

# GLOBALIZING THE REVOLUTION FROM SUDAN TO PHILADELPHIA:

AN INTERVIEW  
WITH PROTEST ORGANIZER  
HAGER MOHAMEDEIN

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“Sudan is now crossing a dangerous turning point that threatens its whole survival” asserted Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok during a speech in which he resigned from his post. His resignation on the 2nd of January, 2022, is the latest development for the Northeast African nation facing mass political turmoil. As the forces of counter-revolution defeated the gains of the Arab Spring and the subsequent revolutions it ignited, Sudan was not immune to this regional democratic backsliding. On October 15, 2021, Sudan witnessed a military coup and the sovereignty council—a power-sharing coalition consisting of military and civilian representatives set up following the ousting of dictator Omar Al Bashir in 2019—was overthrown. The military cut off phone and internet access across the country and violently suppressed protests. The crowd’s chanting for freedom, democracy, and a civilian government were threatened with outright military rule, and following Hamdok’s resignation, this threat is even closer to becoming a reality.

These events have not occurred without organized resistance, however. The Sudanese people have been on the ground protesting ardently, determined to resist military rule. These efforts have not been limited to Sudan itself; the Sudanese diaspora has also been engaging in and organizing solidarity protests across the globe. One such protest took place on October 30 here on occupied Lenape land. As Sudanese revolutionary music echoed through the marbled walls of Philadelphia City Hall, members of the Sudanese diaspora and allies mobilized in solidarity with the revolutionaries in Sudan. An afternoon defined by chants, poetry, an open mic, a list of demands, and a moment of silence for the martyrs ended with the Sudanese national anthem, symbolizing a collective dream of a better Sudan. To understand the significance of this moment, I spoke with Hager Mohammedin, a member of the Sudanese diaspora who, alongside poet and justice educator Afaq, worked on organizing this solidarity protest on the steps of Philadelphia

**As a member of the Sudanese diaspora in the US, why was it important for you to organize this protest?**

It's important to protest because we owe it to those on the ground fighting for a better Sudan. Our protesting is the least we can do to amplify the voices on the ground since our people are literally laying down their bodies for a better Sudan. And Sudan is our home whether

we are in the US, Canada, the UK, or wherever we are located. Personally, for me, our mere existence is protesting. My childhood consists of attending rallies for Darfur so this is no different for me to show up.

**What role do you think the Sudanese diaspora at large has played in amplifying what's been happening on the ground in Sudan?**

I think the Sudanese diaspora has done a better job in terms of getting news from the ground out to others and mobilizing, making sure we are hearing the voices of the people on the ground and what their demands are, whether that's through translating documents [or] making infographics and videos to get the information out. Personally, I feel like we are in

no position to tell those on the ground how to protest or what they should be doing. So our sole job is to amplify and make sure the information is getting out there to others to document the atrocities that are being committed and ask them how we can assist in the revolution while also providing a space for people to grieve together as a community.

**How do you think the community felt during and after the protest?**

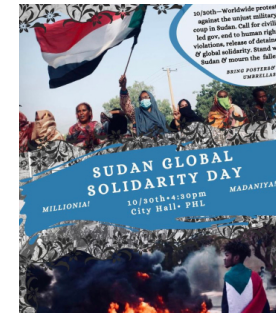
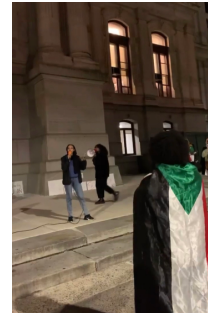
During the protest, there were a lot of emotions but ultimately, I hope it was a safe space for everyone to feel their emotions, be able to grieve with their community, and not feel alone. Hearing that someone drove two hours to come to the protest meant a lot to us and shows that Sudanese people are willing to show up for each

other and for the things that matter. I think the elders felt hopeful that the youth are now carrying on the fight that they have been fighting for years. Now with the ability to mobilize so quickly in the age of social media, we are able to amplify our brothers' and sisters' voices in Sudan.

**What can a person outside of Sudan do to support those resisting the military coup?**

There's a website called [www.sudancoup.com](http://www.sudancoup.com) that was made by the Sudanese diaspora. It's essentially a central location where one can learn more about the Sudanese revolution [and] find press releases of resistance committees in Sudan; there's a directory of local Sudanese community groups as well as daily news updates about what's going on in Sudan. I think the website does a really good job of bringing all the resources to one central location, including places where you can donate, templates to email your local representatives, and countless other resources. In addition to that, people

need to work on doing a better job of focusing on places outside of Khartoum [the capital of Sudan]. Khartoum is one state out of eighteen. We must shift the lens outside of Khartoum. Yes, sometimes it might be hard to get information out of the periphery states, but keep in mind it's intentional, and eventually, some of the atrocities that are committed tend to come to light. And remember that the atrocities you see committed in Khartoum, they mastered [by committing them against] those in the peripheries.



Although the events unfolding in Sudan may seem inconsequential to those in Philadelphia or generally beyond the scope of General Abdel Fattah al Burhan's reach, it is vital that everyone, no matter where they take up residence, stand in solidarity with the Sudanese people. This is because liberation, like systems of oppression, transcends borders. Thereby, as Fannie Lou Hammer puts it, "nobody's free until everyone is free." Indeed, freedom is indivisible and must be protected all over the globe, from Philadelphia to Sudan and everywhere in between. So as Hager concludes: "Do not turn a blind eye. Speak up and resist. And most importantly, the revolution continues."