

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	623
Land:	Sudan
Kilde:	BAMF. Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
Titel:	Briefing Notes Summery. Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration. Sudan – July to December 2022
Udgivet:	1. januar 2023
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	26. september 2023



Briefing Notes Summary

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

Sudan – July to December 2022

01 January 2023

04 July 2022

Sudan blames Ethiopia for death of soldiers

On 22.06.22, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and unspecified Ethiopian units clashed in the locality of Al Qureisha in the disputed Al-Fashaga region between Sudan and Ethiopia. Seven SAF members were initially reported missing. On 27.06.22, the Sudanese government accused the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (ENDF) of killing the soldiers and one civilian. The Ethiopian government and the ENDF denied the allegation, saying that the ENDF was not present in the area, blaming the crime on local militias. Sudanese media reported that the SAF attacked ENDF positions, retook areas and captured dozens of Ethiopian soldiers. Sudan also recalled its ambassador from Ethiopia and lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council. This fertile region has seen an increasing number of armed clashes between the two countries since November 2020, when Sudan claimed the land for itself, citing colonial-era treaties, and ordered Ethiopian farmers who have been living there for decades to leave. Talks have so far failed to produce an agreement (cf. BN of 29.11.21, 08.02.21 and 11.01.21).

Ongoing Protests

According to the Central Council of Sudanese Doctors, one protester was killed when security forces used live ammunition during demonstrations in Khartoum on 29.06.22. On 30.06.22, the previously announced nationwide "March of Millions" took place. According to reports, rallies were held in at least 26 cities across the country. In some cities, the protests and sit-ins continued until 03.07.22. According to further reports, the interim military government disabled internet and telephone services from 08:00 on 30.06.22 to disrupt the organisation of the protests previously announced. On 01.07.22, all services were available again. In addition, important bridges between the sister cities of Khartoum and Omdurman and between Omdurman and Bahri had been closed by security forces. Nevertheless, reports, pictures and videos of the demonstrations reached various platforms and news services. Even broadcasters such as Al-Jazeera, which had previously been banned from operating by the interim military government, reported live on some of the events. Nine people were killed and up to 500 others injured because of the harsh intervention by the security forces. According to official figures, 96 police and 129 army personnel were injured. In addition to live ammunition, the security forces also used water cannons and tear gas. According to the doctors treating the victims, many of them suffered gunshot wounds. In addition, some security forces tried to storm the hospitals where protesters were being treated. According to the Emergency Lawyers Association, there have been mass arrests, with 139 and 70 people arrested in the towns of Port Sudan and Hasaheisa alone. They are currently not allowed to receive visits of relatives and to be represented by lawyers. Since the military coup in October 2021, 114 people have been killed by security forces during protests.

11 July 2022

Talks to resolve the border dispute between Ethiopia and Sudan

On 05.07.22, Prime Minister Abiy and Sudan's military leader, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, met and declared their intention to settle the border dispute over the Al-Fashaga region through dialogue. Recently, the two armies and militia groups clashed repeatedly causing deaths on both sides (cf. BN of 04.07.22).

Protests continue

Immediately after the nationwide demonstrations on 30.06.22, during which hundreds were arrested and at least 40 went missing, protesters increasingly resorted to sit-ins as a form of protest (cf. BN of 04.07.22). Since then, more and more sit-ins have been held, especially in Khartoum and Omdurman. The protests continue to be directed against the military transition government and its seizure of power in October 2021. The sit-ins are organised by local resistance committees and backed by opposition organisations such as the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) and Emergency Lawyers. On 04.07.22, security forces used tear gas against a sit-in in Khartoum, injuring eleven people. According to the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors, the injured were hit by hard objects such as gas cartridges. This operation to disperse the protesters was started immediately after General al-Burhan's speech.

Prospect for the handover to civilian government

In a televised address on 04.07.22, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan announced his intention to support the handover of power to a civilian-led government. He further stated that the army would not stand in the way of a democratic transition and would support the holding of elections. In return, the military would withdraw from the ongoing negotiations within the "Trilateral Mechanism", which was initiated by the African Union (AU), the UN mission UNITAMS and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) as a platform for talks on a possible transition of government. According to Al-Burhan, the Sovereign Council will be dissolved as soon as a civilian government is in office. Furthermore, a high military council consisting of representatives of the Sudanese Army (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) is to be formed. This council would have supreme command over the armed forces and fulfil its tasks in agreement with the government yet to be formed. However, in its first response, the opposition group Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC), rejected the formation of such a council, saying that al-Burhan had so far denied reforms in the field of security and the reduction of the role of the military. In addition, he had not yet disclosed a timetable for the proposed action, the group said. Even before the televised speech was broadcast, 145 people who had been arrested and detained during the demonstrations on 30.06.22 were released from prison.

18 July 2022

Protests continue

Protests against the military transitional government continue. On 11.07.22, more than 14 people were injured in Khartoum when security forces cracked down on a sit-in. According to a medical association, many of the injuries were caused by tear gas or by being hit with tear gas canisters. Two protesters were hit by vehicles driven by the security forces. On 12.07.22, an unknown number of protesters were injured when security forces broke up a sit-in in Omdurman town and allegedly used live ammunition. A total of four camps were set up for the sit-in protests on 01.07.22: two in Khartoum and one each in Omdurman and the northern district of Khartoum. In the meantime, however, two camps - in Omdurman and in Khartoum - have been dismantled by the activists themselves. On 17.07.22, a protest in Khartoum was dispersed by security forces using tear gas. Roadblocks had previously been set up to prevent further participants from joining the protests.

