



[Sudan's Resistance Committees Look for Ways to End the Conflict](#)

Negotiations in Sudan have broken down again as the hope for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Sudan continues to prove elusive. Sudan's army withdrew from talks this week aimed at achieving a full cease-fire. The most recent cease-fire, though largely seen as a failure, did bring a reduction in fighting in certain areas. Unfortunately, this still wasn't enough time for aid organizations to move much-needed food and supplies into the capital city of Khartoum. Many people are still trapped in Khartoum, having to weigh the risks of running out of supplies or being killed while trying to escape the city. Many civilians being treated at the hospital are being treated for multiple gunshot wounds, indicating that they are being targeted intentionally. The fighting has killed at least 700 people, according to the health ministry, but the true number is likely much higher.

Away from much of the fighting lies the city of Atbara, the birthplace of many of Sudan's revolutionary movements. The city is far away from both Khartoum and Darfur, where much of the fighting is taking place. Many internally displaced people are fleeing to this city, some setting up residence there, while others move on to Egypt. Also in this city is a concentration of Resistance Committees, a nationwide network of activist groups that were the driving force behind the uprising that led to the ousting of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir. This group was pushed to the sidelines in 2019 when civilian politicians from the Forces of Freedom and Change coalition formed a transitional government with the military. After the military coup in 2021, these civilian politicians were once again pushed aside as the military assumed power. This leaves a gap that is likely to be filled once again by the Resistance Committees.

A complicating factor is the interference of regional actors from Egypt, Libya, and the Central African Republic. Libyan warlord Khalifa Haftar visited Sudan in the days before fighting broke out to help prepare the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) for the impending conflict. The outside influence will continue to be a barrier to the long-term goals of the Resistance Committees.

The Resistance Committees are currently the best bet Sudan has to bring this conflict to a peaceful end. They are well organized, have political clout, and have the ability and willpower to enact change. Though this group tends to favor the military, they are frustrated with the leaders of both the Sudanese military and the RSF. Some believe that it may be possible to influence the younger officers and soldiers in the military to make the Sudanese army more representative of the people.

Something very important about the Resistance Committees' discussions is that they are not just discussing how to end the fighting. They are also talking about ways that Sudan can emerge from this conflict as a fledgling democracy. They are planning farther ahead than just peace. This comprehensive approach, coupled with their growing influence, will allow them to play a role in creating peace in Sudan and democracy after that.