

Sudan Update - February 2025

Strike

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Solidarity

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Reject both sides in Sudan's war

A briefing and solidarity toolkit for trade unionists

The Sudanese people are trapped in a brutal counter-revolutionary war that began on April 15, 2023, between two oppressive militias: the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo (Hemdeti), both serving the ruling elite and foreign powers.

The roots of this war lie in the defeat of the 2018 revolution, which sought to overthrow decades of dictatorship. Backed by imperialist powers, these criminals are fighting for power and wealth, not the Sudanese people. Over 11 million have been displaced, 150,000 killed, and a nation on the brink of famine. Infrastructure, healthcare, and education have collapsed. Yet, the warlords persist, threatening to dismantle Sudan into fragmented states, driven by delusions of victory and greed.

The RSF's terror

The RSF originated as the Janjaweed militias, created by ousted dictator Omar al-Bashir to crush rebellions in Darfur. Under Hemdeti, the RSF became a tool of state repression across the whole of Sudan, suppressing protests in Khartoum and profiting from mercenary work in Yemen. The RSF has amassed staggering wealth through gold mining, banking, and exploitation. Hemdeti's fortune, built on war crimes, has made him a key player in Sudan's power structure, while the masses suffer in poverty.

SAF's oppression

The SAF, Sudan's "mother of all militias," has been a central pillar of the oppressive state for over 30 years. Dominated by generals loyal to the Muslim Brotherhood, the SAF has committed atrocities across Sudan, from Darfur to the Nuba Mountains. It controls 82% of Sudan's budgetary resources, operating as a shadow state that monopolises wealth while the people starve. The SAF's economic empire includes banks, agriculture, mining, and military industries, ensuring its dominance over Sudan's political and social landscape.



Regional powers

Imperialist and regional powers—US, UK, EU, Israel, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and others—have shaped Sudan's tragedy. They forced the 2019 Constitutional Declaration that preserved military oppression. The transitional government became a trap, enabling the old regime and military to regroup. The 2021 military coup crushed civilian forces, yet foreign powers pushed for more compromises, emboldening oppressors. They arm both the SAF and RSF, perpetuating violence for control of Sudan's resources. Their goal: crush the revolution, exploit wealth, and suppress democratic aspirations.

The war has fragmented the people, forcing many to choose between the "lesser evil" of SAF or RSF. This is a false choice. Both militias are enemies of the people, built on exploitation and repression. Supporting either betrays the revolution. The victory of SAF or RSF would not bring justice but deepen divisions and entrench dictatorship.

Anti-war movement

Sudanese activists who are mobilising against war and still fighting for the 2018 Revolution's goals of freedom, peace and justice need solidarity and support from trade unionists and activists globally. The spirit of the revolutionary movement which overthrew Omar al-Bashir in a mass uprising in 2018 points the way towards dismantling the structures of



oppression and creating a society based on democracy, justice, and equality.

This is not just Sudan's struggle; it is part of the global fight against imperialism and capitalism as we collectively challenge the systems that profit from our suffering and build a future where power belongs to the people, not the elites.

Refugees welcome

Sudanese refugees seeking safety in Britain are being shut out by the government and blamed and scapegoated by far-right parties such as Reform. They are also targeted by fascist thugs mobilising on the streets against migrants. Organising in solidarity with Sudanese activists fighting for peace and justice in their own country also means standing up against racism and fascism here.

SOLIDARITY TOOLKIT:

- **Pass a motion in your union branch demanding an end to arms sales to the regional powers fuelling the war and changes to visa rules to allow Sudanese refugees to find safety in Britain.**
- **Invite a Sudanese anti-war activist to speak to your union branch or Palestine solidarity group**
- **Download resources, posters, model letters and motions here (tinyurl.com/sudanwartoolkit)**

www.menasolidaritynetwork.com

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