

# Sudan attorney general orders formation of committee to oversee corruption probe

Author:

Reuters

ID:

1555759360741475900

Sat, 2019-04-20 10:48

CAIRO: Sudan's attorney general on Saturday ordered the formation of a committee to oversee investigations into crimes involving public funds, corruption and criminal cases related to recent events, the state news agency SUNA said, citing a statement from the attorney general.

SUNA also said that attorney general Al-Walid Sayed Ahmed had submitted a request to the director of the country's National Intelligence and Security Services to lift the immunity of a number of officers suspected of killing a teacher who died in custody in February.

Earlier on Saturday, a judicial source said that Sudan's public prosecutor has begun investigating ousted President Omar Al-Bashir on charges of money laundering and possession of large sums of foreign currency without legal grounds.

The source said that military intelligence had searched Bashir's home and found suitcases loaded with more than \$351,000 and six million euros, as well as five million Sudanese pounds.

"The chief public prosecutor... ordered the (former) president detained and quickly questioned in preparation to put him on trial," a judicial source told Reuters.

"The public prosecution will question the former president in Kobar prison," the source added.

Relatives could not be immediately reached on Saturday for comment about the investigation.

Bashir, who is also being sought by the International Criminal Court over allegations of genocide in the country's western Darfur region, was ousted on April 11 by the military following months of protests against his rule and had been held at a presidential residence.

Bashir's family said this week that the former president had been moved to the high-security Kobar prison in Khartoum.

As president Bashir often played up his humble beginnings as the child of a poor farming family in Hosh Bannaga, a small village consisting mainly of mud houses on the eastern bank of the Nile some 150 km (93 miles) north of Khartoum.

The Sudanese Professionals' Association, leading the protests, has called for holding Bashir and members of his administration to account, a purge of corruption and cronyism and easing an economic crisis that worsened during Bashir's last years in power.

On Wednesday, Sudan's transitional military council ordered the central bank

to review financial transfers since April 1 and to seize “suspect” funds, according to state news agency SUNA.

The council also ordered the “suspension of the transfer of ownership of any shares until further notice and for any large or suspect transfers of shares or companies to be reported” to authorities.

Meanwhile, protest leaders are to hold talks Saturday with Sudan’s military rulers who have so far resisted calls to transfer power to a civilian administration, a head figure in the protests told AFP.

“The military council will hold talks with the Alliance for Freedom and Change at 8:00 p.m. (1800 GMT) today,” said Siddiq Yousef, a senior member of the umbrella group leading the protest movement.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Omar Al-Bashir](#)

[Sudan](#)

[Central Bank Sudan](#)

Sudan protest leaders to unveil civilian ruling body Sudan’s military rulers arrest ousted president’s brothers

---

# Iraq hosts Saudi Arabia and Iran at parliamentary conference

Sat, 2019-04-20 13:33

BAGHDAD: Iraq is hosting senior parliamentary officials from Saudi Arabia and Iran on Saturday as Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi seeks to bolster his country's nascent role as a mediator in the region.

Delegations including the heads of parliament from Turkey, Kuwait, Syria and Jordan are also attending the one-day conference in the Iraqi capital to discuss regional security, diplomacy and economic issues.

The speaker of Iraq's parliament Mohammed Al-Halbousi, who is chairing the gathering in Baghdad, said that his country's relations with neighboring states are strong and that Iraq intends to develop them.

Visiting officials pledged support for reconstruction and development efforts in Iraq and for the country's continued stability following its victory over Daesh, after three years of war, Al-Halbousi said in a statement.

Al-Halbousi also stated that Iraq continues to fight terror with regional and international assistance, and thanked all countries that have supported this fight.

Abdul Mahdi recently returned from visits to Iran and Saudi Arabia. It is unusual for Saudi and Iranian officials to attend the same events.

The premier has said Iraq will maintain strong ties with Iran, but also with the United States and regional neighbours, many of which, like Saudi Arabia, consider Tehran a foe.

Abdul Mahdi met King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during his visit to Riyadh, his first official trip to the kingdom since taking office six months ago.

Iraq and Saudi Arabia have been at loggerheads since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, but they have recently undertaken a diplomatic push to improve ties.

Abdul Mahdi's visit to Riyadh came 10 days after he visited Iran. During his trip to Tehran, he met President Hassan Rouhani and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Many of Iraq's leaders, from its Shi'ite majority, have close ties with Iran, the main Shi'ite power in the Middle East.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Iraq](#)

[Saudi Arabia](#)

Saudi Arabia keen to promote ties with Iraq Crown prince, Iraqi PM hold talks in Riyadh

---

## [Separate militant attacks kill nearly 50 Syrian soldiers](#)

Author:

AFP

ID:

1555740557490914400

Sat, 2019-04-20 05:59

BEIRUT: Syrian government forces came under separate attacks from Daesh militants and Al-Qaeda-linked insurgents in different parts of the country that killed nearly 50 soldiers and allied fighters, activists and a war monitoring group said Saturday.

In one attack, Daesh militants ambushed Syrian government forces in the

desert of central Homs province Thursday night, setting off two days of clashes that killed 27 soldiers, including four officers, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

A pro-government militia, known as Liwa al-Quds, confirmed the ambush, saying it had sent its fighters to liberate the two besieged battalions, made up of nearly 500 soldiers, east of the town of Al-Sukhna.

In a Facebook post, the militia said it successfully broke the siege and liberated the surviving soldiers before pulling the bodies of those killed and damaged vehicles to safety.