Flooding in the rainy season

Since the start of the rainy season in June 2022, approximately 6,250 people in Kassala, White Nile, and South Kordofan states have been directly affected by local flooding and need help. These regions experienced very heavy rainfall, especially over the last weekend. On 12.07.22, representatives of various authorities toured the affected regions and initiated measures to repair the flood damage. Other regions are intensifying their preparations for possible flooding. The rainy season usually lasts from June to September and is heaviest in August and September. Last year, over 11,000 people were affected by flooding in Kassala alone, and over 314,000 nationwide.

Security situation in Blue Nile State

Violent clashes between the two ethnic groups of the Hausa and the Berta escalated at the beginning of last week and continued until 16.07.22. According to administrative authorities in Blue Nile State, up to 31 people were killed. The Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors initially reported 23 people killed and 84 injured. Media reports, however, say that at least 60 to 65 people were killed and 150 injured. The fighting concentrated in the towns of Gaissan, Roseiris and Wad Al-Mahi. There are different accounts of the reasons for the outbreak of the fighting. One version says that it was triggered by the dispute between Hausa and Berta farmers. There is contradictory information on which side started the dispute. Other sources say that the two groups could not agree on the formation of a civilian body to regulate access to land. Army and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) units were deployed to bring the situation back under control, night curfews and assembly bans were imposed.

25 July 2022

Humanitarian situation

Due to the persistently poor supply situation and the population's increasing food insecurity, the World Bank provided USD 100 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on 21.07.22 at the instigation of the international community. The so-called Sudan Emergency Safety Net Project will benefit two million people in eleven states and will mainly consist of cash benefits and food shipments. The distribution of the funds is handled by the WFP itself, the project is financed by donors such as the EU, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Canada, and other states and institutions. The planned aid measures are intended to meliorate the problems caused by the poor harvest and rising food prices. However, support to the Sudanese government, which was suspended because of the military coup on 25.10.21, will not resume.

Security situation in Blue Nile State

On 20.07.22, the State Ministry of Health corrected the casualty figures for the fighting between the Hausa and Birta ethnicities (cf. BN of 18.07.22) to 105 dead and 291 injured. These figures are not conclusive, however, as more 9 victims are still suspected to have been buried in the rubble of destroyed buildings. About 14,000 to 17,000 people are still displaced due to the fighting. The fighting in Blue Nile State between the two ethnic groups is causing further tensions throughout the country, according to media reports. In the aftermath of the fighting, all Hausa have been called to demonstrate for "justice for the martyrs". On 18.07.22 and 19.07.22, thousands of Hausa took to the streets in various towns, including in other states, and in some cases erected barricades. The rally in the city of Kassala escalated after protesters set fire to government buildings. At least two people were killed and ten injured in the ensuing clashes between the protesters and the security forces who attacked them. On 21.07.22 protests were also held against the violence in Blue Nile State. In Omdurman, one protester was killed by security forces who used live ammunition to disperse the crowd. Other demonstrations, mainly organised by Hausa people, remained peaceful.

01 August 2022

Protests continue

Since 26.07.22, thousands have demonstrated in Khartoum and other cities against the military coup and the rise of tribal violence in Blue Nile State, with over 100 people killed in July 2022 (cf. BN of 25.07.22). According to the Sudan Doctors Committee, which is part of the pro-democracy movement, at least one demonstrator was reportedly shot dead by security forces in Omdurman when they violently dispersed the rally. The death toll among the protesters is said to have risen to at least 116.

08 August 2022

Support from Wagner Group and restrictions on reporting

The publication of an investigative report by CNN on 29.07.22 attracted great interest on social media among Sudanese users and was one of the reasons for protests in Khartoum on 31.07.22, which the security authorities ended by use of force. The report revealed close links between the Russian mercenary company Wagner and the Sudanese military, according to which Russia, through the Wagner Group, provided training and weapons,

especially for the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and in return was given a great share of gold mining in Sudan. In particular, the evidence provided that the gold mined by the Wagner Group was smuggled out of the country without complying with the official export regulations caused a stir. According to the report, Russia has been smuggling more gold out of the country through the Wagner Group since the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and is still supported in this by high-ranking military officials and the RSF. In particular, the leader of the RSF, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo ("Hemeti"), has long been said to have close contacts to the Wagner Group. In addition, the Wagner Group is accused of having provided significant support to the military in the coup in October 2021. In addition to the activities of the Wagner Group, the CNN report also denounces the limited opportunities for reporting and freedom of expression. For example, the CNN team and sources were allegedly threatened by Sudanese security forces during and after the research work on the report in question, in some cases on a massive scale. The CNN team's research is based on interviews with whistle-blowers, current and former employees of the current Sudanese government and mining companies, as well as with representatives of US authorities who specialize in the relevant fields.

Security situation in West Darfur

After camels were stolen by Arab pastoralists in West Darfur on 03.08.22, deadly fighting broke out on 04.08.22 when the nomadic pastoralists were ambushed. During the fighting, 18 people were reportedly killed and at least 17 wounded. The thieves are believed to be from the Republic of Chad. During another incident on 05.08.22, a group of police and Rapid Support Forces members were attacked in Central Darfur. Four members of the security forces were killed and several people were injured. No further details are known.

