

SUDAN SITUATION TRACKER

Africa Program

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Nearly two years have passed since the 2019 Sudanese Revolution led to the removal of then-president Omar al-Bashir. The following Situation Tracker looks at the key actors involved, the role of the military and the current situation in the country.



Popular Uprising & Overthrow of Omar al-Bashir

- For nearly three decades, Omar al-Bashir -- who came to power through a coup d'état in 1989 and orchestrated election victories in 2010 and 2015 -- ruled Sudan as a dictator with frequent crackdowns on political opposition. He waged war against the Southern Sudanese liberation movement but eventually accepted South Sudan's secession. He conducted military campaigns and militia warfare against rebel movements in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile, and was convicted by the International Criminal Court for crimes of genocide in Darfur.
- In late 2018, a popular uprising began in Khartoum to protest years of corruption, mismanagement of resources, food and fuel price increases, and growing dissatisfaction with al-Bashir.
- The protests spread across the country and led to the overthrow of Omar al-Bashir's authoritarian regime on April 11, 2019.

The Role of the Military During the Transition

- The Transitional Military Council was self-appointed after the fall of Bashir, and tried to rule without civilian support.
- The TMC resorted to violence in order to maintain control--with over 100 people killed during the June 2019 protests in Khartoum.
- Increasing brutality by the armed forces and government militias during protests and triggered increased pressures from foreign governments on the TMC that led to negotiations with the civilian Forces for Freedom and Change
- When the TMC held power between April to August 2019, they were supported through loans and diplomatic support by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.
- The military has maintained control of the interior and defense ministries.

Transition from the TMC to the Sovereign Council

The 11 member Sovereignty Council of Sudan is the collective head of state of Sudan. It began for 39 months in 20 August 2019 and is composed of five civilians chosen by the Forces of Freedom and Change alliance (FFC), five military representatives chosen by the former Transitional Military Council (TMC), and a civilian selected by agreement between the FFC and TMC. The chair for the first 21 months is a military member, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and for the remaining 18 months, the chair will be a civilian member. This 39-month transitional period is scheduled to end in November 2022

Key Actors Involved



Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan,
Chairman of the Sovereign Council



Gen. Mohamed Hamdan
Dagolo ('Hemedti')



Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok



Ahmed al-Rabie, Forces of
Freedom and Change

International Key Actors Involved

United States

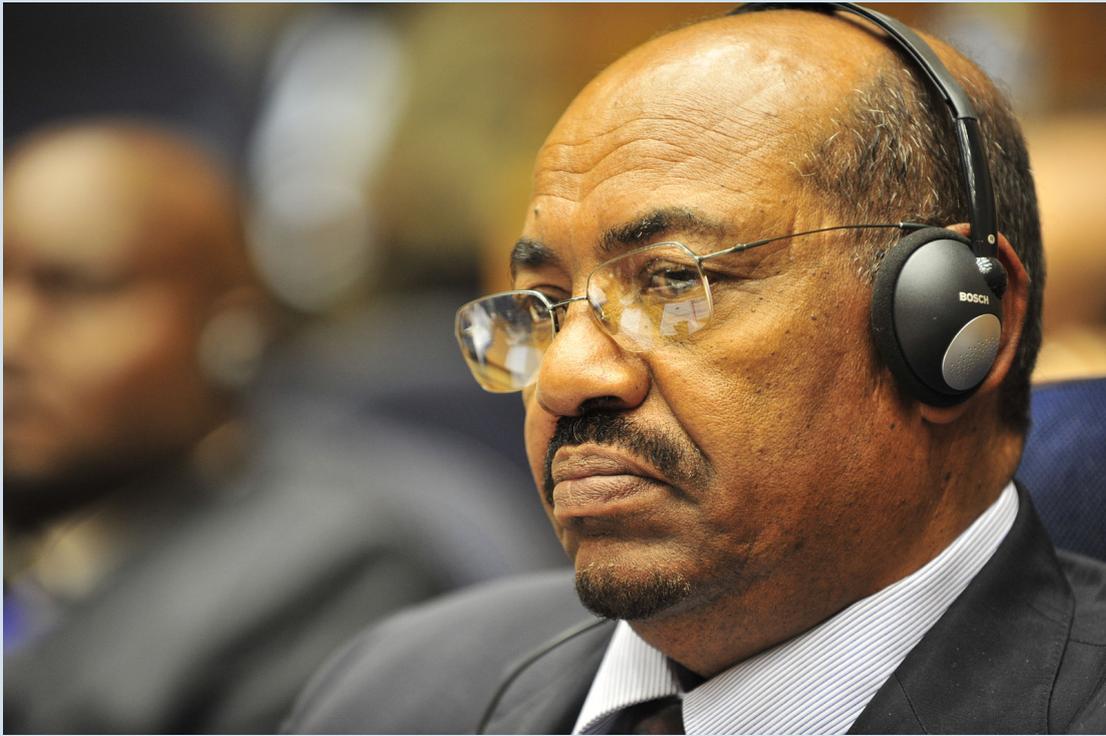
A condition for the removal from the United State's State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST) list was for Sudan to normalize relations with Israel and to pay \$335 million for the victims of the attacks on the U.S. embassies in Kenya, Tanzania, and the U.S.S Cole.

