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Country/entity Sudan

Region Africa (excl MENA)

Agreement name Joint Statement of Commitments from Jeddah Talks Between Sudanese Armed Forces

and Rapid Support Forces

Date 7 Nov 2023

Agreement status Multiparty signed/agreed

Interim Yes

arrangement

Sudan Conflicts (1955 -)

Agreements relate to several distinct dyads, and also the negotiated independence of South Sudan, and subsequent internal conflict in South Sudan. Sudan-South Sudan. The long-standing conflict between the north and the south of the country dates back to colonial times, where the British introduced a so-called 'Southern Policy', severely hampering population movements between these big regions. Immediately after gaining independence in 1956, southern movements started to fight for independence; this fight became professionalised in 1983 with the foundation of the soon internationally supported Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). When the Islamic Front government introduced strict sharia laws in the south after it took over power in 1988 the war intensified. A decade later, the military situation reached a stalemate, enabling internationally facilitated peace negotiations to begin in 1997. After more fighting, a final negotiation push began in 2002, leading to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Areement (CPA) in January 2005.

Sudan-South Sudan post referendum. South Sudan became independent in July 2011; since then, relations between the two countries are complicated and violent conflict led by the SPLM (North) in the Sudanese Nuba mountains region has since intensified.

Darfur. Other long-standing violent conflicts are in the east and the west of the country. In the east, the Beja Congress, established in 1957, is the spearhead of a currently 'peaceful' opposition movement. In the west, the violent conflict in Darfur intensified in the early 2000s and rapidly gained international attention, even resulting in genocide charges against leading figures of the Sudanese government. The situation on the ground is complex, with over a dozen organisations (most notably the Sudanese Liberation Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement) fighting the Sudanese government and allied groups like the Janjaweed – although all parties have switched sides on numerous occasions. Several mediation attempts have not been successful, due to the shaky commitment of the Sudanese central government and the distrust among the armed opposition.

South Sudan - internal

In December 2013, after president Salva Kiir accused opposition leader Riek Machar of attempting a coup, violent conflict broke out between government forces of the SPLM/A and anti-governmental groups. In addition, several other political militias as well as communal militias have joined the conflict. In 2015 the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) was signed. Due to unsuccessful implementation the agreement was revitalized in 2018. In September 2019, Kiir and Machar agreed to establish a power-sharing government after struggles on forming a unity transitional government.

Close Sudan Conflicts (1955 -)

Stage Pre-negotiation/process

Conflict nature Government/territory

Peace process Sudan Transition Process

Parties Not signed, but the agreement lists the following participants:

- Co-facilitators of the Jeddah talks that released the Joint Statement:

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

The United States of America

- Parties to the conflict that made commitments annexed to the Joint Statement:

Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) Rapid Support Forces (RSF)

Third parties

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Description The co-facilitators of the talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia between the Sudanese Armed

Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) released a joint statement stating that the

SAF and RSF had "committed to take steps to facilitate increased humanitarian

assistance, and to implement confidence-building measures (CBMs)." The SAF and RSF

also separately provided a list of commitments regarding humanitarian access.

Agreement document

SD_231107_Joint Statement of Commitments from Jeddah Talks Between Sudanese

Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces (opens in new tab) | Download PDF

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/ national group No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

 $\textbf{Refugees/displaced} \ \ \text{No specific mention}.$

persons

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and

No specific mention.

gender

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state

No specific mention.

(general)

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/

secession

No specific mention.

Accession/

No specific mention.

unification

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border

provision

Governance

Political No specific mention.

institutions (new or

reformed)

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral No specific mention.

commission

Political parties No specific mention.

reform

Civil society

Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) Humanitarian Commitments at Jeddah Talks (English Translation as of November 4, 2023)

...

2. Pending entry visas will be dealt with immediately, with the possibility of giving multiple entry visas for the Country Director of the organization.

...

4. Stay permits and work permits will be issued and/or extended to the Country Director of the organization for one year, and for other staff of the organization to six months.

...

6. SAF side agrees to the formation of the joint Humanitarian Forum led by UN OCHA to solve challenges facing smooth delivery of humanitarian assistance.

..

Humanitarian Commitments made by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) During Jeddah Talks (English language translation as of November 4, 2023) We reaffirm:

- 1. Our commitment to allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief, including medical and surgical equipment, and ensure relief personnel the freedom of movement required for their functions.
- 2. Our commitment to protect and respect humanitarian workers, assets, supplies, offices, warehouses, and other facilities.

...

While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution.

It is prohibited to attack, harass, intimidate, or arbitrarily detain personnel, or to attack, destroy, misappropriate, or loot relief supplies, installations, material, units or vehicles.

3. We agree to refrain from interference with principled humanitarian operations and never accompany side by side humanitarian personnel carrying out humanitarian activities, in conformity with the Amended Directives and Procedures for Humanitarian Action in Sudan.

...

