



[Civilians Struggle to Escape Sudan as Fighting Continues](#)

The civil war in Sudan continues to escalate with no end in sight. Many countries are evacuating or have already evacuated their embassy staff. Some have also evacuated many of their citizens from the country. As these evacuations continue, one thing remains glaringly clear, Sudanese civilians are on their own. Many of them, who were already suffering from an unstable economy now have little to no access to food, water, medicine, or electricity. These shortages have so far been centralized in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, where a majority of the fighting is taking place, but as fighting continues to spread into the surrounding areas, these shortages will likely become an issue across the country.

The fighting started in mid-April when fighting broke out between a Sudanese militia known as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese armed forces. They are led by General Mohamad Hamdan Dagalo and Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, respectively. These groups used to work together and there was talk of even merging the two groups into one force. Now these two groups are vying to be the sole leaders of Sudan. So far, hundreds have been killed and thousands injured. Those still trapped in areas where fighting is heaviest are having difficulty escaping, as reliable information is hard to come by. Those who remain in the capital are running out of food, medical supplies, water, and other necessities. There have been reports of people dying in their homes from lack of food and water. Many of the civilians that remain have to face the impossible choice of either remaining and risking starvation or attempting to flee the warzone. Each option is extremely dangerous and lack of information makes this decision infinitely harder.

A concerning trend that has developed is the massive amounts of civilian casualties. Though these are often common, especially in city fighting, the nature of their wounds is what sparks increased concern. According to doctors many of the civilians coming in have been struck by multiple bullets, indicating that they are being purposely targeted. The few remaining hospitals that are open in Khartoum are under a massive amount of pressure, with the same shift of medical personal working for days on end. Shortages have led to the rise of looting and gangs, which add even more danger to an already dangerous situation. The Sudanese people need help, but no one is willing or able to give it at the moment. Much of the aid that makes it into the country is seized by gangs or warring parties. Aid groups have made attempts to adapt their approach, but this will take time. Time that many in Sudan do not have. Refugees that have been able to escape have had difficulty crossing the border into neighboring countries. Even if they are among the lucky that can cross the border, the countries they enter are already overwhelmed with refugees from previous Sudanese conflicts.

It is almost certain the situation in Sudan will continue to worsen in the coming months. There is no off ramp for this conflict. The leaders of each side will effectively lose everything, their power, resources, and likely even their lives if they lose this conflict. They are battling for survival and there is no room for negotiations or compromise. Every ceasefire has failed to some extent, with many reporting that

fighting continues even when a ceasefire is supposed to be in effect. The epicenter of the fighting is taking place in Khartoum, but the RSF is reported to have taken control of mass swathes of land. Because the fighting is centralized around the place of power, this appears to be a coup attempt by the RSF to seize power from the Sudanese armed forces.

Sudan's struggle for democracy has been a long and tenuous journey. The removal of Omar al-Bashir, the former despot that ruled over Sudan for decades, gave hope to many in both Sudan and the international community that democracy was possible in the future. Before the civil war broke out, there had been a fragile plan to transfer power from the military to a democratically elected government. This plan was postponed multiple times. Any hopes for this plan have vanished. Sudan and her people now find themselves in a civil war with no end in sight. The international community must keep working to find solutions to end this conflict as quickly as possible. Neighboring countries must also be given the necessary support to house and care for the refugees that are now pouring in.