15 August 2022

Protests continue

On 11.08.22, thousands of people repeatedly protested against the military coup of October 2021 in the capital. Recently, the number of protesters has slightly fallen, as different views on how to proceed were consolidated within the civilian factions following a statement by the military leadership that it would be willing to submit to a civilian government under certain conditions. However, the majority, including the Freedom of Forces and Changes (FFC) party, dismissed this statement by the military as a tactic and argued for maintaining the protests and demands. According to the organisation Sudan's Emergency Lawyers, 35 people were arrested during the protests on 11.08.22. The organisation continues to accuse the security forces of using force against the protesters and arresting some of them despite injuries.

Continuing rains and floods hamper supply situation

On 11.08.22, at least three people lost their lives as a result of very heavy rainfall and the resulting flooding. The states of River Nile State, Khartoum State, El Gezira and South Darfur were particularly affected. Hundreds of houses were destroyed or damaged. In River Nile State, a bus was caught in the waters and was swept away. Two dead bodies have been found so far, others have been rescued. Authorities expect to find more fatalities. Also some roads were damaged by the rain and closed. In El Gezira, at least 150 houses and two government buildings were destroyed or damaged. One person was killed by the floods. IDP camps report increasing difficulties with food supplies and resulting malnutrition, especially among children. They said that for one, the switch of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) from food supplies to cash benefits has made the supply more difficult; and secondly, the current rains and floods have made access to drinking water more difficult, resulting in serious supply shortages. In the Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur, six young people have already died of malnutrition in the past two weeks.

Security situation in Darfur

According to reports, there have been several incidents involving members of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the past week. It is reported that on 01.08.22, members of the RSF killed an elderly man, injured two persons and sexually harassed a woman. They justified their actions by claiming that the victims had disrupted a RSF operation. In another incident on 04.08.22, another death was caused by the actions of a member of the RSF when he hit the victim with his vehicle. He had also fired at passers-by who tried to intervene. It is not known whether this has or had legal consequences for the perpetrators. Two police officers were reportedly killed and two injured in an attack

on a convoy of security forces on 11.08.22. Military units from the capital of Central Darfur, Zalingei (also Zalinjay), were deployed to the area of the attack to support the security forces. Near the village of Tawila, in North Darfur, three people were killed and two others wounded in an attack. The victims were on their way to a camp for displaced people in Uganda. The organisation Darfur Network for Monitoring and Documentation (DNMD) stated that there had been a general surge in attacks since the end of the UNAMID mission. In particular, the region around the village of Tawila is no longer under government control.

22 August 2022

Protests continue

On 18.08.22, more protests against the military government erupted, including in the capital. In addition to demanding the withdrawal of the military leadership from the government and a handover to a purely civilian government, the protesters also commemorated the people killed in the protests so far. 9 Repeatedly riots broke out in Khartoum. The protesters threw stones at the police and set tyres on fire. The security forces used tear gas. The protests on 18.08.22 had been announced as part of the preparations for a planned general strike on 24.08.22.

Persistent rainfall and flooding

Rainfall intensified in the course of August. Some regions have been cut off, especially in the country's north and east. The states of North and South Kordofan, South Darfur and River Nile have been most affected so far. In the region of El Managil, in the state of El Gezira, a state of emergency has been declared after more than 3,000 families were directly affected by the floods and had to leave their homes. In River Nile State, the Director of the Berber Region called for urgent relief assistance in the form of food and emergency shelter. At least 25 villages in the region are currently affected by floods and 3,000 houses have been destroyed or damaged. In Kassala, eight people have died so far due to the rains and floods. The region of the El Gash river is particularly affected. Villages close to the river are currently only accessible by helicopter. On 14.08.22, the Sudan National Council for Civil Defence stated that 136,000 people from twelve states have been affected by the current rains and floods. In addition, it is estimated that up to 14,500 houses have been destroyed and 20,600 damaged across the country. On 17.08.22, referring to statements by the spokesperson of the National Council for Civil Defence, media reported that 77 people had died so far due to the floods. Local authorities are providing tents and food to the affected people but are asking the state government and international organisations for help in dealing with contaminated water and preventing diseases caused thereby.

Security situation in Darfur, South Kordofan, West Kordofan

On 15. and 16.08.22, several villages in the region around the town of Kutum, in the north of the state of North Darfur, were attacked. In total, at least seven people were killed and dozens injured. Several people are missing. The starting point was the killing of two members of an Arab tribe. In revenge, members of the tribe attacked neighbouring villages, causing the situation to escalate considerably. During the fighting, at least four villages were set on fire and several people fled the region. According to reports from residents, Rapid Support Forces (RSF) were present in the affected region but did not intervene in the fighting. The civilian organisation Sudan Liberation Movement Transitional Council (SLM-TC), on the other hand, accused RSF forces of participating in the fighting, in some cases, in line with their own tribal affiliation. The state government of North Darfur announced that it would send security forces to the affected region and prosecute those responsible. In the Habila region of South Kordofan, at least one person was killed and an unknown number of others were injured on 14.08.22 as a result of disputes over stolen cattle. According to reports, security forces seized the cattle because of a personal feud. Near the village of Abu Janouk, in West Kordofan, a man was killed by unknown persons on 14.08.22. It is suspected that this act is linked to several previous acts of violence. According to reports from local residents, "infiltrators" from the south were responsible. They have been blocking important roads into the region for some time. Requests for help from government agencies have so far remained unanswered.

