

# The Slaughter Yard in Khartoum

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An elderly man is repeatedly being caned, whipped and beaten by three young men in officers uniforms. The man raises his arms in a show of peace clearly beseeching them to stop, but the beating does not stop and in the video that has gone viral a cane breaks as it hits his hip. This incessant, merciless act is witnessed by armed militia in Toyota pick up trucks, now notoriously associated with the ruthless former regime and current Janjaweed of Western Sudan.

This is only one of the tens of horrendous incidents that took place on the last fasting day of Ramadan. The timing the Transitional Military Council (TMC) selected to attack the peaceful protestors in the sit-in is clearly premeditated and carefully planned out. It is a time when people go back to their homes and celebrate with their families the end of Ramadan and the beginning of Eid (Islamic festival). Hence the protest site had less civilians occupying the Al Ghiyadah (the area in front of the military headquarters). Hundreds of peaceful protestors camped outside the Military HQ since 3rd April, day and night guarding, protecting, feeding, healing, educating, cleaning, looking after all who pass by the area. The atmosphere of peacefulness that surrounded the zone became a hub for artists, musicians, nurses, doctors, lawyers, students and the unemployed, all races, all age groups, all genders came to be as one for the first time in over three decades of dictatorship rule. They felt a sense of belonging and patriotism, many generations never experienced before. Along with the military these simple civilians overthrew an atrocious dictatorship that ruled for 30 years committing brutal crimes against humanity, many in the world are not aware of.

As a Sudanese citizen who witnessed the climb and claim to power of regimes since the 80s in the political arena, very little has changed for dictatorial rule. Until 2010, the largest country in Africa went through adverse events and much has been suppressed, but the Sudanese people said enough is enough! The regimes, like locusts have milked the country dry of resources and wealth in every form reached record levels, depleting the entire nation of everything and maintaining a closed off stance from the world. More will now be revealed, retold and shared but for the moment, and the fact that social media helps disseminate the truth, the crimes will no longer go unaccounted for.

To you the world, this is but one of hopefully more articles that recount the battle between unarmed citizens and heavily armed mercenaries, who are raiding and holding the country and its people hostage.

All air space has been frozen, no flights in and out of the country. Unfortunately, it is claimed that a senior civil servant of the Sudanese Aviation Authority has been executed by Hemedti's men when he refused to break the civil disobedience. The execution has been said to take place at his home in front of his wife and children. All foreign nationals have been told to evacuate, internet communication has been disrupted and even partially stopped. But this is what happened and is happening in the last three days.

The attack on the civilians at Al Ghiyadah started around 5:00 am. A young man is woken up at the protest site with kicks, sticks to his body, slaps, intimidation and verbal abuse. The video statement of this gentleman is from a hospital as he is being treated from the injuries received. The front scalp of his head is shaved off haphazardly as he tells that the militia group who beat him mocked him and threatened to leave a scar by cutting open part of his head.

Another video of a wounded man receiving treatment for a bullet shattering his leg as he tried to save a fleeing child who sought refuge in his home and was being beaten by armed militia. As the wounded man tried to intervene he was blatantly beaten and shot in the leg within his own house. He comments interestingly enough that these militia speak a strange Arabic and that he was unable to pin point their origin. Several other sources mention specific Central and West African countries that send in assassins and groups of young men to carry out the work of the Rapid Security Force (RSF).

Many incidents of sexual assault have come to light, the most prominent concerned the medical staff working at the make-shift clinic set up at Al Ghiyadah. All the medical staff that work there, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, paramedic volunteer on a duty rota, helping all those in need at the sit-in. On the 3rd June the staff of the clinic were violently attacked, the male doctors were whipped, caned, stamped on while some of the female medical staff were sexually assaulted and raped. Another disturbing fact is that ambulances that came to the protest site collected tens of corpses, and dumped into the Nile river that runs nearby. Not two days later some of these bodies have been reclaimed and found to be tied down by rocks and cement blocks. Over 40 bodies are said to have been thrown into the river and many still unaccounted for. The Sudan Doctors Committee asserted the number of corpses retrieved and the condition they were found in. Hundreds of wounded victims were not permitted to receive treatment at the sit-in or even when they managed

to reach hospitals. Doctors and medical staff were ordered not to help the injured and threatened at gun point to leave. Those who continued to work were beaten to an extent where they themselves needed medical attention. The militia entered two hospitals, opened fire and destroyed many of the equipment. These acts have led to doctors and nurses fearing to attend their work leaving patients at the hands of medical students. Since the slaughter on the 3rd of June road barricades have been set up throughout the city on all main roads and a nationwide civil disobedience has come into effect. The country is now at a standstill and instead of celebrating the Eid the civilians are in mourning. Those brave civilians who set up road blocks or still gather in the streets of Khartoum chanting the slogans of the revolution have seen forces in truck like vehicles. A visual investigator at New York Times identified these vehicles as NIMR Ajban 440As which are manufactured in the United Arab Emirates. In this regard it is worth mentioning that in the end of April 2019 Saudi Arabia and the UAE have given three billion Dollars of Aid to the TMC in order to facilitate the deteriorating economic conditions of Sudan.

