



[Protesters Demand an Acceleration of Government Reforms on the Second Anniversary of the Sudanese Uprising](#)

Recently, thousands of Sudanese protesters took to the streets to demand an acceleration of government reforms on the second anniversary of the uprising which ousted former despot Omar al-Bashir. The movement against the autocrat's three-decade rule began back in December of 2018 and resulted in his ultimate removal from power months later in April of 2019. Following the deposition of al-Bashir, a transitional government was formed between military and civilian groups which has promised to fix the country's struggling economy and provide a bridge towards fair presidential and parliamentary elections. However, many citizens are dissatisfied with the slow pace of change under the transitional government. As such, the demonstrators have voiced their desire for several key elements including the speedy formation of a legislative body, holding those responsible for killing protesters during the uprising accountable, and the implementation of much-needed economic reforms.

The protests marking the second anniversary of the uprising were spurred by the Sudanese Professionals Association and the nation's resistance committees. Both group collectives were critical in the success of the 2018-2019 anti-Bashir uprising and also played an important role in ensuring that the military figures who ousted the former dictator set up a power-sharing transitional government with civilian officials. Now, the respective umbrella association and the grassroots network of residents are focused on guaranteeing that the army makes good on the reforms it promised to initiate. For its part, the country's Sovereign Council has expressed its commitment to doing so. The head of the eleven-member council, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, pledged to uphold the progress made as a result of the uprising, stating that "the armed forces will remain the guarantor and protector of the revolution and its gains."

Overall, Sudan's transitional government faces significant challenges in addressing the country's economic crisis, which was a major motivating factor in the 2018 uprising and remains a key concern today. The government has been hampered by a large budget deficit and widespread shortages of essential goods such as wheat and medicine. Youth unemployment is also on the rise, and inflation has skyrocketed, with the Sudanese pound plunging in value. In fact, just this September, the nation declared an economic emergency after the Sudanese pound lost 40% of its value in a mere month. However, the country's ruling authorities are hopeful that Sudan's recent official removal from the list of state sponsors of terror will benefit it economically, as it will be able to reconnect with the global community both in this regard and diplomatically as well. Most importantly, Sudan's delisting should open the door for access to international funding and help to stimulate its economic recovery process.

In anticipation of the protests commemorating the two-year anniversary of the Sudanese uprising, security had been tightened in Khartoum and Omdurman – sites where a mass volume of demonstrators was expected. Authorities had also preemptively closed off major roads and streets which led to government and military headquarters in the capital city of Khartoum. While there were some instances of security forces dispersing protesters who had gathered near certain locations such as the presidential palace, the rallies were largely peaceful and civil, with no major incidents of violence or casualties being reported.