29 August 2022

Conflict between Haus and Berti

On 25.08.22, thousands of members of the Hausa ethnic group protested in several cities in the country and attacked government buildings. The protests are based on renewed fighting between the Hausa and the Berti ethnic group, which broke out a week earlier (week 33) in Blue Nile State, lasted several days and claimed 60 lives. Both groups blame each other for the outbreak of fighting, basically over access to land. Government forces have been on the ground since 21.08.22, maintaining a fragile ceasefire. The conflict between the two groups began as early as July 2022 and claimed the lives of 105 people. 31,000 people were displaced by the fighting in July 2022, which is not limited to Blue Nile State, but also extends to other regions of the country.

Persistent rainfall and flooding

Helping victims of the floods is becoming increasingly difficult as the roads are destroyed. In South Darfur, in addition to infrastructure, more and more agricultural land is being lost, which could further reduce the already rather negative forecast for the crop yield. The Kalma IDP camp, southeast of the provincial capital of South Darfur, was flooded on 23.08.22. The about 300,000 people living in what is one of the largest camps in the region, must stay in the open now. Also, large parts of northern Sudan and particularly South Darfur and El Gezira are affected. According to a report by the Sudanese police forces, at least 89 people have died as a result of the rains and floods. 53,000 houses were destroyed or damaged, as well as 68 public facilities such as schools. In addition to further destruction of infrastructure and buildings, 381 animals were killed and approximately 11 km² of agricultural land were destroyed. Furthermore, 16 of the 18 federal states have been affected by floods, especially the state of El Gezira.

05 September 2022

Protests continue

A protester was killed during protests against the military transitional government in the capital Khartoum on 31.08.22. According to the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors, the person was first hit in the head by a tear gas cartridge and then run over by a security force vehicle. This brings to 117 the number of people killed by security forces since the start of the almost weekly protests. During the protest on 31.08.22, protesters blocked the city's main street with stones and burning tyres before moving to the airport, another major target of the protests besides the presidential palace.

Persistent rainfall and flooding

According to the responsible authorities, at least 104 people have died as a result of the heavy rains and flooding. The United Nations estimates that up to 278,000 people in 15 of the 18 states have been directly affected by the floods. Currently, the states most affected by the floods are El Gedaref, Central Darfur, White Nile, South Darfur and Kassala.

Security situation in Blue Nile State

On 01.09.22, a few weeks after the fierce fighting between Hausa and Berti (cf. BN of 18.07.22), inter-communal fighting broke out again, leaving at least seven people dead and 23 injured. The latest fighting erupted in two locations in Blue Nile, the towns of al-Damazin and al-Roseires, and continued into the following day. Only the intervention of the security forces ended the violence. The trigger for the fighting is still unknown, the responsible authorities are currently investigating. A curfew has been imposed in the two towns for the safety of the population.

Freedom of expression and press

After more than 30 years, journalists in Sudan have once again formed an independent trade union. On 27.08.22 Abdel Moniem Abu Idriss, a correspondent for Agence France Presse (AFP), was elected president of the executive committee of the new union. The last journalists' union was dissolved in 1989 at the time of the takeover by Omar al-Bashir. Subsequently, massive action was taken against media workers, especially when they criticised the regime. Since the military coup in October 2021, journalists, as well as TV stations, newspapers and other media

outlets, have come under increased pressure again. The new union says it already has over 1,000 members and wants to campaign for other aspects besides freedom of expression, such as fair and equal pay and social benefits.

12 September 2022

Intercommunal clashes

On 06.09.22, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) presented data on inter-communal conflicts and armed attacks from January to August 2022. According to the data about 380 people were reported killed, most of them in the Darfur region. During the same period, more than 430 people were said to have been injured in 224 incidents. Some 177,340 had been displaced due to the security situation.

19 September 2022

Protests continue

On 14.09.22, at least 70 people were injured in the capital Khartoum and at least four in the sister city Omdurman during renewed protests under the slogan "March of Millions". The protest march in Khartoum was again moving towards the presidential palace and was stopped shortly before getting there by the massive use of tear gas and rubber bullets. Injured people who were treated by mobile teams already on the streets are not included in these figures. In addition, numerous arrests were made. Smaller protests had already been held on the day before and several people were wounded by the security forces' actions. In addition, on 13.09.22, units of the military, the security police and the paramilitary central reserve police (aka Abu Teira) indiscriminately attacked young people, beating and robbing them. In some cases, the forces forcibly shaved people's heads. The NGO Emergency Lawyers condemned this procedure as systematic and deliberately humiliating actions, degrading and violating the human dignity of the demonstrating youth. The NGO also called for all cases to be reported so that they can be documented. Similar actions by the security forces had been reported from Khartoum North at the end of August 2022.