Today is the third day of the Eid protestors and activists are still being detained and in many cases have also gone missing. The Sudanese Revolution continues and despite the circumstances and challenging conditions, the people are maintaining the peaceful stance. The nation is now a colony of the ruthless and violent Janjaweed Militia Junta that has sneaked into power, fundamentally splitting the National Military Forces in to sub factions, by allying generals and senior officers. Today Sudan is a battle ground not only for civilian rule, but for freedom from the tight grip of rogue desert pirates in the guise of a legitimate so called army. Alas, the Islamic festival for the Sudanese has become known as 'The Eid of Bloodshed'.

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## The 3rd of June

Lojain is one of many youngsters who participated in the protest movement in Sudan since the end of December. In the early stages of the protest it was called the rebellion of the youth before it turned in to the revolution movement. Certain departments of the university of Khartoum have been closed since August. This year in many universities and schools exams and holidays started earlier because the regime was afraid that students congregate in universities and schools to protest. Brutal intimidation tactics of the regime couldn't stop the rising number of protestors and the beginning of the Sit-In in front of the Military Headquarters (Al Ghiyadah) on the 6th of April in Khartoum. Despite the rising heat ( above 40 Celsius) and Ramadan (Islamic Fasting month began on the 6.May) the protestors stood their ground till they were brutally dispersed. In the early hours of the 3rd June armed forces and the militia used horrendous force and live ammunition against

unarmed peaceful protestors. Lojain was at the Al Ghiyadah when this happened and this is her eye witness statement.

Today is the 5th of June. Two days after the massacre on the 3rd of June. It feels like i am still stuck in one of the dark rooms dampened with the stench of terrified survivors, everyone on edge, i thank god i couldn't see the fear in their faces and they couldn't see mine.

I arrived at the command HQ around 4:00 am, i turned my phones flash on to help me navigate the mud and water puddles, i figured the electricity was off because on the previous night it had rained, and well the last thing we needed was an electrical shock from an exposed chord.

i filled my stomach with water as i was about to start my fast. Upon entry, a friend of mine called and informed me that 50 RSF (rapid support forces- aka Janjaweed) pickup trucks filled with soldiers were headed our way, i brushed off my fear and continued towards a women's movement tent where i usually stay. As we were walking, We heard people talking about a possible raid, the whispers grew louder and the numbers of pickup trucks were added 10 fold. My friends and i decided to roam around the sit-in premises and see whats happening instead of going back home, it wasn't time to be scared.

This wasn't like any other night, there were no military soldiers in sight, it was very calm, the only noise we could hear was coming from the Nafaq (the bridge) where i found many people trying to stack up the barricades in fear of an invasion, music and chants which soon seized into stillness .

Around 4:50 am I walked towards the clinic areas in hopes of finding a decent bathroom, i wanted to perform my prayers and rest for a while. To my fortune the bathrooms were a mess and i decided to walk back towards Almoa'lim Medical Centre where my friend was.

On my way back (maybe around 5:15 am) i heard wild gun shots and i could see people running from behind me from the Nile street entrance, RSF soldiers dressed in both police uniforms and their own were firing randomly at protestors, caning, kicking, and raping them, at this point people were falling down like rain. I could hear gun shots and screams and blood was everywhere.

I rushed towards what i assumed was safety. In the midst of it i saw people running towards the fire fearing for their brothers and sisters lives, people standing strong, people yelling for help others yelling to stay put, some chanting "alela almoot" "ya inta ya watanak, jahiz 3deel kafanak" - "today is death", "its either you or your country, prepare your death sheets". It was chaotic.

Others rushing bodies towards the sit-in clinics and the hospitals nearby. i returned to at least help, find my friends and regroup to understand whats going on, we weren't given that chance.

The RSF had entered from everywhere, we assumed they wanted us to run towards Burri (Neighbourhood in Khartoum, Ed.) to clear the sit-in area. We were running in jamaa street towards Burri, at this point we saw military soldiers and RSF soldiers laughing at us and taking video footage of us. A man confronted them and was met with a near fatal incident, i screamed at one of them who was going to attack, he stood still in shock. We didn't understand why they weren't doing anything until we saw what was in front of us. Again people fell down like rain and shots were fired at us. We were met by more RSF soldiers blocking our only escape.

