



[Pro-Democracy Forces in Sudan Continue Their Large-Scale Protests Demanding an End to Military Rule](#)

Sudan's massive pro-democracy movement has urged for continued protests demanding an immediate end to military rule. Large-scale and nationwide demonstrations have taken place ever since last October's military coup, which derailed the fragile democratic transition process in the country. Security forces have engaged in a brutal and violent crackdown against protesters over the past eight months, but even in the face of this, thousands of Sudanese citizens have carried on with huge demonstrations. In recent days, members of the pro-democracy movement have expressed skepticism at coup leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan's claims that the military will step aside and allow civilian forces to assume power, with widely-held suspicions that security forces have no genuine intention of actually doing so. His announcement does indicate though that al-Burhan and others are worried about the persistence of the pro-democracy campaign, with some analysts arguing that civilian forces do possess a real chance to push the military to relinquish power if they come up with a political map quickly. Thus, resistance blocs and committees are believed to be attempting to build a new front that could assume executive functions and advance the pursuit of full civilian rule.

Since the military seized power in a coup back in October 2021, the pro-democracy movement in Sudan has been demanding that they be removed before any form of negotiations take place between political entities to form a transitional government led by civilians. Thus, experts have forecasted that al-Burhan's recent statement is unlikely to appease those demonstrating against the military takeover. Additionally, pro-democracy groups have consistently asserted that they will not negotiate with the military, and have called for them to immediately hand over power to a civilian government. One of the major reasons for this is the fear that dialogue with the military might produce another power-sharing deal that would legitimize their grip over Sudanese politics and the economy. Further evidence that al-Burhan's comments are unlikely to deter protests was provided by the fact that even in the aftermath of his televised address, new demonstrators emerged across the capital city of Khartoum.

Widespread and large-scale pro-democracy protests have routinely taken place across Sudan following last year's military coup. Recently in late June, tens of thousands of Sudanese citizens took to the streets of Khartoum and Omdurman to mark the third anniversary of the similar massive demonstrations during the uprising that overthrew long-time autocratic ruler Omar Al-Bashir. Nine civilians were killed and at least another 629 were injured, as security forces deployed a violent crackdown against the protesters. As has become a repeated brutal tactic during the longstanding demonstrations, they fired barrages of stun grenades and tear gas into the crowd gatherings. Internet and phone services were disrupted as well, and it was also reported that security forces tried to storm hospitals where large numbers of those wounded were being treated. United Nations officials expressed serious concerns with the continued use of violent force by security forces in Sudan, and domestic public health organizations denounced the attempts to attack medical facilities.

In a news conference this week, the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) – a pro-democracy coalition of parties that were involved in the Sudanese government before the military coup – emphasized the importance of consensus on a cooperative political vision for Sudan moving forward. The FFC also highlighted the need to unite with other resistance committees and groups to ensure the best possible prospects for the reinstatement of a civilian government. In an effort to maintain pressure on the coup leaders, pro-democracy forces like the FFC have called for continued protests, sit-ins, and strikes across the country.