Poor economic situation

As a result of the military coup in October 2021, the government of Sudan lost more than four billion USD in international aid funds as a consequence of international sanctions, thus the budget is extremely strained. The Ministry of Finance does not expect any external support for 2023 either. The sharp decline in exports, rising inflation and permanently low wages are just as concerning. Some workers, for example medical staff, have not received any or only sporadic wage payments for several months. The forecasts for the future poverty rate are repeatedly adjusted downwards. In order to improve state revenues, the military government also raised taxes thereby triggering more strikes. Strikes are often organised across sectors and across the country and directed against non-payment of wages, poor infrastructure and broken political promises to improve the situation. Public sector workers in the North Darfur region have been on strike for two months. They are demanding compliance with a wage adjustment for the year 2022, which is supposed to compensate for ever-increasing inflation. However, the agreed adjustment has not yet been implemented, which is why public sector workers in South Kordofan also went on strike a fortnight ago. Most recently, junior doctors across the country went on strike for three days on 14.09.22 because they had not been paid their salaries for eight months. Previous demands to the Ministry of Health and a threat to strike had gone unanswered. Recently, also workers in the energy and utilities sector went on strike over the failure to implement previously agreed wage adjustments for 2022. Employees of the Sudan Radio and Television Corporation, the state television station, have been on strike since 15.09.22.

Persistent rainfall and flooding

The persistent heavy rains and floods have claimed the lives of 134 people by now. Meanwhile, a state of emergency has been declared in six of the 18 states. These are: Al Gezira, Kassala, River Nile, South Darfur, West Kordofan and White Nile State. Most people died in North Kordofan State, with most houses destroyed in the southern part of White Nile State.

26 September 2022

Supply situation deteriorates

According to UN data of 23.09.22, 650,000 children are currently suffering from severe malnutrition. UNICEF forecasts that half of these children will die without support and aid. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) currently estimates that 15 million people suffer from hunger every day and the number will rise to 18 million by the end of September. From July to August 2022 alone, 177,350 people are believed to have been displaced due to internal conflicts and are now in need of aid. According to the UN and WFP, the causes of the current situation include the military coup of October 2021, as a result of which international aid funds were frozen, the ongoing political unpredictability and protests, which are weakening state structures and aid delivery capabilities. Added to this is the persistently poor economic situation, which is reinforced by inter-communal conflicts in Sudan and the effects of the war in Ukraine. Furthermore, financial support to UN agencies is decreasing, and they have so far received only one-third of the aid money targeted for 2022, totalling USD 348.9 million.

Persistent rainfall and flooding

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), nearly 349,000 people are currently directly affected by heavy rains and flooding. In addition, at least 24,800 houses have been destroyed and 48,200 damaged in 16 of the 18 states. The number of people killed by the floods and rains has risen to 146 so far (cf. BN of 19.09.22). In addition, more than 5,000 hectares of agricultural land have been destroyed. Due to the generally poor state of the infrastructure and roads damaged or destroyed by the water, many people can only be supplied inadequately and with delays. So far, 125 schools have been completely destroyed by the floods, which is why more than 140,000 children are currently unable to attend school.

10 October 2022

Protests continue

Demonstrations were held in various towns and cities in the country on 29.09.22, under the well-known banner of "March of the millions". The towns and cities involved included Khartoum, Wad Madani, Nyala and Dongola. In Khartoum the security forces used tear gas and extreme force to prevent the demonstrators from reaching the presidential palace. Members of the security forces reportedly also attempted to hit people participating in the demonstration with vehicles. The demonstrators blocked various key roads in the capital with barricades. In all, 49 people were reportedly injured in Khartoum. The resistance committees in the federal state of Khartoum have announced that they will be staging a total of six demonstration under the "march of the millions" banner to mark the anniversary of the military coup of 25.10.21. The declared aim is to hold three large central demonstrations as well as three demonstrations which are to take place simultaneously in different cities. The demonstrations are planned for the period from 25.10. to 30.10.22. The resistance committees also announced additional "escalating activities". The first demonstrations took place on 06.10.22, after having been called by the resistance committees. Demonstrations took place in Khartoum, Omdurman, Khartoum North (Bahri), and in Wad Madani, El Gezira and Central Darfur. A number of roads in Khartoum were blocked by demonstrators and security forces alike. The security responded with severe force, deploying tear gas and driving the demonstrators through the streets, according to media reports. Numerous people were reportedly injured. In Khartoum North and Omdurman in particular, the release of a number of secret service officers was a special focus of the demonstrations. The officers concerned were accused of having killed demonstrators.

Intercommunal conflict

Members of the Hamar people demonstrated in El Nehoud (West Kordofan) on 01.10.22, blocking buildings of the Sudanese Company for Mineral Resources. Hamar demonstrators have been staging blockades since the end of August 2022, including on the key road between El Obeid (North Kordofan) and El Fasher (North Darfur). The blockades have since been removed. The aim of the responsible organisation, "Committee for implementation of the resolutions of the Hamar people", is the formation of a new federal state, Central Kordofan, with El Nehoud as the capital. This ambition stems from a conflict over land between the Hamar and the nomadic Misseriya people, which has been flaring up repeatedly for some months and claiming lives. The leader of the SPLM-N, Abdelaziz El

Hilu, called on all tribes in the federal state of West Kordofan to work together, stressing that the conflict between Hamar and Misseriya could not benefit either side. He also insisted that the government had a duty to mediate.

