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Monday 22 July 2019

Our ref: 27011

Your ref:

Dear Elena,

Please find attached information regarding your query on Sudan:

Information on arrests of protestors/dissidents in Khartoum

BBC News in July 2019 states that:

"The security forces have used brute force to strengthen the position of the generals, killing dozens of people - and throwing many bodies in the River Nile - in a crackdown on protesters in the capital, Khartoum on 3 June. But tens of thousands of protesters returned to the streets a few weeks later to stage the biggest demonstration since Mr Bashir's overthrow...The unrest in Sudan can be traced back to December 2018, when then President Bashir's government imposed emergency austerity measures to try to stave off economic collapse. Cuts to bread and fuel subsidies sparked demonstrations in the east over living standards and the anger spread to the capital, Khartoum"(BBC News (17 July 2019) *Sudan crisis: What you need to know*, p.1).

In July 2019 the *Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect* points out that:

"Approximately 112 people were killed in Khartoum by armed paramilitaries and security forces on 3 June" (Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (15 July 2019) *Responsibility to Protect (R2P) Monitor, July 2019, Issue 45 [Sudan excerpt]*, p.1).

A report issued in July 2019 by *Reuters* states that:

"In Khartoum on Saturday, thousands protested on Sitteen Street, a major thoroughfare in the capital, a Reuters witness said. Some lit candles to remember those killed at the protest camp on June 3, while others lit the torches on their mobile phones. "We came out to express our opinion and convey our voice and salute the memory of our eternal martyrs," said protester Mostafa Sayed Ahmed. Six vehicles belonging to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), each carrying about six men armed with assault rifles and sticks, drove through a portion of Sitteen Street as protesters chanted "Civilian!" at them, a Reuters witness said" (Reuters (13 July 2019) *Thousands demonstrate in Sudan to mark 40 days since deadly crackdown*, pp.1-2).

In July 2019 *Voice of America* notes that:

“Police fired tear gas as tens of thousands of people took to the streets on Sunday in the capital Khartoum and other areas in the first such demonstration since a June deadly crackdown on protesters. More demonstrations were reported Monday” (Voice of America (1 July 2019) *More Deaths Reported in Sudan Protests*).

In June 2019 *BBC News* states that:

“Security forces fired tear gas to disperse demonstrators near the presidential palace and three other districts in Khartoum, AFP reported” (BBC News (30 June 2019) *Sudan protests: Deadly unrest as masses oppose the military*).

Amnesty International in June 2019 states that:

“Horrific attacks on peaceful protesters in Khartoum on 3 June led to more than 100 people being killed, and over 700 injured” (Amnesty International (28 June 2019) *Sudan: Authorities must guarantee protestor safety*).

Human Rights Watch in June 2019 states:

“As you are aware, on June 3rd Sudan’s Transitional Military Council (TMC) unleashed government security forces, including the Rapid Response Force (RSF) – the paramilitary forces that have carried out grave abuses in Darfur, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile in recent years – to attack peaceful protesters at their sit-in site in Khartoum. These forces shot live bullets into the sit-in, beat and detained protesters and bystanders, and burned their tents to the ground. The forces also beat up medical staff and volunteers at clinics at the sit-in and in other hospitals, looted and destroyed property, threatened doctors and medical workers with reprisals if they provided care, and prevented ambulances from reaching the wounded. Monitors estimate 128 protesters were killed and hundreds injured, and 28 women were raped or sexually assaulted” (Human Rights Watch (24 June 2019) *UN Human Rights Council Should Create Fact-Finding Group for Sudan*).

In June 2019 *Amnesty International* points out in a document that:

“Most people went to bed in their tents as usual on the evening of 2 June, unaware of the horrors that would awake them. In the early dawn, the peace was shattered by gunfire and burning. People found themselves hemmed in and under attack on all sides as more than 10,000 soldiers set on the protesters with live ammunition, teargas, whips and sticks. The attack lasted for five hours non-stop. More than 100 people were killed, and many hundreds more were injured in the brutal violence. A couple of days later, bodies began floating up the River Nile. Social media was awash with images of bodies with bricks tied to limbs. The security forces had hoped to conceal their acts – dumping and drowning dead bodies never to be seen again. This was a new level of cold-hearted brutality and callousness. The feared Rapid Support Forces - a special military force allied to Sudan’s former government - are still roaming the streets of Khartoum and inflicting terror. Hundreds of people have been arrested and detained, including recently-returned opposition leader Yassir Saeed Arman, who was one of the lead negotiators during the peace agreement that ended the war between the north and south of Sudan in 2005. There have been horrific reports of rape and sexual violence by paramilitaries. The World Health Organisation confirmed five women and men raped during the 3 June attack, while other reports put the number at 70” (Amnesty International (17 June 2019) *Protesters in Sudan are shocked, angry, sad but unbowed as protests head for sixth month*).

In June 2019 *BBC News* notes that:

“Sudanese security forces have fired tear gas and live ammunition to disperse protesters setting up barricades in Khartoum” (BBC News (9 June 2019) *Sudan security forces tear-gas protesters*, p.1).

In June 2019 the *International Crisis Group* states in a report that:

“On 3 June, Sudan's security forces launched a bloody crackdown on unarmed protesters in Khartoum, clearing a sit-in outside the country's military headquarters and bringing its political transition to a screeching halt. The horrific rampage left dozens dead and many more injured. State-affiliated militias now roam the streets of the capital and other major cities, with residents sheltering at home” (International Crisis Group (7 June 2019) *Sudan: Stopping a Spiral into Civil War*, p.1).

A report published in June 2019 by *Amnesty International* notes that:

“Since 3 June, media outlets have widely reported attacks on protestors with live ammunition, teargas, whips and sticks by the RSF paramilitary officers across Sudan. According to the Central Committee of Medical Doctors, more than 100 people have been killed and hundreds more injured. The security forces tried to conceal their acts by dumping dead bodies weighted with bricks in the River Nile, 40 of which are reported to have floated back to the surface, according to the doctors' committee” (Amnesty International (6 June 2019) *Sudan: Remove Rapid Support Forces from Khartoum streets immediately*).

References

Amnesty International (28 June 2019) *Sudan: Authorities must guarantee protestor safety*

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/06/sudan-authorities-must-guarantee-protestor-safety/>

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Kind Regards

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Sources Consulted

Amnesty International
BBC News/Monitoring
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
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Query response

Attachments