4. Agree to appoint liaisons for civil-military coordination (CMCOORD), led by OCHA, to engage in a CMCOORD system to facilitate movement of humanitarian personnel and supplies and serve as an avenue for humanitarian deconfliction.

...

5. Agree to establish a RSF coordination unit led by Major General Mohammed Alawai Kulu by November 2, 2023, responsible for the safety and security of humanitarian operations, including the protection of civilians and their ability to safely access assistance, as well as the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, supplies, and movement.

..

6. Agree to participate in a UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UN-OCHA) led humanitarian forum comprising high-level representatives of the parties to the conflict, member states, and humanitarian organizations, to:

•••

- a. By November 4, 2023, agree to terms of reference and membership of the humanitarian forum. $\ \ \,$
- b. By November 9, 2023, attend the initial meeting of the humanitarian forum.
- c. Demonstrate implementation of agreements made with the humanitarian forum

Traditional/ religious leaders No specific mention.

Public

No specific mention.

administration

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power

No specific mention.

sharing

Territorial power

No specific mention.

sharing

Economic power

No specific mention.

sharing

Military power

sharing

No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL No specific mention.

general

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty

No specific mention.

incorporation

Civil and political rights

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Freedom of movement Humanitarian Commitments made by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) During

Jeddah Talks (English language translation as of November 4, 2023)

We reaffirm:

1. Our commitment to allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief, including medical and surgical equipment, and ensure relief

personnel the freedom of movement required for their functions.

RSF agrees to work with OCHA to establish safe delivery routes within Khartoum and

ensure beneficiary freedom of movement to receive assistance.

Socio-economic

rights

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures

No specific mention.

Media and communication

Rights related issues→Media and communication→Other

ation Reaffirming their obligations under the May 11, 2023 Jeddah Declaration of

Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, both the SAF and RSF committed to:

...

• Improvement of each side's official media discourse, and reduction of inflammatory

rhetoric

Mobility/access

Reaffirming their obligations under the May 11, 2023 Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, both the SAF and RSF committed to:

...

2. Identify points of contact to assist with movements of humanitarian personnel and assistance.

•••

Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) Humanitarian Commitments at Jeddah Talks (English Translation as of November 4, 2023)

- 1. Expedite customs clearance of relief goods within seven working days maximum.
- 2. Pending entry visas will be dealt with immediately, with the possibility of giving multiple entry visas for the Country Director of the organization.
- 3. Travel permits for areas impacted by pandemics, to include various types of medical emergencies, will be waived.
- 4. Stay permits and work permits will be issued and/or extended to the Country Director of the organization for one year, and for other staff of the organization to six months.
- 5. Military focal points [for civil-military coordination] have already been nominated, their names will be communicated to the co-facilitators forthwith.
- 6. SAF side agrees to the formation of the joint Humanitarian Forum led by UN OCHA to solve challenges facing smooth delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- 7. Pertaining to the loaded 90 trucks which are supposed to depart Port Sudan for designated destinations [in Khartoum], the authorities in Port Sudan have already been alerted to facilitate and expedite the procedures and to provide safety and security for the convoys (personnel, trucks and goods) until they reach their destination in full coordination with UN OCHA.

Humanitarian Commitments made by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) During Jeddah Talks (English language translation as of November 4, 2023) We reaffirm:

1. Our commitment to allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief, including medical and surgical equipment, and ensure relief personnel the freedom of movement required for their functions.

•••

While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution.

It is prohibited to attack, harass, intimidate, or arbitrarily detain personnel, or to attack, destroy, misappropriate, or loot relief supplies, installations, material, units or vehicles.

•••

5. Agree to establish a RSF coordination unit led by Major General Mohammed Alawai Kulu by November 2, 2023, responsible for the safety and security of humanitarian operations, including the protection of civilians and their ability to safely access assistance, as well as the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, supplies, and movement.

..

7. Agree to establish a safe route for humanitarian movement from Port Sudan into and throughout Khartoum.

...

RSF agrees to work with OCHA to establish safe delivery routes within Khartoum and ensure beneficiary freedom of movement to receive assistance.

Protection measures

Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians

Humanitarian Commitments made by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) During

Jeddah Talks (English language translation as of November 4, 2023)

We reaffirm:

...

5. Agree to establish a RSF coordination unit led by Major General Mohammed Alawai Kulu by November 2, 2023, responsible for the safety and security of humanitarian operations, including the protection of civilians and their ability to safely access assistance, as well as the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, supplies, and

movement.

Other

No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions

No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and No specific mention. **emergency law**

State of emergency No specific mention. **provisions**

Judiciary and

courts

No specific mention.

Prisons and detention

No specific mention.

Traditional Laws

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance

November 7, 2023 (DJIBOUTI, Djibouti): As co-facilitators of the talks in Jeddah between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), also participating on behalf of the African Union, and the United States are able to announce that the SAF and RSF have committed to take steps to facilitate increased humanitarian assistance, and to implement confidence-building measures (CBMs).

