

The Tradition of Sudanese Revolution

A Three-Part Workshop Series with Bayan Abubakr

Winter/Spring 2026



Series Overview

Presented by The Africa Center and Bayan Abubakr of the Sudan Solidarity Collective, this three-session in-person workshop (with virtual streaming options for increased accessibility) offers a political education on the ongoing Sudanese revolution and explores the lessons that we can learn and un-learn from it, together.

Through a close engagement with critical readings and creative works produced by Sudanese artists, we will build an understanding of the historical context, core demands, and cultural traditions that gave rise to the December Revolution of 2018. We will explore how tradition shapes Sudanese revolutionaries' relationship to the land, their collective memory, and their commitment to realizing the sovereignty of the Sudanese people.

Here, “tradition” is understood broadly as the force of collective consciousness that binds Sudanese people to one another, offering a shared language to articulate the contradictions and complexities in their struggle. We will study the December Revolution as part of the broader fabric of the legacy of popular uprising in Sudan, and as the foundation for the life-saving work carried out by resistance committees, emergency response rooms, and local mutual aid groups. These networks keep communities alive in the face driven by profiteers and enabled by the repeated failures of the international community to hold them accountable.

Sessions will center on three core themes, explored in the following order: revolution, land, and memory. By the end of this series, participants will have engaged with universal struggles—state violence, dispossession, erasure, and resistance—through the lens of Sudan. Sudan offers a stark view of what a world of unchecked violence can look like: a state functioning as a Frankenstein-like machination of militarized force; weapons and parallel markets sustained by the displacement of indigenous peoples; regional actors reinforcing global hierarchies through their investments in local counterrevolutionary forces; and a coordinated, ongoing effort to erase histories and lived memory.

But alongside this, participants will also study how Sudanese communities, artists, and scholars chart a different kind of future—one built on what cannot be destroyed by material violence. This includes the sounds, images, and visions that root us in collective struggle and offer alternate realities; the critical work of resistance committees and emergency response rooms, which maintain makeshift medical infrastructure, operate food

kitchens, provide shelter, and create the conditions for survival; and the ineffable, unwavering obligation to community that continues to define Sudanese resistance.

Workshop Schedule & Syllabus

Session One: “Revolution”

Thursday, February 12th, 2026 | 7-9PM | The Africa Center (Entrance I)

This session will map the constellation of actors—militarized groups, domestic and trans/international institutions, state structures, and informal networks—that have sought to lay claim over Sudan amidst ongoing struggles for power, sovereignty, and land rights. We will examine how difference has been weaponized across political, economic, geographic, racialized, and gendered lines to reinforce or contest these claims. How can we frame the relationship between the international community, Sudan’s military-industrial complex, and co-opted civilian actors in light of the world-making demands of emergency response rooms, resistance committees, and mutual aid networks—those currently holding the fabric of Sudanese life together in the midst of war?

Students will engage with the following reading materials:

- [Where Is Sudan? Refracting the Globe through Bilad al-Dahab](#)
- [The Visual Life of Revolution: Archival and Counter-archival Narratives of Revolt](#)
- [Khartoum’s Women Street Vendor Cooperatives and the Politics of Care](#)
- [Sudan Starves, Shifting Feminist Narratives in Sudan—A Conversation with Raga Makawi](#)
- several works by Sudanese photographers and visual artists.

In-person and hybrid participants will work together to build a critical timeline of the events that make up the history of revolution in Sudan. We will then create a parallel timeline with the artworks we examine to build out an understanding of Sudanese artists’ historicization of the revolution. How does their lens of Sudan challenge or expand our understanding of it, of the Sudanese revolution, and the very concept of revolution itself?

Session Two: “Land”

Thursday, March 26th, 2026 | 7-9PM | The Africa Center (Entrance I)

This session will situate Sudan’s counterrevolutionary in the history of the Sudanese state’s extraction of resources, the peripheralization of communities with claims over land with valuable natural resources, and the state’s incorporation of militias associated with said regions to placate these territories and encroach upon the rights of indigenous peoples. We will explore how the competition over land undergirds the material relationship between rural and urban areas in Sudan. We will engage with critical works that detail how this dynamic enables the proliferation of violence, weapons, and parallel markets which bind the different actors within the Sudanese state-military superstructure together.

The materials for the workshop will include the following:

- Selected readings from [*Indigenous Farming Systems, Knowledge and Practices in the Sudan*](#)
- [*And in Sudan, A Famished Food Culture*](#)
- [*Creatures of the Deposed: Connecting Sudan's Rural and Urban Struggles*](#)
- [*Capitalism, war and plunder in the Horn of Africa*](#)
- [*From land to logistics: UAE's growing power in the global food system*](#)
- [*In Sudan: The People's Revolution Versus the Elite's Counterrevolution*](#)
- several works by Sudanese photographers and visual artists.

Participants will discuss these texts during the first half of the workshop. During the second half, we will continue these conversations and create visual references between works that capture Sudanese agricultural traditions and works from other regions that similarly venerate indigenous practices in the face of global capitalist expansion. How do these shared visual cultures help us globalize our understanding of the struggle for land?

Session Three: "Memory"

Thursday, April 23rd, 2026 | 7-9PM | The Africa Center (Entrance I)

This session will explore how Sudanese writers, thinkers, and artists have reflected on their inheritances from history. How does memory function as a site of both alienation and belonging? How do the very contradictions of Sudan allow for the expression of collective memory, nostalgia, and the need to belong and remember a Sudan that, since its inception, has been in a state of crisis? How do Sudanese people witness, carry, and historicize destruction? How do they confront the manifold inheritances, both seen and unseen, of the past?

Participants will read the following materials:

- [*The Artist Aisha Fallatiya: A Pioneer of Modernity in Sudan*](#)
- [*Sudan War: A Counter-Revolution Against the Corporeal and the Imaginative*](#)
- [*Mobilization and Resistance in Sudan's Uprising: From neighborhood committees to *zanig* queens*](#)
- [*Rap is the next chapter of Sudan's sonic story*](#)

Two Sudanese artists whose artistic practice speaks to these questions will join this session (potentially, Alsarrah and Mosaab Abushama, Sudanese photographer and World Press photo finalist). They will each showcase their work and deconstruct for us how it confronts the force of collective Sudanese memory.