

# Sudan protesters hold night gatherings

● Last week, hundreds of protesters took to the streets reviving calls for civilian rule across several Sudanese states

**Khartoum, Sudan**

As night fell, residents of a southern district in Khartoum briskly moved to set the stage for Sudanese protest leaders giving a brief on the movement's latest updates.

Grappling with a power outage, blocked internet access and heightened security, people from the Jabra district had few means to organise the meeting which drew dozens from the neighbourhood.

Within a few hours, power generators were fetched, loud speakers set up, plastic chairs lined up and cars blazed their headlights on the podium where protest leaders were to give their speech.

Roadblocks were also set up to secure the entrances of the area. "The campaign keeps us updated with whatever new is happening about the situation in Sudan," said Mujahed Abdelnaby who was attending the gathering.

Sudan's ruling generals have largely cut internet services in the wake of a deadly dispersal of a sit-in outside the army headquarters where thousands had



Members of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) ride on an armed vehicle with the Sudanese national flag, in the capital Khartoum

been camped since April 6.

The crowds who were initially demanding the ouster of veteran leader Omar al-Bashir stayed put after his fall to call on the generals who took over to hand power to civilians.

But on June 3 armed men in military fatigues launched a bloody crackdown on the encampment, killing more than 100 people according to medics linked to protesters. Official figures stand at 61.

Since then campaigning has been restricted, particularly with increased deployment of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces across Khartoum.

The forces, which are led by the deputy chief of Sudan's transitional military council, are accused by protesters of leading the encampment's dispersal.

The council, which had pre-

viously vowed not to disperse the sit-in, denied ordering the violence and said it had only planned a purge of a nearby area called Colombia notorious for drug peddling.

## 'No longer scared'

Last week, protest leaders from the Alliance for Freedom and Change started organising daily simultaneous gatherings to revive the protest movement.

"We just want to keep the communication going with the people to confront the blackout imposed by the military council," said Waheeb Mohamed Saeed, a leading activist within the alliance.

Ahead of his speech at Jabra, he explained the campaigns are circulated via text messages and word of mouth among residents. Demonstrators, meanwhile,



AFP Photos/HK/Sudan TV

started chanting to rhythmical beats their catchcry of "freedom, peace and justice".

"We will bring civilian rule no matter how long it takes," they vowed.

Similar rallies, gatherings and marches were regularly announced online, drawing thousands prior to the sweeping in-

ternet blackout.

"We have been calling for the resumption of internet services as part of conditions to restart negotiations," Saeed said.

Talks between protest leaders and the military council had collapsed before the dispersal of the sit-in.

Both sides recently agreed to

mediation efforts led by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Protest leaders say the mediation is pegged on releasing all detainees and ensuring freedoms.

But the military council's chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan called for "unconditional" negotiations to be resumed.

## Around the world, people likelier to return wallets with more cash

● The global average for reporting a lost wallet was 40 per cent, which grew to 51pc when it had money

● The experiment, which cost \$600,000, is unparalleled in its magnitude

● More than 17,000 identical wallets were dropped

● Some had no money, while others contained the equivalent of \$13.45

**Washington**

Does the amount of cash in a lost wallet impact how likely a person is to return it?

Classical economic theories suggest that the greater the temptation, the less likely we are to be honest -- but a new study turns the idea on its head, finding that altruism, and a powerful aversion to viewing oneself as a "thief," outweigh the financial incentives.

A team of researchers studied these questions in a huge experiment spanning 355 cities in 40 countries -- one of the most rigorous investigations so far into the intersection of economics and psychology.

The results, published Thursday in *Science*, also reveal extreme differences between countries, with Switzerland and



A clear wallet and its contents used in a study of how people in 40 countries decided to return, or not, "lost" wallets

Norway topping the honesty list, and Peru, Morocco and lastly China rounding out the bottom three.

But although rates of civic honesty varied greatly from country to country, one thing remained remarkably constant: wallets with money, as opposed to no money, boosted reporting rates.

The global average for reporting a lost wallet was 40 percent, which grew to 51 percent when it had money.

"The evidence suggests that people tend to care about the welfare of others and they have an aversion to seeing themselves as a thief," co-author Alain Cohn from the University of Michigan said.

Researchers from the University of Zurich and the University of Utah were also part of the work.