Saudi Arabia & United Arab Emirates

The two Gulf Arab countries provided aid and diplomatic support to the Transitional Military Council, particularly to Hemedti in 2019. The United Arab Emirates also provided arms to the TMC in 2019.

Both countries have recruited thousands of Sudanese soldiers, some as young as 14 years old, for their war in Yemen. In exchange, the soldiers, many who are from the Darfur region, would receive a payment of up to \$10,000.

Accountability



Sudan's former President Omar al-Bashir

- The government and allied militias committed genocide and other gross violations of human rights during the crisis in Darfur that began in 2003.
- In December 2019, Al-Bashir was convicted by a Sudanese court for two years only on charges of money laundering and corruption.
- Many of those responsible for atrocity crimes have yet to be held accountable.
- An investigation by the ICC into crimes committed in Darfur in 2005 is underway. Only recently in October 2020 did Prime Minister Hamdok say the Sudanese government will cooperate with the ICC regarding those accused of war crimes committed in Darfur.

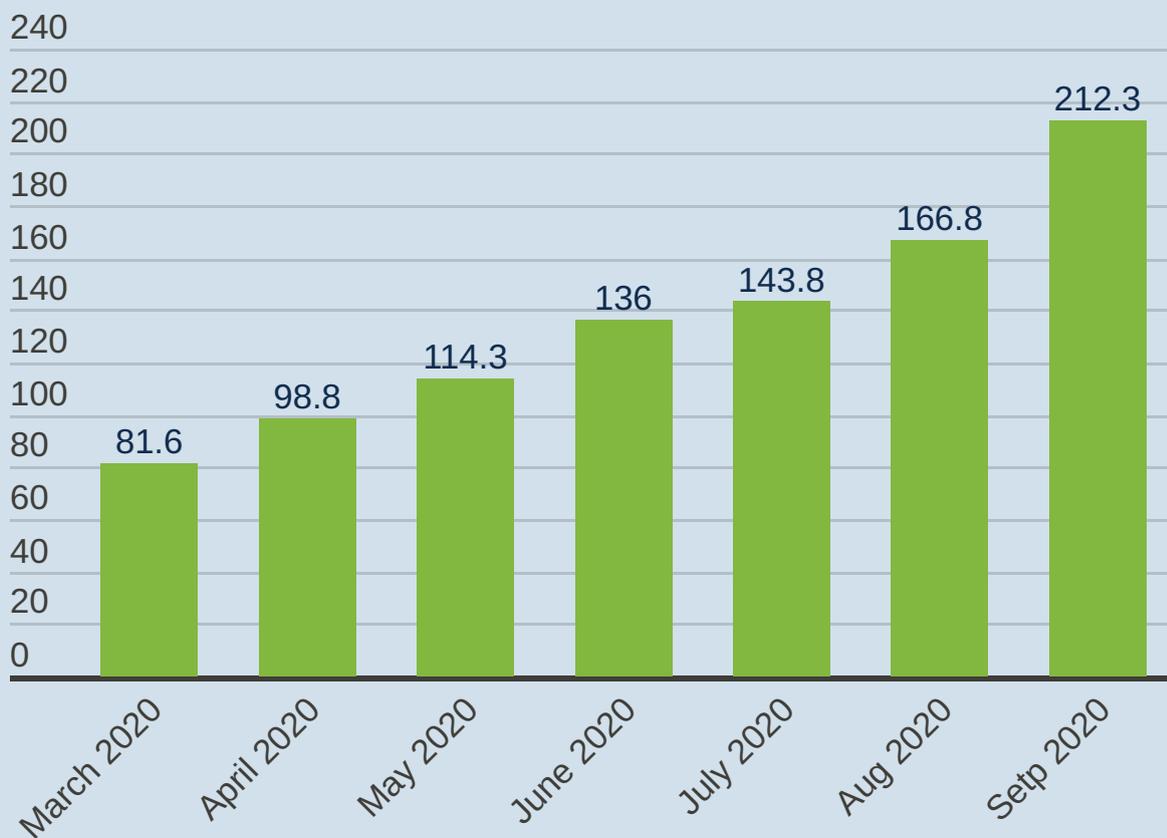
The five individuals facing ICC charges of genocide and crimes against humanity in Darfur include:

Omar al-Bashir
Ahmed Haroun
Abdulraheem Mohammed Hussein
Abdallah Banda Abakaer
Ali Kosheib (Kushayb)

Current situation

- The top priority for the transitional government is the economic crisis. Sudan continues to face fuel and bread shortages, and inflation in 2020 rose to over 212%. This has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Conflict continues in Pibor and Jonglei between community militias and in Darfur, causing thousands of people to be displaced, and protests for better living conditions continue in many regions.
- A revised 20-member cabinet was formed in February 2021 following the peace agreement in October but only four members are women.
- Despite women being at the forefront of the revolution, Sudanese women struggle to be included in the political arena. 40% of seats in the Transitional Legislative Council are reserved for women, however, it has yet to be formed.
- Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok appointed Nureldin Satti as the first Sudan Ambassador to the U.S. in over 20 years to improve diplomatic relations.
- The Juba Peace Agreement signed in Juba, South Sudan on 3 October 2020, was agreed on by the transitional government and rebel leaders with the intention of resolving years of war in the region.

Inflation Rate



CIP Africa Program | @CIPPolicyAfrica | Source: Trading Economics, Sudan Central Bureau of Statistics