The talks in Jeddah remain focused on a narrow set of objectives – to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, establish ceasefires and other confidence-building measures, and build toward a permanent cessation of hostilities.

Reaffirming their obligations under the May 11, 2023 Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, both the SAF and RSF committed to:

- 1. Participate in a joint humanitarian forum led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to resolve impediments to humanitarian access and deliveries of assistance.
- 2. Identify points of contact to assist with movements of humanitarian personnel and assistance.

...

These shared and individual commitments can represent important steps toward facilitating increased humanitarian access to help ease the suffering of the Sudanese people.

...

Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) Humanitarian Commitments at Jeddah Talks (English Translation as of November 4, 2023)

- 1. Expedite customs clearance of relief goods within seven working days maximum.
- 2. Pending entry visas will be dealt with immediately, with the possibility of giving multiple entry visas for the Country Director of the organization.
- 3. Travel permits for areas impacted by pandemics, to include various types of medical emergencies, will be waived.
- 4. Stay permits and work permits will be issued and/or extended to the Country Director of the organization for one year, and for other staff of the organization to six months.
- 5. Military focal points [for civil-military coordination] have already been nominated, their names will be communicated to the co-facilitators forthwith.
- 6. SAF side agrees to the formation of the joint Humanitarian Forum led by UN OCHA to solve challenges facing smooth delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- 7. Pertaining to the loaded 90 trucks which are supposed to depart Port Sudan for designated destinations [in Khartoum], the authorities in Port Sudan have already been alerted to facilitate and expedite the procedures and to provide safety and security for the convoys (personnel, trucks and goods) until they reach their destination in full coordination with UN OCHA.

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- 1. Our commitment to allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief, including medical and surgical equipment, and ensure relief personnel the freedom of movement required for their functions.
- 2. Our commitment to protect and respect humanitarian workers, assets, supplies, offices, warehouses, and other facilities.

•••

While respecting the principle of the neutrality of humanitarian actors, armed actors must guarantee the security of corridors for transport and areas for storage and distribution.

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It is prohibited to attack, harass, intimidate, or arbitrarily detain personnel, or to attack, destroy, micropropriate, or look relief supplies, installations, material, units or vehicles.

National economic No specific mention.

plan

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/

nomadism rights

No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian

rights or access

No specific mention.

Security sector

Security

Guarantees

No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments

The talks in Jeddah remain focused on a narrow set of objectives – to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, establish ceasefires and other confidence-building

measures, and build toward a permanent cessation of hostilities.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces

November 7, 2023 (DJIBOUTI, Djibouti): As co-facilitators of the talks in Jeddah between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), also participating on behalf of the African Union, and the United States are able to announce that the SAF and RSF have committed to take steps to facilitate increased humanitarian assistance, and to implement confidence-building measures (CBMs).

...

Reaffirming their obligations under the May 11, 2023 Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan, both the SAF and RSF committed to:

...

• Establishment of communication between SAF and RSF leaders

...

The belligerent parties also made specific, individual commitments regarding the facilitation of humanitarian access, which are detailed in these SAF (English; Arabic) and RSF (English;

...

Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) Humanitarian Commitments at Jeddah Talks (English Translation as of November 4, 2023)

...

- 5. Military focal points [for civil-military coordination] have already been nominated, their names will be communicated to the co-facilitators forthwith.
- 6. SAF side agrees to the formation of the joint Humanitarian Forum led by UN OCHA to solve challenges facing smooth delivery of humanitarian assistance.

DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

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The belligerent parties also made specific, individual commitments regarding the facilitation of humanitarian access, which are detailed in these SAF (English; Arabic) and RSF (English;

...

Humanitarian Commitments made by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) During Jeddah Talks (English language translation as of November 4, 2023) We reaffirm:

...

Armed actors must not interfere in the actions of humanitarian operations.

•••

3. We agree to refrain from interference with principled humanitarian operations and never accompany side by side humanitarian personnel carrying out humanitarian activities, in conformity with the Amended Directives and Procedures for Humanitarian Action in Sudan.

...

4. Agree to appoint liaisons for civil-military coordination (CMCOORD), led by OCHA, to engage in a CMCOORD system to facilitate movement of humanitarian personnel and supplies and serve as an avenue for humanitarian deconfliction.

•••

5. Agree to establish a RSF coordination unit led by Major General Mohammed Alawai Kulu by November 2, 2023, responsible for the safety and security of humanitarian operations, including the protection of civilians and their ability to safely access assistance, as well as the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, supplies, and movement.

...

RSF will facilitate the timely inspection of humanitarian cargo once along the route. RSF agrees to work with OCHA to establish safe delivery routes within Khartoum and ensure beneficiary freedom of movement to receive assistance.

Withdrawal of foreign forces

No specific mention.

Corruption

No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice No specific mention.

general

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international No specific mention.

signatory

Referendum for agreement

No specific mention.

International mission/force/

No specific mention.

similar

Enforcement

No specific mention.

mechanism

Related cases No specific mention.

Source