

Why the revolution in Sudan needs your solidarity now more than ever

In Sudan, revolutionaries have kept up a powerful struggle for justice for more than three years now. In December 2018, the Sudanese rose in their millions to demand the fall of the military regime of Omar al-Bashir. They called this uprising the 'December Revolution'. Their demands were and continue to be freedom, peace, and justice. They have been met with bullets, tear gas and arrest, but they persist, organizing nonviolently, protesting, going on strike, and declaring a state of mass civil disobedience. In April 2019, tens of thousands of protestors occupied the area in front of the military headquarters in Khartoum. They secured the area, collectively provided food, shelter, art, education, music and discussion. It was not just a protest — they also modeled the kind of society they want to create, a society that actively fights for the safety and equality of everyone not just the powerful.

The massive sit-in was periodically attacked by the state, and some lost their lives defending the barricades that protected the occupied area. Tens of thousands of Sudanese flocked from all over the country to reinforce the sit-in, and to also tell the other protestors about their lives and struggles. Women from Darfur, Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile spoke about being subjected to war and mass sexual violence, and of being burned out of their villages. Groups from towns where gold mining has devastated the environment spoke of their resistance. Groups of workers came too, the railway workers from Atbara and the port workers from Port Sudan. People came from the north of the country to talk about how the government has displaced their communities to build hydro-electric dams. Groups from rural areas all over the country came to speak about land theft by agro-businesses that have destroyed the environment and the livelihoods of farmers and herders. Students, youth, feminists, musicians, and artists who had resisted the regime for decades also camped at the sit-in. At least twelve other sit-ins took place in various cities around the country, sometimes in very difficult conditions.

On June 3rd, 2019, the military attacked the sit-ins, killing more than a hundred protestors and injuring many others. It was devastating, but the resistance grew stronger in response. In August 2019, a power-sharing deal, backed by western countries, was reached between the opposition political parties and the military. Since the repression continued and neither justice nor peace was achieved, protests continued sporadically since. In October 2021, the military staged a coup d'état and took full control of the government. The resistance committees are bodies of mostly youth organized by neighborhood. They have played a critical role in organizing their communities: they barricade the streets, organize protests, give help to the vulnerable. Close to 80 protestors have been killed by the military in the protests since then and many of the resistance committee members and others were arrested. But due to the decentralized nature of the organizing, the military hasn't been able to stop the resistance so far.



How can you stand in solidarity with the struggle in Sudan?

- The most important thing you can do is to organize events and show up for solidarity activities. It's critical to keep the Sudanese struggle visible, especially now.
- Provide material support, no matter how small, to the groups in Sudan currently resisting the coup. They need masks and goggles to protect themselves from tear gas, spray cans to write on the walls, and water to give to protestors during the marches. They also help families of those killed, injured, disappeared, and arrested, as well as people whose livelihoods are disrupted and face food insecurity. Women's groups also help protestors who survived sexual violence, and who need mental, physical, or legal care. The Sudanese Doctor's Union, an association of doctors and medical staff, treats and cares daily for protestors who were attacked by police and military during the demos.
- Pressure the German government and the EU to stop tacit support for the military in Sudan, and to take concrete measures, such as targeted sanctions, to weaken the military and RSF militia. Germany and the EU have collaborated with the military in Sudan in the name of 'migration control' since 2015, under the umbrella of the 'Khartoum Process'.
- Support Sudanese refugees in Germany, who constantly face the threat of deportation. Some have already been deported since the revolution started to extremely unsafe conditions.
- Get together and exchange information about Sudan and share the vision of the resistance committees, not that of the German government, the EU, or the big, corporate NGOs who thrive on African misery.



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