
Current Intelligence Report Circular

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Sudanese officials visit Israel to promote security cooperation

Representatives of the Sudanese government traveled to Israel early last week to promote ties between the two countries. The meeting was not announced by the Israeli or Sudanese governments, but it was later reported that Sudanese officials were in Israel on 09 FEB. Although Sudan and Israel had agreed to normalize ties in 2020, progress has been slow due to Sudan's political instability and growing anti-Israel sentiment among various groups in Sudan. Despite no official comments from the Israeli government on the coup on 25 OCT 2021, officials from the Sudanese and Israeli governments have continued to hold unannounced meetings, with the most recent in Khartoum on 19 JAN. On 12 FEB, in an interview on Sudan's state-run television, General Abdel-Fattah al-Burhan confirmed that Sudanese security and intelligence officials had been in Israel. Al-Burhan insisted relations between Israel and Sudan are not political in nature, and said that no senior Sudanese political officials have visited Israel. Through this security cooperation, al-Burhan said that the information shared led to the arrests of several suspected militants inside Sudan, who had the potential to undermine its security. Al-Burhan provided no further details. END

CMCD Note

The meetings between Israel and Sudan demonstrate a stark improvement in their relations since the days of the Omar al-Bashir rule in Sudan. Sudan's normalization of ties with Israel helped reintegrate Sudan back into the international community after being isolated for two decades under al-Bashir. The United States is noted as the primary driver in this reconciliation between Sudan and Israel, via a series of US-brokered deals between Israel and four Arab countries. The lack of commentary by the Israeli government on the coup can be a signal of avoiding souring relations between the countries. As part of the 19 JAN visit to Sudan by an Israeli delegation, Israel's Mossad intelligence agency sent its own officials to participate in the meetings.

Sources

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