

Sudan Update - April 2025

Sudan's Militia War on the People

Strike
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Solidarity
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A briefing and solidarity toolkit for trade unionists

International and Sudanese human rights organisations strongly condemn the ongoing brutal extrajudicial killings of civilians by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) across Sudan. Revolutionary forces and anyone opposing the war are targeted. Under the “strange faces” law, both militias commit mass shootings, executions, and unimaginable violence. SAF parades its capture of areas in Khartoum as a military victory, yet the documented reality is that RSF has withdrawn from these zones under the watch of SAF. This is a counter-revolutionary war for power and wealth waged by military militias of the old regime, backed by global imperialism at the expense of the people.

Cost of war

Fourteen of Sudan's eighteen states are now - or were - battlefields since war erupted in April 2023. Thirteen million displaced and hundreds of thousands killed. Schools, hospitals, and infrastructure lie in ruins. Famine is no longer a threat—it is reality, with twenty-five million facing starvation. Children are either forced into militias or left to die from hunger. Women's bodies, food, and medicine are used as weapons of war. Museums, research centres, and ministries looted and destroyed.

A bloody history

Since Sudan's so-called independence from British colonial rule in 1956, the country has endured seventeen military coups—the highest number in Africa. The most devastating came in 1989, when General Omar al-Bashir and the Sudanese Islamic Front overthrew a short-lived civilian government and imposed a reign of terror. From that moment, resistance never ceased. In 2018, millions of Sudanese flooded the streets, launching a revolution that aimed to dismantle military rule once and for all. Yet in 2019, Western and regional imperialists sabotaged the revolution by forcing a power-sharing agreement between civilians and the very military



forces they had risen against. The 2019 Constitutional Declaration was a death sentence for Sudanese democracy. By 2021, both militias staged a coup against civilian ministers, crushing the democratic transition. By 2023, SAF and RSF had formally declared war on each other, but their true enemy remained the same—the revolutionary movement of 2018.

Both militias – SAF and RSF – are equally criminal and enemies of the people's revolution and will. They must be punished for their crimes, and a democratically elected civilian government must be established and supported.

Global imperialism

The death and displacement of Sudanese people enrich imperialist arms dealers, multinational corporations, and complicit governments. Sudan's wealth—gold, oil, uranium, Arabic gum, strategic maritime routes, and fertile land—has become a curse, plundered by foreign powers while the people suffer. The same imperialist states—US, UK, EU, Israel, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the African Union—that sought to crush the 2018 revolution now fuel the war with weapons and political backing.

SAF's recent advances rely on Turkish military support, while Turkey shelters old regime figures and launders billions through investments, deepening Sudan's exploitation. This is not just a Sudanese war—it is also an imperialist war, waged on Sudanese soil by Sudanese militias.

SOLIDARITY TOOLKIT:

- **Join the March For Sudan on 19 April (1 - 4:30pm) in London (Marble Arch to Downing Street) to protest the 2 years of war, called by the Sudanese revolutionary forces in UK and MENA Solidarity.**
- **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**
- **Download resources here (tinyurl.com/sudanwartoolkit)**

www.menasolidaritynetwork.com

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