

# Fighting rages in Sudan as death toll passes 100



Smoke rises from the tarmac of Khartoum International Airport as a fire burns in Khartoum, Sudan, on April 17, 2023 in this screen grab obtained from a social media video.  
● ABDULLAH ABDEL MONEIM/  
VIA REUTERS

Explosions rocked the Sudanese capital Khartoum Monday as fighting between the army and paramilitary forces led by rival generals raged for a third day with the death toll surpassing 100.

The violence erupted Saturday after weeks of power struggles between the two generals who seized

power in a 2021 coup, Sudan's Army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), AFP reported.

The conflict, which has seen airstrikes, tanks on the streets, artillery fire and heavy gunfire in

crowded neighbourhoods both in Khartoum and other cities across Sudan, has triggered international demands for an immediate ceasefire.

Despite the wide calls for a ceasefire, the two generals have appeared in no mood for talks with each one calling the other "criminal".

As the fighting showed no sign of abating, Daglo took to Twitter to call for the international community to intervene against Burhan. The UN chief in Sudan on Monday slammed the failure by both the army and rival paramilitary forces to stop fighting during an agreed humanitarian pause to evacuate the wounded.

The conflict has claimed the lives of at least 97 civilians and "dozens" of fighters from both sides, medics said, adding about 942 people have been injured. But the number of casualties is thought to be far higher, with many wounded unable to reach hospi-

tals due to difficulties in movement amid the fighting.

The doctors' union warned the fighting had "heavily damaged" multiple hospitals in Khartoum and other cities, with some rendered completely "out of service".

The World Health Organization had already warned that several of Khartoum's nine hospitals receiving injured civilians "have run out of blood, transfusion equipment, intravenous fluids and other vital supplies". UN Special Representative Volker Perthes, who is in Khartoum, said he was "extremely disappointed" by the failure of both sides to abide by an agreed humanitarian pause on Sunday to evacuate the wounded.

The violence has forced terrified people to shelter in their homes with fears of a prolonged conflict that could plunge Sudan into deeper chaos, dashing hopes for return to civilian rule.

The RSF was created un-

der former autocrat Omar al-Bashir in 2013, emerging from the Janjaweed militia that his government unleashed against non-Arab ethnic minorities in Darfur a decade earlier, drawing accusations of war crimes.

The fighting broke out after bitter disagreements between Burhan and Daglo over the planned integration of the RSF into the regular army – a key condition for a final deal aimed at ending a crisis since the 2021 military coup they orchestrated together. The two sides accuse the other of starting the fighting, and both claim the upper hand by declaring control of key sites, including the airport and the presidential palace – none of which could be independently verified.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned an escalation in the fighting would "further aggravate the already precarious humanitarian situation".

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### China to be top world growth source in next five years: IMF



**BLOOMBERG** – China will be the top contributor to global growth over the next five years, with its share set to be double that of the US, according to the International Monetary Fund. The nation's slice of global gross domestic product expansion is expected to represent 22.6% of total world growth through 2028, according to Bloomberg calculations using data the fund released in its World Economic Outlook released last week. India follows at 12.9%, while the US will contribute 11.3%.

## Large crowds in London protest Israel's 'apartheid policies'



### International Desk

A mass rally was held in central London on Sunday to protest Israel's "apartheid policies" against Palestinians.

Crowds gathered outside the Home Office carrying signs expressing solidarity with Palestinians bearing slogans including "Freedom for Palestine," "Boycott Apartheid" and

"Stop Killing Palestinians," Anadolu Agency reported. Some Orthodox Jews were among those attending the protest, organized by the Justice for Palestine Committee to mark International Quds Day, which is observed every year on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan.

Raising Palestinian flags, the protesters marched towards Downing Street

which houses British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Office.

"Free Palestine!" was among the slogans chanted by the group with Palestinian flags.

The demonstrators denounced the continued Israeli occupation of Palestine and relentless atrocities against Palestinians in the occupied territories, especially during the holy month of Ramadan, while calling for an end to the Israeli occupation.

### New arrests

Over the past months, Israel has ramped up attacks on Palestinian towns and cities throughout the occupied territories. As a result of these attacks, dozens of Palestinians have lost their lives and many others have

been arrested.

The regime forces arrested at least twenty Palestinians, including children, during raids in the West Bank and Al-Quds.

