to be a stalemate after the Nyala setback to SAF (Please see pages 7 and 8 below). The two parties may like a pause before resuming full-scale war again. This may provide a window*

*----for reaching humanitarian assistance to the beleaguered civilians, in the areas in cities, where the civilian infrastructure has been damaged by the two warring parties,*

*----for the external facilitators of Peace Talks to bring back the two parties to the table for Peace Talks and*

*----the **Civil Front to Stop the War in Sudan** (CFSW) and the NGOs in Khartoum and other cities to put their act together for pushing the two parties towards a cease-fire.*

**PEACE TALKS RE-START and BREAK-UP again:** The meeting in Jeddah on October 26, 2023, as reported on pages 1 and 2 above, was a continuation of the peace talks between the SAF, led by **Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan** and RSF, commanded by **Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo**.

However, the talks were supposed to go on while the two parties were continuing to battle for control over Sudan. Within a few hours of the start of the talks, RSF was able to snatch the Nyala military base from SAF. This was a major setback for SAF.

November 3-4, 2023: **Brig. Nabil Abdalla**, a spokesman for SAF suspended SAF's participation in the Peace Talks with a paramilitary force Rapid Support Forces (RSF) because he said that RSF was repeatedly violating the humanitarian cease-fire.

The fact is that the humanitarian cease-fire was not being respected by both the parties.

**Hopes from Juba**, South Sudan: November 2, 2023: Even while Brig. Abdalla was announcing the withdrawal of SAF from the Peace Talks, **Tut Gatluak Manime**, the Security Advisor to **Salva Kiir**, the President of South Sudan, said that both the parties had given the go-ahead for an end to the conflict during exchanges prior to the start of the Jeddah Talks.

**October 27, 2023:** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: CIVIL FRONT: Some civil society actors and opposition parties have formed a coalition called the **Civil Front to Stop the War in Suda** (CFSW), which aims to pressure the conflict parties to end the violence and respect the will of the people. The preparatory

committee for the Civil Front to Stop the War in Sudan, has selected **former Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok as chairperson.**



*October 26, 2023: Addis Ababa: **Abdallah Hamdok**, Chair of CFSW*

In his first statement after being chosen as head of the preparatory committee of CFSW in Sudan, he praised the efforts made by **Saudi Arabia**, the **USA**, the **African Union**, and **IGAD**, to stop the war, and called on both SAF and RSF to show political will for “a solution that will **stop the fighting**, address the **humanitarian catastrophe**, and save our country from the **dangers of division**”.

<https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/anti-war-activists-convoke-conference-in-wake-of-intra-sudanese-ethiopia-talks>

Dr. Hamdok said that the SAF and the RSF should resume what was agreed upon in the Jeddah Declaration for the Protection of Civilians on May 11 (Ref 1, below) and in the ceasefire agreement of Jeddah on May 20 (Ref 2, below).

References: 1. <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-warring-parties-in-jeddah-agree-on-protections-of-civilians>

2. <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudans-fragile-ceasefire-extended>

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF: Dr. Hamdok appealed to the parties to the conflict “to facilitate the arrival of urgent humanitarian aid through **easy visa entry procedures for humanitarian workers**. He further appealed to the international community to urgently mobilize humanitarian support.

The meeting recommended establishing connections among working organizations and donors to facilitate **relief delivery in Chad, South Sudan, and other neighboring countries hosting Sudanese refugees**. It was proposed that **airports be opened** for humanitarian operations with the co-operation of the SAF and the RSF.

The statement further underscored the importance of agreeing on a “**hybrid relief operation**” that spans conflict lines, provided that the operation is monitored by the Jeddah platform”. The meeting also suggested providing “direct cash aid” to people displaced by the conflict and establishing channels for aid delivery and participation.

**REBUILDING the ECONOMY:** On the economic front, the conference recommended “dismantling the war economy, initiating rebuilding efforts, and returning to the transitional programs”.

