

REVIEW

'Sudan, Remember Us' — a brutal and frank documentary

Gautaman Bhaskaran Chennai

Backed by Saudi Arabia's Red Sea International Film Foundation, director Hind Meddeb's "Sudan, Remember Us" analyses the suffering and sorrow in the country in her brutally frank documentary.

Screened at the Toronto International Film Festival and the Venice Film Festival this year, the work is a welcome look at a country — and continent — that is hardly ever talked about in the

media or in cinema. Meddeb's creation is all the more interesting and useful because it takes a journalistic approach that is bold and beautiful.

The documentary captures the events in Khartoum during spring 2019, starting with the defiance of young Sudanese activists after the overthrow of the dictatorship and documenting the military crack-down that followed. The film also monitors the outbreak of the civil war between the Sudanese



The film was backed by Saudi Arabia's Red Sea International Film Foundation. Supplied

Army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in April 2023. Since then, an estimated 8.6 million people have been internally displaced with death toll estimates ranging from 20,000–150,000.

"Here in France, there's not much talk about the war in Sudan," rues Meddeb.

The opening shots of the documentary take us to 2023 with images of deserted streets in Khartoum. We follow Meddeb, who explains how this ghastly

situation came about in a powerful work that is crying out for the world to take note.

The director chooses to split her work into sections, rather than following each of her Sudanese subjects separately. First, she explores a revolution of poetry and art, then a feminist revolution, then a revolution that started as a conversation about individual dreams before it turned into public demands that toppled former President Omar Bashir in 2019.