



[Sudan's Proposed Peace Plan for 'Lasting Peace' Appears to be Dead on Arrival](#)

By Colin Bailey

The “long-lasting” peace plan proposed by Mohamed Hamdan “Hemedti” Dagalo, leader of Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has already been denounced by military rival Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, as he travels internationally for the first time since fighting began. This comes days after United Nations under-secretary-general Martin Griffiths, warned that the humanitarian crisis in Sudan was reaching levels of “epic proportions,” as thousands of civilians are at risk of starvation and disease as food supplies continue to dwindle.

Fighting in Sudan was reignited back in April over a disagreement on the integration of troops into a single consolidated force that would have assisted in transitioning Sudan to democracy. The primary combatants in this conflict are rivals Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, lead general of the Sudanese army, and Mohamed Hamdan “Hemedti” Dagalo, head of the RSF. The two groups have had a long history of cooperation, having worked together in the 2019 coup that saw the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir and the 2021 coup that forced civilian politicians out of the government. Relations fell apart in mid-April over which organization would control a unified force, neither side wanting to hand over control to the other.

The RSF’s proposed “Sudan Reborn” plan consists of ten key points highlighting a need for establishing a democratic government that would have equal representation for all ethnic groups and peoples of different cultural backgrounds. Additionally, the plan emphasizes that ‘long-lasting peace’ can only be attained if widespread structural violence is put to rest alongside the unification of all armed forces in the region. Beyond the demands, no timeline for how unification would unfold was outlined in the RSF’s plan. The plan also does not elaborate on who would have control over the military, which remains the central issue of the conflict.

While the plan mimics the international consensus for establishing a democratic government in Sudan, such calls for equality in these proposed policies run in stark contrast to the events currently unfolding, as reports of ethnic cleansing and systemic sexual violence by the RSF and allied militias in western Darfur continue to surface. The aforementioned proposals could also be an attempt to ‘show face’ and direct focus away from the atrocities currently unfolding in RAF-controlled territory and appear more negotiable in the eyes of foreign mediators like the United States, which has yet to officially back either party. Based on Hemedti’s past behavior, it is very unlikely that this peace proposal was genuine. The fact that it coincides with Burhan’s visit to Egypt indicates that it is an attempt to even the diplomatic playing field. Sudanese expert Kholood Khair, founding director of the Confluence Advisory think-tank, said Wednesday, “Nobody in their right minds thinks this peace proposal is genuine. It’s a political ploy. This is war by other means, and it is targeted towards mediation actors and efforts.”

In a statement Monday, al-Burhan rejected calls for a ceasefire, stating, “We do not make deals with traitors, we do not make deals with anyone who has betrayed the Sudanese people,” outside Flamingo Base in Port Sudan. Al-

Burhan further claimed that the RSF “are completely exhausted - just a little effort, and they will be finished.” Since then, al-Burhan has flown to Egypt to meet with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, which has been al-Burhan’s first trip internationally since the onset of the war. Al-Sisi has expressed public support for al-Burhan and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). Al-Sisi has attempted to intervene in the conflict, proposing a cease-fire alongside neighboring African countries. Such efforts have failed to provide any level of peace, however.

Al-Burhan’s tour to Egypt and Saudi Arabia is believed to be the start of a shift in strategy to garner international support to aid the SAF over the RSF. Thus far, the fighting has largely been contained to the western Darfur region and the capital city of Khartoum. Neither party has made any significant gains, continuously trading control over neighbors in and around Khartoum. Still, as reports of ethnic cleansing continue to surface and 4.6 million migrants have fled the region, fears continue to worsen among experts that the fighting will soon spread to the entire country, which would put millions at risk. Unless something drastic happens within the coming weeks, the humanitarian crisis in Sudan will only continue to worsen as neither party is willing to cooperate with the other.