

# US, EU warn Sudan's military against unilaterally appointing a government

Tue, 2022-01-04 22:25

WASHINGTON/LONDON: The United States and European Union warned Sudan's military on Tuesday against naming its own prime minister after civilian leader Abdalla Hamdok quit amid protests against the junta.

The so-called troika on Sudan – the US, Britain and Norway – and the EU “will not support a prime minister or government appointed without the involvement of a broad range of civilian stakeholders,” a joint statement said.

“Unilateral action to appoint a new prime minister and cabinet would undermine those institutions' credibility and risks plunging the nation into conflict,” the statement added.

Hamdok was ousted in the coup, only to be reinstated a month later following a deal with the military meant to calm tensions and anti-coup protests.

Hamdok stepped down Sunday amid political deadlock, saying he had failed to find a compromise between the ruling generals and the pro-democracy movement.

Meanwhile, Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, chairman of the Sovereign Council, held talks with Volker Perthes, UN envoy to Sudan and head of the UN Integrated Transition Support Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), to discuss the current political situation in the country after Hamdok's resignation, state news agency SUNA reported.

Al-Burhan briefed Perthes on developments in the transition process and the two sides stressed the need to complete the structures of the transitional period and expedite the appointment of a new prime minister to succeed Hamdok.

*(With AFP, Reuters and AP)*



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Anti-coup protests in Sudan amid turmoil after PM resigns  
UN condemns violence targeting Sudanese protesters, US urges civilian rule after PM quits

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## Moroccan tour operators protest pandemic restrictions

Author:

AFP

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Tue, 2022-01-04 22:11

RABAT: Moroccan tour operators threatened with bankruptcy due to border closures protested Tuesday, calling for the tourism industry to be "saved" as the coronavirus wreaks havoc on international travel.

About 200 industry workers demonstrated in front of the tourism ministry in Rabat, demanding the reopening of borders and talks with the authorities, citing the "dramatic collapse" of the industry in the wake of the pandemic. "Have mercy on the economy and the people," one sign read.

Morocco suspended all passenger flights from November 29 until January 31 as a result of rising infections of the omicron variant worldwide.

The restrictions have dealt a punishing blow to the North African country's vital tourism sector, already on its knees after two lost seasons because of the pandemic.

Lahcen Zelmat, head of the national federation of the hotel industry, said the situation for tourism was "catastrophic" and called for borders to be reopened and bank loan payments to be delayed.

Raja Ould Hamada, the owner of a travel agency in Marrakesh, said the most recent border closure was a "fatal blow" to the industry, claiming "other competing countries" such as Egypt, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates had benefitted.

Rabat recently promised a 2,000-dirham (about \$216) monthly allowance to tourism workers for the final quarter of 2021.





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## [Kuwait suspends indoor activities until Feb. 28 to limit spread of COVID-19](#)

Author:

Tue, 2022-01-04 00:14

LONDON: Authorities in Kuwait on Monday announced a decision to temporarily suspend all types of social events, which are held in closed places, from Sunday until Feb. 28, in an effort to control the spread of COVID-19. The Kuwaiti Cabinet made the decision during its weekly meeting and said it

would continue to review the epidemiological situation in the country throughout the period.

The Cabinet also announced that all travelers are obligated to take a PCR test 72 hours before arriving in the country as of Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the health ministry registered 982 new coronavirus cases on Monday, raising the total to 419,314. It also said 171 patients had recovered from the virus in the past 24 hours, while no deaths were reported.



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Kuwait airport activates emergency plan amid heavy rainfall

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## [Two killed in flash flooding in Iran's southern province of Fars](#)

Author:

Mon, 2022-01-03 23:57

TEHRAN: At least two people were killed in flash flooding in Iran's southern province of Fars, a local official said on Monday.

"Two people from this province were trapped by water and lost their lives," Mehdi Khoobyar, deputy head of the Iranian Red Crescent in Fars, told the Young Journalists Club, a news agency affiliated with state television.

One of the victims died in the city of Darab, he added, without giving details on the second.

Relief teams "who were already on full alert, were dispatched to the flood-affected areas" in at least five cities in the province, he said.

The Red Crescent had "provided relief aid or rescued" hundreds of people, Khoobyar was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency.

Meteorological authorities had warned on Sunday of heavy rain and floods in southern provinces including Kerman and Hormozgan, local media reported. Heavy rains caused damage to agricultural lands and blocked roads in Hormozgan province, and damaged some infrastructure in the southeastern province of Sistan-Balushistan, state news agency IRNA said Sunday.

A weather system causing heavy rain is covering Iran's south and several Arab countries of the Gulf.

Torrential rainfall has hit the UAE, where its official news agency WAM said bad weather is expected to last until Thursday.

Oman was also impacted by the dense weather system, and Kuwait suspended school classes and exams on Monday.

Largely arid, Iran has been suffering chronic dry spells for years.

In 2019, heavy floods in the south left at least 76 people dead and caused damages estimated at more than \$2 billion.



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Iran: Biden White House also 'responsible' for Qassem Soleimani killing

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## [Israel begins fourth COVID-19 jab for over 60s, health workers](#)

Author:

Mon, 2022-01-03 23:36

TEL AVIV: Israel began on Monday administering fourth Covid vaccine shots to people over 60 and health workers amid a surge driven by the omicron variant.

Health workers at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv lined up for the shot and over-60s received it at the nearby branch of Clalit, Israel's largest health fund.

The shot was given to those who received their third inoculation at least four months ago.

The Health Ministry on Sunday approved the fourth shot for the over-60s and medical staff, two days after those with weakened immunity started to take

the shot, making Israel one of the first countries to do so.

The Health Ministry on Monday reported 6,562 new COVID-19 infections over the previous day, nearly double the daily average of last week.

In an address late on Sunday, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warned that cases could soon surge to around "50,000 cases per day."

More than 4 million people out of Israel's population of 9.2 million have received three shots of coronavirus vaccine.

A total of almost 1.4 million cases of COVID-19 infection, including 8,244 deaths, have been officially recorded in Israel.

Also on Monday, the Health Ministry said it will admit foreigners with presumed COVID-19 immunity from countries deemed medium-risk as of Jan. 9, partially reversing a ban on entry by foreigners imposed in late November in response to the fast-spreading omicron variant.

## **FASTFACT**

Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warned that COVID-19 cases could soon surge to around '50,000 cases per day.'

The ministry said on Monday that travelers from 199 countries Israel has designated "orange" would have to prove in advance they are vaccinated or have recovered from COVID-19 and would be subject to PCR testing before and after arrival.

They include Australia, Italy and Ireland.

The ministry has also recommended that South Africa, Nigeria, Spain, Portugal, France and Canada, currently among 16 countries listed as "red" or high COVID-19 risk, be changed to "orange."

Bennett said in the televised address that Israel would this week begin loosening curbs on international travel even as omicron-fueled cases spiral.

The US, Britain, UAE, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mexico, Switzerland and Turkey remain on Israel's red list, the ministry said.

Visitors from those countries require advance special permission from an Israeli committee to enter the country. Israel banned most travel to and from red-listed countries – initially all in southern Africa – on Nov. 25 after the omicron variant was first detected.





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Israel to admit some foreigners with presumed COVID-19 immunity as of Jan. 90micron could lead Israel to herd immunity: health official