

[Sudanese Protesters Demand Transitional Justice and Highlight Key Issues That Still Need to be Addressed as a Framework Deal to Pave the Way for Eventual Civilian Rule is Reached](#)

A recent framework deal reached between the Sudanese military and civilian leaders has been met with renewed protests, as pro-democracy demonstrators demand transitional justice and highlight other key issues that still need to be addressed. The agreement is aimed at ending the more than a year-long standoff between security forces and the political class, after the military coup and takeover which took place in October of 2021. Many of the protestors and critics fear that this deal gives the army and Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a powerful paramilitary group, a way to circumvent any consequences from their brutal suppression and killing of protestors during the military coup and its aftermath. The crimes committed against protestors by the security forces include assault, rape, and murder. At least 120 people have been killed during anti-coup protests. Sudan's resistance committees say that this deal will restore the partnership between the political and security elites, betraying what the people truly want. "We believe that if there is no justice, then the killing will continue," said Ahmed Ismat, a spokesperson for the Khartoum south resistance committees. "We are just repeating the same cycle."

Many international observers, including the United Nations, have touted the agreement as a positive step towards restoring the democratic transition process in Sudan. The settlement would usher in a two-year transitional period ahead of the elections. UN Ambassador to Sudan John Godfrey has called it a "credible path to a final agreement." Despite the optimism from some outsider observers, there are those in Sudan that are concerned that the lack of transitional justice and security sector reform will just continue the same cycle that Sudan has been going through since the deposal of former dictator Omar al-Bashir from power back in 2019. This has consisted of civil unrest, human rights abuses and violations against civilians by security forces, and transitional periods that have been derailed and interrupted by military coups and power grabs.

Former Sudanese despot Omar al-Bashir was overthrown by the military after months of protest in 2019. The military announced that there would be a transitional period, but this was interrupted by another military coup led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. The new agreement is just the latest event in a long period of instability for Sudan. This instability also comes as hundreds of people are being killed in tribal fighting in neighboring South Sudan. With no government intervention, it is unlikely that the killing will stop. There have even been multiple instances where the government aided the killing with no repercussions or accountability provided.

Though any agreement offering the prospect of increased stability should be celebrated, the demands for transitional justice should not be sacrificed for the sake of this framework deal. Without accountability, the bad actors involved in both the government and military will continue their abuses against the people of Sudan. There can be no true stability while this abuse is taking place. The best step forward would be to initiate an agreement that implements avenues for the people of Sudan to get the justice they deserve and hold human rights abusers accountable. This could be either incorporated into the current deal or created as a separate one. It is paramount that the people's voices are heard if Sudan wants to truly transition into a functioning democracy. This would also be an important step in restoring the people's faith in the government.