**Civil Front to Stop the War: ORGANIZATION:** The preparatory meeting for the Civil Front to Stop the War, which concluded its work on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023, ended with the formation of a **60-member Preparatory Leadership Committee** headed by Hamdok to “carry out oversight and supervisory tasks, and follow up on the preparation for the founding conference”.

According to its “final statement” yesterday, the preparatory meeting decided to convene the conference of CFSW within two months, with the participation of around 1,000 people. It also resolved to establish a “**Coordinating Executive Office**”.

**CONFERENCE SEATS:** The agreement allocated 70 percent seats of all levels of the temporary structure to **non-partisan forces** and designated 30 percent for “**political forces and rebel movements**”. 30 percent of the conference seats have been **reserved for women**.

Furthermore, “the meeting designated 200 members in the conference to represent the various **community and social groups** in the country, including pastoralists, farmers, clergy, native administration leaders, displaced people and refugees”.


**Reference:** <https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/civil-front-to-stop-the-war-in-sudan-takes-shape-as-saudi-arabia-welcomes-resumption-of-jeddah-talks>

**PEACE TALKS:** The latest round of peace talks between the SAF and the RSF started on **October 26, 2023**, in the Saudi city of Jeddah, under the auspices of the United Nations, the African Union, and the Arab League. The representatives of the **regional East African IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development)** bloc – of which Sudan is a member – also joined the peace talks. IGAD was also representing the **African Union (AU)**. The main objectives of the talks were

- to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid,
- to agree on a comprehensive ceasefire, and

- to pave the way for a democratic transition in Sudan.

Sudan has been facing a civil war since April 15, 2023, when the **Sudan Armed Forces (SAF)** and the **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)** clashed over the control of the capital Khartoum and other strategic areas. The RSF is a paramilitary group that was loyal to the former president Omar al-Bashir, who was ousted in a coup in 2019. The SAF is the official army of Sudan.



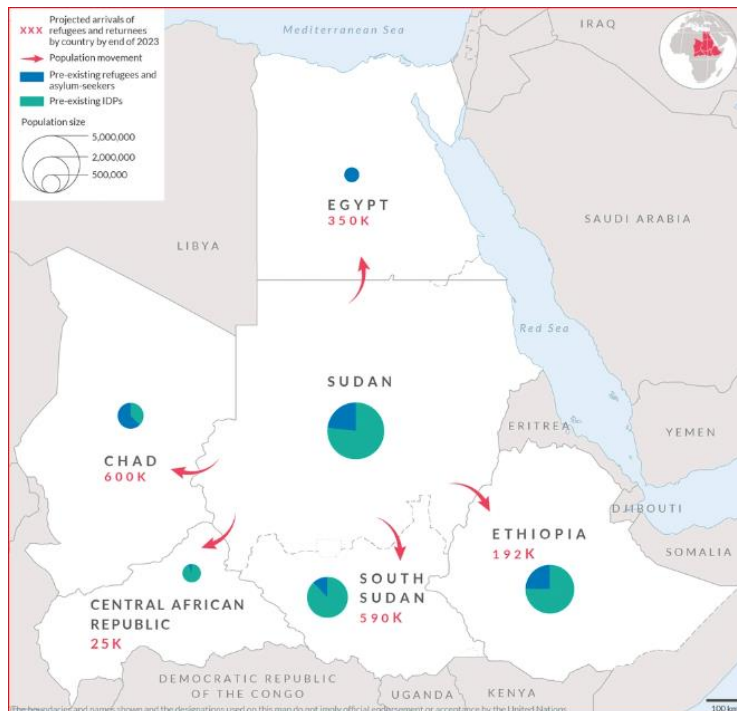
**Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan**  
 Chairman of the **Transitional Sovereignty Council** (with more power)  
 since 11-NOV- 21  
**Head of State**  
 From 25-Oct-21 to 11-Nov-21  
**Chairman of TSC**  
 From 20-Aug-19 to 25-Oct- 21  
**Chairman of the Transitional Military Council**  
 from 12-Apr-19 to 20-Aug-19



**Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti)**  
 Deputy Chairman of the **Transitional Sovereignty Council** (with more power)  
 From 11-NOV- 21 to 19-May-23  
**Deputy Chairman of TSC**  
 From 21-Aug-19 to 25-Oct- 21  
**Deputy Chairman of the Transitional Military Council**  
 from 13-Apr-19 to 20-Aug-19  
**Commander of the Rapid Support Forces**  
 From 2013

**Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan** became Head of **Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)** in 2019. He is supported by some elements of the SAF and the international community, especially **Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt**.

**Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo**, also known as **Hemedti**, is the commander of the **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**, a paramilitary group that was formed from the notorious Janjaweed militia that committed atrocities in Darfur. He is backed by RSF and other armed groups, as well as **Qatar and Turkey** 123.



The conflict between SAF and RSF has resulted in thousands of deaths, increased the number of internally displaced persons to 5.7 Mn, making it “a humanitarian nightmare”. More than a Mn people have fled to neighboring countries, as shown in the map above. (Sudan is a large country and during conflicts in the neighboring countries, it has hosted refugees from many of these countries, when Sudan was at peace.)

Chad has received the largest number of people, followed by **Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan** and the **Central African Republic**.



**Chad:** An aerial view of a **Refugee camp**, where the Refugees from Darfur are being given supplies; **700 Refugees from Darfur were arriving in Chad after April 15, 2023**



**Egypt:** 317,000 Refugees from Sudan are staying in Egypt



**South Sudan: Renk:** A Refugee Center for 3,000 persons overflows with more than 20,000 refugees from Sudan

After 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023, South Sudan has mainly received **returning nationals** who had been living in Sudan as refugees. Several years of **devastating floods in South Sudan** had already damaged roads making it almost impossible for returning refugees to travel overland from the border to home areas. Those that do make it home are likely to find fragile communities still recovering from years of conflict or submerged by flood waters.

HUMANITARIAN NIGHTMARE: Inside Sudan, the **clashes in Khartoum and Darfur** have restricted the ability of UNHCR and other aid agencies to deliver assistance. In addition, supplies of aid have been looted. In areas where the security situation is calmer, UNHCR has been able to visit refugee settlements and is working with **Sudan's Commission for Refugees** to continue providing protection and assistance.

Water and basic health assistance is available at most of the places, due to praiseworthy efforts by health workers. The **World Food Program has been able to distribute food assistance in refugee camps in the east and in White Nile State**, even though WFP has lost many workers.

The Sudanese pound has lost more than 90% of its value since April, and inflation has soared to over 400% 5.

(Reference: A report of 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2023  
<https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/five-things-know-about-crisis-sudan>)

**October 26, 2023:** NYALA SETBACK for SAF: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: As stated on pages 2 and 3 above, Peace Talks had started ON October 26<sup>th</sup> at Jeddah. Within

a few hours, at Darfur, RSF took over a major facility of SAF, in the continuing skirmishes in the civil war since April 15, 2023, for control of Sudan.



October 26, 2023: Citizens and RSF soldiers dancing in front of the main Door of **Turkish Hospital in Nyala**, after **Nyala SAF HQ 16th Infantry** was captured by RSF

The western command of SAF is the **second most powerful military force** in Sudan after the command headquarters in Khartoum. It is controlled by the 16th Infantry Division and comprises of **eight military bases inside Nyala and 13 outside the city**. Control over Nyala allows the RSF to recruit and train more members in complete security.



