



[Large-Scale Protests Take Place in Sudan Opposing the Recent Military Coup and Calling for a Return to Democracy](#)

Widespread protests in Sudan calling for a return to democracy and opposing the recent military coup which eliminated the interim government shortly before elections were supposed to take place have gained momentum. Despite security forces' violent attempts to suppress the demonstrations, killing at least 15 people today and wounding dozens of others, the protests continue with thousands of Sudanese citizens adamant on reinstating the democratic transition process in the country. A considerable level of foreign interference had enabled the circumstances which led to the military coup, with analysts particularly highlighting the destabilizing role of external anti-democratic forces such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and others, who are known to help prop up fellow authoritarian regimes in the region behind the scenes. On the other hand, activists and proponents of the efforts to build longstanding democracy in the region have called for the restoration of the transitional government, while human rights groups are trying to draw attention to and halt the military coup's brutal repression of protesters.

Sudan once had many pro-democracy advocates and nations optimistic about the prospect of stable and fair elections. However, the recent military coup, which has persisted for weeks, shows little progress within the political structure for a reinstatement of the interim government – which had been a joint military-civilian partnership. Leaders of the coup have regrettably made efforts to claim that it was necessary to avoid a “civil war” and preserve human rights, the latter being a particularly ironic and preposterous sentiment considering the violent crackdown that security forces have engaged in against the large-scale anti-coup protests. The United States and the European Union have spoken out in opposition to the coup, calling for the leaders of the former interim transitional government to be released and for them to resume their political positions. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have publicly expressed this as well, despite both governments having extensive and well-known ties to the Sudan military coup figures and being credibly accused of supporting and enabling the new military dictatorship.

Currently, while phone lines have been temporarily restored in most areas across Sudan, internet access primarily remains cut off since the start of the coup. The response to the demonstrations has turned violent, as security forces defending the new military dictatorship have targeted protesters – recently killing 15 today on one of the deadliest days in the aftermath of the coup, and leaving a total of at least 39 dead during this time period. Some rights groups have even contended that the numbers are likely higher, as thousands of Sudanese citizens take to the streets to voice their support for the reinstatement of the nation's democratic transition process.

As more time passes since the military coup came to power, advocates and entities working to bring about democracy in Sudan and the greater Horn of Africa region as a whole have expressed grave concern about the likelihood of reinstating the necessary path to do so. What is clear is that the international community must act in bolder and larger unified collations in order to ensure that the new military dictatorship fails, a political force that the majority of Sudanese citizens have made clear that they are against with the large-scale pro-democracy movement that has emerged in recent weeks.