Security situation in Khartoum

The security situation in the capital is gradually worsening against the backdrop of the sustained deterioration of the economic, humanitarian and political situation which has been in progress for some years now. In recent days the media have increasingly carried reports about groups roaming the streets and indiscriminately robbing and threatening passers-by and shops with machetes and sticks. The problem is said to be particularly prevalent in Khartoum North district (Bahri). Residents accuse the security forces of being unable to handle the situation. There is also a suspicion that the security forces are deliberately failing to take action, in order to show the people who are demonstrating against the military coup that protests and demonstrations will only lead to insecurity and chaos.

05 September 2022

Protests continue

Further demonstrations were held on 13.10.22 under the well-known banner of “March of the millions”. According to information from the Association of Socialist Doctors, a total of 27 injured people were registered in Khartoum’s city area. These included demonstrators from the sister city of Omdurman, who were injured by projectiles consisting of glass and stones. In this connection, the United Against Violations activist group (UAV) stated that the security forces had deployed new weapons which served to shoot fragments of stone and glass. Rubber bullets and live ammunition were allegedly also used.

Blue Nile State: Intercommunal conflict

Four people have died and several houses have been burned to the ground in current fighting between people belonging to the Hausa ethnic group and rival ethnic groups, most recently members of Al-Hamaj. Fighting broke out this July between Hausa and other ethnic groups, resulting in over 100 deaths (cf. BN of 27.07.22). Violence has since flared up on repeated occasions, most recently in September, when 18 people died (cf. BN of 05.09.22). The continually recurring fighting stems from the Hausa people’s demands for a new civilian authority to be set up to regulate the distribution of land. Other ethnic groups see this as an attempt by the Hausa to obtain land by unlawful means. The United Nations puts the number of people displaced by the latest eruptions of violence at around 37,700.

Honour killings

The number of cases of reported so-called honour killings has doubled in comparison to last year, according to information from Sudanese activists and the competent government agency. In all, eleven cases have been reported. The actual figure is assumed to be far higher. Those suspected of carrying out the killings include male relatives who believed that the women concerned were using their smartphones to contact extramarital partners. The competent government authorities are allegedly unable to cope with these developments on account of the military coup of October 2021 and the attendant political turmoil, and are thus failing to take any action. Furthermore, fathers involved in such killings generally receive lenient punishment, being recognised as their families’ breadwinners. Although the principle of honour killings is not actually entrenched in Sudanese society, the director-general of the government agency to combat violence against women suspects that religious extremism is behind this latest increase.

24 October 2022

Protests continue

On 21.10.22 demonstrations against the military’s seizure of power and in support of a transition to civilian government took place throughout the country. In many towns and cities, security forces attempted to prevent or contain the demonstrations by blocking roads and bridges. Demonstrations occurred once again in Khartoum on 23.10.22. One protester was shot dead by security forces. 25.10.22 marks the anniversary of the military’s seizure of power. The involved resistance committees have announced large-scale demonstrations and other actions for

this day and 30.10.22. With regard to the demonstrations announced for 25.10.22, the UNHCR called on the Sudanese security forces to exercise moderation and to avoid the use of force.

Blue Nile State and West Kordofan: Intercommunal conflicts

Between 150 and 200 people have died and between 86 and 90 people have suffered injuries in renewed intercommunal fighting in the southern part of Blue Nile State. The latest fighting extended over two days, from 19.10. to 20.10.22, and was focused primarily on the Wad al-Mahi region. A group associated with the Hausa was reportedly attacked by armed assailants. Fighting and armed clashes have occurred repeatedly between the Hausa and other ethnic groups since July 2022 (cf. BN of 27.07.22, 05.09.22 and 17.10.22). The conflicts stem first and foremost from a law under which the Hausa are the last group settled in the Blue Nile region with no entitlement to land. The Hausa are demanding land ownership and the right to participate in political decision-making, but these demands are rejected by other ethnic groups. In view of the ongoing violence, the governor of Blue Nile State declared a 30-day state of emergency on 21.10.22. On 22.10. and 23.10.22 demonstrations protesting against the violence and calling for the governor to resign took place outside the local headquarters of the Sudanese army. According to UN information, such conflicts have cost almost 600 lives nationwide since the beginning of the year, while at least 211,000 have been driven from their homes. Intercommunal fighting near to the town of Al Lagowa in West Kordofan State left 19 people dead and dozens injured in the days between 13.10. and 15.10.22 alone. According to a report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), at least 4,000 people have been displaced. The town of Al Lagowa 12 was shelled during a visit by the governor on 18.10.22. Four people died in a renewed flare-up of fighting on 21.10.22. OCHA puts the death toll at 23 and the number of people injured at 34 since the breakout of fighting in the region. OCHA additionally points out that the poor security situation makes it impossible to provide humanitarian aid. The hostilities stem from a dispute between members of the Misseriya and Nuba ethnic groups over the use and ownership of land.