**Sudan:** Population: 45 Mn, Area: 3<sup>rd</sup> largest country in Africa (Algeria (2,381,741 km<sup>2</sup>); Democratic Republic of the Congo (2,344,858 km<sup>2</sup>); Sudan (1,861,484 km<sup>2</sup>))

**Bordering countries** of Sudan: after the Red Sea, anticlockwise 7 countries: Egypt, Libya, Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea  
From "Sudan's Civil War escalates to a wider geographical area" dated October 21, 2023 at <https://diginews360.com/sudans-civil-war-escalates-to-a-wider-geographical-area/>

ABOUT NAYALA: Today Nyala is the **second largest city of Sudan** with a **population of 1.06 Mn**. Local industries produce textiles, as well as processed food and leather goods. Its major agricultural crops are peanuts, millet and various fruits and vegetables. Nyala has terminus ends for both road and railway, and also has a domestic airport. Nyala serves as a trading place for gum arabic. Nyala is home to Nyala University, a public university. Nyala is located close to **Chad, central African nations** and **South Sudan**, making it a significant border trade hub.

Nyala was the capital of the **Daju kingdom**, before the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The Daju empire is said to have spread its control as far east as **Kurdufan**, (in central Sudan) west of the Nuba Mountains and as far west as **Chad**. The Egyptian historian **Al-Maqrizi**, writing about 1400, described it (He called it Taju, rather than Daju.) as being a fairly powerful kingdom lying between **Kanem** (another large kingdom of 14<sup>th</sup> century, extending into parts of Nigeria, Niger etc) and the **Nile** kingdoms.

#### ----A Brief BACKGROUNDER again: CIVIL WAR in SUDAN ----

A transitional government was formed, in April 2019 after **President Omar al-Bashir** was overthrown after three decades of dictatorial rule, by a public revolt, supported by the Army. The Transitional Government had President and Vice-President as Heads of SAF and RSF respectively. But the executive authority was vested with a civilian Prime Minister. Al-Burhan, the head of the Sovereign Council, formed after the popular uprising, was supposed to oversee a civilian-military transitional government with the then Prime Minister **Abdalla Hamdok**.

**Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo**, Head of RSF, became al-Burhan's deputy in the Sovereign Council, after al-Bashir's exit from power. The RSF leader is considered one of Sudan's most powerful men, controlling several gold mines and gold export businesses. Thousands of Dagalo's forces also fought for Saudi Arabia, alongside Emirati troops, in the 2016 Yemeni civil war.

But in October 2021, a few months before al-Burhan was to concede power to a civilian government, he spearheaded a military coup and dissolved the civilian-military partnership.

BEFORE APRIL 15, 2023: The removal of long-time authoritarian leader Omar al-Bashir in 2019 brought optimism that the country would be returned to civilian rule. However, a military coup two years later dissolved the transitional civilian government sparking political and economic turmoil and reigniting intercommunal conflict in the western Darfur region and Blue Nile and Kordofan states.

In addition, extreme weather linked to climate change, including floods and droughts, has affected hundreds of thousands of people across the country,



destroying crops and livestock and making it increasingly difficult for families to put food on the table.

Sudan has been grappling with conflict and displacement since the start of the Darfur crisis in 2003. By the end of 2022, over 3.7 million people were internally displaced, with the majority living in camps in Darfur. Another 800,000 Sudanese were living as refugees in neighboring countries such as Chad, South Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia.

At the same time, the country was home to over 1 million refugees – the second-highest refugee population in Africa. The majority were from South Sudan and lived in Khartoum and White Nile States but refugees fleeing the crisis in northern Ethiopia starting in late 2020 also found refuge in eastern Sudan and others came from Eritrea, Syria and the Central African Republic.

The civil war has also affected the economy of Sudan and its neighboring countries, as trade, investment, and remittances have been disrupted. The Sudanese pound has lost more than 90% of its value since April, and inflation has soared to over 400%.

**Note:** Please see the previous Reports on the Sudan Civil War by [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com):

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/>

**APPEAL by the UN Secretary-General:** The UN agencies have warned that Sudan is on the brink of a full-scale civil war that could destabilize the entire region. The Secretary general has urged the international community to take urgent action to stop the violence and protect civilians.

The civil war has triggered an unimaginable humanitarian crisis, with 3.1 million people displaced, thousands killed or wounded, and widespread food insecurity and disease outbreaks. The UN has appealed for \$1.4 billion to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected population.

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