Liwa Al-Quds, one of the elite militias operating side by side with government troops, didn't give a casualty figure. It said the besieged battalions were out in desert looking for an army division that disappeared in the area over the last few days.

Daesh lost its last territories in Syria in March after months of battles with US-backed Kurdish-led fighters in the eastern province of Deir El-Zour. But the militants remain active in the desert to the west of Deir El-Zour, where they have taken refuge and increasingly targeted government troops and allied militia.

The militant group, which once controlled large swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq, has kept a network of sleeper cells active in both countries. It has also kept up its media operations. The Daesh-affiliated Amaq news agency reported the attack east of Al-Sukhna, saying that in 24 hours of clashes its militants killed nearly two dozen Syrian soldiers and officers. It said the militants also seized Syrian government ammunition and vehicles.

Separately, government forces came under an attack from insurgents of Al-Qaeda-linked Hayat Tahir Al-Sham in northwest Syria, where a cease-fire is supposed to be in place.

The Observatory said the insurgents assaulted the government positions west of Aleppo early Saturday, killing 21 soldiers and allied fighters. Baladi news, an activist-operated news site, said the attack in Akrab village killed 27 soldiers, quoting an HTS operative. Akrab overlooks the Aleppo-Damascus highway.

A cease-fire was reached in the area in September but is increasingly tested. The area includes the last major stronghold of the armed opposition. The cease-fire was negotiated by Russia and Turkey, who support opposite sides of the conflict but who have closely coordinated their policies.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Daesh](#)

[Syria](#)

[Al-Qaeda](#)

Macron meets Syrian Kurds, vows French support in fight against Daesh  
US slaps sanctions on alleged new Daesh financiers

---

## [Israeli tank, aircraft hit Gaza after cross-border shots: army](#)

Author:

Fri, 2019-04-19 18:07

JERUSALEM: Israel on Friday struck Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip with tank and aircraft fire after shots were fired at troops on the Israeli side of the border, the army said.

“No injuries to soldiers were reported,” it said in a statement.

Palestinian security sources in Hamas-ruled Gaza told AFP that the Israeli fire hit Hamas military observation posts at three locations along the frontier.

They said there were no reports of Palestinian casualties. Palestinians in Gaza have for more than a year gathered at least weekly along the border for often-violent protests, calling on Israel to end its blockade of the enclave.

The Israeli statement did not say if there were mass protests taking place at the time of Friday's incident.

At least 264 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed by Israeli forces since the protests began.

The majority were killed during clashes, with others hit by tank fire or air strikes.

Two Israeli soldiers have been killed over the same period.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Israel](#)

[Gaza](#)

[Gaza border](#)

Palestinian teen killed by Israeli fire in border clashes: Gaza ministry  
Israel demolishes home of Palestinian charged with killing

---

## [Trump and Haftar discussed 'counterterrorism efforts' in Libya](#)

Fri, 2019-04-19 16:43

LONDON: Donald Trump and the Libyan military commander Khalifa Haftar

discussed "counterterrorism efforts" in the country during a phone call this week.

The two men also talked about the need to achieve "peace and stability in Libya" when they spoke on Monday.

Trump's contact with Haftar, who heads the Libyan National Army (LNA) loyal to the eastern government, is a significant diplomatic boost for the commander after his forces launched an offensive earlier this month against the rival administration based in the capital Tripoli.

In the call, Trump "recognized Field Marshal Haftar's significant role in fighting terrorism and securing Libya's oil resources, and the two discussed a shared vision for Libya's transition to a stable, democratic political system," the White House said on Friday.

Trump's national security adviser John Bolton also spoke recently to Haftar. It was unclear why the White House waited several days to announce the phone call.

The LNA launched its offensive against the capital after securing areas of the country's south earlier this year. Haftar says his forces, which have advanced into Tripoli's outskirts, are fighting to clear the country of "terrorist" elements.

His fighters are making "great sacrifices," LNA spokesman Ahmed Al-Mesmari said Friday. He added that the LNA is also engaged in a battle against countries that support "terrorism" in Libya. Al-Mesmari did not specify which countries.

He did however claim that extremist militants had travelled from Turkey to Libya to take part in the battle for Tripoli. An array of militias control the capital and parts of the countries east, and many hold a deeply conservative or extremist ideology.

On Thursday, militants attacked one of Haftar's bases in the far south of the country. The LNA killed 14 of the fighters who launched the assault on the Tamanhint air base near Sabha, Al-Mesmari said during a press conference. The offensive comes eight years after Arab Spring protests led to the downfall of dictator Muammar Qaddafi and a split in the country between rival governments in the east and west.

The conflict has also split the international community with the UN supporting the Tripoli government but regional powers, Russia and some European countries supporting Haftar. Countries like Egypt see Haftar as a bulwark against extremist groups.

On Thursday, both the US and Russia said they could not support a UN Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire in Libya.

The British-drafted resolution blames Haftar for the latest flare-up in violence.

The United States did not give a reason for its decision not to support the draft resolution, which would also call on countries with influence over the warring parties to ensure compliance and for unconditional humanitarian aid access in Libya.

*(With Reuters)*





Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Libya](#)

[Khalifa Haftar](#)

[Donald Trump](#)

UN warns of 'widening conflagration' in Libya as southern Haftar base attacked  
Fighting over Libya's capital Tripoli has displaced 18,000: UN agency