31 October 2022

Protests continue

The previously announced demonstrations took place in nine of Sudan's federal states on 25.10.22, which marked the anniversary of the military coup. In all, several hundred thousand people are reported to have participated in the demonstrations. Despite numerous road blocks, in the capital thousands of people proceeded in the direction of the presidential palace. The security forces attempted to block their progress using tear gas, flash grenades, rubber bullets and acoustic weapons (so-called "sound bombs"). It has further been reported in the media that internet services were blocked nationwide until the evening. 11 The Committee of Sudanese Doctors stated that a person who was hit by two shots from the security forces died during the demonstrations in Khartoum's sister city of Omdurman. The Sudanese police alleged in a statement that rebels and sleeper cells were present among the demonstrators and that these had carried out attacks on military facilities. They also claimed that the demonstrators had behaved in the manner of units with military training. On the basis of these claims, the police have called for more extensive rights to take action against this course of development. No evidence was presented to substantiate the assertions, however. The police statement sparked severe criticism from the fields of politics, journalism and among legal actors. The police are accused of seeking to justify even more violent action in future by way of this argumentation. Further demonstrations occurred on 27.10.22 in North Khartoum (Bari), Omdurman and other districts of the capital. According to reports in the media, the security forces again responded with violence and the use of tear gas, causing injuries to a number of people. The demonstrators called for the military to be fully excluded from the government. Attempts by the UN to mediate led to a demonstration attended by thousands of people in Khartoum on 29.10.22. The demonstrators voiced criticism of the UN's special envoy for Sudan and support for former president Al-Bashir. They denounced the UN's attempts to mediate as foreign intervention and called for the introduction of Islamic law in the country. There are reports in the media of further demonstrations against the military coup on 30.10.22. These demonstrations are said to have taken place in Khartoum and 16 other towns and cities in the country. It is alleged that the security forces again used force against the demonstrators. In the capital, two journalists were reportedly injured by tear gas and flash grenades. The Sudanese Journalist Syndicate accused the security forces of continual violent action against peaceful demonstrators and of specifically targeting journalists.

05 September 2022

Protests continue

The central committee of Sudanese doctors has reported that a total of 74 people were injured in demonstrations on 03.11.22: 55 at demonstrations in Khartoum, 17 in Omdurman and four in the East Nile region. Among the injured, some people were found to have been hit by bullets and tear gas cartridges. One person was reportedly hit by a vehicle of the security forces. The association of Sudanese emergency lawyers has reported the release of eight detained demonstrators. The individuals concerned have stated that they suffered torture and beatings in prison. In addition, their personal valuables were stolen by security personnel.

Unlawful imprisonment

According to information from the Darfur State Bar Association, 350 people originating from Darfur are currently being held unlawfully in Sudanese prisons. The law association states that most of the detainees are internally displaced people, including minors. Both the Bar Association and the West and North Darfur Detainees Defence Committee have announced that they will be campaigning for the detainees' release. The Bar Association claims that some of the unlawful arrests were ordered by so-called peace committees of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). For several months now, the RSF has been attempting to mediate in the conflicts affecting Darfur, although its attempts are criticised as being superficial and not in the interest of the people. Anyone who fails to follow the RSF or who opposes their efforts allegedly faces arrest.

15 November 2022

Protests continue

Further demonstrations were held throughout the country on 08.11.22 under the well-known banner of "March of the millions". According to reports in the media, the security forces used tear gas against the demonstrators in all towns and cities in which demonstrations took place. In the capital, a demonstrator was once again hit by a vehicle of the security forces and seriously injured. The central committee of Sudanese doctors has reported that a total of 56 people were injured. A wave of arrests is also said to have taken place in the capital on 07.11.22, in the course of which several members of the resistance committee were detained. It has been reported in the media that thousands of people demonstrated in Khartoum on 12.11.22 against the involvement of the UN and civilian actors in Sudan. The reports described the demonstrators as "Islamists", who allegedly criticised the proposal by the Sudanese bar association to ban the National Congress Party of former president Al-Bashir in a new transitional constitution. The initiation of talks between the military and prodemocratic civilian groups was also criticised. In response to these protests, on 13.11.22 general Al-Burhan warned against any interference in military matters. Talks are currently in progress between the military and a number of civilian groups on the possibilities of forming a non-partisan government.

Darfur and Kordofan: Continuing violence

On 13.11.22 the security committee of the Central Darfur region resolved to declare a state of emergency for the entire region for a period of one month. This measure comes in response to an attack by unknown armed individuals on mediators who were to arbitrate between the rival Wadi Saleh and Bendasi ethnic groups. 24 people were killed and 41 injured in the attack. Reports in the media cite witnesses who have stated that the mediators were accused of being biased, which led to the attack. It has not been disclosed who precisely was responsible for the attack. 10 Three farmers were killed and one injured by unknown attackers near the capital of South Kordofan, Kadugli, on 07.11.22. Also on 07.11.22, a soldier was shot dead by unknown attackers in Lagawa, West Kordofan. According to reports in the media, he belonged to a unit which was deployed to evacuate people resident in Lagawa in the wake of the latest outbreaks of violence. Prior to the killing, armed people dressed in military uniforms had attacked Lagawa and villages in the surrounding area. Witnesses cited in the reports have stated that the uniforms worn by the attackers identified them as members of the Rapid Support Forces. These statements have yet to be confirmed or refuted.

