

Beat: Politics

UN CHIEF CONDEMNS ONGOING MILITARY COUP IN SUDAN ARRESTING PM ABDALL HAMDOK

AKS FOR HIM TO BE RELEASED

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USPA NEWS - According to news agencies, Sudan's military has dissolved civilian rule, arrested political leaders and declared a state of emergency. UN Secretary-General, António Guterres on Monday condemned the "ongoing military coup" in Sudan, saying Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and all other officials, "must be released immediately." Long-time ruler Omar al-Bashir was overthrown by the military following months of popular protest in April 2019, and a transitional government was set up comprising both military and civilian leadership, after a power-sharing agreement, that was due to lead to full democratic elections in 2023.

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PROGRESS IN JEOPARDY/ THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ALSO CONDEMned THE ATTEMPTED COUP-----

"These actions threaten the Juba Peace Agreement and jeopardize the important progress made towards democracy and respect for human rights", Michelle Bachelet said. She called on military authorities to abide by the constitutional order and international law, withdraw from the streets, and resolve any differences with civilian leaders serving on the Transitional Council through dialogue and negotiation. "I utterly deplore the reported arrest of the Prime Minister, several Ministers, leaders of the Forces of the Freedom and Change and other civil society representatives, and call for their immediate release", she continued.

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS SHUT DOWN-----

Ms. Bachelet also pointed out reports that the internet is down in the country and other means of communication are suspended. "Blanket internet shutdowns contravene international law, and Internet and mobile services must be restored, as they are essential for people to seek and receive information, particularly in these unsettling circumstances", she explained.

She asked military and security forces to refrain from unnecessary and disproportionate use of force, to respect people's freedom of expression, as well as the right of peaceful assembly. According to her, "it would be disastrous if Sudan goes backwards after finally bringing an end to decades of repressive dictatorship." "The country needs to move forward to consolidate democracy, a wish expressed countless times by the Sudanese people, including loudly and clearly on the streets last week and today", she added.

UN MISSION-----

The head of the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission Sudan (UNITAMS), also released a statement, declaring that the arrests of the Prime Minister, government officials and other politicians are "unacceptable." "I call on the security forces to immediately release those who have been unlawfully detained or placed under house arrest", Volker Perthes said. "It is the responsibility of these forces to ensure the security and wellbeing of people in their custody." The UNITAMS chief, who acts as a Special Representative of the Secretary-General, also urged everyone involved to exercise the utmost restraint. "All parties must immediately return to dialogue and engage in good faith to restore the constitutional order", Mr. Perthes concluded. Source: UN News.

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