

# Sudan Uprising and Social Media

Even if you are not in your country, you can make your voice heard.

*Amgad Ahmedali*

**BEFORE YOU READ:** What is social media? Give some examples. What social media do you use?

For 30 years, Omar al-Bashir was the president of Sudan. He was a dictator who didn't care about the people of Sudan. He only cared about himself and his family and the people that worked with him. Many people struggled. They were hungry, couldn't go to school, or get health care or jobs.

In September 2018, people decided they couldn't live like this anymore. They started protesting in the streets, but the president's people used violence against the protesters. The government tried to make everyone stay inside. But the Sudanese didn't listen. They continued going out and protesting against the president. Every day, there were more people out protesting, and the president kept using violence to suppress them. More than 50 people died, and many more people were injured. People became more angry. They used their phones to record what was happening. They posted pictures and videos on social media, so everyone in the world could know what was happening on the streets of Sudan.

When the government shut down the internet in Sudan, all the Sudanese outside of the country, including me, kept posting and writing online to share everything with the world. We asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to overrule the president of Sudan. (The ICC is an international court that can prosecute world leaders for war crimes.) Finally, in June 2019, the Sudanese military put the president in prison. The Sudanese people were happy. It was through the actions of local and international Sudanese making their voices heard that led to big political change. Now the military and the protesters are trying to negotiate for the future of Sudan. I feel optimistic that life will get better in my country.



*This photo of a Sudanese protester in Khartoum went viral across the world. It became a symbol of the female leadership in the uprising against Omar al-Bashir. Photo by Lana Haroun on Twitter.*

**AFTER YOU READ:** Describe what you see in the photo above. What does it mean for an event or an image to “go viral.” According to the author, how did Sudanese expatriates keep the movement against al-Bashir going?

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