21 November 2022

Protests continue

17.11.22 witnessed a continuation of the weekly demonstrations in various towns and cities, including in the capital, against the military takeover, accompanied by criticism of the Forces of Freedom and Change group (FFC) for engaging in talks with the military to find a compromise for a future transitional government. The demonstrators also remembered the demonstrations held last year on 17.11.21, when security forces deployed live ammunition against demonstrators in Khartoum and Omdurman, killing 16 people. The demonstrators called once again for the military to be fully excluded from the government, rejecting any negotiations or compromises. Although the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights appealed to the Sudanese security forces to exercise restraint towards the demonstrators, media reports refer to a tough approach involving the large-scale use of tear gas, among other severe measures. According to information from the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors (CCSD), 58 people were injured. The CCSD has further stated that the injuries also resulted from the use of rubber bullets, flash grenades and a variety of thrown objects. One person was again injured by a government vehicle.

28 November 2022

West Kordofan: Security situation

Fighting broke out between members of two rival tribes in the region around the town of En Nehoud on 19.11. and 20.11.22, in the course of which six people were killed and a number injured. According to reports in the media, two villages were attacked in two waves and the village targeted in the second attack was completely destroyed on 20.11.22. People from the attacked villages have reportedly complained that the attackers were able to proceed unimpeded, as initially no security forces were on the scene and those who arrived later failed to intervene.

Health system: Break-out of dengue fever in a number of states

On 10.11.22 the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors (CCSD) called for the region around the capital of North Kordofan State, El Obeid, to be declared a disaster area due to a major outbreak of dengue fever. The disease has 9 since spread in twelve of the country's states. North Kordofan, West Kordofan and North Darfur are particularly severely affected. The health ministry announced an official total of 3,326 cases of dengue fever nationwide, with 23 deaths to date. Dengue fever, which is transmitted by mosquitos, has spread on a large scale due to this year's heavy flooding, the warm weather and a lack of preventive measures.

06 December 2022

Agreement reached on hand-over of power

After weeks of negotiations, the military and representatives of the alliance of parties known as Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) signed a framework agreement for the restoration of a civilian interim government on 05.12.22. In a second phase of the process, more detailed agreements on the precise implementation of the framework agreement are to be elaborated and adopted. The framework agreement also provides for a revision of the peace agreement of Juba and the constitutional declaration of 2019. The interim constitution envisioned in the process which has now been set in train is to become the country's supreme law, also incorporating the previous agreements. The newly formed interim government is to remain in office for two years and prepare subsequent elections. According to reports in the media, the signed framework agreement is highly vague on many points, in keeping with the two-phase plan. The point in time when the interim government is to begin work is not stipulated, for example, although the date on which the interim government begins work and the new prime minister is appointed is to mark the beginning of the two-year transitional phase. While the reform of the army and merging of the army with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) are mentioned as an objective, the precise procedure by which this is to be achieved and the attendant timetable have not been elaborated. The process by which the planned transformation of the justice system is to be carried out is equally unclear. Since the negotiations on a possible agreement between the FFC and the military came to light, this cooperation has been the object of strong criticism from the resistance committees and a number of parties and rebel groups who oppose any cooperation with the military and its involvement in a future government. There has also been and continues to be criticism of the

framework agreement within the FFC. Not all members of the FFC support the cooperation and some have left the association in protest.

12 December 2022

Framework agreement on handover of power; demonstrations

Following the signing of the framework agreement for the handover of power to a civilian-led interim government by representatives of the military and parts of the Forces For Freedom and Change (FFC) on 05.12.22 (cf. BN of 06.12.22), the current ruler, General al-Burhan, publicly announced on 06.12.22 that the military would only hand over power when the involved civilian parties had resolved outstanding issues and drawn up a joint draft constitution for a future interim government. According to reports in the media, the framework agreement has met with a very mixed response in Sudanese society. Important political actors, such as the Baath party, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the Communist Party and a number of resistance committees, continue to strictly reject the framework agreement, claiming that it serves solely to keep some members of the FFC in power and that it was concluded under pressure from the international community. The divisions within the FFC over the framework agreement are becoming ever more evident, as splinter groups such as the FFC-DB (Democratic Block) maintain a clear stance against the signing of the agreement. Demonstrations against the signing of the framework agreement took place in the capital directly on 05.12.22. The Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors reported on 06.12.22 that 43 people had been injured. A number of resistance committees called for demonstrations in response to the signing of the framework agreement. Security forces countered the demonstrations by deploying tear gas on a large scale. Only a few days later, further demonstrations took place in Khartoum and Omdurman on 08.12.22. The security forces set up road blocks in an attempt to prevent the demonstrators from reaching the presidential palace. Tear gas and flash grenades were apparently also used. In all, 54 people are reported to have been injured, four of whom were deliberately hit by police vehicles.

19 December 2022

Intercommunal clashes in South and West Kordofan

At least 24 people were killed and dozens injured in clashes between armed members of the Hamar and Misserya peoples in the Abu Koa region of West Kordofan State on 10.12. and 11.12.22. The dispute related to cattle rustling. Violent clashes in the region around Abu Kershola, South Kordofan State, claimed five lives on 14.12.22. Relatives of a person who had been killed attacked the suspected killers, leading to the lethal fighting. The Sudanese army intervened with a large troop presence and temporarily cordoned off the access road to Abu Kershola.

Protests continue

The protests against the framework agreement of 05.12.22 for the handover of power to a civilian-led interim government (cf. BN of 12.12.22) continue. Hundreds of people demonstrated in Khartoum on 13.12.22. Security forces used tear gas against the demonstrators.