



[Hundreds of Thousands of Sudanese Citizens March to the Presidential Palace in Protest Against the October Military Coup](#)

The latest round of pro-democracy and anti-coup protests in Sudan have drawn hundreds of thousands of citizens on a march toward the presidential palace. Recent demonstrations have also taken place in conjunction with the third anniversary of the 2018 civilian movement and uprising, which led to the ousting of former despot Omar al-Bashir after three decades of autocratic rule. In the Sudanese capital city of Khartoum, those protesting against the October military coup that eliminated the interim government and disrupted the democratic transition process in the country have been subjected to violent attacks by security forces. Medical personnel on the scene have noted the use of live ammunition, stun grenades, rubber bullets, and tear gas, all deployed in an attempt to brutally crack down on large-scale protests. Since the coup in late October, dozens of people have been killed by security forces. Despite the ruthless suppression efforts, the organizers of the pro-democracy gatherings have called for sit-ins, strikes, and additional demonstrations in the coming days. They have emphasized that Sudanese citizens must continue their resistance to the military coup until power is handed back to a civilian government.

After Sudan's longstanding autocrat Omar al-Bashir was removed from power in the preceding years, a military and civilian power-sharing agreement was established. Per the arrangement, the military was to step away from its position in the governing council, allowing full civilian control of the country just months before the October coup took place. When the military executed its coup, it ended the power-sharing arrangement with the civilian government and detained Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and dozens of government officials under house arrest. The unrelenting pressure of mass protests and international condemnation pushed the military to reinstate Prime Minister Hamdok last month in November.

At the time, Hamdok agreed to the reinstatement if the military would oblige on the release of political detainees, allow for the independent appointment of a new cabinet, and respect freedom of expression. He stated that he would agree to reinstatement on these terms in order to preserve some part of the gains made since the overthrow of al-Bashir. However, the prime minister has told leading figures in Sudan's civil society that he intends to resign this week, citing a lack of progress in the terms of this agreement. Several civilian leaders have been released by the military, but hundreds of political activists, journalists, protesters, and even bystanders are still being held arbitrarily.

The terms of Hamdok's reinstatement were not popular with pro-democracy Sudanese citizens who – after looking to him as a symbol of resistance to despotic rule – viewed his agreement with the military as a betrayal. The organizers of the protests have said that even though the military reinstated the civilian prime minister, they have not stepped away from power and are still too heavily involved in the country's politics. Issue experts and analysts are particularly worried about the possibility of further devolvement, with Prime Minister Hamdok himself expressing that the country could be headed toward disaster.