

Europe External Programme with Africa

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

No. 413- 19 April, 2023

Europe External Programme with Africa is a Belgium-based Centre of Expertise with in-depth knowledge, publications, and networks, specialised in issues of peacebuilding, refugee protection, and resilience in the Horn of Africa. EEPA has published extensively on issues related to the movement and/or human trafficking of refugees in the Horn of Africa and on the Central Mediterranean Route. It cooperates with a wide network of universities, research organisations, civil society, and experts from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and across Africa. The Situation Reports can be found [here](#). To receive the situation report in your e-mail, [click here](#). You can unsubscribe at any moment through the link at the bottom of each e-mail.

Situation in Sudan (per 19 April)

- The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) both agree to a 24-hour cease fire starting at 6pm local time today.
 - The cease fire is not unconditional but both sides state they will abide if they are not attacked by the other party.
 - The death-toll is estimated at over 270, with experts fearing that there are many more unreported.
 - Tonight, heavy fighting is reported in Khartoum near the presidential palace, and in a neighbourhood in the west of Khartoum, an area in which Hemedti, the leader of RSF, and his family are located and possess homes.
 - The most heavy fighting is taking place right where most of the embassies and residences are located.
 - Civilians sheltering in place are running low on fuel, food, medicine, and water.
 - The HoACSF calls on the United Nations, the United States of America, United Kingdom, the European Union, the United Arab Emirate, Egypt, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Turkey to collaborate.
 - The HoACSF calls on the international community to coordinate “to fully support the AU engagement to stop the fighting in Sudan and ensure the transition to a civilian government.”
 - The Horn of Africa Civil Society Forum (HoACSF) has urged SAF and RSF for a ceasefire, and called on the African Union (AU) to mediate the ceasefire and the international community to support the AU.
 - Resistance committees in East Khartoum neighbourhoods came to the streets to chant and write graffiti in protest of the war.
 - A statement of the Sudan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, printed by the Embassy of Sudan in Rome states that “mediations that sought to convince the Rapid Support Commander to integrate into the Sudan Armed Forces failed to convince him to accept that.”
 - The Head of Office at DG European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office in Sudan, Wim Fransen, was shot at in Khartoum on Sunday evening.
 - The official is alive and receiving medical attention, according to four witnesses. He went missing for two days before his colleagues found him on Tuesday.
 - RSF fighters also attempted to break into the Norwegian Embassy where staff was working to destroy sensitive internal documents in case the embassy was breached, according to two officials.
 - It is unclear whether foreign diplomats are being purposefully targeted as part of a broader strategy by the warring factions or have simply been caught in the crossfire of the fighting.
 - UNDP sources in Khartoum reported that militias of the RSF were entering UN and diplomatic compounds in the city and looting, kidnapping, and raping.
 - Fighting has been reported in Khartoum, Nyala, Port Sudan, Merowe, Kassala, Gadarif, Kosti, Damazin, Al-Fasher, and Kabkabiya, with significant clashes in Nyala, al-Fasher, el-Obeid and Kassala.
 - RSF ground targets in Merowe in North Sudan have been subjected to air attacks.
-

- Emergency services were stopped at al-Shaab and al-Khartoum hospitals as a consequence of bombings on the 17th of April. Water and electricity has also been cut in Khartoum.
- Sudan Tribune has referred to the landing of a plane filled with supplies. However, the location and information on the cargo is not specified.
- Chad stopped and disarmed a contingent of 320 Sudanese soldiers when crossing the border, and expresses concern that the conflict will spread, says Al Jazeera.
- RSF is allegedly getting support from two neighbouring countries, according to the Sudan Tribune Arabic. It is presumed that the countries referred are Chad and Eritrea.
- The situation in Sudan is a 'worst case scenario', and it is unsure whether a cease-fire is viable, as it unsure whether the leaders of SAF and RSF will be able to control their troops.
- "All reporting suggests that the RSF is an undisciplined rabble inside of Khartoum right now," Hudson, a former diplomat and Horn specialist said.
- Over 900 hacked twitter accounts have been boosting tweets from RSF and Hemedti since March 30.

International Situation (per 19 April)

- The Embassies of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Delegation of the EU in Sudan published a joint statement urging immediate dialogue in Sudan.
- The All African Conference of Churches (AACC) urges the SAF and RSF to "ceasefire, resume talks and finalize the framework agreement towards peaceful transition to democracy."
- The AACC urges the African Union Peace and Security Council, together with IGAD and countries in the Horn of Africa to engage with the situation with high-level diplomacy.
- The World Council of Churches urges an immediate ceasefire in Sudan and calls for worldwide prayer.
- Kenyan president William S. Ruto expressed concern over the situation in Sudan, calling for peaceful resolution.
- Kenya's government is making plans to evacuate 3000 citizens in Sudan if the humanitarian crisis in Sudan further escalates.
- Germany has decided to cancel their evacuation plan for German citizens in Sudan, due to the security situation in Khartoum, reported the DPA, a German news agency.
- The Journalists and Writers Foundation calls on the international community to initiate conflict resolution.

Links of interest

[Sudan live news: Clashes near presidential palace in Khartoum](#)

[HoACSE statement](#)

[Statement embassies Khartoum](#)

[The E.U.'s top humanitarian aid officer in Sudan was shot in Khartoum](#)

[Sudan conflict: Residents flee capital Khartoum as fighting continues](#)

[Sudan - Military and Militia Driven By Hunger for Power](#)

[Kenya's government plans to evacuate 3,000 citizens from Sudan](#)

[Mapping the heavy fighting in Sudan](#)

[«كباشي»: دول مجاورة وفرت دعماً عسكرياً لقوات «الدعم السريع»](#)

[Western Governments Look to Escape the 'Nightmare' in Sudan](#)

[Potentially hijacked Twitter accounts promote Sudanese paramilitary force](#)

[World Council of Churches urges for an immediate ceasefire in Sudan](#)

[Address By His Excellency William Samoei Ruto](#)

[Journalists and Writers Foundation](#)

Disclaimer: All information in this Situation Report is presented as a fluid update report, as to the best knowledge and understanding of the authors at the moment of publication. EEPA does not claim that the information is correct but verifies to the best of ability within the circumstances. Publication is weighed on the basis of interest to understand potential impacts of events (or perceptions of these) on the situation. Check all information against updates and other media. EEPA does not take responsibility for the use of the information or impact thereof. All information reported originates from third parties and the content of all reported and linked information remains the sole responsibility of these third parties. Report to info@eepea.be any additional information and corrections.