The researchers then polled a group of 279 top-performing

professional economists to see if they would have accurately predicted the outcome, which only 29 percent did.

"Our results suggest that even experts tend to have cynical intuitions about other people's motivations, often exaggerating the role of financial incentives and underestimating the role of psychological forces," added Cohn.

The experiment, which cost \$600,000, is unparalleled in its magnitude. More than 17,000 identical wallets were dropped off at banks, cultural establishments like theaters and museums, post offices, hotels, and police stations or courts of law.

The wallet would be placed on the counter by the research assistant, who would deliver it to an employee telling them they had found it on the street but were in a hurry and had to go.

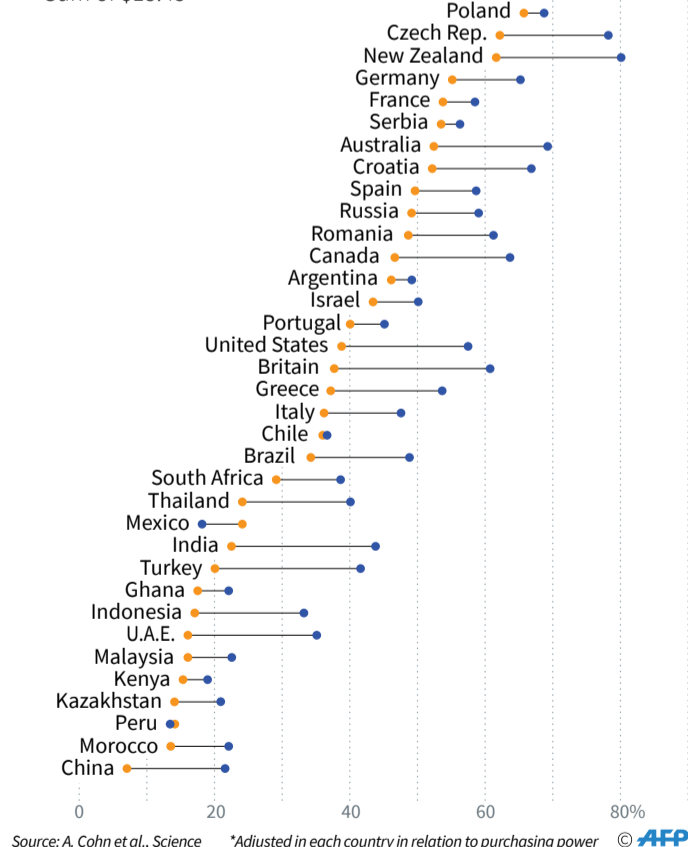
Each contained a grocery list, a key, and three business cards

### To return (or not) 'lost' wallets

Results of a study on how people in 40 countries (covering 355 cities) decided to return or not 'lost' wallets

% of wallets returned, containing cards, a key and:

- No money
- Sum of \$13.45\*



Source: A. Cohn et al., *Science*

\*Adjusted in each country in relation to purchasing power © AFP

in the local language using fictitious but commonplace male names and an email address, signaling the owner was a local resident.

Some had no money, while others contained the equivalent of \$13.45, adjusted for purchasing power in the target country.

In three countries (the US, UK and Poland), they repeated the experiment with even more money: \$94.15, which boosted reporting rates by an average of 11 percentage points compared to the smaller amount.

They also found that having a key boosted reporting rates

by 9.2 percentage points in the three countries.

Since the key is valuable to the owner but not the finder, this pointed toward an altruism concern in addition to the cost of negatively updating one's self image.

### Switzerland tops

The proportion of employees who got in touch with the owner surpassed 70 percent in Switzerland and Norway.

At the other end of the table was China, with fewer than 10 percent of employees returning the wallet when it was empty, though the figure more than doubled when it contained yuan.

Countries' relative wealth or poverty was found to be insufficient in explaining the disparities, said Cohn, adding that education and political systems could play a role.

On the whole, countries which are more democratic and where citizens feel they are a part of the decision-making process tend to score higher on civic honesty.

Local cultural values that emphasize moral norms extending beyond one's "in-group" also appear to be associated with greater rates of reporting.

That could explain why countries where family ties have traditionally been very strong, such as Italy, have a lower rate of return than more individualist nations in northern Europe, said co-author Christian Zund.

"Three of the authors have Swiss nationalities, so we were -- of course, we were happy to see that Switzerland ranked among the top countries," concluded Cohn.