

THE HORN BRIEF

NEWSLETTER



TOP BRIEF OF THE MONTH

THE CONFLICTS IN SUDAN AND THE MUDDLED MEDDLING OF THE GCC STATES COULD ENDANGER THE HORN OF AFRICA'S STABILITY

By EA Institute for Peace and Governance

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The Gulf countries had less influence in Sudan during the 30-year administration of the previous president, because Al-Bashir was a strong ally of Iran. When South Sudan gained independence in 2011, Sudan lost the substantial income from oil, which accounted for about half of its total expenditures. Since then, Bashir has made the decision to leave Iran and form a coalition with the Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, in order to ask for financial support from them. In return, Riyadh and Abu-Dhabi started offering billions to Al-Bashir's regime. Interestingly, because of his Islamic background, Al-Bashir has sided with the Ankara-Doha alliance during the Gulf Crisis of 2017, which was spearheaded by Saudi Arabia and included the UAE, Egypt.

This has prompted Abu-Dhabi and Riyadh, which has led to a reduction in financial support. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have backed the military effort to remove Al-Bashir from office. Burhan, the leader of the Transitional Military Council, emerged as the new military leader in Sudan.

He revitalized Sudan's patron-client relationship with the Gulf states, solidified his support for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and sent Sudanese troops to Yemen. The United Arab Emirates has been supporting General Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemedti, the commander of the Paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), since the ongoing conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), led by Al-Burhan, and the RSF, led by Hemedti, began in April of this year.



A dangerous humanitarian situation has been brought on by the ongoing fighting in Sudan, which has exacerbated the already unstable Horn of Africa. The displacement of more than four million people poses a threat to regional and national instability. There is little indication that Sudan's disputing parties will budge from their stances in favor of a settlement.

The nations that make up the Horn of Africa have been dealing with a number of issues, such as instability, food hunger, the effects of climate change, protracted conflicts, violent extremism, and other dire circumstances. Furthermore, the current hostilities in Sudan will get worse and bring in more people. If the fighting in Khartoum continues, terrorist elements may be drawn to the area and become entrenched, posing an existential threat to the already deteriorating security, particularly along the porous border with Ethiopia and South Sudan.



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East African Institute for Peace and Governance



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