## Sudan airspace reopens

David Mumford 15 April, 2019



Sudan airspace reopened at 1200Z on Apr 12, having been closed for 24hrs following a military coup.

So the HSSS FIR is now once again open for overflights. As for flights to HSSS/Khartoum Airport, all the airlines who were forced to cancel flights during the airspace closure have now resumed operations, and Opsgroup members have reported receiving landing permissions from the authorities again. Local handlers have told us: "The airport is now functioning normally with more security support".

The military has declared a three month state of emergency, and has deployed soldiers to secure key sites around Khartoum, with armoured vehicles and tanks parked in the streets. Protests against the new military government are still ongoing, although there have not been many reports of any violence. A nightly curfew was introduced on 11 APR for Khartoum between the hours of 10pm and 4am, but this was later lifted.

In response to the military coup, the U.S. has now issued an updated Travel Advisory for Sudan and raised its level of advice from "Level 3: Reconsider Travel" to "Level 4: Do Not Travel."

Despite all this, still only one international airspace warning exists for Sudan, which was issued by France last year and modified in Jan 2019, recommending **overflight above FL200** in the country's **southern edge** (where Sudan borders with South Sudan) and **western edge** (where Sudan borders with Central African Republic and Chad). France's warning for **South Sudan** remains the same: overflights should be at FL240 or above. More info at Safeairspace.