

A stylized map of Sudan is depicted in the background, composed of a network of yellow lines connecting various points, resembling a wireframe or a data visualization of the country's borders and internal structure.

# **Heavy Weapons Against Civilians: Sudan's Escalating Military Repression**

**HMSC Insight  
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## **Summary**

In the aftermath of Sudan's October 2021 military coup, armed forces deployed heavy weapons—including Armor-piercing and anti-aircraft systems—against peaceful demonstrators.

This Insight analyzes the origins and use of these weapons, the violation of proportionality principles under international law, and the broader implications for Sudan's internal stability and accountability mechanisms.

## **Strategic Intelligence Insight**

### **I. Incident Overview**

An exclusive investigation by DW Arabic, featuring analysis from HMSC Defence and Security Advisor Mr. Mamoun Naji, documented the Sudanese military's deployment of heavy weaponry, including dual-use machine guns and anti-aircraft systems, against unarmed civilian protesters in Khartoum and surrounding areas.

### **II. Weapons Systems and Sources**

#### **▪ Types of Weapons Used:**

- Armor-piercing weapons

- Dual-use heavy machine guns
- Anti-aircraft guns repurposed for ground use
- **Sources of Weaponry:**

Weapons were traced to manufacturing origins in China, Russia, Belarus, Romania, and a variety of private sector suppliers both locally and internationally.

### **III. Legal and Humanitarian Violations**

- **Violation of Proportionality:**

Mr. Mamoun Naji emphasized that the scale of deaths and injuries demonstrated a clear failure by Sudanese security forces to apply proportional use of force, breaching core humanitarian standards and international law.

- **Indiscriminate Use of Force:**

The deployment of anti-aircraft systems in urban settings against unarmed civilians constitutes indiscriminate use of weaponry, further magnifying the potential for war crimes under the Geneva and Rome Conventions.

- **Emergence of War Crimes Framework:**

The unjustified military escalation against non-combatant populations may warrant investigation and accountability efforts under international criminal statutes.

#### **IV. Strategic and Regional Implications**

- **Internal Destabilization:**

The militarization of political repression risks further entrenching civil resistance, deepening factional divides, and prolonging instability in Sudan.

- **International Scrutiny:**

Growing evidence of systematic abuses may accelerate international diplomatic and judicial actions, including potential sanctions or referrals to international courts.

- **Precedent for Future Conflict Zones:**

The Sudanese case underscores the dangers of uncontrolled military responses to civilian dissent, offering warning signs for other fragile states facing popular unrest.

#### **Indicators to Monitor**

- International investigations or sanctions linked to Sudanese military conduct.
- Escalations in civilian protests and armed responses within Khartoum and other major cities.
- Shifts in regional diplomatic stances towards Sudan's transitional authorities.

### **Analyst Reflection**

Sudan's use of heavy military weaponry against peaceful demonstrators represents a critical breach of humanitarian norms and underscores the dangers of state militarization of political crises.

Without accountability and structural reform, Sudan risks deepening its cycle of violence, alienating both domestic and international actors essential for national recovery.