

## Summary

Tensions between Sudan's military government based in Port Sudan, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the Sudanese Civil Forces Coordination, a coalition of anti-war political groups is growing following the military government's crackdown on the coalition. This crackdown, coupled with the potential onset of famine in Port Sudan's Red Sea region, could spark civil unrest and protests in Port Sudan. Military government authorities are likely to crack down on cases of developing unrest. Organisations supporting anti-war political groups could also be targeted in such a crackdown.

### Recent events and developments

Tensions between the military government, based in Port Sudan and led by General Abdel Fattal al-Burhan, and the Sudanese Civil Forces Coordination (Tagadum) have recently grown. Tagadum is a coalition of political parties, civil society, and professional groups seeking an end to the conflict and the establishment of a new civilian-led government in Sudan. On April 28, Tagadum members carrying weapons assaulted a woman journalist in Port Sudan, forcibly entering her vehicle and physically and verbally assaulting her, leaving her with minor injuries. The attack's motivation is unknown. This follows an April 4 announcement by the Public Prosecution service of the military government, that 23 leading figures of the Tagadum had been charged and wanted for arrest, on charges of provoking war against the state, incitement, and undermining the constitutional order. Included on the list are party leaders, journalists, and former Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok, who served from 2019 until 2021, when he was removed in a coup. The charges could carry the death penalty. Earlier this year, Tagadum signed a declaration with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the military government's opponent, demanding an end to hostilities and direct negotiations between the parties. The Tagadum's demands for peace and the establishment of a new civilian government become more pressing every day, as Port Sudan, and the Red Sea region continue to see an influx of refugees fleeing from conflict West of Port Sudan. As of today, 270,000 people live in IDP camps in Port Sudan.

### Impact assessment

The rift between advocates of a new civilian-led government, and those of the military government of General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has continued to widen, which may cause additional tensions in Port Sudan. The recent campaign by the military government against the anti-war alliance leaders, considering them an RSF mouthpiece, may reflect a future intention to crack down further on members and supporters of the Tagadum. Support for such movements and their message, an end to the war, is likely to rise, considering the conflict's impact and the presence of large numbers of IDPs residing in an around Port Sudan. This likelihood is exacerbated by food insecurity: various aid organisations have forecasted a famine to take place in Sudan from June onwards, with some estimating that over 2 million people could die in such a famine. The Red Sea region, of which Port Sudan is the capital, is among the regions considered to be facing an 'emergency' food situation, which is the second worst rating used by humanitarian agencies. As this situation develops, it is likely that IDPs and citizens of Port Sudan and the wider Red Sea region will protest the continuation of the war, and the onset of severe food insecurity, especially considering reports that the military-led government has gained an upper hand in the civil war against the RSF. Military government security forces are likely to crack down on such instances of civil unrest, potentially with the use of tear gas, rubber bullets, and live ammunition. Organisations supporting the Tagadum coalition could become targets of crackdowns and arrests by military authorities, who consider the coalition a threat.

### Advice from Forth Global

- Advise staff traveling to Port Sudan to undertake a several days long HEAT training prior to travel.
- Monitor local news and communicate with local partners to remain updated on developing events.
- Avoid demonstrations and large gatherings of people
- Cooperate with security forces and police.
- Refrain from expressing personal opinions on the civil-war and its constituent parties, especially online.

### Customized advice

Please contact us for specific advice:

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