Palestine's official Wafa news agency, citing local sources, reported that Israeli troops arrested three children – identified as Musa, Fo'ad and Omar Jibril – after raiding their family home in the Silwan neighborhood of Al-Quds on Sunday.

Israeli forces detained at least three other Palestinians in the occupied East Al-Quds neighborhood of al-Tur, while another six were arrested after the regime's troops stormed their houses in the occupied Old City of al-Quds.

Six other Palestinians were also arrested after the oc-

cupying regime forces attacked their house in the West Bank village of Husan, west of Bethlehem. Local and international rights groups have condemned Israel's excessive use of force and "shoot-to-kill policy" against Palestinians.

On Friday, millions of people have attended Quds Day rallies across Iran and other Muslim countries to show their solidarity with the oppressed Palestinian people and condemn Israeli atrocities.

### Strong condemnation

Speaking at the London protest, Stephen Sizer, the founder and director of the Peacemaker Trust, strongly condemned the Israeli occupation of Palestine, Press TV reported.

He stressed that the Israeli military occupation is "based on segregation, on supremacism, [and] on apartheid", adding that it is "a colonization that involves a systematic, premeditated, ethnic cleansing in breach of international law, Geneva conventions, and UN resolutions."

Sizer expressed hope that Al-Quds would become "a city of equality, a city of tolerance, a city of mutual respect, [and] a city of justice, peace and reconciliation, not just for Palestine, but as a model and an inspiration for the entire world."

Many other human other activists also speak at the protest, urging the international community to take serious note of Israeli regime's atrocities.

## Saudi unilaterally releases detainees to Yemen amid peace push



Relatives of freed detainees released unilaterally by Saudi Arabia wait for their arrival at Sana'a Airport on an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) plane in Sana'a, Yemen, on April 17, 2023.  
● KHALED ABDULLAH/REUTERS

Saudi Arabia on Monday released 104 detainees to Yemen, the International Committee of the Red Cross and a Saudi-led coalition said, in a unilateral move that follows simultaneous detainee exchanges between Yemen's warring parties.

The military coalition, which intervened in Yemen in 2015 to reinstall Mansour Hadi, who resigned from the presidency in late 2014, said the additional release was to support dialogue in continuing efforts to end Yemen's conflict, Reuters reported.

A Saudi delegation, which is seeking a permanent ceasefire deal to end military involvement in the war, on Thursday concluded peace talks in

Sana'a with the Houthi group, whose top negotiator said talks had made progress and further discussions would be held to iron out remaining differences.

The head of Yemen's Houthi Supreme Political Council, Mahdi al-Mashat, said on Saturday another round of talks would come after the Eid al-Fitr holiday, which starts later this week, SABA reported. A three-day operation between six cities in Yemen and Saudi Arabia overseen by the ICRC to return nearly 900 detainees held in relation to the conflict ended on Sunday, a significant confidence-building measure amid the peace talks between Saudi envoys and Houthi officials.

## Europe must defend global order: German FM

Europe should not only defend its own peace but act with a broad worldview, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said Monday after talks on China with G7 counterparts.

Her comments came after French President Emmanuel Macron provoked controversy after a recent trip to Beijing by saying that Europe should avoid "crises that aren't ours," AFP reported.

Europeans "must not withdraw into our shells. We must not limit ourselves to defending the European peace, because it is under attack," Baerbock told a press conference in Karuizawa, Japan, where the gathering of the top dip-



plomats was taking place. "We must act sovereignly and independently with a broad view of the world, especially when others suddenly act to our detriment or to the detriment of others," she added.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock.  
● REUTERS

## Ukraine seeks re-opening of grain transit via Poland

**REUTERS** – Kyiv aims to re-open food and grain transit via Poland as "a first step" to ending import bans that began in Warsaw on Monday as countries halted grain from Ukraine to protect their local agriculture markets.

Poland and Hungary announced bans on some imports from Ukraine on Saturday. Slovakia said on Monday it would do the same and other countries in central and eastern Europe said they were also considering action.

## Protesters demand justice for Black teen shot in Kansas City



**AFP** – Hundreds of protesters demanded justice for a Black teenager shot in the midwestern US state of Missouri, local media reported Sunday, as police promised to move quickly with the investigation. Ralph Paul Yarl, 16, is in critical condition after he was shot twice and struck in the head by a white man last week in Kansas City, according to a statement on Sunday by high-profile lawyers Ben Crump and Lee Merritt, who have agreed to take the case.