

# Sudan Update - July 2025

## A briefing and solidarity toolkit for trade unionists

Strike  
إضراب  
Solidarity  
تضامن

The war in Sudan is rooted in the militia-led counter-revolution against the 2018 uprising for civilian rule. It began on April 15, 2023, between Sudan's two main militias—the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)—both remnants of the old regime. The conflict followed their joint overthrow of civilian partners in the transitional government in 2021.

### Cost of war

Though fighting each other for power and resources, both militias primarily target the revolution and its supporters, serving elite and foreign interests. To expand their influence, they have created over 128 tribal and ethnic militias, threatening to fracture Sudan into warring regions.

They have killed hundreds of thousands, displaced over 15 million people, and devastated the country: more than 80% of the health system is destroyed, schools and infrastructure lie in ruins, and famine is spreading, with 10 areas declared famine zones by the UN.

Recent SAF advances in the capital, Khartoum, are not battlefield victories, but the result of backdoor negotiations with the RSF, allowing their safe withdrawal to western Sudan.

Meanwhile, atrocities by both militias continue across western states. Al-Fashir, the capital of North Darfur, has been under RSF siege since the war began, with hundreds dying from hunger, thirst, lack of medical care—or direct attacks.

Fighting continues across Sudan. Eastern cities like Port Sudan and Kasala face renewed violence, while attacks on northern infrastructure have caused major water and power outages. 11 of Sudan's 18 states are or have been active war zones, deepening the humanitarian crisis.

### Coup state

SAF leader Al-Burhan has positioned himself as Sudan's head of state. In a bid to restore the old regime and legitimise his 2021 coup, he appointed Kamil Idris—an ally of the former regime and ex-WIPO chief who faced UN-reported allegations of academic forgery in 2007.

Idris has proposed a government



Sudanese activists march in solidarity with refugees, Feb 2025 | Photo: MENA Solidarity

reshuffle, appointing ministers, and officials loyal to the old regime.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Labour issued a decree ordering workers who fled the war to return by June 15 or face dismissal—an attempt to purge revolutionary forces and trade unions.

### Imperialist powers

Imperialist and regional powers—including the US, UK, EU, Israel, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Egypt—have played a central role in Sudan's crisis. They imposed the 2019 Constitutional Declaration, keeping the military in control and enabling the old regime's return under the cover of transition. Even after the 2021 military coup against civilians, these powers pushed for more concessions, further empowering the generals.

All continue to fuel the war—directly or indirectly—through arms, financial aid, and diplomatic backing. By supporting both SAF and RSF, they've prolonged the conflict to secure influence and exploit Sudan's resources. Their goal is clear: crush the revolution, plunder the wealth, and silence demands for democracy—while the Sudanese people suffer and pay the price.

### International solidarity

The Sudanese struggle is not just local—it's global. We must demand our governments stop supplying arms to Sudan's neighboring states fueling the conflict, and open borders to Sudanese refugees fleeing war—not shut them out.

#### 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.**
- **Download resources here ([tinyurl.com/sudanwartoolkit](https://tinyurl.com/sudanwartoolkit))**
- **Invite a Sudanese anti-war activist to speak at your union branch meeting**
- **Order a copy of our research report on Sudan's revolutionary and popular movements here: [tinyurl.com/sudanreportanalysis](https://tinyurl.com/sudanreportanalysis)**

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