There was no going back and no going forward. Protesters quickly rushed into Almoa'lim Medical Centre, where we were shot at as we were entering.

If they wanted to clear the sit-in they wouldn't have blocked our exit routes. But they wanted to instil fear in us all, torment us and make sure we never ask for our basic rights again. I don't even know what the time was at this point, i rushed to the first room i saw. It was completely dark and around at least 10 other people were with me. Everyone in complete silence awaiting their death. At any point anyone could walk in and kill us all. I prayed really hard for God to hear me, to allow the nightmare to end. This was only the beginning.

I was at the external clinic of the Almoa'lim hospital, which was separate from the emergency area, the building being solo was very unsafe and armed forces walked in. I knew they were no longer loyal to us the people; everyone knew, and so we hid countless of times when we saw them entering. The second time they walked in, they asked if there were any injured people, and carried those willing to go with them out, others were too afraid for their lives and didn't trust them, so they stayed.

I had called my finally been able to reach my friends and they told me they are in Almoa'lim hospital, in the emergency area. I wanted to reach them as i was panicking and wanted to make sure they were okay, i would find comfort in that.

At around 10 am i attempted but failed miserably, i was going to go through a back door, two RSF soldiers were climbing the stairs, they had their backs to me so i could clearly see them through a broken window. A guy beside me accidentally dropped/moved a piece of metal and they quickly looked back. A kalashnikov rifle was now aimed at my forehead. The soldier yelling at me to step out. I had my hands up in the air and all i did was scream

"i am a girl" numerous times, i think it was the stupidest thing (because i am pretty sure he didn't give one damn that i was a girl) but its also bought me time to escape, i ran back inside, this time i went upstairs and found a cover, in the middle of the reception area, where they stack their paperwork, i went inside one of the cupboards, everyone hid because they assumed they would come inside and kill us. They fired two gun shots while we were inside, but i think we weren't their main concern as they left soon after.

Once they left it got calmer, time passed really slow, it still does.

Our fourth encounter was with military intelligence forces, this time it was completely different, we hid inside the rooms while others decided to stay outside so they can act as a distraction. There was a girl who was in pain, as her operation sutures were unable to handle all the running, and she was bleeding. A nurse who came to give her a painkiller to help ease her pain. And maybe around 15 other individuals. After 10 minutes of waiting they knocked on the door, i was breathing heavily and was having an asthma attack.

We opened the door and the intelligence agents told us that they wanted to help and that we would go back home safe. While clearing the room, the nurse asked me to stay because she could see i was unwell. I took one of the guys numbers who was leaving with them. He told me they were met with beatings by RSF soldiers, shaved their heads, insulted them, and were forced to remove the barricades. They were told that they're lucky they get to live.

I was the only person left, it was me and the hospital staff (and two icu patients with their copatients). After about an hour of receiving medical treatment (well some oxygen to help me breathe) an RSF soldier walks in to the icu unit where i was at and tells us he is commanded to shoot at us "galo lai adeekum 6alga" (which translates to i was told to give you guys a bullet).

I wrote my will. Not a will per se but i wanted my last words to help my family get through whatever was to come.

He asked for water, the doctor gave him some water and walked him outside of the room after explaining to him that we were all hospital staff and we were working all along. He then asked for more water and told the doctor that he wanted one of the girls who was in the room with us to bring it to him. When she did so he offered her some pills and she said she's fasting, he told her that he was fasting too to which she replied why are you drinking water, he furiously answered "because of you and your protests, because we were denied a holiday with our family in eid", she told him neither are any of these people going to see their families. He asked her if she wanted a civilian sovereign or a military occupation. She

bravely answered civilian. She told me she didn't want her last words to be cowardly.

I believe Allah saw us that day, i believe in my heart that my mothers prayers got me through.

At around 12pm i decided it was time to go see my friends at the emergency section) this is not even a two minute walk but i couldn't get myself to do it), i called them and asked them if things were calm, i couldn't collect my thoughts. My friends bravely offered to come get me as they could tell i was distressed. They told me it was calmer. And soon after they came to get me.

Once i entered Almoa'lim hospital, all i saw was blood all over, people injured, a list on the wall with the names of the injured and Martyrs, young men weeping their beloved friends. I felt lost and helpless.

All the faces around me were filled with despair, i am still in shock and want to stop writing here, as the headache increased and the images are coming back to life.

*Translated into German by Johanna Bröse. Published online on June, 7th under [re:volt - Blutbad in Khartoum](#).*