



Khartoum, Sudan  
19 October 2021

## News release

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### **Growing majority of Sudanese reject non-democratic regimes, Afrobarometer survey shows**

A majority of Sudanese reject military rule and other non-democratic regimes, the most recent Afrobarometer survey shows.

Findings from a national survey in early 2021 show that public opposition to military, strongman, and one-party rule has increased since 2015.

Although only half of citizens declare a preference for democracy over any other political system, democracy supporters outnumber those who think non-democratic systems can be preferable by about 2-to-1.

Sudan's transition to democracy has been led by a hybrid military-civilian government since a popular uprising forced President Omar al-Bashir from office in 2019. But in addition to an unsuccessful coup attempt in September, recent demonstrations have called on the army to take control of the government.

#### **Key findings**

- A majority (55%) of Sudanese “disapprove” or “strongly disapprove” of military rule. Even larger majorities reject one-party rule (74%) and presidential dictatorship (71%) (Figure 1).
- Half (50%) of citizens prefer democracy to any other form of government – almost twice as many as think that non-democratic systems of governance can be preferable in some circumstances (28%).
- Opposition to rule by the military has increased by 9 percentage points since 2015. Disapproval of being governed by an autocratic president or by a single political party has also increased (by 11 and 5 points, respectively).

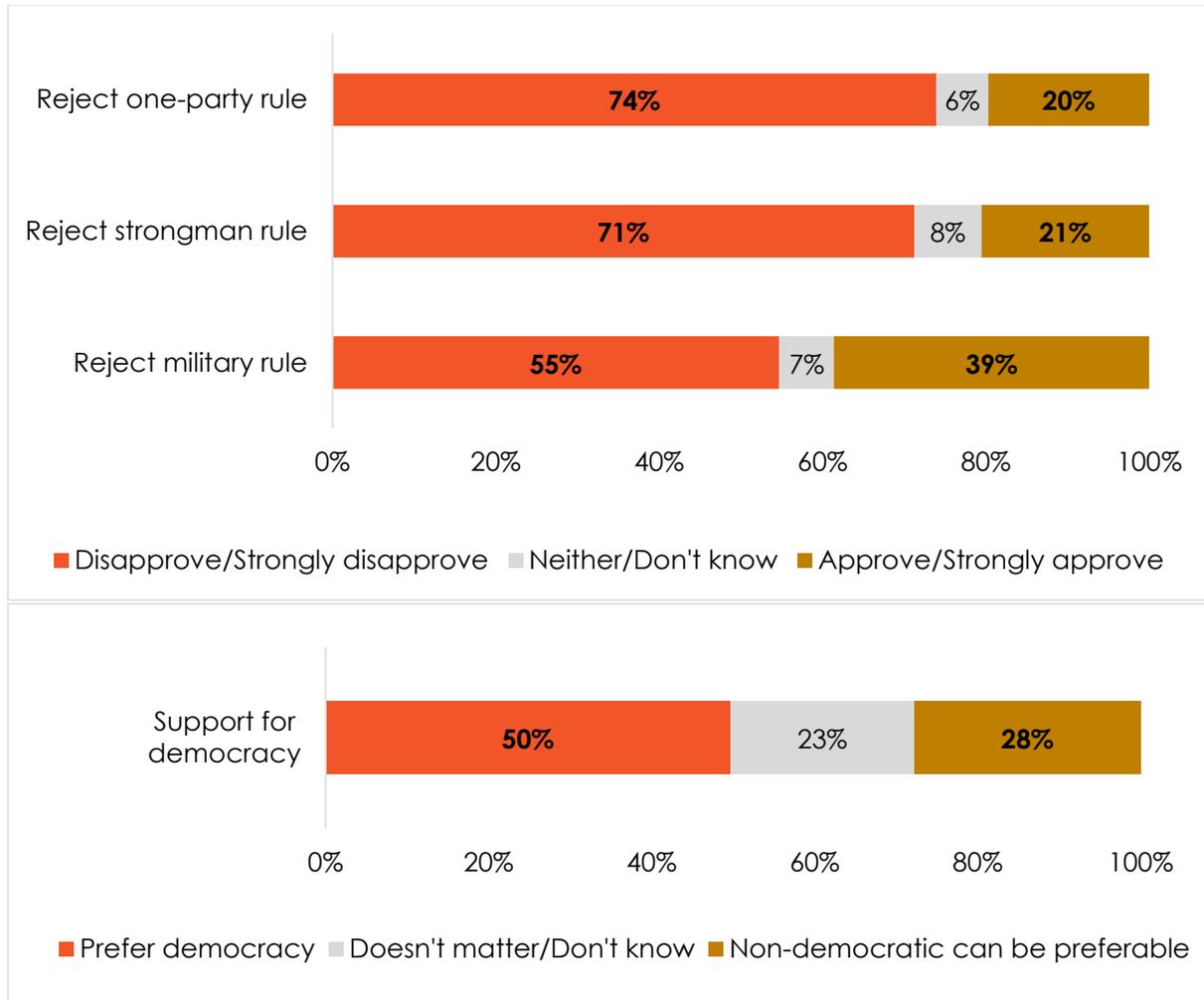
#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight rounds of surveys have been completed in up to 39 countries since 1999. Round 8 surveys (2019/2021) cover 34 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Sudan, led by Sudan Polling Statistics Center (SPSC), interviewed a nationally representative, random, stratified probability sample of 1,800 adults in February-April 2021. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2.3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Sudan in 2013, 2015, and 2018.

