

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE STUDIES



Deep concern about the recent political developments in Sudan which could further escalate the war and worsen the human rights situation

(19 March 2025) The African Center for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) expresses profound concern about the recent political developments in Sudan, which could potentially further escalate the ongoing armed conflict, exacerbate the human rights crisis, and hinder accountability efforts. These developments encompass amendments to key articles of the [2019 Constitutional Charter/Declaration](#), affecting, among others, articles 7 (duration of the Transitional Period) and 8 (16) (formation of a national independent investigation committee) and granted the military rulers an absolute majority in all three branches of government. The second political development is the signing of a political pact by a new coalition that includes the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which resulted in the publication of a transitional charter/constitution that establishes a parallel “government” in areas controlled by the RSF and fellow armed groups.

These new events not only frustrate the unmet repeated calls for a democratic civilian-led government but could also worsen the human rights situation if the ongoing armed conflict, in which human rights violations are employed as instruments of war, escalates further.

The amendment of the 2019 Constitutional Charter

In February 2025, amendments to the 2019 Constitutional Charter were approved and enacted by the current Sudanese de facto government, headquartered in Port Sudan and led by General Abdul Fatah Abdul Rahman Al-Burhan, the commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and the Chairperson of the Transitional Sovereign Council. They took effect on February 23, 2025, after its publication in the gazette.

The amendment of Article 8(16) dissolved the National Investigation Committee, originally established in September 2019, to investigate the [violent dispersal](#) of peaceful pro-democracy protesters during a sit-in at the SAF headquarters in Khartoum on June 3, 2019. The committee was formed at the request of former Prime Minister Dr. Abdallah Hamdok following a successful revolution that resulted in the toppling of former president Omar al-Bashir, and it commenced its mandate in October of the same year. Despite initiating its work, the public publication of its final report was delayed due to several challenges, including an alleged military raid and seizure of their

office after the October 2021 coup, which reportedly resulted in the confiscation of crucial documents as well. The dissolution of the committee now hinders access to justice and redress for hundreds of victims of human rights violations committed during the Khartoum Massacre, including those reported, notably by some UN mechanisms, as still missing and/or disappeared.

Furthermore, a new amendment to Chapter 2 has extended the transitional period by 39 months “unless a national consensus is reached or new elections are held.” This extension frustrates the repeated calls from the Sudanese and international community for a competent, independent civilian government.

Furthermore, the new amendments granted the military an absolute majority, conferring upon them all legislative, executive, and judicial powers. They also eliminated references to the FFC pro-democracy alliance and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

The signing of a pact to establish a “government” in areas controlled areas by the RSF and other armed movements

In another development, on 23 February 2025, a coalition of 11 Sudanese political groups and armed movements, including the RSF and the SPLM faction led by General Abdul Aziz Adam Al-hello, SLA factions, and groups led by former members of the Sudanese Sovereign Council, namely Alhadi Idris and Eltahir Hajar, signed a founding pact in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. The pact establishes a “government” in RSF-controlled areas and SPLM-N territories, running parallel to the current Sudanese de facto administration led by General al-Burhan.

A week later, on 3 March 2025, the coalition published a transitional charter/constitution that established a parallel government and divided Sudan into eight regions with a decentralized system of governance. The charter further states that Sudan will be a secular and democratic state with a Sudanese identity rooted in the separation of religion and state.

Indications of a further escalation of the ongoing armed conflict and human rights violations following these recent developments

The aforementioned actions by the Port Sudan government and the Nairobi Coalition further complicate the already precarious situation in Sudan, endangering the well-being of its citizens, who are left to bear the consequences of these decisions. The formation of two parallel governments is highly probable to escalate the ongoing conflict, exacerbating human rights violations and humanitarian crises.

For instance, on February 23, 2025, SAF reacted to the coalition’s announcement of a parallel government by shelling several areas, including the Aldebibat area in West Kordofan State (the home region of former Sudanese Prime Minister Dr. Abdalla Hamdok), which resulted in the deaths of six of Dr. Hamdok's relatives. They also carried out aerial bombardments in the Khazan Jadeed area of North Darfur, leading to the death of four civilians. On the other hand, the RSF attacked the Zamzam camp for displaced persons on the same day they signed the Nairobi transitional

Charter. Since April 2023, when the war broke out, the RSF has continued to assault the Abu Shook IDP camp as well.

Furthermore, following the formation of the Nairobi coalition, SPLM-N joined the ongoing conflict in the Blue Nile Region alongside the RSF. A reliable source informed ACJPS that its forces were sighted together with RSF troops during attacks in the areas controlled by the SPLM faction led by Malik Agar. ACJPS believes that these attacks will only escalate the conflict because Mr. Agar's forces integrated with the SAF in May 2021, and therefore, the involvement of the SAF in these attacks is inevitable. ACJPS is also concerned about the possible eruption of a new series of conflicts involving the newly formed allies, particularly in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile Region.

Finally, although the international community has announced sanctions against several members of the warring parties, members of the National Congress Party (NCP), and the Sudanese Islamic Movement, the war continues to escalate, with human rights violations being used as instruments of war. This ongoing escalation of the war is an indication that the warring parties and their allies are being supported by other third parties supplying them with advanced military equipment, such as drones. Furthermore, the showcase of power greed by the warring parties through the Constitutional Charter amendments, the announcement of a parallel government by the Nairobi Coalition, and the involvement of new allies diminish the prospects for peace talks and eliminate any hope of ending the Sudan war.