**Charts**

**Figure 1: Views on democracy and authoritarian alternatives | Sudan | 2021**



**Respondents were asked:**

There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives?

*Only one political party is allowed to stand for election and hold office.*

*The army comes in to govern the country.*

*Elections and Parliament are abolished so that the president can decide everything.*

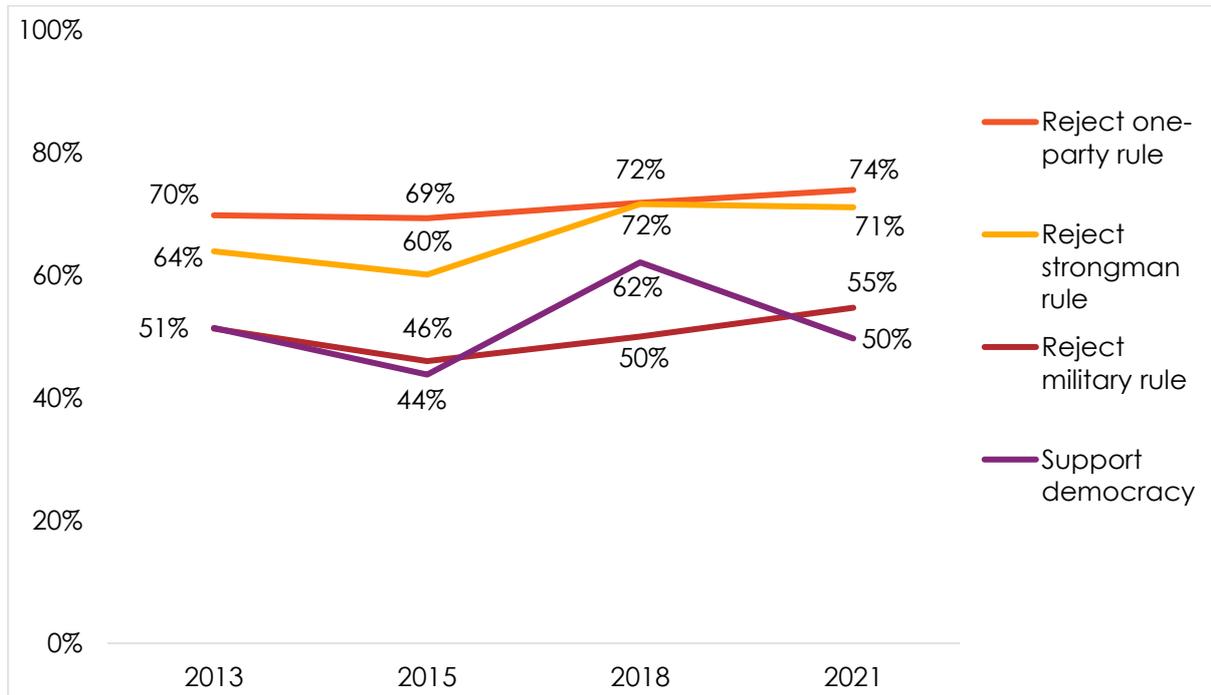
Which of the following statements is closest to your own opinion?

*Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.*

*Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.*

*Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.*

**Figure 2: Trends in views on democracy and authoritarian alternatives | Sudan**  
 | 2013-2021



**Respondents were asked:**

There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following alternatives? (% who "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove" of each alternative)

Only one political party is allowed to stand for election and hold office.

The army comes in to govern the country.

Elections and Parliament are abolished so that the president can decide everything.

Which of the following statements is closest to your own opinion? (% who agree with Statement 1)

Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.

Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.

Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.

**For more information, please contact:**

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